

SECRET Security Information

**JAPAN**

**Military, Political, Economic, Social Situation,  
Press Review, Civil Intelligence, Miscellaneous**

Selected Items for the Information of Commanders and Staffs  
of the United Nations and Far East Command

No. 3529  
8 May 52

**POLITICAL REPORT**

**1. National and Foreign Affairs:**

a. SHIGEMITSU Accepts Nomination: SHIGEMITSU Mamoru, former Foreign Minister who signed the surrender documents on board the USS "Missouri" 2 Sep 45, has accepted the nomination for president of the Progressive Party (INTSUM 3517). He made his acceptance in a call on former Premier ASHIDA Hitoshi, one of the party's senior advisors. However, although ASHIDA's support undoubtedly will influence many Progressives, there is considerable opposition to SHIGEMITSU among that section of the party which follows MIKI Takeo, the party's secretary-general. TOMABECHI Gizo, ex-Cabinet Minister who is head of the party's nominating committee, predicted a struggle within the party which may result in some loss of dissenting members, and indicated that his committee would not take hasty action. (a)

Comment: Although he has no political background, SHIGEMITSU stands head and shoulders above any other suggested Progressive candidate as a national figure. Now 65, he had a long and distinguished career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, starting in 1911. He was Minister to China in 1931, and lost a leg in a bomb explosion in Shanghai in 1932. He was Vice Foreign Minister in 1933, Ambassador to the Soviet Union in 1936, and succeeded present Prime Minister as Ambassador to England in 1939. He became Ambassador to China again in 1941, and Foreign Minister under TOJO, and concurrently in 1944 head of the Greater East Asia Prosperity League. He resigned 7 Apr 45, but was called back to be Foreign Minister in the "surrender Cabinet" of HIDASHI-KUMI 17 Aug 45. After the Occupation, he was tried and convicted as a war criminal, and imprisoned in Sugamo. He was released from prison 21 Nov 50 (INTSUM 2995), and depurged 24 Mar 52.

FOR COORDINATION WITH U.S. Army

**NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT**

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

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