

POLITICAL REPORT

2. The Independent Club: (Part I of three parts)

a. Independent Club Holds Balance of Power: (UNCLASSIFIED) The Liberal Party emerged from the 1 Oct Lower House elections with a bare majority of nine seats. This slim margin is reflected in most of the Lower House committees (where the bulk of the legislative work is performed) in which an equal number of Liberal members and nongovernment members sit under a Liberal chairman who votes only in the case of a tie (INTSUM 3717). The precarious Liberal majority consequently is constantly threatened by death, illness, abstention, or defection from the majority party's ranks. The Progressive, Right wing Socialist, Left wing Socialist and Labor-Farmer Parties all have publicly announced that they will act as opposition parties in the Diet. This leaves the Independent Club, as the only remaining organized Lower House body, in a strong bargaining position. Its decision to support or withhold support from the government's measures may determine the fate of the fourth YOSHIDA Cabinet. The Independent Club was organized on 24 Oct by 12 Lower House members, one of whom, octogenarian KUHARA Fusanosuke, soon withdrew from the Club's membership. Of the Independent Club's 11 remaining members, seven were elected as Independents and four as minor party candidates. Each of these minor parties produced only one successful Diet member. (d)

b. Independent Club Has Heterogenous Membership: (UNCLASSIFIED) The only reason for the 11 members banding together in a club was to improve their bargaining position. As an organized body, they became entitled to one seat on a number of Lower House Standing Committees, including all of the important committees. Their political opinions appear to range from the extreme left to the extreme right so that it is highly unlikely that the Club as a whole will ever be found on one side of an issue. Three members of the Club, including ex-Col TSUJI Masanobu, (INTSUM 3653), definitely can be classed in the nationalist rightist camp. Their voting behavior in the Diet will be most unpredictable. Four Independent Club members are conservatives (three are pro-Liberal; one is leaning toward the Progressives). Three members, including former Justice Minister KAZAMI Akira, are leftists who probably will support the Left wing Socialists in the Diet. The remaining member, TAKECHI Yuki, sole Reconstruction League candidate to win election, stands somewhere between the conservatives and rightists. The Liberal Party therefore possibly can count on the votes of three Independent Club members, and as many as eight if the Rightists and all conservatives back the Liberals on a specific policy. (d)

c. TSUJI Masanobu: (CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION. SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED. NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS)  
POSITION: Member of Lower House (Independent Club)  
DATE OF BIRTH: 11 Oct 02  
PLACE OF BIRTH: Ishikawa Prefecture

(a) Kyodo News Service, 28, 29 Nov 52.

(d) Scty Div, Japan Br Files.

J-2

CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION TSUJI, MASANOBU

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

FOR COORDINATION WITH

US Army

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

EDUCATION: Graduate of Imperial Japanese Military Academy and General Staff College

PAST CAREER: Graduating at the top of his class at the Military Academy in 1924, TSUJI proceeded to trace a brilliant career in the Imperial Japanese Army. He participated in the Nomonhan action and the China Incident, but was particularly noted for his staff work in connection with the capture of Singapore and the defense of Burma which won him the title of "god of strategy." Although he was made a Colonel in 1943, his influence extended far beyond his rank because of his undoubted brilliance in directing intelligence and strategic operations and because of his connections with higher ranking officers. TSUJI's tendency to take control of all phases of operation and by-passing of the commanders in centering all decisions in his own hands, however, did not endear himself to his fellow officers. The end of the war found Col. TSUJI in Bangkok and on a British list of suspected war criminals for his part in an alleged massacre of anti-Japanese Chinese in Singapore. A few days after the cessation of hostilities, TSUJI went underground, and in due course made his way into Nationalist China via Indochina disguised as a Buddhist priest. He served for a while in CHIANG Kai-shek's headquarters and secretly returned to Japan in 1949. Immediately after his name was taken off the "wanted" list by the British, TSUJI reappeared in public life with much fanfare. He immediately set about writing a great number of articles and best sellers on his experiences and engaged in a number of highly popular lecture tours. He became one of the leading figures in the reconstructed ultranationalist East Asia League, and has been active in the Japan Defense Association, a league of former Army officers. TSUJI has concerned himself mostly with discussions of a military-political nature and speculation regarding the course and outcome of a Third World War. His comparison of the US and Soviet war potential led TSUJI to the conclusion that a protracted, indecisive struggle between the two great powers was inevitable and Japan should endeavor to remain neutral. TSUJI advocates that Japan build up her own defensive power, abolish the Administrative Agreement with the US and force the withdrawal of US troops from Japan to insure neutrality. While remaining aloof from Russo-American struggle, Japan should cultivate the friendship of her Asiatic neighbors and prepare for the day when the Oriental races will become the world's dominant force after the US-Soviet battle has run its indecisive course. Japan, as TSUJI has stated, "belongs to the Emperor, not to Stalin or Truman." The former Colonel's nationalist writings which stress a strong aversion to Western imperialism and speak of a future Asian unity have brought him a great deal of publicity, so that he is regarded as a focus for a Japanese military revival by large sections of the Japanese press. TSUJI's campaign for election from the First Ishikawa District drew large crowds. Running as an Independent, he received by far the largest number of votes in his district. He appealed to the electorate on the issue of pensions for ex-service men and war sufferers which he favors, and on his plan for Japan to become the Switzerland of the Far East, thereby avoiding the horrors of the Third World War. TSUJI was the only professional soldier to be elected in the recent House of Representatives elections. (d)

Comment: (CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY INFORMATION. SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED. NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS) Despite TSUJI's repeated anti-American statements and the use of some of his statements by the Japan Communist Party, it is almost inconceivable that he has any connection with the JCP. Rather, he is an ultranationalist with strong racial feelings who believes in the concept of "Asia for the Asians." TSUJI has stated that he wants to see the emergence of a strong, democratic self-defense force which will be under the supervision of the Diet. He quiets Japanese fears of rearmament by stressing the strategic insignificance of Japan in the event of a Third World War. If Japan pursues an independent policy by her self-defense force, TSUJI states that she can avoid becoming a battlefield, a course that many Japanese like to hear and want to believe in. Having inherited at least part of the mantle of Lt. Gen. ISHIHARA Kanji in the East Asia League, TSUJI has placed himself at the forefront of a movement, as yet small, to revive racist ultranationalism. In the House of Representatives

Div, Japan Br Files.