



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Ch #39

56

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date:

In reply refer to:
1-7998/76

SEP 20 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Lockheed: Arrest of Former Prime Minister Tanaka --
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

29 JUL 1976

Former Prime Minister Tanaka's arrest on charges of receiving illegal Lockheed funds is the latest and biggest shock in the series of unsettling political activities in Japan. The arrest adds enormously to the political difficulties of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. General elections must take place in Japan before the end of this year, and the implication of Tanaka in the Lockheed scandal doubtless will have an adverse impact on the LDP then and in Diet Upper House (where the LDP edge is very close) elections next spring.

The arrest also adds great uncertainty to the outcome of the current struggle between Prime Minister Miki and Mr. Fukuda for LDP leadership. Miki may well benefit in his fancy footwork to retain party leadership but a firm assessment at this point would be premature.

We have in Japan almost the equivalent of the Nixon tape revelations. The political fall-out could be incalculable. The LDP, however, has absorbed considerable shock before (including Tanaka's 1974 resignation as Prime Minister) and could well do so again. But at present the extent of the consequences is not fully discernable and it would be folly to make predictions. We can expect that intense preoccupation with political affairs will further slow down our bilateral dialogue with the Japanese as well as their own internal defense improvements.

1000 needed

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Date: 20 SEP 2018 Authority: EO 13526 + S.O.S.C.

Declassify: X Deasy in Full: § 552

Declassify in Part: _____

Reason: _____

MDR: 18-M-1647

John W. ...

27 July 76

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION~~
~~AS A RESULT OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 OF 10-21-71~~



18-M-1647

FORMER No. X-2288
07/162A

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~