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**CONFIDENTIAL**

17 March 1959

NSC BRIEFING

25X1

(Outline of possible briefing)

- I. Plans to revise the US-Japanese Security Treaty have become embroiled in Japanese domestic politics.
  - A. Divided opinion within his ruling Liberal-Democratic Party has forced Prime Minister Kishi to abandon plans for an early signing of a revision.
  - B. The Socialists are girding for an all-out attack on the treaty. Socialist party left-wingers have pushed through a decision to form a united anti-treaty front with the Communists and other leftist organizations.
  - C. While the US does not desire security treaty revision per se, we have consented to it in order to strengthen the Kishi government and to make security ties with the US more palatable to the Japanese.
- II. It appears that the Japanese upper house elections in June will be fought out on clear-cut terms of conservative advocacy of close cooperation with the US versus Socialist anti-Americanism.
- III. This situation poses possible dangers to the Japan-US relationship, the likelihood of which cannot be predicted with certainty.
  - A. The electoral campaign could serve to develop and crystallize deep-seated feeling in Japan over an "insulting" treaty relationship with the US.
  - B. If the LDP (Kishi) majority is reduced by any substantial proportion in this election, it could well mean the displacement of Kishi from within his own party.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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