

*29 Sept 88*

~~SECRET~~/NOFORN

PROJECT SUN STREAK

WARNING NOTICE: INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

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PROJECT NUMBER: 5179                      SESSION NUMBER: 02

DATE OF SESSION: 29 SEPT 88      DATE OF REPORT: 29 SEPT 88

START: 1400                                      END: 1500

METHODOLOGY: WRV                              VIEWER IDENTIFICATION: 025

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1. (S//NF//SK) MISSION: ACCESS AND DESCRIBE EMPEROR HIROHITO.
2. (S//NF//SK) VIEWER TASKING: TO ACCESS AND DESCRIBE THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE FOLDER.
3. (S//NF//SK) COMMENTS: VIEWER WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN MUCH MORE INFORMATION ONCE THE MONITOR STRESSED HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO VERBALIZE. ONCE THE VIEWER STARTED TO VERBALIZE, IT WAS REPORTED THAT THIS MAN WAS ONCE AN ENEMY OF THE U.S. BUT IS NOW AN ALLY. VIEWER WAS ABLE TO REPORT THAT THE MAN'S HEALTH IS NOT GOOD. VIEWER WAS ABLE TO REPORT THAT BIG CHANGES IN THE COUNTRY WOULD OCCUR ONCE HE WAS OUT OF POWER. MUCH MORE INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED DURING THIS SESSION THAN AT FIRST AND THE LESSON LEARNED HERE WAS THE IMPORTANCE OF VERBALIZATION. *No references noted*
4. (S//NF//SK) EVALUATION: *(4)*

HANDLE VIA SECURE CHANNELS ONLY

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SUMMARY

WORKING PAPER

THIS MAN IS HIGHLY PROTECTED. HE SUFFERS NOW AND IS ILL. THERE ARE VOLUMES OF INFORMATION ON THIS INDIVIDUAL. HE WILL BE JUDGED AFTER HIS DEATH. HE IS VERY POWERFUL AND IN THE FUTURE THERE WILL BE A PROBLEM AFTER HIS ABSENCE. HIS HOME CAN ALSO BE A CHURCH. HE HAS PRESTIGE. THIS MAN IS ALSO A SOLDIER. HE HAS A GRAND NAME.

7  
WHEN HIS COUNTRY INVADED (THE U.S.?) IT WAS A GRAND PERFORMANCE AND A SURPRISE. THIS MAN WAS ONCE AN ENEMY OF THE U.S. BUT NOW HE IS A FRIEND. HE BELIEVES IN PEACE AND FREEDOM NOW. THIS MAN IS AN HIER.

HIS COUNTRY SELLS SLAVES.

~~SECRET~~

"Unexpectedly I was taken ill, and could not visit Okinawa, where I had a duty to perform." — Emperor Hirohito, New Year 'waka', 1988.

Forty-two years after the god died, the man is dying, too. The life of Emperor Hirohito of Japan, the last surviving national leader of World War I and a "living god" for the first 20 years of his reign, is drawing to an end, and the Japanese are going to get a new style of emperor.

Hirohito is 87, and has been in slow decline since he had surgery for an intestinal obstruction a year ago (and had to cancel a scheduled trip to Okinawa). He was once ranked right alongside Hitler and Mussolini in Allied war propaganda, but in his later years it was difficult to envisage the shy emperor whose main enthusiasm was marine biology as a factor of any great importance in the world.

It is equally difficult to imagine Crown Prince Akihito as a mover and shaker: His best-known public achievement in 54 years of life has been to contribute a section about hobbies to a book on fish. Yet the change of reign will have a profound effect on the collective emotional life of the Japanese.

There is no Japanese under 60 who can remember a time when Hirohito was not on the throne: He means the country's entire modern story. When he came to the throne in 1926, Japan was still the poverty-ridden but ferociously determined underdeveloped country of whose inhabitants Rudyard Kipling once wrote that they were "not natives, but not quite sahibs either." And young Hirohito was literally god to most Japanese. When an unfortunate policeman misdirected the imperial motorcade down an alley, he disemboweled himself in penance for his error. The emperor was the incarnation of the Japanese people, with absolute authority, and no ordinary mortal could look at him.

There is still a great deal of dispute about how much Hirohito personally exercised his authority, or left it to other people, in the years leading up to World War II, but 15 years after ascending the throne he presided over a million empire controlling half of Asia.

Five years after that he presided

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Emperor Hirohito

only over a defeated and hungry population huddled in its ruined cities (two of them devastated by atomic bombs) — and the American conquerors required him to renounce his godhood. In the 1947 constitu-

tion, he was no longer the god-king, but only "a symbol of the state and the unity of the people."

Not much has been seen of the emperor in the succeeding four decades — usually only a couple of pub-

lic appearances a year at a balcony of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, yet he was always present in the Japanese consciousness as a powerful symbol of continuity with the national past.