

Security Information

SECRET

From: [] Report No: ZJL-767 Local File No: _____

No. of Pages: 1 No. of Enclosures: 14 Dec 51

Report Made By: [] Approved By: []

Distribution:
 By copy to: Wash - 2 Orally to:
 Files - 3
 DS, GHQ, SCAP - 1

Source Cryptonym: [] References: _____

Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

The attached report from [] on YOSHIDA's opposition to rearmament is a compilation of bits and pieces collected over a period of several months. [] information, in this case as in most others, came from Chief Cabinet Secretary OKAZAKI, who is the official mentioned in the last sentence of paragraph 2.

14 December 1951

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
 DATE 2006

Classification **SECRET**

COPI

FORM NO. 51-50
 FEB 1949

44-7-14 - 22

SECRET

Security Information

Subject: Prime Minister YOSHIDA's Stand on Rearmament Report No: A7L-767

Date of Information: See below

Place Acquired: Tokyo, Japan

Date Acquired: See below

Evaluation: C-3

Date of Report: 14 December 1951

Source: High-level political contact

1. (Prime Minister) YOSHIDA Shigeru has decided to retire from the political world if the United States makes a strong demand for speedy rearmament of Japan. YOSHIDA considers modernized rearmament difficult in view of Japan's current economic situation and further anticipates an American garrison in Japan for a long period of time. YOSHIDA's objection to rearmament is despite strong urging from NOJIMA Kichisaburo and MATSUI Eichi (see below).

(Date of information: 6 December 1951; acquired: 12 December 1951)

2. YOSHIDA desires to retire in favor of HATOYAMA Ichiro, but, if this is possible because of HATOYAMA's poor health, has decided to hand over the haton to OATA Taketora. If speed is of the essence, since OATA is not yet in a position to take office, HAYASHI Joji, speaker of the House of Representatives and a ranking Liberal Party official, would be YOSHIDA's candidate to fill the vacant post of Prime Minister. In any case, YOSHIDA has confidentially stated that he feels that his cabinet has served its purpose and that he will assume full responsibility and retire if rapid rearmament is felt necessary at the present time. YOSHIDA has stated to cabinet officials categorically that he will neither carry out rearmament nor the revision of the Constitution.

(Date of information: 6 December 1951; acquired 12 December 1951)

3. YOSHIDA plans to use the rearmament issue to bring about general election during the latter part of September 1952. He absolutely opposes dissolving the Diet before that time, when a bill for reorganizing the National Police Reserve at the end of its current enlistment period would be brought before the Diet.

(Date of information: 28 October 1951; acquired: 3 November 1951)

Classification

Security Information

SECRET
IR COPY