

[REDACTED]

CONTACT REPORT

NO. _____

LIAISON UNIT F2/POCAPON

DATE AND TIME OF CONTACT: 4 Nov 55, 1930 hours

EXACT LOCATION: POCAPON'S private residence in GOTANDA

ALL PERSONS involved: POCAPON and 1 =

PURPOSE: Dinner

COMMITMENTS MADE: None

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS: None

MATERIALS PASSED: None

REPORTS RECEIVED: None- See Below.

CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE ACCOUNT

1. In response to a spur of the moment invitation tendered by POCAPON during a telephone conversation in which he thanked me for writing the letter of thanks to Mr. Dewey I called on him at his home in GOTANDA. I was introduced to Mrs. POCAPON and after a few minutes of small talk we went into the living room which has been converted into an oversized study for POCAPON due to lack of space in any other portion of the house. POCAPON apologized for the upset state of the room and explained that at one time he would have been proud to have visitors to his old home in Nishi Okubo but this house had been bombed out in the 25 May raid in 1945. The house POCAPON now lives in was obtained after the war and is much too small for him, however, he indicated that he and Mrs. POCAPON and one maid are the only ones there now since his son is at school in the States and they are able to manage. My impression, initial and throughout the evening, was that POCAPON leads a very frugal life at home. Whatever extravagant pretense he puts on to the outside world is strictly to keep up his position as President of the Liberal Party.

2. For the most part the conversation throughout the evening was confined to various topics of interest of the United States; the tall skyscrapers, the new super highways, the clover leaf turns and the turnpikes, hotels, motels, television shows, etc. POCAPON evinced more than passing interest in all of the subjects covered and indicated strongly his desires to go to the States on a short visit so that he would be better able to understand how America is now since he has not been there for over 30 years.

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3. A brief mention on the political situation was made by HOGAN in which he pointed out that the final knock-down and drag-out portion of the battle for the merger was now getting started. He indicated that during the week of 7 November the Democrats would try every trick that is within ~~their~~ their power. He said that the Liberals would not give up the idea of dissolution of both parties and election of a new president by open vote although they may make it appear that they are going to concede a point or two. Some of the tricks that are envisioned are that the Democrats will propose that both parties hold individual elections within their parties and then match votes (naturally in the favor of the Democrats since they have more Diet members than the Liberals) another trick that the Democrats may pull will be to try and force a split vote of the Lower house members and Upper house. The reasoning being that if they got together then the Liberals with their majority in the Upper house will have a better chance to get the vote in their favor. The catch the Democrats will propose is that the Upper house vote go along with whatever the lower house votes. Another plan that is possible is that the Democrats will propose to shelf everything or part of the problem until after the present session of the Diet is convened. HOGAN said that things would move fast during the few days when the crisis is reached but he hoped everything would work out for the good.

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