

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: Support Cable for East Asia Brief (4 pages)	11/19/1996	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: Meeting, November 15, 1996 (6 pages)	11/21/1996	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: Meeting, November 15, 1996 (6 pages)	11/20/1996	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: Japan-U.S. / Security Relations (6 pages)	11/22/1996	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: Digest Executive Edition 224-96 (11 pages)	11/26/1996	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1995-Dec 1996 ([Futenma])
OA/Box Number: 510000

FOLDER TITLE:

[11/19/1996 - 11/26/1996]

2016-0420-F

sb1888

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

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LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHKOAO679 3250243-UUUU--RHEHAAA.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O 200243Z NOV 96

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

OSRI: RUEHKO

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ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO: RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2026
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9896

INFO: RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//USIA//
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5//
RUYNJDK/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
RUAYJAA/GOMPATWING ONE KAMI SEYA JA
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHHMHAH/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N5//
RUEBBEA/USDOT WASHDC

SUBJ: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 20

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 09 TOKYO 010679

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR
EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA
WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN;
TREASVRY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS;
USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA;
COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 20

TOP HEADLINES:

ASAHI: ON CONSTRUCTION OF SPECIAL NURSING-CARE HOMES
UNDER LEADERSHIP OF KOYAMA, EIGHT OF SEVEN HOMES HAD BEEN
CONTRACTED WITH RELEVANT FIRMS; 700 MILLION YEN EARNED AS
PROFITS FROM CONSTRUCTION OF ONE HOME

NIHON KEIZAI: ESTABLISHING OF A FRINGE ORGAN UNDER PRIME
MINISTER'S OFFICE NOW FLOATING AS MOST LIKELY BANKING
OVERSEEING ORGAN; GOVERNMENT, LDP MAY CONSOLIDATE OTHER
AGENCIES' OVERSEEING FUNCTIONS TOWARD AGRICULTURAL

COOPERATIVES, ETC.; CABINET MINISTER WILL HEAD SUCH ORGAN
(TRANSLATION BELOW)

TOKYO SHIMBUN: FINANCE MINISTRY'S PAPER AIMED AT
"DESTROYING REFORM"; "OPPOSITION TO FAIR-TRADE-COMMISSION
TYPE"; SUCH PAPER CIRCULATED TO SENIOR MEMBERS OF RULING
PARTY; (MOF OFFICIALS) FEARING THEIR AUTHORITY BECOMING
WEAK (TRANSLATION BELOW)

MAINICHI: CONSTRUCTION COST OF SPECIAL NURSING-CARE
HOMES; 1 BILLION YEN LATER BACK TO KOYAMA AS A RESULT OF
PADDED CONSTRUCTION COST BY CONTRACTORS; A PORTION OF
SUCH MONEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN OFFERED TO POLITICIANS; 100
MILLION YEN GIVEN TO HEALTH AND WELFARE OFFICIALS

YOMIURI: FORMER VICE MINISTER OKAMITSU DEMANDED AN OFFER
OF 60 MILLION YEN, ACCORDING TO TESTIMONY BY SUSPECT
KOYAMA; IN THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTH AND WELFARE
MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT, FOR "CAPITAL TO PURCHASE AN
APARTMENT HOUSE"

SANKEI: TEN HEALTH AND WELFARE OFFICIALS TO BE QUESTIONED
BY TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AN EFFORT TO
PROVE BRIBERY CASE INVOLVING FORMER VICE MINISTER
OKAMITSU; SUSPICIONS OF BRIBERY BY WELFARE CORPORATION;
20 MILLION YEN HAD BEEN HANDED WITHIN MINISTRY; SUSPECT
KOYAMA TESTIFIES, "FINANCED OTHER OFFICIALS AT DIVISION-
DIRECTOR-LEVEL OR HIGHER"

OPPOSITION PLANS TO PURSUE HEALTH MINISTRY SCANDALS
DURING EXTRA DIET SESSION (YOMIURI - PAGE 2)

ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER OKAMITSU OF THE HEALTH AND
WELFARE MINISTRY (HWM) HAS RESIGNED TO TAKE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ALLEGED BRIBERY HE RECEIVED FROM A
WELFARE CORPORATE GROUP LOCATED IN SAITAMA PREFECTURE.
SCANDALS INVOLVING THE HWM HAVE NOW REACHED A SERIOUS
STAGE. THE SHINSHINTO (NEW FRONTIER PARTY) AND OTHER
POLITICAL PARTIES ARE TAKING THE CORRUPTION CASE AS THE
MAJOR ISSUE TO FOCUS ON IN THE UPCOMING EXTRAORDINARY
DIET SESSION. THEIR STANCE WILL BE TO SEVERELY PURSUE
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LIBERAL
DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) FOR THE SITUATION.

SHINSHINTO SECRETARY GENERAL NISHIOKA IN A PRESS BRIEFING
YESTERDAY STATED, "UNLESS BOLD, DRASTIC MEASURES ARE
TAKEN TO DRAMATICALLY CHANGE THE PRESENT (CORRUPTION-
RIDDEN) SYSTEM, WHICH IS VIEWED AS A STRUCTURAL PROBLEM,
TRUST WILL BE LOST IN NOT ONLY OUR HEALTH AND WELFARE
ADMINISTRATION BUT ALSO OUR COUNTRY'S TAX SYSTEM AS WELL.
WE WILL QUESTION THE BASIC STANCE OF THE HASHIMOTO
CABINET." HE EXPRESSED HIS INTENTION TO TACKLE THE
SCANDALS AS THE MAIN THEME OF THE UPCOMING EXTRAORDINARY
DIET SESSION.

SPECIFICALLY, A STANDING INVESTIGATIVE PANEL WILL BE
ESTABLISHED IN THE SHINSHINTO TO LOOK INTO THE
ALLEGATIONS. THE PARTY, BASED ON THE INVESTIGATION'S

RESULTS, INTENDS TO ASK THE VIEWS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) ABOUT THE FACTS AND HOW TO PREVENTION A REOCURRENCE.

IN ADDITION, MINSHUTO (DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN) CO-UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 09 TOKYO 010679

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 20

LEADER KAN (FORMER HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTER) ISSUED A STATEMENT YESTERDAY: "I FEEL BETRAYED. WE NEED TO THOROUGHLY CLEAR UP THE FACTS AND FIND OUT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE." HIS PARTY WILL CARRY OUT INTO OWN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION. DURING THE EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION, THE PARTY WILL ASSUME A HARSH STANCE. PARTY POLICY AFFIARS RESEARCH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN SENGOKU NOTED: "WE WILL THOROUGHLY PROBE THE ISSUE OF STRUCTURAL CORRUPTION INVOLVING POLITICIANS, BUREAUCRATS AND BUSINESSMEN, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF CARRY OUT QUALITATIVE REFORM OF ADMINISTRATION."

THE JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY (JCP) YESTERDAY SUGGESTED TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEES OF BOTH HOUSES THAT AN EMERGENCY MEETING BE HELD TO INVESTIGATE THE SCANDALS. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) COMMENTS: "WE SEEK THE TRUTH OF THE CASE BE THOROUGHLY ELUCIDATED AND THE JUDICATURE AND ADMINISTRATION TAKE STRICT ACTIONS" (SECRETARY GENERAL ITO).

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LDP HAS TAKEN THE SCANDALS SERIOUSLY, AND A SENIOR MEMBER IN CHARGE OF DIET POLICY REMARKS: "SOONER OR LATER, A VARIETY OF THINGS WILL COME TO LIGHT IN DIET DELIBERATIONS. IT IS TIME TO THINK HARD ABOUT HOW TO DRASTICALLY CHANGE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S MIND AND AWARENESS."

IDEA FLOATED OF SEPARATE AGENCY UNDER PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE TO MONITOR FINANCIAL MARKETS
(NIHON KEIZAI - TOP PLAY)

AS A NEW DEVELOPMENT OF THE ONGOING DISCUSSIONS ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE SECTOR THAT INSPECTS AND OVERSEES FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- A KEY STICKING POINT OF ORGANIZATIONAL REFORM OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY (MOF), A PLAN TO ESTABLISH A "FINANCIAL INSPECTION AND OVERSIGHT AGENCY" AS AN EXTERNAL ORGAN OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF MOF SUDDENLY EMERGED

YESTERDAY IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP). UNDER THE PROPOSAL, A CABINET MINISTER WILL BE APPOINTED TO THE TOP POST OF SUCH AN AGENCY. IT IS A COMPROMISE PLAN BETWEEN A "NATIONAL TAX ADMINISTRATION AGENCY (NAT)-TYPE" SUPERVISED BY MOF AND A "FAIR TRADE COMMISSION (FTC)-TYPE," WHICH ADOPTS A REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM. CONSOLIDATION OF THE INSPECTION AND OVERSIGHT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OTHER THAN MOF, SUCH AS AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES AND NON-BANK INSTITUTIONS, IS ALSO UNDER STUDY. WITH THIS PLAN AS THE AXIS, THE LDP INTENDS TO GO INTO A MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE EVENING OF THE 20TH WITH THE SECRETARIES GENERAL AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE OF DECISION-MAKING OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) AND THE SAKIGAKE PARTY.

