

SECRET

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FILE NO. Not Classified	SOURCE State F # 2767	DATE OF DOCUMENT 24 June 1953	ANALYST ( )	
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PERTINENT INFORMATION Despatch from ( ) The following information is excerpted verbatim from the FE/1/dossier. <i>Japan</i> Two groups within the Liberal party are engaged in a post-election struggle to gain power and control of the party and its Diet members, in case that YOSHIDA should retire from the political scene. One of the groups is the (present) SOKKINHA (those close to YOSHIDA), headed by <u>OGATA</u> , Chief Cab Secy FUKUNAGA, ASO Takakichi and the Kyushu group. (The other group is the former Sokkinha, which OGATA replaced: Secy-Genl SATO; IKEDA, chairman, Polit Affrs Research Cte; HORI Shigeru; "party men" MASUTANI Shuji, HAYASHI Joji and ONO Bamboku.) OGATA and Co. are believed still to be closer to YOSHIDA, and to enjoy the eminence, prestige and authority which go with this position; but OGATA particularly has succeeded in winning the distrust and dislike of the displaced (former) Sokkinha, who, during the elections and after, have been making strenuous efforts to build up their support with the party's rank and file, and at the same time weaken OGATA's influence. Both SATO and IKEDA have had considerable success in this respect. Without their support, - which he is unlikely to get - , it is felt that OGATA will be unable to control the party, even with YOSHIDA's blessing, if and when the latter chooses to retire.				
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