

should imagine he has little taste for debates in the Diet and would leave most of that work to colleagues more gifted in public oratory. He is in every sense of the word a conservative with little understanding of the position of labour in modern politics, and has no great desire to make the effort to understand it. He is old-fashioned in the best sense of that word, both in his manner and personal tastes, but I fear that in the present age this will not be an asset as a political leader in post-war Japan. His cabinet is not outstanding for men of talent or experience, but Mr. Yoshida has one great source of political strength, namely his stubborn loyalty to his own followers. Anyone who has stuck by him can count on Mr. Yoshida's full support.

12. Following the scandals which caused the resignation of the Ashida Government, Mr. Yoshida will have to steer a careful course in the Diet, especially since he lacks a majority. Because of this situation he may decide to dissolve the Diet and go to the country. He has on numerous occasions expressed confidence that he could return with a definite majority. As the session of the current Diet will only last a few weeks we will soon know what Mr. Yoshida's strategy will be in this regard.

13. I am sending a copy of this despatch to our Embassy in Nanking.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant

E.H. Norman