CABINET MINISTER TO BE INSTALLED IN TOP POSITION

REGARDING THE ISSUE OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT FINANCIAL INSPECTION AND OVERSIGHT, LDP SECRETARY GENERAL KOICHI KATO HAD INDICATED AN OUTLOOK THAT A NEW ORGANIZATION WOULD BE SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE FTC TYPE AND THE NAT TYPE. THE IDEA OF MAKING IT AN EXTERNAL ORGAN OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IS IN LINE WITH THIS CONCEPT.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT AND RULING BLOC HAVE IN MIND IS AN ORGANIZATION BASED ON ARTICLE 3 OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION LAW AS IN THE CASES OF THE FTC AND THE NAT. AS EXTERNAL ORGANS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THERE ARE NOW THE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION AGENCY (MCA), THE DEFENSE AGENCY (JDA) AND THE NATIONAL TAX ADMINISTRATION AGENCY. THE TREATMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PROPOSED AGENCY HAS YET TO BE MADE CLEAR, BUT THE OUTLOOK IS THAT A CABINET MINISTER, SUCH AS THE CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY, WILL ASSUME FINAL RESPONSIBILITY AT THE TOP.

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 09 TOKYO 010679

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 20

THE THREE RULING PARTIES HAD AGREED IN SEPTEMBER TO MAKE THE FTC TYPE AS A BASIS OF REFORM OF THE MOF, BUT A POINT HAS BEEN MADE THAT "RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DIET IS UNCLEAR WITH SUCH A TYPE," BECAUSE THAT IT IS NOT DIRECTLY HEADED BY A CABINET MINISTER. IN THE NEWLY PROPOSED PLAN, CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THAT POINT. AT THE SAME

TIME, THE PROPOSED ORGAN IS COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT OF MOF, UNDERSCORING THE HASHIMOTO ADMINISTRATION'S STANCE OF ADVOCATING ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM. AT THE SAME TIME, THE JUDGMENT HAS WORKED THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FROM THE SDP AND SAKIGAKE.

COORDINATION IS GOING ON WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING, IN ADDITION TO BANKS AND SECURITIES HOUSES, WHICH ARE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF MOF, AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (MAFF) AND NON-BANK INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS LEASING COMPANIES, WHICH ARE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI) IN THE LIST OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT WILL BECOME SUBJECT TO INSPECTION AND OVERSIGHT BY THE NEW AGENCY. ONCE IT IS LAUNCHED, PERSONNEL INTERCHANGE WITH MOF WILL NOT BE ALLOWED, BUT PERIODIC NEGOTIATIONS WITH IT REGARDING FINANCIAL AND FISCAL POLICY MEASURES WILL LIKELY BE APPROVED.

IF THIS CONCEPT OF A NEW FINANCIAL INSPECTION AND OVERSIGHT AGENCY TURNS INTO A CONCRETE DEAL, CHANCES ARE THAT IT WILL BREAK DOWN THE BARRIER AGAINST THE PROPOSED SPLITTING OF THE FISCAL AND FINANCIAL PORTIONS FROM MOF, ALTHOUGH IT WILL BE LEFT WITH THE FUNCTION OF FINANCIAL PLANNING. HOWEVER, MOF IS BOUND TO PUT STRONG RESISTANCE TO THE PROPOSAL. COORDINATION WILL LIKELY FACE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE HIGH POSSIBILITY OF SOME DIET MEMBERS CONCERNED WITH THE ISSUE ALSO RESENTING THE PLAN.

FINANCE MINISTRY DOCUMENT SHOWS INTENT TO CRUSH REFORM DRIVE (TOKYO SHIMBUN - TOP PLAY)

IT WAS REVEALED YESTERDAY FROM A COPY OF A DOCUMENT OBTAINED BY THE TOKYO SHIMBUN THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (MOF), INCLUDING CHIEF SECRETARY YOJI WAKUI, HAVE BEEN STEPPING UP THEIR EFFORTS TO WORK UPON SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO QUASH THE PLAN TO REFORM THE MOF. THIS PLAN INCLUDES A PROPOSAL TO SEPARATE MOF'S FINANCIAL INSPECTION AND OVERSIGHT SECTIONS INTO INDEPENDENT FUNCTIONS, MODELED AFTER THE FAIR TRADE COMMISSION (FTC), A STEP THAT WOULD WEAKEN MOF'S AUTHORITY. MOF, BY WORKING ON MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION NOW HEADED BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WITH WHICH MOF HAS CLOSE RELATIONS, APPARENTLY AIMS TO HAVE THE REFORMS WATERED DOWN. TODAY, THE CABINET AT A MEETING DECIDED TO CREATE AN ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COUNCIL LED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, RYUTARO HASHIMOTO. MOF OFFICIALS' MOVE AGAINST ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM IS LIKELY EVOKE CRITICISM.

THERE ARE TWO DOCUMENTS, TITLED "RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION," WHICH INDICATES THE MOF'S BASIC STANCE TOWARD FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION, AND "FIVE REQUESTS ON THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE INSPECTION AND OVERSIGHT SYSTEM."

THE FIRST DOCUMENT, UPON CHARACTERIZING INDEPENDENT

ARTICLE 3 COUNCILS BASED ON ARTICLE 3 OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION LAW AS EXCEPTIONAL, EXPRESSES OBJECTION AGAINST THE IDEA OF SEPARATING (FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION FROM THE MOF), NOTING THAT IN ORDER TO COPE WITH EMERGENCIES, SUCH AS DISPOSITION OF FINANCIAL BANKRUPTCY, AND TO CARRY OUT DRASTIC REFORM, "CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG EACH FUNCTION OF PLANNING, INSPECTION AND OVERSIGHT IS ESSENTIAL," AND "IN OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AS WELL, EACH FINANCE MINISTRY UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 09 TOKYO 010679

USIA

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E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 20

INVOLVES INSPECTION AND OVERSIGHT, IN ADDITION TO PLANNING, IN SOME FORM."

THE SECOND DOCUMENT REITERATES THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE ARTICLE 3-BASED COUNCILS, STATING "DIVIDING THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION FUNCTION WOULD LEAD TO EXPANDING THE HARMFUL EFFECT OF THE VERTICALLY FRAGMENTED SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION," AND "ESTABLISHING A NEW (INDEPENDENT) LOCAL BRANCH BUREAU WOULD BE A PROBLEM IN LIGHT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM." THE DOCUMENT INSERTS THE PERCEPTION THAT "IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND UNREALISTIC TO COLLECT EXCELLENT PERSONNEL (FOR AN INSTITUTION) INDEPENDENT FROM MOF," STRESSING THE "NEED FOR PERSONAL EXCHANGE" BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF MOF AND THE INSTITUTION TO BE SET UP INDEPENDENTLY.

FOR MOF REFORM PROGRAM, THE FORMER COALITION RULING PARTIES AGREED TO WORK OUT CONCRETE DETAILS FOR A PLAN TO SET UP INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS AS SECTION 3-BASED COUNCIL, USING OTHER COUNTRIES' MECHANISMS AS REFERENCE. ON THAT OCCASION, FIVE REQUIREMENTS WERE ATTACHED INCLUDING "THE MAJOR PRINCIPLE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM" AND "SECURING ADEQUATE PERSONNEL WITH EXPERT KNOWLEDGE."

PRIME MINISTER'S REFORM PANEL CONTAINS 2 FROM PRESS BUT NO CURRENT OR FORMER BUREAUCRATS (ASAHI - PAGE 2)

YESTERDAY, 19 MEMBERS WERE APPOINTED TO THE CONFERENCE ON ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM (GYOKAKU KAIGI), THE PANEL UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO THAT WILL TACKLE THE WORK OF REORGANIZING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES. THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEW THAT FORMER AND INCUMBENT BUREAUCRATS SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAS BEEN ADOPTED. FROM

THE ACADEMIC WORLD, AKITO ARIMA, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS AT TOKYO UNIVERSITY, AND KUNIKO INOKUCHI, A PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AT SOPHIA UNIVERSITY, WERE AMONG THE DIVERSE SCHOLARS SELECTED. IN ADDITION TO BUSINESS AND LABOR LEADERS, TWO PERSONS WERE ADDED FROM THE MASS MEDIA, INCLUDING YOMIURI SHIMBUN PRESIDENT TSUNEO WATANABE.

CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SEIROKU KAJIYAMA IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HE ANNOUNCED THE NAMES OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS STATED: "IN AN EFFORT TO SELECT MEMBERS FROM VARIOUS INTELLECTS, (THE PRIME MINISTER) RACKED HIS BRAINS."

AT FIRST, AIDES TO THE PRIME MINISTER TRIED TO HOLD DOWN THE NUMBER AROUND TEN BUT ACTING CHAIRMAN KABUN MUTO, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION AGENCY, STRONGLY REQUESTED, SAYING "PERSONS RELATED TO THE MASS MEDIA SHOULD BE INCLUDED." AS A RESULT, THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS SWELLED TO 13, ADDING YOMIURI SHIMBUN PRESIDENT WATANABE, WHO HAS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER YASUHIRO NAKASONE. SUCH PERSONS AS KOKO SATO, MUTO, AND KAORU YOSANO, WHO ARE CLOSE TO NAKASONE HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AS HEADS OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY ADMINISTRATIVE PROMOTION HEADQUARTERS AND THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COMMITTEE.

