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SUBJECT	Socialist Committee Discussion of Charges that Party Received Communist Funds	DATE DISTR.	24 September 1956
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SOURCE: An official of the Japan Socialist Party (C). Appraisal of Content: 2.

- At a meeting of the Japan Socialist Party's Central Executive Committee held on 20 July 1956, SATAKE Shinichi, a committee member from Hiroshima Prefecture raised the question of charges made by TSUJI Masanobu, a Liberal-Democratic Diet member, that the Socialist Party had received financial support from the Chinese Communists.¹ SATAKE asked how the Socialist Party should reply to the charge.
- SASAKI Kozo, chairman of the party's Election Policy Committee, and ITO Ushiro chairman of the Financial Affairs Committee, both dismissed the charge as demagoguery and ITO suggested that an official protest be made to the Liberal-Democratic Party. ASARUMA Inejiro, the party secretary-general, urged that the issue not be pursued and that it not even be mentioned unless the party were confronted directly by the charge, in which case the allegation should be denied and TSUJI criticized.²

Field Comments

- The Japanese press reported TSUJI's charge, which was made in Ishikawa Prefecture during the campaign for the House of Councillors elections held 8 July 1956. The Japan Socialist Party threatened to bring a suit for libel whereupon TSUJI elaborated his statements at a meeting of the Liberal-Democratic Party's Executive Board.
- According to a Liberal-Democratic member of the House of Representatives discussed the affair with TSUJI, the latter's charges are well documented bank statements and other evidence. The informant said TSUJI had the wherewithal to publish in a small newspaper in Ishikawa Prefecture and would seek legal action by the Socialist Party.

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