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*Compte-rendu d'une conversation entre le premier ministre
et le premier ministre du Japon*

*Record of Conversation Between Prime Minister
and Prime Minister of Japan*

SECRET

[Ottawa], June 26, 1961

1. *Khrushchev Speech*

Prime Minister Ikeda opened the conversation with a question regarding *Khrushchev's* recent speech.⁷² *Prime Minister Diefenbaker* replied that *Khrushchev* had declared in a speech the day before that the Soviet Union would surpass all other countries. He had conducted himself in a fashion sounding like Hitler at his worst and was at times unintelligible, even to the Russian people.

2. *Situation in the Far East*

Prime Minister Ikeda said that the Communist offensive in South East Asia would become stronger. The situation in Laos and South Vietnam allowed for no relaxation. Developments in Burma, though not as serious as other problems, were nevertheless of great concern.

3. *Korea*

It is important that the military régime in Korea should be given adequate guidance so that it will not get out of control. The Korean people are erratic and excitable and there is a great need for stability. Canada, the United States, Japan and other western countries should work together to restore stability to Korea. Because economic instability is the main cause of Korea's problems, guidance in the economic field is necessary.

4. The previous régime in Korea was corrupt; the present one is not democratic but is a military régime. There is great uncertainty what will take its place should it fail. General Pak is a North Korean and a former Communist. Many of the Korean officers involved in the new régime came from North Korea. Because of these dangers the West must not turn their backs on the new régime.

5. *Communist China*

China's current food shortage and crop failures, the poor success of the communes and the excessively rapid industrialization have resulted in a set-back of two or three years in China's developments. *Prime Minister Ikeda* believed the Peking régime to be unpopular but opposition would be suppressed. Because of her internal troubles China would attempt to divert attention to foreign matters and the West must be cautious. Later examples of diverting attention to foreign matters were Chou En Lai's visit to Burma with a huge retinue of 400 persons; China's adamant stand at the 81st Congress of Communist parties in Moscow in disagreement with the Soviet Union. All these activities seemed to divert Chinese popular attention to outside matters. China's methods of doing this in South East Asia are of special importance.

6. *Recognition of China*

Mr. Ikeda explained that the problem of China is a difficult one for Japan. Japan has had a long historical association with the Chinese people. There is also a sense of guilt among the Japanese because of Japan's military aggression in China. Perhaps ¼ or ½ of the Japanese

⁷² Voir/See "Khrushchev Sees Russian Economy Near U.S. Level," *New York Times*, June 25, 1961, p. 1.