MAKEUP OF 13 MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN: PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO

ACTING CHAIRMAN: KABUN MUTO, MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION AGENCY DIRECTOR GENERAL

MEMBERS:

- JINNO SUKE ASHIDA, JAPAN TRADE UNIONS CONFEDERATION CHAIRMAN
- AKITO ARIMA, PROFESSOR EMERITUS AT TOKYO UNIVERSITY
- YOTARO IIDA, ADVISOR TO MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES (AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN)

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 09 TOKYO 010679

USIA

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E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 20

- KUNIKO INOKUCHI, PROFESSOR, SOPHIA UNIVERSITY
- HAYAO KAWAI, PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL JAPANESE CULTURE STUDY CENTER

- MIKIO KAWAGUCHI, CHAIRMAN, NIHON HOSO KYOKAI (NHK)
- KOJI SATO, PROFESSOR, KYOTO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL
- YUICHI SHIONOYA, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, HITOTSUBASHI UNIVERSITY
- SHOICHIRO TOYODA, CHAIRMAN, JAPAN FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (ECONOMIC COUNCIL CHAIRMAN)
- TOKIYASU FUJITA, PROFESSOR, TOHOKU UNIVERSITY
- KIYOSHI MIZUNO, ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER
- KEN MOROI, VICE CHAIRMAN, JAPAN FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS (DECENTRALIZATION PROMOTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN)
- TSUNEO WATANABE, PRESIDENT, YOMIURI SHIMBUN

LDPQS ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM HEADQUARTERS TAPS 3 FORMER PRIME MINISTERS AS ADVISORS (MAINICHI - PAGE 2)

THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) YESTERDAY AT ITS OFFICERS' LIAISON MEETING APPROVED A LIST OF NEW MEMBERS TO STAFF ITS ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM PROMOTION HEADQUARTERS (KOKO SATO, DIRECTOR). THE APPOINTMENTS INCLUDED THREE FORMER PRIME MINISTERS -- YASUHIRO NAKASONE, NOBORU TAKESHITA, AND KIICHI MIYAZAWA -- TO SERVE AS SUPREME ADVISORS TO THE HEADQUARTERS.

THE LINEUP IS AS FOLLOWS:

DEPUTY DIRECTORS:

KAZUYA ISHIBASHI, YOSHIAKI KIBE, OSAMU TAKATORI, KAZUHO TANIKAWA, MAMORU NISHIDA, NOBUYUKI HANASHI, SHOZO HARADA, HIKARU MATSUNAGA, SOHEI MIYASHITA, JUNZO IWASAKI, HIROYUKI KURATA, MAN SASAKI, HIROSHI MIYAZAWA

DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT:
HAKUO YANAGISAWA

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HIROYUKI HOSODA, YASUHISA SHIOZAKI

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MITSUO HORIUCHI

DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:
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FISCAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:
HIDENAO NAKAGAWA

CHAIRMAN FOR COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UTILITIES CHARGES:
MASAAKI TAKAGI

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION AND PUBLIC SERVANT SYSTEM COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:
ICHIZO OHARA

U.S. NOW FAVORS REMOVAL OF BAN ON HOLDING COMPANIES AS DEREGULATION TALKS START (MAINICHI - PAGE 9)

TWO DAYS OF TALKS OF THE DEREGULATION AND COMPETITIVE POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE UNDER THE JAPAN-UNITED STATES FRAMEWORK ECONOMIC TALKS BEGAN YESTERDAY IN TOKYO. IN THE SESSION, THE U.S. MADE REQUESTS THAT INCLUDED ASKING JAPAN TO MAKE PUBLIC THE STATE OF AMAKUDARI PRACTICES (TN: FORMER HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' LANDING PLUM JOBS AT PRIVATE OR SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS), LIFTING THE BAN ON HOLDING COMPANIES, AND REVIEWING STANDARDS FOR APPROVING MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ANTI-MONOPOLY LAW. IT ASKED THAT ITS REQUESTS BE REFLECTED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE DEREGULATION.

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 09 TOKYO 010679

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 20

THE U.S. HAD PREVIOUSLY SHOWN CONCERN ABOUT THE PROPOSED LIFTING OF A BAN ON HOLDING COMPANIES DURING NEGOTIATIONS HELD THIS FEBRUARY, WHEN IT HAD STATED: "SUCH A REMOVAL COULD STRENGTHEN THE KEIRETSU LINKS OF JAPANESE BUSINESS," BUT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THIS TIME, IT CHANGED ITS POLICY STANCE AND EXPRESSED ITS APPROVAL, MAKING THE STRENGTHENING OF MONITORING BY THE FAIR TRADE COMMISSION OVER KEIRETSU BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS THE CONDITION FOR SUCH APPROVAL.

U.S.-JAPANESE AMBASSADORS TO KEDO AGREE TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ITS FRAMEWORK (SANKEI - PAGE 1)

AMBASSADOR HIROMOTO SEKI, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (KEDO), MET YESTERDAY WITH AMBASSADOR CLEVELAND, UNITED STATES ENVOY TO THE KEDO WHO IS NOW IN JAPAN. THE TWO AGREED ON THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN THE FRAMEWORK OF KEDO FOR THE SAKE OF THE STABILITY OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

AMBASSADOR SEKI ALSO REFERRED TO THE DELAY IN INSTALLING LIGHT-WATER REACTORS BY KEDO IN THE WAKE OF THE STRONG REACTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) TO ARMED NORTH KOREAN AGENTS INTRUDING INTO THE ROK, POINTING OUT, "WE SHOULD EXTEND OUR UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY TO THE ROK." ADDING, "KEDO IS ONE OF THE FEW POINTS OF CONTACT BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, SO IT IS CRUCIAL FOR THE STABILITY OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA," HE NOTED THAT IN HIS VIEW, IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN THE

FRAMEWORK OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN 1994 BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE NORTH. AMBASSADOR CLEVELAND AGREED.

IN THIS CONNECTION, BOTH AMBASSADORS SHARED THE SAME PERCEPTION THAT SOONER OR LATER, FOLLOWING A COOLING-OFF PERIOD, THE ROK WOULD BE ASKED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES TO MAINTAIN THE FRAMEWORK OF KEDO.

AS FOR THE PROBLEM OF PARTICIPATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION IN KEDO, AMBASSADOR SEKI HINTED THAT HE WAS READY TO ALLOW THE EU TO JOIN KEDO THIS YEAR, NOTING: "IT IS OF IMPORTANCE THAT JAPAN, THE U.S. AND THE ROK -- MEMBERS OF KEDO -- AND THE EU MAKE CONCESSIONS SOON IN ORDER TO FIND COMMON GROUND."

AMBASSADOR CLEVELAND CAME TO JAPAN TO COORDINATE VIEWS PRIOR TO THE TRILATERAL FOREIGN MINISTERIAL AMONG JAPAN, THE U.S. AND THE ROK TO TAKE PLACE IN MANILA NEXT WEEK. FOLLOWING JAPAN, HE WILL TRAVEL TO THE ROK AND RELAY THE JAPANESE SIDE'S INTENTIONS.

PRIME MINISTER AIMING TO BOLSTER HIS ADMINISTRATION BY DISPLAYING APEC SUMMITRY (SANKEI - PAGE 3)

PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO WILL BE VISITING THE PHILIPPINES FROM THE 24TH TO 26TH TO HOLD INFORMAL SUMMIT TALKS WITH VARIOUS TOP LEADERS DURING THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) FORUM. ON THE 24TH, HE IS TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT KIM YOUNG SAM OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) AND THEN PRESIDENT CLINTON OF THE UNITED STATES. IT WAS DECIDED YESTERDAY THAT HE ALSO WOULD HOLD TALKS ON THE 24TH WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT JIANG Z EMIN. WITH THE UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL STAGE AS LEVERAGE, WHICH IS THE FIRST FOR HIS SECOND ADMINISTRATION, THE PRIME MINISTER INTENDS TO BOOST THE POPULARITY OF HIS ADMINISTRATION.

JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS: LONG-STANDING ISSUES STILL UNCERTAIN

FOR PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO, THE JAPAN-CHINA SUMMIT MEETING IS THE MOST DIFFICULT SESSION TO PREDICT.

IN HIS PRESS MEETING ON THE 8TH, THE PRIME MINISTER UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 09 TOKYO 010679

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 20

REVEALED HIS INTENTION TO GIVE PRIORITY TO IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH CHINA, REMARKING, "RANKING WITH JAPAN-U.S. RELATIONS, OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP FOR US." RECENTLY, JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS HAVE STRAINED CONSIDERABLY BECAUSE: 1) THE JAPAN-U.S. JOINT SECURITY DECLARATION IN APRIL WAS TAKEN AS A STEP AGAINST CHINA'S MILITARY BUILDUP; AND 2) THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO YASUKUNI SHRINE IN JULY FUELED THE ISSUE OF HISTORICAL VIEWS.

IN ADDITION, THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN WIDE APART REGARDING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE SENKAKU ISLANDS, WITH THE FORMER STICKING TO ITS CLAIM AND THE LATTER CALLING FOR SHELIVING THE ISSUE.

IN HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT JIANG Z EMIN, THE PRIME MINISTER INTENDS TO FIND CLUES TO IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS BY REVEALING JAPAN'S PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE FOURTH YEN-LOAN PACKAGE, WHICH HAS BEEN ON HOLD SINCE LAST AUGUST DUE TO CHINA'S NUCLEAR TESTING, AND TO RESUME GRANT AID IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

EARLIER, ON THE 15TH, PRESIDENT JIANG Z EMIN HELD TALKS WITH FORMER LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) VICE PRESIDENT SUSUMU NIKAIDO. IN THE SESSION, THE PRESIDENT REVEALED A SENSE OF APPRECIATION TOWARD JAPAN'S SHIFT OF ATTENTION TO CHINA.

