## SELLET

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PERTINENT INFORMATION

## THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS EXCERPTED VERBATIM

POLITICAL REPORT

## 1. Current Developments:

b. Government-Liberal Party Differences on Defense: Differences between the government and the Liberal Party on the defense question apparently are contimping. Following the contradictory remarks by Liberal Party Secretary General SATO Eisaku and Deputy Prime Minister OGATA Taketora, SATO followed up by stating that self-defense war potential would be a violation of the Constitution. SATO's statement was aimed at the Progressive Party's declaration that self-defense forces are legal under the present Constitution, but he was also contradicting OGATA's early remarks. OGATA has said that his opinions on defense build-up, and the constitutionality of self-defense forces were expressed in answer to leading questions from newspaper reporters and therefore should not be taken as formal government or Liberal Party policy. Nevertheless, the differences between SATO's and OGATA's views suggests either that coordination within the Liberal Party is poor, or that the party stand is not yet settled. SATO and OGATA reportedly are conferring on the question. Some mutually acceptable stand is needed in order to avoid speculation as to possible THIS IS ALL THE MICCOMMITTION PERTINENT TO THE SUBJECT IN THIS DOCUMENT. personal rivalries.

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