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SECURITY INFORMATION

Japanese conservatives plan Yoshida-Shigemitsu coalition government.

A usually reliable source reports that "certain Japanese conservatives" are formulating plans for a coalition government following the 19 April election, with YOSHIDA Shigeru as Prime Minister and SHIGEMITSU Mamoru as Deputy Prime Minister or Foreign Minister, depending on the electoral showing of the Progressive Party. A coalition is considered necessary to prevent possible leftist control of the government, and to encourage a realignment of conservative groups, and possibly the formation of a new conservative party.  
1 Apr 53.

SHIGEMITSU UNWILLING TO JOIN COALITION

Tokyo, KYODO 27 Mar 53 (FBIS 30 Mar 53)

President SHIGEMITSU Mamoru of the Progressive Party today expressed confidence in his ability to stabilize the political situation following the general election...at a conference of financial circles in the Imperial Hotel...they expressed the hope that political parties will unite in order to attain stability in the polit. situation. SHIGEMITSU...disclosed that ...financial leaders...will not hesitate to try to provide his party with campaign funds, because the party advocates non-partisan diplomacy, anti-Communism, safeguarding of democracy, establishment of a defense army and a planned economy...

Under no circumstances will YOSHIDA Shigeru's Liberal Party emerge with a majority sufficient to ensure his nomination by the Diet as the next Prime Minister, SHIGEMITSU said. His own party, too, will not be able to secure an absolute majority. His party will be able to secure 150 seats in the Lower House, and will be capable of stabilizing the political situation if it takes the initiative. This does not mean a coalition with any other party, nor a merger of conservative parties...He will not hesitate to cooperate with the two Liberal parties if they approve his policies, but will refuse to join any destructive force.

A group of ex-purgees headed by HATTORI Takushiro are alleged to be connected with plans for a military coup d'etat. The group is amenable to postponing the coup d'etat as long as the Liberal Party remains in power, or even if SHIGEMITSU Mamoru, president of the Progressive Party should become Prime Minister.  
31 Oct 52

Subject has been recommended by Progressive Party leaders as vice president of the Japan Democratic Party which is to be inaugurated on Nov. 24. HATOYAMA Ichiro expected to be named president (FBIS, Tokyo, PANASIA, 23 Nov 54)

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)  
(2)(A) Privacy   
(2)(B) Methods/Sources   
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

Declassified and Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 2005

SHIGEMITSU Mamoru

Dec. 10

Subject was appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in the new HATOYAMA Ichiro Cabinet in position formerly held by OGATA Taketora. (State TELEGRAM, 10 Dec 54, No. 1371)

SHIGEMITSU, Mamoru: Japan Democratic Party; deputy prime minister and foreign minister; MHR. Veteran diplomat and wartime foreign minister who signed the surrender documents for Japan. Born 1887. Former president of Progressive Party. Convicted for war crimes in 1948. Depurged in March 1952, he was shortly afterward elected president of the newly organized Progressive Party (successor to the Democratic Party), the second largest conservative political party in Japan. He is currently prominent as the most outspoken proponent of Japanese rearmament as a bulwark against Communist aggression. He has publicly advocated close co-operation with the US and the West, while expressing desire for Japan to normalize relations with the Orbit. 27 Jan 55

SHIGEMITSU, Mamoru: President of the Progressive Party; MHR. Veteran diplomat and wartime foreign minister who signed the surrender documents for Japan. Born 1887. Convicted for war-crimes in 1948. Depurged in March 1952, he was shortly afterwards elected president of the newly organized Progressive Party (successor to the Democratic Party), the second largest conservative political party in Japan. He is currently prominent as the most outspoken proponent of Japanese rearmament as a bulwark against Communist aggression. He has publicly advocated close co-operation with the US and the West, and expressed disapproval of Japanese trade with the iron curtain countries. 20 OCT 54

SHIGEMITSU Mamoru

Wartime Foreign Minister, told reporters today that he has "no intentions of retiring from public life." SHIGEMITSU, now on parole prior to eventual depurging, denied that he would assume the presidency of the Progressive Party, as has been rumored. (BBIS, KYODO, Tokyo, 17 Mar. 1952.)

The veteran diplomat who signed Japan's surrender terms in Tokyo Bay, was among the 1,011 persons depurged Mar. 24. (FBIS, KYODO, Tokyo, 25 Mar. 1952.)

**Veteran Japanese diplomat to head Progressive Party:**  
Mamoru Shigemitsu, Japan's Foreign Minister at the time of the surrender, has announced that he will accept an offer to head the conservative opposition Progressive Party. (R FBIS, 3 May 52)

**Comment:** Shigemitsu, who was Japan's Foreign Minister three times during the last two years of the war, was paroled after serving most of a seven-year war criminal sentence. He is considered pro-Western, however, and reportedly was influential in bringing about Japan's acceptance of the surrender terms.

While acknowledging Shigemitsu's worthiness, the Japanese press has questioned the advisability of selecting a former war criminal, whose current political views are unknown. The Progressive Party, which currently holds 69 of the 466 seats in the Lower House, has been searching for a top-flight leader since its formation early this year.

3 May 1952)

At a meeting held April 29 the members of the Japan Redonstruction League reaffirmed their aim of "renovating" Japan's political world. Among those present SHIGEMITSU, Mamoru, former Foreign Minister. (FBIS, KYODO, Tokyo, 1 May 52.)

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