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newspapers are particularly incensed over the recent arrest of a Yomiuri (Tokyo's leading daily) reporter (WIS 18) on charges of libeling two (LDP) Dietmen in a prostitution scandal-connected article, and apparently are determined to keep the investigation uppermost in the public mind. Indications are that the opposition JSP will try to make political capital out of the fact that MANABE is popularly associated with intra-LDP factions directly supporting Prime Minister KISHI. (Confidential)

SOCIO-POLITICAL

Japan's Television Boom (U)

Telecasting in Japan is now just over four years old, having been inaugurated in Feb 53 with the opening of a Japan Broadcasting Corporation station in Tokyo. Commercial telecasting was launched later the same year with the opening of the Japan Television Network's Station NTV. By Jan 57 the modest figure of 865 television receivers registered in 1953 had multiplied to several hundred thousand; at latest count (Oct 57) registered television sets numbered 620,000, exceeding by well over 100,000 the total number of receivers it was earlier estimated Japan would have by the end of the year.

Matching impressive gains made in the television receiver field have been exceptional increases made in the number of Japanese televising stations and telecasting channels. From two stations in 1953 the total count has jumped to 68, and it is likely that an additional 33 to 43 stations will be established by 1960. Nationwide telecasting was assured in Jan 57 when the opening of a microwave route from Sapporo To Fukuoka established a communication line from Japan's northernmost to its southernmost main island. Allocated telecasting channels were expected to be increased from 6 to 11 in 1957. Long-range plans recently announced by the Telegraph and Telephone Corporation call for expansion of the TV relay network by 1960 through the opening of an additional five microwave circuits between Osaka and Tokyo, four circuits between Osaka and Fukuoka, and three circuits on other trunk routes. (Unclassified) (f)

Comment: Aside from attesting to Japan's extraordinary technical advances since 1945, the phenomenal growth of the television and telecommunications industries has opened up a completely new field for political and economic exploitation. Prime Minister KISHI in repeated statements has made it clear that both radio and television could serve as important channels for bringing Government policies, actions, and plans to the attention of the public. Little doubt remains that KISHI fully recognizes not only the role that television can play in keeping the public abreast of official developments but also, and far more important, that he is keenly appreciative of the propaganda value of television. In view of the unabated progress even now being achieved in bringing television to the most isolated areas of Japan, it is probable that this medium will enjoy an increasingly important role in future Government attempts to gain public support, particularly on such issues as rearmament and the nation's defense forces. (Confidential)

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release
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