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COUNTRY	Japan	REPORT NO.	FJT-953
SUBJECT	Views of Junior Foreign Ministry Official on SHIGEMITSU Mamoru	DATE OF REPORT	1 October 1956
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. NOTE FOREGOING EXPLANATION.

SOURCE: Trained American observer (B). Appraisal of Content: 2 (Reportorial accuracy)

The following views were recently expressed by a Junior Foreign Ministry official:

- a. Most Foreign Ministry officials have been disappointed in the explanations given by Foreign Minister SHIGEMITSU Mamoru concerning the Japan-Soviet negotiations since his return from Moscow. The Foreign Ministry officials feel that SHIGEMITSU should have presented his frank views on the manner in which the talks should be conducted in the future, rather than "play politics" as he has done.
 - b. The appointment of SHIGEMITSU as Acting Premier if Premier HATOYAMA Ichiro does go to Moscow will neither raise the prestige of the Foreign Ministry nor increase SHIGEMITSU's prestige in the eyes of Foreign Ministry officials. It would rather have the opposite effect, since this would be another instance in which the Foreign Ministry is excluded from a major diplomatic negotiation.¹
 - c. Agriculture-Forestry Minister KONO Ichiro did not expect that, when SHIGEMITSU returned to Japan, the latter would agree to the proposal that HATOYAMA go to Moscow to finish the negotiations. KONO planned to use the opposition which he anticipated SHIGEMITSU would put up to this plan in order to have SHIGEMITSU dropped from the Cabinet, but KISHI Nobusuke, Secretary-General of the Liberal-Democratic Party, convinced KONO that becoming Acting Premier would not increase SHIGEMITSU's prestige and that consequently it was unnecessary to get rid of SHIGEMITSU.
 - d. In the Foreign Ministry SHIGEMITSU is generally considered an able diplomat but a poor politician. Career Foreign Service officers for the most part dislike SHIGEMITSU because of his habit of confiding in only a handful of picked associates, thus injecting the "boss-protégé" (oyabun-kobun) system familiar in Japanese politics into diplomatic affairs.
1. Field Comment. Previous examples having been KONO Ichiro's negotiations in Moscow and FUJIYAMA Aichiro's settlement of the Philippine reparations problem.

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