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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
- (A) Agency
 - (B) Methods/Sources
 - (C) Foreign Relations

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3. Return of Japanese Good Will Envoy from Southeast Asia. After a two month's tour of Southeast Asia as a good will envoy of Prime Minister Yoshida, Taketora OGATA returned to Japan on June 10. In the course of his trip Ogata visited several of the countries in that area, including Formosa, Hongkong, Burma, Thailand, India, Pakistan, and Indonesia where he reportedly emphasized the need of establishing an economic cooperation program to combat communism by improving the economic situation of the countries concerned. Among other leaders Ogata met Generalissimo CHIANG Kai-shek of Nationalist China, Governor Alexander GRANTHAM of Hongkong, President BA U of Burma, Premier Phibun SONGGRAM of Thailand, Prime Minister Pandit NEHRU of India, Prime Minister Kwaja NAZIMUDDIN of Pakistan and President Achmed SUKARNO of Indonesia.

On his arrival in Japan the press quoted Ogata to the effect that the Southeast Asia nations are favorably disposed toward Japan. He also stated that (1) Pakistan has the best economic prospects as far as Japan is concerned but that little can be expected from Indonesia due to an economic slump; (2) the economic development of Southeast Asia is progressing steadily under the U.S. Point Four Program and the British Colombo Plan; and (3) Japan cannot expect economic cooperation with the area unless it abandons its former emphasis on profits.

It is believed that Ogata's trip is of considerable significance since it represents the first determined effort of the Yoshida Government to influence favorably Southeast Asia countries toward Japan. While on the whole the tour has received relatively little publicity in the Japanese press, some of Ogata's reported statements during the tour which have appeared in the press appeared to be more than just the specious utterances expected of a good will envoy. Moreover, it is noted that Ogata had three separate interviews with Chiang Kai-shek at least one of which appeared to be rather lengthy.

The selection of Ogata for the tour appeared to be designed by Yoshida to bring the former back into the limelight after his long period of quiescence under the purge. It is known that Yoshida is anxious to give Ogata a Cabinet portfolio, presumably in the next Cabinet reshuffle expected shortly. Ogata's name has also been mentioned prominently as a possible successor to Yoshida if Hatoyama is physically unable to assume the party leadership. In any event Ogata appears to be marked by Yoshida for greater responsibilities in the near future. The Embassy is in the process of preparing an evaluation of Ogata's recent trip which will be submitted to the Department in the near future. (SSC)

THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION PERTINENT
TO THE SUBJECT IN THIS DOCUMENT.

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12 June 1952