Approved For Release 2008/07/14 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000700070006-7

DOCUMENT NO. 2
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
X DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE:
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 1-14-80 REVIEWER:

25X1

TN

JAPAN
(CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS SINCE 27 JUNE 1956)

A. POLITICAL

1. On 1 July, the Japan Communist Party officially changed its policy from violent revolution to "peaceful revolution through parliamentarism." Top party leaders said the change was made in response to changes in the international and domestic situation, presumably to conform to the new Communist line coming from the Twentieth Soviet Communist Party Congress.

2. The July death of senior Liberal-Democratic Party leader Bukichi Miki deprived the government party of the man who was regarded as the key to preserving conservative unity in arranging a smooth succession to Prime Minister Hatoyama. His loss may lead rival party factions to press more strongly for dominance.

B. MILITARY

1. On 3 July, a new Japanese air staff chief (lieutenant General Sanagi) was appointed. A professional military man, he will be the second career officer to receive a top position in Japan's armed forces (Admiral Nagasawa who heads the navy was the first).

2. Japan's defense ministry accepted a Chinese Nationalist invitation for a Japanese military mission to visit Taiwan for ten days in July. The mission will include one general officer and six colonels, two from each service, and will be the first foreign visit of Japanese military officers to a country other than the US.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET

Approved For Release 2008/07/14 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000700070006-7

Approved For Release 2008/07/14 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000700070006-7

C. ECONOMIC

1. On 28 June, Japan informed CHINCOM of its intention to export 50 wooden fishing vessels, and some as yet undisclosed' items, in exchange for 600,000 tons of Communist Chinese coking coal.

2. Early in July, Japanese steelmakers decided to negotiate the purchase of an undefined tonnage of Hainan iron ore and 300,000 tons of North China coking coal from Peiping, both to take advantage of cheaper freight rates and to assure a source of materials during the world steel shortage. In return, the Chinese Communists are expected to demand major trade concessions, including the sale of embargoed Japanese items, before supplying the iron ore.

3. The Japanese government has also announced that during August Japanese trade representatives would meet in Tokyo with Chinese Communist trade representatives to discuss the conclusion of a fourth trade agreement, a payments arrangement between the Banks of Tokyo and China, and an exchange of permanent trade representatives.

5. Mid-year economic assessments, released in early July, showed:

a. Japanese reparations payments to Burma are far behind schedule. $5,800,000 in contracts have validated by the Japanese government, or less than 12% of the goal scheduled through June 1956.

b. Japan's merchandise trade showed a deficit of $340,000,000 for the first half of 1956. The deficit will be largely offset by invisible receipts, but a balance of payments is indicated for 1956 less favorable than 1955.

Approved For Release 2008/07/14 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000700070006-7