JAPAN-U.S. RELATIONS: SETTling FUTENMA PROBLEM PRIORITY

IN THE JAPAN-U.S. SUMMIT TALKS, THE TWO LEADERS ARE EXPECTED TO REAFFIRM THAT FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS ROOTED IN THE SECURITY TREATY ARE INDISPENSABLE FOR THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC AS WELL AS FOR THE WORLD. ADDITIONALLY, THE PRIME MINISTER IS PLANNING TO BRING THE ALTERNATIVE FUTENMA FACILITY ISSUE TO SETTLEMENT TOWARD DECEMBER 2, THE DEADLINE FOR THE JAPAN-U.S. SPECIAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON OKINAWA (SACO) TO PRODUCE ITS FINAL REPORT.

AS FOR CONSTRUCTING AN ALTERNATIVE OFFSHORE HELIPORT, THE MOST LIKELY SITE AT THIS POINT IS OFF CAMP SCHWAB. IN HIS EARLIER TELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ALREADY TRANSMITTED HIS INTENTION TO AIM AT SETTling THE FUTENMA PROBLEM AT AN EARLY TIME. HOW FAR THE PRIME MINISTER CAN PROCEED TO THAT GOAL REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

THE TWO LEADERS ARE ALSO EXPECTED TO REACH AGREEMENT TO SETTLE THORNY TRADE ISSUES, SUCH AS THE JAPAN-U.S. INSURANCE TALKS.

JAPAN-ROK RELATIONS: TO ASSIST SOUTH KOREA'S EFFORT TO BREAK IMPASSE IN (SOUTH-NORTH) RELATIONS

BECAUSE THE PROBLEM OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER TAKESHIMA ISLAND (TOKTO IN KOREAN), ONE OF THE STICKIEST ISSUES BETWEEN

THE TWO COUNTRIES, HAS NOW SUBSIDED TEMPORARILY, "THERE IS NO SERIOUS THEME PLAGUING JAPAN-KOREA RELATIONS" (FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE). IN THE UPCOMING SUMMIT SESSION, THE KOREAN PENINSULA SITUATION IS LIKELY TO COME INTO THE SPOTLIGHT IN RELATION TO THE NORTH KOREAN SUBMARINE'S INTRUSION INTO SOUTH KOREAN.

IT HAS BEEN ARRANGED THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (KEDO) IN CONSTRUCTING A LIGHT-WATER REACTOR THERE. BUT PRESIDENT KIM YOUNG SAM HAS BEEN ADAMANT NOT TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM UNLESS NORTH KOREA OFFERS AN APOLOGY FOR THE SUBMARINE'S INTRUSION AND PROMISE NOT TO REPEAT SUCH AN INCIDENT. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, FURTHER RELAY OF THE START OF THE LIGHT-WATER REACTOR PROJECT, ORIGINALLY SET FOR WITHIN THIS YEAR, HAS BEEN SUSPECTED.

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 20

BUT RECENTLY, NORTH KOREA HAS INDICATED THAT IT WAS READY TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCIDENT. IF INDEED NORTH KOREA OFFER ITS APOLOGY, THE HIGHLY-TENSE BILATERAL RELATIONS MAY MOVE TOWARD IMPROVEMENT. IN HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT KIM, THE PRIME MINISTER IS HOPING TO FIND JAPAN'S ROLE FOR EASING THE TENSION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

JAPAN-PHILIPPINES RELATIONS: TO PROMISE JAPAN'S ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

IN HIS SESSION WITH PRESIDENT RAMOS, PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO IS EXPECTED TO HIGHLY EVALUATE THE PRESIDENT'S COURAGE AND ACHIEVEMENT TO HAVE RECONCILED WITH THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES AS WELL AS TO TRANSMIT HIS INTENTION TO DO HIS BEST TO MAKE APEC A SUCCESS. IN ADDITION, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL PROMISE JAPAN'S ASSISTANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTHERN PARTS OF THE PHILIPPINES AS WELL AS FOR OTHER EVENTS PLANNED FOR 1998 IN COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

100 BILLION YEN TO BE SET ASIDE FOR OKINAWA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (SANKEI - PAGE 1)

THE FORUM FOR OKINAWA'S LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES WITH U.S.

MILITARY BASES (OKINAWA FORUM; CHAIRED BY KEIO UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR HARUO SHIMADA), A PRIVATE ADVISORY PANEL FOR CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SEIROKU KAJIYAMA, SUBMITTED ITS PROPOSAL TO CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY KAJIYAMA ON NOVEMBER 19, FEATURING THE PROMOTION OF SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR FIVE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, INCLUDING OKINAWA CITY AND KADENA TOWN. FORUM CHAIRMAN SHIMADA INDICATED AN OUTLOOK AT A PRESS CONFERENCE, STATING THAT "IT WILL TAKE ABOUT SEVEN YEARS TO CARRY OUT THE PROJECTS, AND WILL COST TENS OF BILLIONS OF YEN TO A HUNDRED BILLION YEN." AT THE SAME TIME, SHIMADA ALSO CALLED ON THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE THE PANEL'S PROPOSAL REFLECTED IN THE FY1997 BUDGET.

AS A BASIC NOTION UNDERLYING THOSE PROJECTS, THE OKINAWA PANEL PROPOSES A PACKAGE OF MEASURES FOR SUCH PURPOSES AS ACTIVATING THE ECONOMIES OF LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, ALLEVIATING THE LOCAL FEELINGS OF NO WAY OUT, CREATING JOBS (FOR LOCALS) CONTINUOUSLY, AND HELPING LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES BECOME ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT. SPECIFICALLY, THE PANEL SUGGESTED FIVE PROJECTS TO DEVELOP OR CONSTRUCT A KADENA TOWN CENTER (IN KADENA TOWN), A MODEL ZONE FOR HOME-TOWN PROMOTION (IN KIN TOWN), AN IE MARINE TOWN INCLUDING A NATURAL AQUARIUM (IN IE VILLAGE), A HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINING CENTER (IN NAGO CITY), AND A CHILDREN'S FUTURE PAVILION (IN OKINAWA CITY).

THE PANEL'S PROPOSAL LISTS AN ADDITIONAL SET OF PROPOSITIONS TO BE MADE TO THE U.S. IN CONCRETE TERMS, IT POINTS OUT THE NECESSITY OF RESTORING THE ENVIRONMENT OF CAMP HANSEN AND OTHER U.S. MILITARY BASES WITH A TREE-PLANTING CAMPAIGN, ALLOWING LOCAL RESIDENTS AND SCHOOLCHILDREN TO PASS THROUGH THE BASE GROUNDS, CALLING OFF THE U.S. MILITARY'S OFF-LIMITS ACTION TO RESTRICTED WATERS, UTILIZING WATER SOURCES IN BASE AREAS, AND ASSIGNING U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS WITH LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES. THE PANEL SUGGESTS THAT THESE MATTERS BE DISCUSSED IN THE JAPAN-U.S. JOINT COMMITTEE OR IN THE JAPAN-U.S. SPECIAL ACTION COMMITTEE (ON FACILITIES AND AREAS IN OKINAWA (SACO) AT THEIR FUTURE MEETINGS.

YUKIO OKAMOTO, ONE OF THE PANEL'S MEMBERS AND AN ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER, TOLD THE PRESS: "MANY OF THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES THERE, WHERE (U.S.) MILITARY BASES ARE LOCATED, CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE ON EVEN TEN PERCENT OF THE ESTIMATED COSTS. SO, I WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE SOME MEASURES SO THAT THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES WILL SUBSTANTIALLY NOT HAVE TO TAKE ON UNCLAS SECTION 09 OF 09 TOKYO 010679

USIA

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E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 20

THAT FINANCIAL LOAD." OKAMOTO THUS IMPLIED THE PANEL'S INTENTION OF SEEKING EXCEPTIONAL BUDGET ACTION.

IN THIS CONNECTION, PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO EXPRESSED HIS INTENTION OF RESPECTING THE PANEL'S PROPOSAL ON THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 19, REMARKING, "I APPRECIATE ALL THE PANEL MEMBERS FOR THE GOOD JOB THEY DID. I'M NOW GOING TO THINK ABOUT HOW TO SHAPE IT." THIS WAS AN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM THE PRESS AT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE. CRANE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 09

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RUEHRL/USOFFICE BERLIN GE
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
RUEHUS/AMEMBASSY BONN//ECON//
RUEHUS/AMEMBASSY BONN//LAB//
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
RUEHYM/AMCONSUL MONTERREY
RUEOAYA/CDR NGIC CHARLOTTESVILLE VA
RUERFCP/CDR USARSO FT CLAYTON PM//SOCS-PA//
RUESFB/FBIS ASUNCION PA
RUESFG/FBIS BANGKOK TH
RUESPF/FBIS CHIVA CHIVA PM
RUESTO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO
RUHBABA/CG III MEF//G-2//
RUHBBEA/CG THIRD FSSG CAMP KINSER JA//G2//
RUHDDOD/DODSPECREP YOKOTA AB JA
RUHDNCR/NCR KOR SEOUL KOR
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SUBJ: Ikeda Set To Meet Alatas, Christopher

TEXT:

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WARNING: TOPIC: POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: OW2211001096

PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT

COUNTRY: JAPAN

SUBJ: Ikeda Set To Meet Alatas, Christopher

REF: ow2111064896 tokyo kyodo english 210616 -- ikeda arrives in
philippines for apec talks

SOURCE: Tokyo KYODO in English 2334 GMT 21 Nov 96

TEXT:

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, Nov. 22 KYODO -- Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda is set to meet Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Friday to discuss a range of bilateral and international issues.

