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FILE NO. 200-7-23-864	SOURCE FEC/MIS # 3737	DATE OF DOCUMENT 2 Dec 1952	ANALYST <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUBJECT FEC/MIS Daily Intelligence Summary			DATE 26 Oct 1955	
PERTINENT INFORMATION				
See attachment for excerpted information obtained from FE/1/Japan.				
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FORM NO. 59-34
DEC 1952

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-70830-1

(35)

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

- EXEMPTIONS Section 5(b)
- (1) Privacy
 - (2) Financial Interests
 - (3) Confidential Sources
 - (4) Other

Declassified and Approved for Release
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Date: 2005

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2. Current Developments:

FEC DAILY 3737

2 Dec 52

a. OGATA Explains Information Agency: (UNCLASSIFIED) Chief Cabinet Secretary OGATA Taketora (INTSUR: 3716) stated at a press conference on 29 Nov that the projected information agency (INTSUR: 3723) "is

not a propaganda information machine." He explained that the agency would have only one mission: to "intercept radio messages and news from abroad so that the Government may learn world trends and situations." Special emphasis would be placed on collecting news from Communist China and the Soviet Union. To carry out this function, the Government plans to purchase materials and supplies from the United States within this year and to hire about 200 employees, mostly radio monitors. OGATA disclosed that a part of the supplementary budget already had been set aside to finance the initial cost of the project. Answering questions of news reporters, OGATA stated that the new information agency would not undertake general distribution of collected news; he had given up the idea of supplying news to domestic media of expression since such a service would create the misconception of "guidance and control of expression." When reporters reminded him that Prime Minister YOSHIDA at the Upper House plenary session on 28 Nov had referred to the new project as a "news dissemination organ," OGATA said the Prime Minister's meaning is unintelligible to him.

(b)

Comment: (UNCLASSIFIED) The projected information agency has received heavy press coverage during the past week. Editorials in the leading Tokyo newspapers have voiced apprehension over the new project, fearing that it would develop into a revived prewar-type Cabinet Information Board (INTSUR: 3723) combined with a news agency like the pro-surrender Domei News Agency which, under Government control, handled foreign and domestic news, newsreels, and radio service, and thus became an important factor in curbing free speech. Part of this fear is caused by the principal figures developing plans for the projected information agency. OGATA, former president of the wartime Cabinet Information Board, has been consulting with two former officials of the defunct Domei News Agency, former president MURUNO Inosuke and former chief editor MATSUMOTO Shigoharu; both have been recommended for executive positions in the projected information agency. Besides having received press criticism, the new project may develop into a political issue. The Liberal Party asked OGATA to explain the Government's plan at its Executive Board meeting on 28 Nov; it expressed fears that the information agency would revive control of public opinion, and would "run counter to the spirit of party politics." The Right wing Socialists at a Central Committee meeting on the same day, approved a resolution opposing the planned information agency as a step towards placing the press under Government control. The resolution further charged that the Government is attempting to influence the general public with "militaristic and bureaucratic" ideas so that they will support rearmament.