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NSC BRIEFING 29 April 1959

JAPAN

I. Conservative success (Liberal Democratic Party) in winning key gubernatorial and municipal elections on 23 April stems the persistent pro-Socialist trend of recent years.

A. These victories strengthen Kishi's personal position by temporarily quieting his intra-party rivals and gives his party a psychological lift for the more important upper house elections in early June.

II. Conservative successes, however, do not assure similar results in the critical upper-house elections.

A. Socialists have less seats than the conservatives at stake and can concentrate their votes with nationwide labor support.

III. Kishi by no means out of woods as conservative dissidents still trying to find an issue to oust him.

A. He having difficulty getting his party to agree to revised US-Japan security treaty; some dissidents hope to use this to undermine him.

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