

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE FOR SPECIAL CONTROLS, IF ANY

INFORMATION REPORT

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. **D436777**

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY
Japan

REPORT NO.
00-3-94042

SUBJECT
Yoshida attempting to Return to Power/Leftist Activities of Editors and Writers of Asahi/ Political Influence of Mrs. Aso and Mrs. Hatoyama

DATE DISTRIBUTED
5 April 56

NO. OF PAGES 2 NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

PLACE ACQUIRED (By source)

RESPONSIVE TO

DATE ACQUIRED (By source) February 1956
DATE OF INFORMATION (Date or dates, on or between which events or conditions described in report existed) February 1956

OO/C

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE US citizen, public lecturer on Japan.

Wife of a former overseas newspaper correspondent who spent seventeen years in Japan both prior to and after World War II. She is a part time correspondent for some of the newspapers in Japan and regularly travels around the country to give public lectures on the customs and conditions in Japan. She knows many politically influential Japanese who regularly contact her when they come to the US.

1. I spoke to Mr. Kirpei Sheba, editor of the Asahi Evening News, during a visit he made to the US in February 1956 concerning reported "leftist" tendencies of some of Asahi's reporters and editors. He stated that unfortunately it was true that the Asahi was honeycombed with "leftist" writers whom the management seems unable to control. He stated that during the recent strike on Asahi that the pickets carrying the red flags were editors and reporters and not the mechanical workers whom he would have expected to see as strike demonstrators.
2. Sheba stated that the Asahi never interfered in any way with the policy of the Asahi Evening News (an afternoon English edition of the Tokyo Asahi Shimbun), and only once was he asked to publish a cartoon which he considered too "rightist" in its implications.
3. According to Sheba, Hisakichi Maeda, now head of the board of directors of the Sankei-Jiji, is in debt "up to his neck" as a result of the merger of the Jiji Shimpo and Sangyo Keizai to form the Sankei-Jiji, and has had to move the center of his activities from Osaka to Tokyo.
4. Another newspaper magnate now heavily in debt is Matsutaro Shoriki who, on the advice of friends, invested heavily in the Osaka branch of the Yomiuri Shimbun. Shoriki has done very well financially however with the independent television station which he started in Tokyo.
5. Sheba stated that one of the wealthiest men in Japan at the present time is Ichiro Kono, Minister of Agriculture, and it is known that he is paying most of the bills for the present Hatoyama government.
6. According to Sheba, Hatoyama is determined to stay in power as Prime Minister even though his health is not up to the responsibilities of the office.
7. Sheba further stated that he considered Kono and Nobusuke Kishi as the two biggest crooks in Japan today. According to him, Kono went to UK last fall to try to speed up the peace treaty with the USSR solely for the purpose of re-establishing certain fishing rights which would be completely to his advantage.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

DISTRIBUTION

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------|------|------|-----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| EV | STATE | ARMY | NAVY | AIR | FB | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------|------|------|-----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

NOFORN

NO DISSEM ABROAD

LIMITED

LIMITED: Dissemination limited to full-time employees of CIA, AEC and FBI: and within State and Defense, to the intelligence components, other offices producing NIS elements, and higher echelons with their immediate supporting staffs. Not to be disseminated to consultants, external project or reserve personnel on short term active duty (excepting individuals who are normally full-time employees of CIA, AEC, FBI, State or Defense).

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(D) Methods/Sources
- (2)(C) Foreign Relations

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

8. Since the death of Taketaro Ogata who was more or less slated to take over the leadership of the Liberal Party, Hatoyama is more than ever determined to stay in office. There is, however, a growing counter-movement to put Yoshida back into power. Since the death of Ogata the chances of Yoshida returning to power have increased ten fold.
9. Mr Jun Tsuchiya, Japanese Consul General in New York, corroborated Sheba's statement concerning the desire of Yoshida to return to power and stated that Mr and Mrs Takakichi Aso (Yoshida's daughter and son-in-law) are both working diligently to bring this about. Mrs Aso is well known to have considerable political influence in Japan and closely advised her father while he was in office.
10. Mrs Hatoyama, according to Sheba, has a great deal of political influence these days and is known to be behind all personal appointments and changes. Mrs Hatoyama is head of the Kyaritsu School which is a junior college in Tokyo.

-END-

LIBRARY SYMBOLS & AREA CODES

48-02-0615

(31) 456

114.566

32

891

32

103.41

103.2

111.4

111.1

(+1)

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L
NO DISSEM ABROAD

NOFORN

LIMITED