Approved For Release 2008/07/14 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000700070008-5

CONFIDENTIAL

NSC BRIEFING 11 JULY 1956

JAPANESE ELECTION

I. Japanese Socialist gains (up 12-seats to new total of 80 - chart) in 8 July election of ½ members of Diet Upper House assure them of one-third control necessary to block constitutional amendments.

A. This was main Socialist campaign goal, aimed at preventing amendment legalizing Japanese rearmament.

B. Upper House cannot be overridden in such matters.

II. Hatoyama's Liberal-Democratic Party gained no seats, but retains a single majority in Upper House (and continued control of Lower House).

III. Socialists credit their gains both to anti-rearmament stand and to anti-US position on Okinawa land question and US bases in Japan. They also see vote as support for their policy of friendship, closer ties with Moscow.

A. Socialist strength has been growing since '52 elections, with main base in urban areas, organized labor.

B. Significantly, this time, Socialists also made inroads in rural Conservative strongholds.

IV. Conservative Liberal-Democrats, are weakened by factional conflicts both over future leadership and over policy towards USSR peace treaty.

25X1

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

25X6

Approved For Release 2008/07/14 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000700070008-5