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Conservatives Push Constitution Revision Council:

The Diet failure to pass the Constitution Revision Council (CRCB) stirred ~~the~~ conservatives to action. Almost immediately, the Democratic-Liberal Dietmen's Autonomous Constitution Establishment League (DLLE) met and resolved to fight in the next Diet session for passage of the CRCB. The DLLE is composed of 160 conservatives including such prominent Diet personages from the JDP as SHIGEMITSU Mamoru, KISHI Nobusuke, KIIJOSE Ichiro, ASHIDA Hitoshi, SHORIKI Matsutaro; from the Liberals, OGATA Taketora, ISHII Mitsujiro, KIMURA Tokutaro; and from the Green Breeze Society, HIROSE Hisatada. In an additional effort to prepare for passage of the CRCB, the JDP decided to establish a Constitution Research Council within the JDP.

COMMENT: (CONFIDENTIAL) Political observers have stated that constitutional revision issues have stimulated conservative merger plans since the conservatives realize that only a merger would assure eventual defeat of Socialist opposition to constitutional revision, especially Socialist hostility to changes in the rearmament clauses in the Constitution. The JDP Constitution Research Council is a temporary JDP measure to fill the gap between the Diet defeat of the CRCB and its later, hoped-for passage.

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- (1)(A) Privacy
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