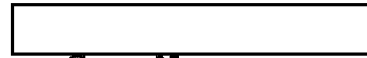


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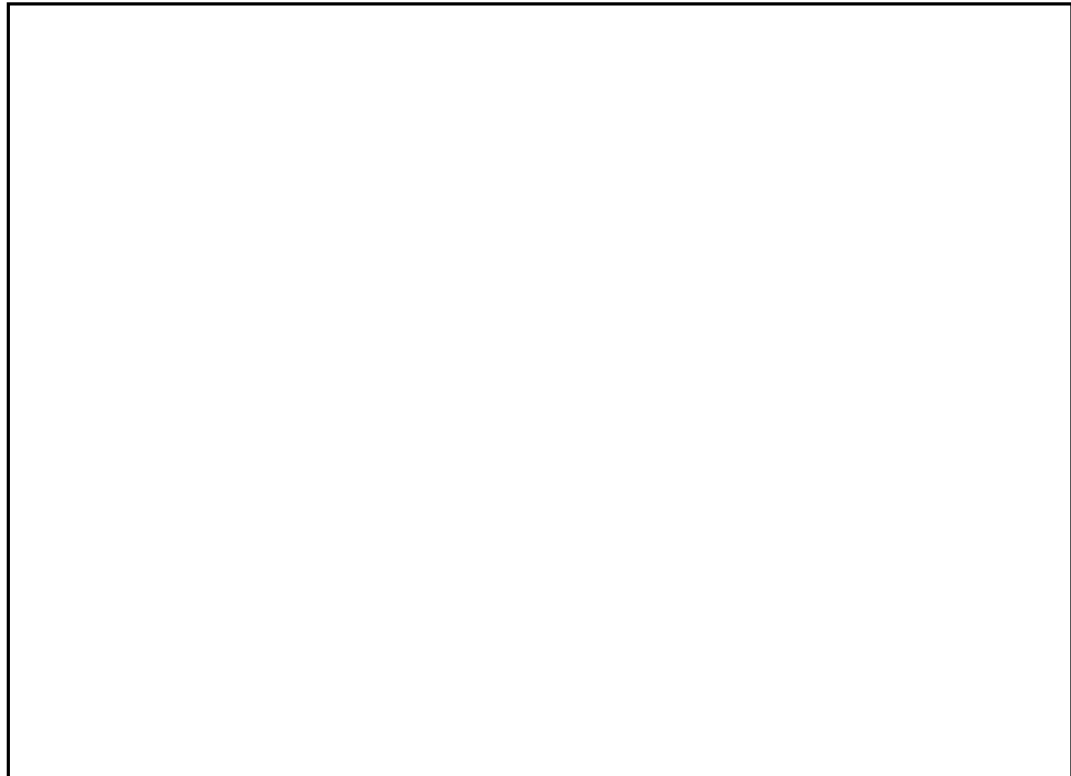
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1. KISHI SEEN AS HATOYAMA'S SUCCESSOR

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The death of Taketora Ogata, former deputy prime minister, has made Shinsuke Kishi, secretary general of the Liberal-Democratic Party, the leading candidate to succeed Hatoyama as prime minister of Japan. Ambassador Allison reports that in order to appease the ex-Liberals who are dissatisfied with Hatoyama, arrangements might be made for Kishi to succeed Hatoyama following the Upper House elections in June.

Allison discounts the concern of the Japanese press that Ogata's death will result in a loosening of ties with the US. He notes that strong elements among the conservatives will continue to oppose a "soft" policy toward the Orbit.

Comment

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Ichiro Kono, party leader Bukichi Miki and Kishi are the real powers in conservative Japanese politics. Kishi, a leading promoter of the successful conservative merger which took place last November, has been careful to maintain a broad base of support among the various conservative factions.

A former cabinet minister under Tojo who spent two years in prison as a war crimes suspect, Kishi has often asserted that he favors co-operation with the United States. He has also stated, however, that the United States must recognize--and help Japan to overcome--his country's "economic and spiritual weaknesses," for which he blames the occupation in part.

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