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15 November 1982

3 Hold for
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Japan Branch
Office of East Asian Analysis

FROM: [Redacted]
Chief, Operations Group, FBIS

STAT

SUBJECT: Media Coverage and Item Selection

REFERENCE: Your memorandum of 26 October 1982, same subject

1. Thank you for your observations on FBIS collection, particularly regarding press collection on Japanese politics. As you may know, Okinawa Bureau was instructed last year to increase its collection of information on Japanese domestic issues, but without increase in staff. To some extent they are still grappling with the expanded collection requirement.

2. In response to our query the bureau stated as follows: "Believe you are referring to a series entitled '82 LDP Presidential Election' published by YOMIURI SHIMBUN from 2 to 12 October dealing with maneuvers of mainstream and non-mainstream LDP factions in connection with the LDP presidential election. In the course of discussing the positions of the mainstream and non-mainstream factions, the series does examine the opposition of some non-mainstream factions to Suzuki's candidacy although, in the opinion of Okinawa's Japanese Unit Chief, that was not the focus of the series as a whole."

3. The YOMIURI SHIMBUN articles fall well within the selection guidance which has been provided to Okinawa. Thus the decision not to process was a judgment call by the bureau. In the event it turned out to have been a poor one, though it is perhaps worth noting that Tokyo Embassy also, with its ready access to the YOMIURI SHIMBUN series through its translation unit, appears not to have attached any special significance to the articles. Indeed, the 8 October article stated that Suzuki was still planning to run for election.

4. We have passed your comments along to Okinawa Bureau with the request that they examine their selection threshold and processing criteria. They are always grateful for feedback. By the same token we would appreciate you or members of your staff alerting the FBIS Wire or Daily Report to any developments in Japan which you believe merit especially close attention.

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