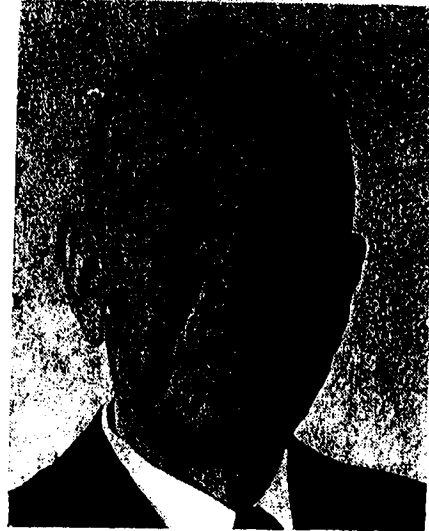


Nobusuke KISHI
(Phonetic: keeshee)

JAPAN

Former Prime Minister
(1957-60)

Addressed as:
Mr. Kishi



A Cabinet minister during World War II and Prime Minister at the time of the conclusion of the US-Japan Mutual Security Treaty in 1960, Nobusuke Kishi has been a major actor in some of the most important events in modern Japanese history. He has not held a policymaking position since he served as Prime Minister. He has nevertheless remained powerful in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) as a result of his status as elder statesman and his ties to party leaders. Kishi retired from the Diet in 1979. (C)

Strongly anti-Communist, Kishi has been a leading champion of the present regime on Taiwan, although he has also come to recognize the necessity of improved relations between Japan and China. He is a central figure in the movement to revise elements of the post-war constitution, particularly those clauses defining the status of the Emperor and restricting the use of the armed forces. Active and interested in international affairs, Kishi has often served as a behind-the-scenes channel of communication between top-level LDP officials and foreign leaders on sensitive diplomatic issues. (C)

Career

Kishi began his career in the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce in 1920. He was a high-level official in the Japanese-sponsored government in Manchuria in the late 1930s, and he served as Minister of Commerce and of Industry and Munitions during World War II. After the war he was imprisoned for three years as a suspected war criminal. He returned to political life with the end of the Occupation and was elected to the Diet in 1953. (U)

While Prime Minister, Kishi was a prime mover in the revision of the US-Japan Security Treaty. He was

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 8-005

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
 (2)(A) Privacy
 (2)(B) Methods/Sources
 (2)(G) Foreign Relations

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Classified by: []
Declassify: OADR
Derived From: Multiple

CONFIDENTIAL

forced to resign in 1960, following riots protesting ratification of the treaty. Over the years he has served as an adviser and political mentor to his late brother, former Prime Minister (1964-72) Eisaku Sato; former Prime Minister (1976-78) Takeo Fukuda; and his son-in-law, Minister of International Trade and Industry Abe Shintaro. He has met at various times with US Presidents Eisenhower, Nixon, Ford, and Carter. (U)

Personal Data

Kishi, 85, speaks some English. He has been a widower since 1980. (U)

23 August 1982