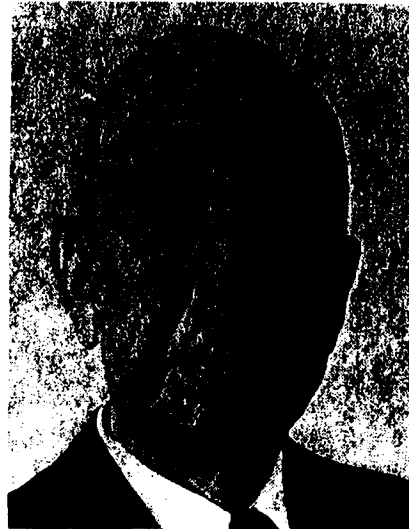


Nobusuke KISHI
(Phonetic: keeshee)

JAPAN

Former Prime Minister

Addressed as:
Mr. Kishi



A Cabinet minister during World War II and Prime Minister during 1957-60, Nobusuke Kishi formally ended a political career that had spanned nearly 40 years when he retired from the lower house of the Diet in October 1979. Kishi, who has been a leader of the conservative wing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party for many years, had to step down as Prime Minister in the wake of widespread rioting that occurred after he had pushed for the ratification of the revised US-Japan Security Treaty. He was an adviser to his younger brother, the late Eisaku Sato, during the latter's tenure as Prime Minister (1964-72) and since then has been something of an elder statesman in the party.

Kishi joined the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce after graduating from the Law Faculty of Tokyo Imperial University in 1920. He was deputy chief of the Industrial Bureau of the Japanese-sponsored government in Manchuria during 1936-39. Recalled to Tokyo to become Vice Minister of the Commerce and Industry Ministry, he was promoted to Minister in 1941. From 1943 until July 1944 he was Vice Minister of Munitions. After the war Kishi was imprisoned by Occupation authorities as a war criminal until 1948 and then was prohibited from participating in political activity until 1952. The following year he ran for the Diet; he was elected to his 10th term in the lower house in December 1976. Before becoming Prime Minister he had served briefly during 1956-57 as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Kishi, 83, has traveled extensively; he visited Washington in 1977 and met with President Jimmy Carter. He has served as president of the America-Japan Society, the Japan-Brazil Legislative League and the Japan Parliamentary Federation on Population. Kishi speaks some English. He has been a widower since June 1980.

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