

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY	Japan	REPORT NO.	CS-55691
SUBJECT	Views on Political Status of SHIGEMITSU Mamoru	DATE DISTR.	26 January 1955
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
 FOR KEY SEE LISTINGS

**BY CABLE**

SOURCE: American businessman in Tokyo (B); from a Japanese Foreign Ministry official (F).  
 Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister SHIGEMITSU Mamoru is in a weak position in the Democratic Party because of a lack of funds. After the elections SHIGEMITSU may be replaced by SUGIHARA Arata, remaining as a figurehead Deputy Prime Minister.<sup>1</sup>
2. MATSUMOTO Shunichi is too young for the appointment as Foreign Minister, although he is a potential future Foreign Minister and even Premier.<sup>2</sup>

1. Washington Comment. CS-55223, from a different source, stated that SHIGEMITSU will probably retain a sinecure as Deputy Prime Minister and that the next Foreign Minister will be SUGIHARA Arata, a career diplomat. See CS-54578 and CS-54342 for additional information on SUGIHARA.

It is possible that the information contained in CS-55223 was obtained from the same official in the Japanese Foreign Ministry as was this report.

2. Field Comment. MATSUMOTO, former ambassador to Great Britain, is 57 years of age.  
Washington Comment. According to CS-55223, SUGIHARA will be the next Foreign Minister but will be succeeded within a year by MATSUMOTO provided MATSUMOTO wins a Diet seat.

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*SHIGEMITSU Mamoru done*

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2) (A) Privacy   
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