In the morning session with Alatas, Ikeda will compare notes on Indonesia's controversial national car program and the issue of East Timor, a Japanese official said, adding that the two subjects are "headaches" for Japan and cannot be avoided.

The Japanese foreign minister will urge Jakarta's prudence in dealing with people in East Timor whose dissent against Indonesian rule has continued for almost 21 years, the official said.

Indonesian troops invaded East Timor in December 1975, and declared the Portuguese colony Indonesia's 27th province the following July in a move that has not been recognized by the United Nations.

In the evening, Ikeda will meet Christopher to reaffirm cooperative bilateral relations following the recent reelections of Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton, Japanese officials said.

For Japan, the most important issue is the planned scaling-down of U.S. military installations in Okinawa Prefecture, including the closure of a major marine heliport base at Futenma, one official said.

The Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee on Okinawa [SACO] is scheduled to wind up yearlong talks by Dec. 2 at the earliest with the release of a final report on the streamlining of U.S. bases in Japan's southernmost island prefecture.

Ikeda and Christopher will also exchange views on international affairs such as U.S.-China ties, the role of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and the situation on the Korean peninsula, Japanese officials said.

The Japan-U.S. foreign ministerial talks will be a prelude to a bilateral summit scheduled for Sunday [24 November] on the eve of APEC's annual leadership meeting in the Philippines.

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EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA
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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 22

ENVIRONMENT IN A PRUDENT WAY.

NAGO CITY, PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT ALSO INTERTWINED WITH
MOTIVES

REGARDING THE SCHWAB OFFSHORE PLAN, NAGO CITY'S MAYOR
TETSUYA HIGA HAS SAID, "WE'RE READY TO HEAR THE
GOVERNMENT'S EXPLANATION IF THAT IS AFTER LOCAL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE PREFECTURE IS

FIRMLY POSITIONED IN THE PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT'S INTERNATIONAL URBAN PLANNING INITIATIVE. WE CAN'T DO POLITICS IF PEOPLE ARE AGAINST EVERYTHING." WITH THIS, THE MAYOR HAS HINTED ALSO AT A LIKELIHOOD OF ACCEPTING THE OFFSHORE HELIPORT PLAN, DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS.

HOWEVER, NAGO CITY'S MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON NOVEMBER 18 AGAINST THE HELIPORT RELOCATION PLAN, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NEIGHBORING LOCAL RESIDENTS ALSO FILED A PETITION WITH THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL OFFICE ON THE 21ST AGAINST THE PLANNED CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH A HELIPORT THERE. AS SEEN FROM SUCH MOVES, THE LOCAL MOVEMENTS AGAINST THE HELIPORT PLAN SEEM TO BECOME ACTIVE.

THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTING THE OKINAWA PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT TO PLAY THE ROLE OF A LOCAL COORDINATOR, BUT OKINAWA PREFECTURE ALSO HAS NOW INFORMALLY REQUESTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S AIDES TO AVOID INCORPORATING ANY SPECIFIC LOCATION OF THE OFFSHORE HELIPORT IN SACO'S FINAL REPORT.

IN OKINAWA PREFECTURE, CRITICISM IS NOW SMOLDERING AGAINST GOVERNOR OHTA FOR HIS EXECUTION OF OFFICIAL POSTING AND PUBLIC REVIEW (FOR U.S. MILITARY LAND LEASE CONTRACTS), AND THE PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION THIS JULY AGAINST 'WITHIN-THE-PREFECTURE RELOCATION', IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD ITS DECEMBER REGULAR SESSION RIGHT AFTER SACO'S FINAL REPORT IS ISSUED. SO, THE PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT WANTS TO CARRY OVER A SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM.

JAPAN AND THE U.S. AGREED IN MAY LAST YEAR TO TRANSFER THE NAHA PORT FACILITY TO URASOE CITY, BUT ITS RELOCATION HAS BEEN AT A STANDSTILL BECAUSE OF NEGATIVE REACTIONS FROM THE LOCAL SIDE WHICH WAS ASKED FOR ITS 'EX POST FACTO APPROVAL'.

FOR THE FOREGOING REASON, THE GOVERNMENT ALSO TAKES IT THAT IT "SHOULD AVOID FALLING INTO ANOTHER CASE OF THE NAHA PORT FACILITY" (ACCORDING TO A SOURCE IN THE JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY), AND INTENDS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO SPADEWORK TOWARD THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HOWEVER, SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PERRY AND AMBASSADOR WALTER MONDALE, WHO HAVE BOTH PLAYED KEY ROLES ON THE U.S. SIDE FOR THE FUTENMA PROBLEM, WILL BE REPLACED SHORTLY. SO, A GOVERNMENT SOURCE SAYS, "WE WANT TO SETTLE THE HELIPORT PROBLEM WHILE THEY ARE IN OFFICE."

THE OKINAWA FORUM, A PRIVATE ADVISORY PANEL FOR CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY KAJIYAMA, COMPILED A POLICY PROPOSAL OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT MEASURES ON NOVEMBER 19, INCLUDING A PLAN TO CONSTRUCT A 'HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINING CENTER' (TENTATIVE NAME) IN NAGO CITY. THIS ALSO IS LINKED TO IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT WITH AN EYE ON SACO'S WORK.

THEREFORE, IT IS CERTAIN THAT A HIGH-LEVEL 'POLITICAL

JUDGMENT' WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE QUESTION OF HOW TO DESCRIBE THE OFFSHORE HELIPORT IN SACO'S FINAL REPORT TO BE RELEASED ON THE 2ND OF NEXT MONTH AT A JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (2-PLUS-2) MEETING TO BE HELD ON THE OCCASION OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PERRY'S VISIT TO JAPAN.

SECT: SECTION: 08 OF 09

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(6) Takehiko Yamaguchi to Be Picked as New Administrative Vice Minister to Succeed Okamitsu

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ARTICLES:

(1) Hashimoto's "Five Major Reforms" Kick off; Plan to Restructure Government Agencies before Next Fall to Be Used as Lever for His Reelection as LDP President

NIHON KEIZAI (Page 2) (Full)
November 17, 1996

There are "five major reforms" which Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is promoting as the priority agenda items of his new cabinet. According to a scenario drawn up by the Prime Minister, reform of the Finance Ministry (MOF) and a nursing-care bill, which he had laid out during the previous cabinet, will be completed before the first half of next year. Once that is done, he will fully draw up a plan to restructure government agencies by fall, featuring it as the greatest "showcase" of his policy line. That will be the first stage of his effort to carry out various reforms. He intends to use those achievements for his reelection as the president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). His calculations are apparently to have government agency restructuring and financial system reform - related law bills approved in the 1998 regular Diet session, which will be the most defining moment, to win the next upper house election, by giving

buoyancy to his administration. He then will forge a stable long-term administration.

The Prime Minister will launch possibly on the 19th
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a "Conference on Administrative Reform" (tentative name) that will consider a plan to restructure government agencies. In addition he has given instructions to relevant cabinet ministers to boldly carry out reforms. As the first step of implementing reform, he intends to carry out the restructuring of the financial inspection and oversight functions of MOF prior to reorganizing other government agencies. He will finalize a policy direction in early December and submit related law bills to the regular Diet session to convene next year. Those plans will most likely be put into practice from FY1998.

The goal of the restructuring of government agencies is to have the related bills passed in the regular Diet session in 1998 and start shifting to a new system from January 1, 2001, after a preparatory period. The view is that it will take several years until the shift is completed. Some government officials are calling for frontloading the plan before the turn of the century, claiming, "We ought to start with what can be done" (Management and Coordination Agency Director General Kabun Muto).

As to other reforms, arrangements will be made so that they can be realized before the restructuring of government officials from the viewpoint: "It is more important to substantially reduce workload than to reduce the number of government offices" (Prime Minister). Financial reform is expected to be completed by 2001. A ban on a payoff system (returning deposits to some extent) on the occasion of financial failures will be lifted from the start of the 21st century. The removal of the ban will usher in the "world of self responsibility" (Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Hajime Yosano) where one's deposits are refundable only up to 10 million yen.

In reforming social security, a major revision to the pension system is expected to take place in 1999. The government will be urged to tackle such drastic measures as to lower the pension benefit level. A systematic framework in preparation for a super-elderly society will be laid out with the start of a nursing-care insurance system in FY2000.

Of the five major reforms, fiscal structure reform is the only area that the Prime Minister has yet to give a specific instruction. The Prime Minister is well aware that such a reform would not be easy, because the cost-cutting issue is a typical case of invoking a situation of "favoring a general argument but opposing single-item arguments." If specific discussions are started, unpopular issues, such as a re hike in the consumption tax in the future, may surface. As it stands, one sees calculations at work behind the delay that they do not want to bring up the issue for the time being.

