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Source, Operational Data, and Comments:

[redacted] came across with this in a meeting with [redacted] on 8 April 1954. His source was unstated; presumably he was not present at this meeting, but he has reported close relations with HARAHASHI Wataru, who is a member of the Central Standing Committee.

Our interest in this report lies mostly between the lines-- in SHIGEMITSU's apparently coming off a poor second in a clash with his nominal subordinate, KITAMURA (who is a more experienced politician). This helps to support the often heard surmise that SHIGEMITSU's Presidency over the Progressives is more nominal than real.

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**REPORT**  
AMERICAN SOURCE

COUNTRY Japan DATE DISTR. 10 April 1954  
SUBJECT Clash in Progressive Party Leadership NO. OF PAGES 1  
PLACE ACQUIRED Japan, Tokyo NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW) 0  
DATE OF INFO. 6 April 1954 SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

GRADING OF SOURCE						COLLECTOR'S PRELIMINARY GRADING OF CONTENT					
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED	CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
A	B. X	C.	D.	E.	F.	1.	2.	3. X	4.	5.	6.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE Retired Japanese Government official

1. At a meeting of the Progressive Party Supreme Staff Committee on 6 April 1954, KITAMURA Tokutaro, Party Advisor and former Finance Minister, criticized Party President SHIGEMITSU Memora, holding him responsible for the Progressives' ambiguous response to the Liberal Party's approaches to a merger. KITAMURA advocated that a rapprochement with the Liberals not be undertaken until the investigation of the shipping scandals is completed, since at the present time no one can be certain as to just who is going to be involved in the scandals. He pointed out that the Liberal overtures to the Progressives are a measure of desperation.
2. Specifically, KITAMURA criticized SHIGEMITSU for meeting with chief Liberal policy-maker IKEDA Hayato, reasoning that MIURA, IKEDA's opposite number in the Progressive Party, should have been the man to meet IKEDA. When SHIGEMITSU defended this meeting by stating that IKEDA had requested it, KITAMURA countered that SHIGEMITSU should not meet anyone just because they had requested an interview.
  - 1 Field Comment. Presumably the Central Standing Committee (Chuo Junin Inka) of the Party.
  - 2 Field Comment. KITAMURA was Transportation Minister in the KATAYAMA Cabinet in 1947 and Finance Minister in the ASHIDA Cabinet in 1948.
  - 3 Field Comment. According to the press, SHIGEMITSU had a "secret rendezvous" at his home in Yugawara (Shizuoka-ken) on 4 April 1954 with former Finance Minister IKEDA. After the meeting, SHIGEMITSU is reported to have stated, "I think it is important for responsible leaders of the Liberal, Progressive and Japan Liberal Parties to get together and exchange opinions on ways and means to settle the political situation." This statement was heralded as one of the most clear-cut indications of the real possibility of a conservative merger made to date, and so KITAMURA's charges of ambiguity would seem rather wide of the mark.
  - 4 Field Comment. This must be MIURA Kunio, House of Representatives member from Aomori, whose position as Chairman of the Progressives' Political Policy Committee (Seisaku Inka) corresponds to that of IKEDA in the Liberal Party.

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