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**Chef de la mission de liaison au Japon au secrétaire d'État aux
Affaires extérieures**

**Head, Liaison Mission in Japan to Secretary of State for
External Affairs**

Despatch No. 50

Secret

Tokyo, November 1st, 1948

Sir,

I have the honour to report on the conversation I had on October 30th with Mr. Yoshida Shigeru, the Japanese Premier.

2. Mr. Yoshida who is concurrently Foreign Minister recently paid a courtesy call at the Mission during my absence and so I desired to reciprocate by returning his call. He was the first Japanese Foreign Minister since the end of the war who has, on taking office, paid such a call on this Mission. As I had not met Mr. Yoshida, I was glad to have this opportunity of talking to him since under occupation arrangements one does not meet Japanese Government officials as regularly as one would under normal circumstances.

3. Mr. Yoshida is a man of seventy who, in the years before the war, held high positions in the diplomatic service, notably as Ambassador at the Court of St. James and, for a brief time, Foreign Minister. Although in retirement during the war years, he followed the course of the war closely and is reported to have advised the Emperor to start peace negotiations right after the capture of Singapore by the Japanese early in 1942. It was his theory that Japan was then at its maximum strength and there would never be such an advantageous moment for peace negotiations again. As the tide of war turned slowly but steadily against Japan, Mr. Yoshida found among retired statesmen and senior courtiers consider-