(2) LDP Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman States His View: "Inspection" Portion alone Should Be Broken away; Oversight Portion to Be Handled Later

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NIHON KEIZAI (Page 1) (Full)
November 22, 1996

Referring to the proposed reform of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) in a speech made at a hotel in Sapporo City, Taku Yamasaki, the Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party indicated that the thinking in the Council now calls for breaking off the financial inspection section from MOF, after establishing a "financial agency" (tentative name) as an agency attached to the Prime Minister's Office. As to the issue of what to do about the oversight sector, he indicated that a conclusion should be reached during the work of looking into the possibility of the restructuring of central government agencies, noting, "We will consider the issue of completely splitting away the fiscal portion from the

financial portion during the work of administrative reform (as a whole), which we will carry out over the next year." The three ruling parties had agreed before the general election that the inspection and oversight portions should be broken away from MOF as a package, but Yamasaki's statement hints at the idea of postponing until later a conclusion on the handling of the oversight sector.

Yamasaki expressed the perception that functions for inspecting financial institutions as a whole, such as non-bank institutions, insurers and securities houses, should be consolidated into a financial agency, stating, "An overall inspection (of financial institutions) is absolutely necessary."

At the same time, he also revealed a view calling for combining a financial agency and the Securities Transactions Monitoring Committee, noting, "We also have to settle the issue of what to do about the Securities Transactions Monitoring Committee."

(3) SDP, Sakigake Fiercely Reacting to Proposal for Splitting away Financial Portion from Oversight Portion; Strengthening Call for "Package Independence"

NIHON KEIZAI (Page 2) (Full)
November 22, 1996

On the question of what to do about the financial inspection and oversight sectors of the Ministry of Finance (MOF) -- a key sticky point in reforming the ministry -- Taku Yamasaki, the Policy Affairs Research Council of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has proposed a plan to split away the inspection portion from the ministry's oversight function. The Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Sakigake Party are poised to strengthen their call for "independence of the financial (TN: oversight?) and inspection sectors from MOF as a package" with SDP Secretary General Shigeru Ito fiercely resenting the proposal, "It is an emasculated reform plan." Confusion in discussions among the LDP, SDP and Sakigake will likely intensify in the future.

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The reasons why the SDP and Sakigake are opposing the proposal are: (1) Inspection without oversight authority, such as licensing and approval authority, has no effectiveness; and (2) if oversight authority is left with MOF, it will not essentially reform it. Some LDP members are also opposed to the proposal for splitting apart the inspection and oversight portions. However, the SDP and Sakigake have a heightened sense of alarm, one member saying, "Their opposing views may only be a pose in order to make that the final landing spot."

(4) Japan-U.S. Security (Section 4)
Drifting Base (Part 1)

Dr. 5 Points: 'Offshore Option' for Breakthrough

ASAHI (Page 1) (Full)
November 19, 1996

While watching the slide screen, Secretary of Defense Perry bent himself forward. Ambassador to Japan Mondale instead bent himself back, fixing his eyes on the projection. The Secretary is nearsighted, and the Ambassador farsighted. A model of an offshore heliport zoomed up on the screen ...

The story goes back to September 6 at the Pentagon. The two had breakfast together in the room next to Secretary of Defense Perry's office. After that, they held a meeting with high-ranking officials attending from the armed forces.

Military resistance

Two other options for an alternative facility had already come up by then for the planned reversion of the U.S. Marine Futenma Air Station site. One was to integrate the Futenma airfield's (helicopter) functions into Kadena Air Force Base, and the other was to relocate its functions to the Marine Corps' Camp Schwab. But discussions over the two options were deadlocked. A high-ranking Pentagon official explains the reason: "The Japanese side proposed integration into Kadena Air Base. On the U.S. side, however, the military stubbornly wouldn't nod to that idea. We pushed ahead with the option of relocation to Camp Schwab, but the Japanese Government wouldn't give up its position that it's difficult to accept this option partly because of environmental problems."

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Kurt Campbell proposed the offshore heliport concept at that meeting.

Campbell had already begun his spadework within the Pentagon, but the military was strongly opposed to that plan. Top civilian officials were reluctant as well. There was a cautious argument even about the showing of slide pictures at that meeting.

At the meeting, a senior naval official touched on
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the idea of constructing a semi-submersible structure, and posed a question: "Such a construction method has yet to be completed technologically." The Navy was harboring a sense of wariness against the Marines' having such a huge base at sea.

Defense Secretary shows interest

Against such, Secretary of Defense Perry remarked, "I'm an engineer, so let me say this. It's not a kind of advanced technology at all. That technology has been existing for three or four decades. But the problem is how to integrate it." The Secretary avoided making definite remarks, but those at the meeting felt that the Secretary was beginning to take a serious interest in that concept.

Ambassador Mondale then did not refer directly to the propriety of the offshore heliport option, either. The Ambassador rather pointed out the political difficulty of employing the other options for the Japanese and U.S. sides. He frowned on the option of integration into Kadena AFB.

Ambassador Mondale stressed, "We should be very careful so that our base reduction there will not be regarded as a signal of our military pullout. The alliance between Japan and the United States cannot exist without our forward deployment of military power. We cannot avoid some inconvenience

to maintain our alliance. We must have Japan understand that point. But this concept would help reduce the serious political problem facing Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Okinawa Prefecture's Governor Ohta."

Both sides' interests meet

With this meeting as an opportunity, the U.S. side began to incline toward the offshore heliport option. It was about a week later when the U.S. side formally came up with the offshore heliport option in the form of a proposal from the U.S. Government.

Japanese officials used to call Campbell 'Dr. Five Points' among themselves. He tries to clear up whatever he may discuss into about five points, and explains his argument in a logical and consistent way. Originally, he was an academic involved in Japan-U.S. security affairs.

In late August, Armitage met Campbell and then brought up the concept. Soon after that, Armitage talked with Secretary Perry over the telephone. He told the Secretary, "They once used different-type offshore bases in the Mekong River of Vietnam and in the Persian Gulf. At first, the military was against all those offshore bases, but the results were successful."

Armitage meant to hurrah the Secretary for going against the military's resistance.

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The Secretary courteously thanked Armitage for his advice. But then, the Secretary had already made up his mind.

(Yoichi Funabashi, Washington)

(5) Interview with Japan Harbor Express Service Association President Fumitoshi Yamashita:
Reiterates Need for Measures for Occupational Changes and Drastically Simplified Preliminary

Consultations, Focusing on Acceleration of
Competition

NIKKAN KOGYO (Page 4) (Full)
November 22, 1996

Calls for promoting competition in the harbor express service business have been growing at home and abroad. Efforts to beef up international competitiveness in terms of cost and service in this business are essential for Japan to resuscitate its economy, but some in the industry have reacted against the draft plan compiled by the Action Program Committee under the Economic Council, which reiterated the need for drastic deregulation steps, as well as against criticism erupting from the United States and Europe toward the custom in Japan of preliminary consultations between labor and management. This newspaper asked Japan Harbor Express Service Association President Fumiaki Yamashita for the industry's view.

-- How do you take the Economic Council's proposal to encourage competition in harbor transportation service?

"The proposal includes measures that have often been called for and those that are way off-base. Our association has discussed this issue with a critical mind,. As for the criticism of the "preliminary consultation system," although not included in the council's proposal, agreement has already been reached among persons concerned to drastically simplify the system. The European Community (EU) has filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization (WTO) against the Japanese Government, but I believe the simplification steps will help assuage such criticism."

-- The proposal appears to be based on the perception that Japan's harbor transportation business practices have become a bottleneck to cost competition in the international goods-distribution market.

"I fully understand that shipping companies and shippers have been making strenuous efforts to trim their distribution costs. Yet, it will be troublesome if they cannot hold out due to such steps. Deregulation is inevitable as the needs of the times, but measures first should be prepared for small to medium-size corporations and workers, such as one to facilitate occupational changes.

"I think our market prices are equal to 50 to 60 percent of the authorized standard charges. A
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE DAILY PRESS SUMMARY 11/22/96

comparison between charges of Japan and the U.S. has been presented. In the U.S. there must be some additional disbursement burden based on an agreement between labor and management, but such a portion is not taken into account in making the comparison."

-- What do you think about licenses classified by business type and harbor?

"As for Tokyo, Ise and Osaka ports, there is a call for easing the regulations of detailed classification, but views have yet to be unified in the association. I think introduction of a same license for ports in a same economic zone will be significant, but in this case as well, some business entities might experience difficulty; therefore, relief measures for them are necessary."

-- It appears to be difficult to encourage competition in reality.

"It is conceivable that competitive harbor transportation companies absorb more labor, but reforming consciousness will be difficult. There are many old companies included in the industry, and with the pride of their companies and the interests of their men to protect, they will not likely accept an offer to integrate themselves, although they are pushing ahead with joint work. Work has been conducted independently at each pier, such as the introduction of computers. When thought is given to replacement of equipment, it seems difficult to introduce competitive principles."

(6) Takehiko Yamaguchi to Be Picked as New Administrative Vice Minister to Succeed Okamitsu

NIHON KEIZAI (Page 1) (Full)
November 22, 1996

Health and Welfare Minister Jun'ichiro Koizumi on the 21st firmed up his intention to appoint Takehiko Yamaguchi, currently director general of the Health Insurance Bureau, as vice administrative

minister to succeed former vice minister Nobuharu Okamitsu, who has been fired over his alleged taking of bribes from the manager of a social welfare corporation in Saitama Prefecture. His appointment will be announced after obtaining Cabinet approval on the 22nd.

