

ORIG : 697
UNIT : FE/1
EXT : 8742
DATE : 6 MAY 1955

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

SECRET

ROUTING	
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TO : STATE, ARMY, NAVY, AIR, NSA, JCS, SECDEF, ONR, OOI
FROM : CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
CONF : FE 7
INFO : CI, CI/OPS, CI/IC, FI/OPS, FI/PLANS, FI/RQM 1, FI/STD 2, FI/RI 2, PP 2, PP/OPS, S/C 2, SPECIAL: OCD, OOI 13, ONE

CS PD NO. 035 (OUT 86649) 2140Z 6 MAY 55

ROUTINE
PRECEDENCE

NOFORN/CONTINUED CONTROL

FROM : (LATE APRIL 1955)

DATE OF INFO: LATE APRIL 1955

APPRAISAL
OF CONTENT : 3

SOURCE : AMERICAN OBSERVER (B); FROM OGATA TAKETORA.

SUBJECT : VIEWS OF OGATA TAKETORA ON CONSERVATIVE MERGER

1. PUBLIC OPINION IN SWINGING TOWARD A LIBERAL PARTY (LP) - JAPAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (JDP) MERGER, WHICH WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN AUTUMN OF 1955. DUE TO INTRICACIES OF SOCIAL, BUSINESS, AND FAMILY TIES AMONG JAPANESE POLITICIANS, SITUATION MAY REMAIN CONFUSED AND LITTLE APPARENT PROGRESS MAY BE MADE FOR SOME TIME PRIOR TO MERGER.

2. FORMER LP SECRETARY-GENERAL SATO EISAKU IS ONE OF SEVERAL POLITICAL FIGURES WHO MUST STRIKE DELICATE COURSE IN PRESENT SITUATION IN ORDER TO SAVE FACE. A FORMER YOSHIDA/^{SHIGEMU}YAMANE FACTION MAINSTAY, SATO IS OVERTLY OPPOSED TO PRIME MINISTER HATOYAMA ICHIRO AND ALSO AT ODDS WITH LP PRESIDENT OGATA TAKETORA BECAUSE OF OGATA'S SUPPORT OF YOSHIDA'S RESIGNATION. HOWEVER, SATO MUST GO ALONG WITH TREND TOWARD CONSERVATIVE MERGER OR FACE POLITICAL DEATH AND

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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EXEMPTIONS Section 5(b)
(2)(A) Exemption
(2)(B) Exemption
(2)(G) Exemption

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IS ACTUALLY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AND ON EXCELLENT TERMS WITH OGATA. EVENTUALLY SATO WILL "APPEAR" TO BE FORCED TO GO ALONG WITH OGATA ON THE TREND TOWARD A MERGER.

3. THE MAIN OBSTACLE TO MERGER AT PRESENT IS FACT THAT MERGER PROPOSAL WAS MADE BY JDP SECRETARY-GENERAL MIKI BUKICHI, WHO IS DISLIKED BY MOST LIBERALS, AND LIBERALS WILL THEREFORE PUBLICLY SHY AWAY FROM MERGER FOR SOME TIME. MERGER TALKS ARE ACTUALLY FAIRLY WELL ADVANCED AND OGATA, HATOYAMA, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES MET AT SEVERAL SOCIAL FUNCTIONS ON 24 AND 25 APRIL AND ARRANGED FOR TALKS TO CONTINUE.

4. IMPORTANT QUESTION NOW IS HOW TO REMOVE HATOYAMA FROM GOVERNMENT WITHOUT CAUSING HIM UNDUE EMBARRASSMENT. MIKI BUKICHI WISHED TO MAKE MERGER TALKS PUBLIC TO GIVE HATOYAMA CHANCE TO GET OUT, BUT PRESENT LIBERAL ANTI-PATHY TO MIKI REQUIRES THAT SOMEONE ELSE RAISE MERGER PROPOSAL AGAIN BEFORE FURTHER PROGRESS CAN BE MADE.

FIELD DISTRIBUTION: STATE, ARMY, NAVY, AIR

FORMAL DISSEM FOLLOWS IN CS-63707

(END OF MESSAGE)

THE ABOVE INFO BASED ON () 1058 (IN 40233) () 2547 IS (IN 40233)

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