Takehiko Yamaguchi: Graduated from Tokyo University and entered the Ministry of Health and Welfare in 1965; has been serving as director general of the Health Insurance Bureau since July 1996, after having served in such posts as Pension Bureau director general and Minister's Secretariat director general; born in Tokyo; age 54.

(7) MAGAZINE ARTICLE: MITI: Unity Being Questioned in Implementing Plan of Drastically Streamlining the Ministry

ECONOMISUTO (Economist) (Full)
UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 08 TOKYO 010785

DEPT FOR E, P, PM, EB, EAP/J AND S/AL
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WHITE HOUSE FOR NEC CUTTER
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE DAILY PRESS SUMMARY 11/22/96

October 22, 1996

A working group has been launched by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to work on administrative structural reform of the ministry. The working group centers on Administrative Vice Minister Tsutomu Makino, Minister's Secretariat Director General Katsusada Hirose, Industrial Policy Director General Osamu Watanabe and Consumer Goods Industries Bureau Director General Seiji Murata. It drew up a draft proposal in late September and submitted it to the Management and Coordination Agency (MCA). It reportedly is now working on the details.

The draft plan includes such features as:

- (1) Cutting 20 percent from the maximum allotted number of personnel;
- (2) Reviewing the vertically-organized organization and then consolidating or scrapping as needed;
- (3) reducing by half the number of the ministry

division directors;

(4) reviewing and then consolidating or abolishing the Industrial Technology Institute and its affiliated organizations; and

(5) changing the ministry into an organization that can handle specific issues.

Because a sense of crisis has become stronger in MITI as the reform trend continues, one official was moved to say: "If we look on unconcernedly, our ministry will be split apart" (incumbent general coordination division director). A senior official added: "The purpose of administrative reform is to change this organization into a policy-making-oriented ministry by abandoning the ministry's authority and cutting it to the bone."

The new organization must deal with such special issues as accidents at nuclear power plants, encouraging venture businesses, promotion of local businesses, promotion of the development of Okinawa Prefecture, and trade issues. Specifically, specific project teams will be set up, headed by the current managers, the aim being to be able to respond, flexibly and laterally and promptly, without having fixed organizations, to the needs of the nation. people irregardless of ial officers as heads of the panels aiming to promptly respond to the people's needs.

However, since there is still strong opposition from a group that favors the status quo and their four remants, the ministry's unity is not somewhat weak. So the Makino-led leadership is now being questioned.

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SUBJ: Hashimoto Leaves for APEC Summit in Philippines

TEXT:

UNCLAS 4A

WARNING: TOPIC: ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: OW2411014996

PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT

COUNTRY: JAPAN

SUBJ: Hashimoto Leaves for APEC Summit in Philippines

REF: ow2211113296 tokyo kyodo english 221112 -- hashimoto to use
apec for diplomatic initiatives

SOURCE: Tokyo KYODO in English 0108 GMT 24 Nov 96

TEXT:

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Nov. 24 KYODO -- Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto embarked on a three-day trip to the Philippines on Sunday to attend an annual summit of Asia-Pacific leaders.

Hashimoto, who was reelected prime minister earlier this month, is slated to meet the presidents of South Korea, the United States, China and the Philippines in bilateral meetings shortly after arrival in Manila.

He will attend a dinner Sunday hosted by Philippine President Fidel Ramos for the leaders of the 18 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

On Monday, the leaders will move to Subic, a former U.S. naval port city some 80 kilometers northwest of the capital, for the annual summit, which culminates this week's series of top-level APEC meetings.

Sunday's bilateral meeting with South Korean President Kim Young Sam is expected to focus on the Korean peninsula where tension rose after an alleged North Korean submarine incursion into the South in September left 24 of the intruders dead or killed.

One issue that is expected to emerge is a common front by Japan, South Korea and the United States in dealing with North Korea in the wake of the submarine incident.

Seoul has taken a hard-line position toward Pyongyang since the submarine intrusion, with the South Korean president demanding an

apology over the incident which the North says was an accident.

The U.S. and Japan are advocating a less confrontational stance for fear that North Korea might opt out of a 1994 accord with Washington under which it froze its nuclear program.

Hashimoto's meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton is expected to focus on the planned relocation of a U.S. military heliport from the Okinawa island to an offshore floating facility, Japanese officials said.

The matter figured high on the agenda of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda in talks in Manila on Friday.

North Korea is also likely to come up given the need for policy coordination.

Clinton, for his part, is expected to address trade issues, particularly a bilateral dispute over access to the Japanese insurance market, the officials said.

Under a 1994 accord, Japan pledged to restrict the access of Japanese insurers to niche areas that fall between Japan's traditional life and nonlife insurance products -- areas that are dominated by foreign companies.

Talks with Chinese president Jiang Zemin, the first one-on-one meeting since Hashimoto became premier last January, are expected to focus on mending fences in the wake of a renewed territorial dispute over to a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

China and Taiwan also claim the Senkaku Islands, known as Diaoyu in China and Tiaoyutai in Taiwan.

Hashimoto will try to dispel Chinese anger over his July visit to Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, which enshrines Japan's war dead and war criminals, given that Tokyo hopes to celebrate a tension-free 25th anniversary next year of normalization of bilateral ties, the officials said.

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SUBJ: Hashimoto Arrives in Manila for Annual APEC Summit

TEXT:

UNCLAS 4A

WARNING: TOPIC: ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: OW2411031996

PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT

COUNTRY: JAPAN

SUBJ: Hashimoto Arrives in Manila for Annual APEC Summit

REF: 1. ow2411014996 tokyo kyodo english 240108 -- hashimoto
leaves for apec summit in philippines
2. ow2211113296 tokyo kyodo english 221112 -- hashimoto to
use apec for diplomatic initiatives

SOURCE: Tokyo KYODO in English 0302 GMT 24 Nov 96

TEXT:

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, Nov. 24 KYODO -- Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto arrived in the Philippines on Sunday to attend an annual informal summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Hashimoto, who was reelected prime minister earlier this month, is due to meet the presidents of South Korea, the United States, the Philippines and China in bilateral meetings in Manila.

He will also attend a dinner party Sunday to be hosted by Philippine President Fidel Ramos for the leaders of the 18 APEC members. Ramos chairs this year's APEC summit.

On Monday, the leaders will move to Subic, a former U.S. naval port city some 80 kilometers northwest of Manila, for their annual summit, which culminates this week's series of top-level APEC meetings.

Sunday's meeting with South Korean President Kim Yong-sam is expected to focus on the Korean peninsula where tension heightened after a North Korean submarine intruded into South Korean territorial waters in September and ran aground off the coast.

One North Korean soldier was caught alive but 24 of those aboard were either found dead, apparently from suicide, or were later shot to death by South Korean soldiers after entering South Korean territory.

Likely to emerge from the meetings is a common front by Japan, South Korea and the U.S. in dealing with North Korea in the wake of the submarine incident.

The South Korean president has been demanding an apology over the incident which the North says was an accident.

Washington and Tokyo are advocating a less confrontational stance over fears that North Korea might opt out of a 1994 accord with the U.S. under which it froze its nuclear program.

Hashimoto's meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton is expected to focus on the planned relocation of a U.S. military heliport from the island of Okinawa to an offshore floating facility.

The heliport issue figured prominently on the agenda of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda in talks in Manila on Friday.

The topic of North Korea is also likely to come up, given the need for policy coordination.

Clinton, for his part, is expected to touch on trade issues, especially a bilateral dispute over access to the Japanese insurance market.

Under a 1994 accord with the U.S., Japan pledged to restrict the access of Japanese insurers to niche areas that fall between life and nonlife insurance products -- areas that are dominated by foreign companies.

Talks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, the first one-on-one meeting since Hashimoto became premier last January, are expected to focus on mending fences in the wake of a renewed territorial dispute over a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

China and Taiwan also claim the Senkaku Islands, known as the Diaoyu in China and the Tiaoyutai in Taiwan.

Hashimoto is expected to try to soothe Chinese anger over his July visit to Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, which enshrines Japan's war dead and war criminals, given that Tokyo hopes to celebrate a tension-free 25th anniversary next year of normalization of bilateral ties.

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(endall) 240302 morriss GM992411.009 ti 24/0320z Nov

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 01

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TOR: 961123223149 M2508944

DIST:

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SIT: NSC

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INFO: ////

SUBJ: Hashimoto To Back Beijing for WTO Membership

TEXT:

UNCLAS 4A

WARNING: TOPIC: LEADER, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: OW2411043996

PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT

COUNTRY: JAPAN

SUBJ: Hashimoto To Back Beijing for WTO Membership

REF: 1. ow2411031996 tokyo kyodo english 240302 -- hashimoto
arrives in manila for annual apec summit
2. ow2411014996 tokyo kyodo english 240108 -- hashimoto
leaves for apec summit in philippines
3. ow2211113296 tokyo kyodo english 221112 -- hashimoto to
use apec for diplomatic initiatives

SOURCE: Tokyo KYODO in English 0422 GMT 24 Nov 96

TEXT:

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, Nov. 24 KYODO -- Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro hashimoto signaled Sunday he plans to push China's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) during summit talks of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Hashimoto, who arrived in Manila on Sunday morning, told reporters while on his way from Tokyo that he hopes the APEC leaders will "move forward" on the issue of WTO membership.

China and Taiwan are the only APEC members not affiliated with the world trade body.

"It would be an accomplishment if we move forward over the question of membership for APEC members who have yet to be admitted into the WTO," Hashimoto said.

Hashimoto and other APEC leaders will gather Sunday evening in manila for dinner and informal talks before moving to Subic for a summit meeting, the culmination of this year's top-level APEC meetings.

Hashimoto, who was reelected prime minister earlier this month,

was due to meet the presidents of South Korea, the United States, the Philippines and China in bilateral meetings prior to the APEC welcome dinner to be hosted by Philippine President Fidel Ramos for the leaders of the 18 APEC members.

The bilateral summit with South Korean President Kim Yong-sam is expected to focus on the Korean peninsula where tension heightened after a North Korean submarine intruded into South Korean territorial waters in September and ran aground off the coast.

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INFO: ////

SUBJ: Further Report on Clinton-Hashimoto Meeting

TEXT:

UNCLAS 4A

WARNING: TOPIC: POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL

SERIAL: OW2411101496

PASS: ATTN WIRE SELECT

COUNTRY: JAPAN

SUBJ: Further Report on Clinton-Hashimoto Meeting

REF: ow2411084296 tokyo kyodo english 240810 -- clinton,
hashimoto hold talks in manila

SOURCE: Tokyo KYODO in English 1004 GMT 24 Nov 96

TEXT:

[By Takehiko Kajita]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manila, Nov. 24 KYODO -- U.S. President Bill Clinton urged Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto Sunday to settle a bilateral dispute over access to Japan's insurance market by a Dec. 15 deadline, a senior Japanese official said.

Clinton made the call in an hourlong meeting with Hashimoto held ahead of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, the official said in a briefing to reporters.

While welcoming the progress in a number of bilateral trade disputes, Clinton spoke of the need for the two countries to abide by the so-called economic "framework" agreement reached in July 1993.

The U.S. President then asserted that he sees the insurance trade quarrel as a key test of Japan's commitment to the bilateral accord, the official said.

Hashimoto replied he will instruct finance ministry officials in charge of insurance negotiations to try to settle the dispute by the self-imposed deadline, according to the official.

"I don't want any of the remaining sectoral issues to affect sound relations between Japan and the United States," Hashimoto was quoted as saying.

Under a bilateral insurance trade pact concluded in October 1994, Japan pledged to restrict the access of Japanese insurers to niche areas that fall between Japan's traditional life and nonlife insurance products -- areas that are dominated by foreign companies.

The agreement, however, left key details unresolved.

Last week, the two countries held two days of working-level negotiations in San Francisco without narrowing differences over Japan's measures to deregulate its insurance market.

Another round of working-level talks is slated to be held in Tokyo on Monday and Tuesday.

On another trade issue, Hashimoto and Clinton shared the view that both sides should hold "higher-level" talks on a dispute over civil aviation, a suggestion for vice ministerial or cabinet-level talks to break the impasse over the issue.

The two leaders also reaffirmed that Japan and the United States will strive to convince other APEC members to explicitly support a U.S. proposal to phase out tariffs on information technology products by 2000, the official said.

In a sharp blow to the United States, the APEC foreign and trade ministers have refused to support the U.S.-proposed information technology agreement in a visible manner.

In a statement issued at the end of a two-day ministerial conference Saturday, they watered down the language of an early draft and called for the conclusion of "information technology agreement" without tying it to the U.S. proposal.

The U.S. had hoped that the 18-member APEC will endorse its plan to eliminate all tariffs on a wide range of information technology products by 2000, with the phaseout starting in 1997.

Washington wanted APEC's full endorsement to give the accord a strong push so that a draft could be signed at the ministerial meeting of the world trade organization to be held in Singapore in early December.

Hashimoto and Clinton also confirmed the need to draw a final conclusion soon on ways to streamline U.S. military bases, including the relocation of a major marine heliport, in Okinawa prefecture.

They did not go into specifics, the Japanese official said.

Tokyo and Washington are set to release on Dec. 2 a final report by a special governmental panel on the scaling-down of U.S. bases in Okinawa.

In April, Hashimoto clinched a deal on the closure of the U.S. Marine Futenma Air Station within five to seven years as part of efforts to reduce the U.S. military presence in the island prefecture.

The stumbling block is relocation of the heliport at the Futenma facility as Tokyo has found it politically difficult to build a new heliport in Okinawa.

Three relocation options are being considered -- to move the heliport to Kadena Air Base, to build a new heliport at Camp Schwab and to move the heliport to an offshore facility in Okinawan waters.

The third option appears most probable, especially after Japanese Defense Agency Chief Fumio Kyuma said earlier this month that a new heliport could be located at a floating facility in a U.S. military training area off Camp Schwab.

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Clinton Presidential Records
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- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE
CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHKO A0849 3310302-UUUU--RHEHAAA.
LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
LINE3: O 260302Z NOV 96
LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
OSRI: RUEHKO
DTG: 260302Z NOV 96
ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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INFO: RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
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RUYNJDK/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA
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RHHMHAH/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N5//
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
SUBJ: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 26

TEXT:
UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 07 TOKYO 010849

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR
EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA
WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN;
TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS;
USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA;
COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 26

TOP HEADLINES:

ASAHI: APEC SUMMIT ADOPTS SUBIC DECLARATION FOR TRADE
LIBERALIZATION; "ACTION PROGRAM" TO START FROM JANUARY;
TARGET YEAR WILL BE MOVED UP IN SOME AREAS

NIHON KEIZAI: HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRY STARTING NEXT
YEAR TO SET CEILING PRICES FOR EXPENSIVE MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS PACEMAKERS, TO CORRECT PRICE GAP WITH
EUROPE AND U.S.; PORTIONS BEYOND INSURANCE MAY BE MADE
PATIENTS' BURDEN (TRANSLATION BELOW)

TOKYO SHIMBUN: APEC CLOSES WITH SUMMIT DECLARATION ADOPTED; GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE-SECTOR TO COOPERATE FOR LIBERALIZATION; MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WILL AGAIN DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF NEW MEMBERS

MAINICHI: FORMER VICE MINISTER OKAMITSU HAD SUPPORTED MEDICAL FOOD INDUSTRY WHICH MADE HUGE DONATIONS TO HEALTH AND WELFARE POLICY CLIQUE DIETMEMBERS WHEN HE HAD SERVED AS HEALTH INSURANCE BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL; LICENSING SYSTEM SCRAPPED THIS SPRING FOR REASON OF "BEING USELESS"

YOMIURI: TO PUNISH 10 HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRY BUREAUCRATS ASSOCIATED WITH SUSPECT KOYAMA; TO SET ETHICAL STANDARDS INDEPENDENTLY TO REJECT ANY ENTERTAINMENT FROM RELATED INDUSTRIES

SANKEI: HAIKU POET BASHO'S OWN HANDWRITTEN DRAFT OF OKUNO HOSOMICHI FOUND IN A SECONDHAND BOOK STORE IN OSAKA; HIGHEST NATIONAL TREASURE; SOME HANDWRITTEN CHINESE CHARACTERS ANALYZED AS BASHO'S

HASHIMOTOQS ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM POLICY BECOMES AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT (YOMIURI - PAGE 3)

(MANILA, NOVEMBER 25, KAZUNORI OZAKI) WRAPPING UP A SERIES OF INFORMAL SUMMIT MEETINGS DURING HIS FIRST ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) FORUM ON THE 25TH, PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO WILL LEAVE FOR JAPAN ON THE 26TH. AFTER RETURNING HOME, HE WILL EXERT ALL HIS ENERGY INTO HIS MOST CHALLENGING TASK OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM. DURING HIS TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO, U.S. PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON HIGHLY EVALUATED THE HASHIMOTO-INITIATED FINANCIAL SYSTEM REFORM SCHEME AND EXPRESSED HIS STRONG EXPECTATION. WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ENDORSEMENT, THE "HASHIMOTO ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM SCHEME" FEATURING DEREGULATION HAS NOW BECOME A VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL PLEDGE. BUT WITH THE RESISTANCE BECOMING STRONGER AMONG OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (MOF) TOWARD STREAMLINING THEIR MINISTRY, THE PRIME MINISTER'S LEADERSHIP IS LIKELY BE TESTED WHEN HE RETURNS HOME.

MOF REFORM AS TOUCHSTONE

IN HIS SESSION WITH PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO, PRESIDENT CLINTON REMARKED: "YOUR PLAN TO DEREGULATE GREATLY JAPAN'S FINANCIAL SECTOR IS BEING HIGHLY EVALUATED IN THE U.S." THE OBSERVATION THAT "THE HASHIMOTO ADMINISTRATION WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM" HAS BEEN CIRCULATING OVERSEAS, INCLUDING THE U.S., SINCE THE SECOND HASHIMOTO ADMINISTRATION WAS LAUNCHED.

IT APPEARS THAT WITH SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE IN THE BACKDROP, PRESIDENT CLINTON'S INTENTION WAS TO NUDGE PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO TO IMPLEMENT THE REFORM SCHEME, INCLUDING DEREGULATION, TO MEET U.S. REQUESTS.

AFTER COMPLETING INFORMAL TALKS WITH OTHER LEADERS, THE

PRIME MINISTER MET THE PRESS IN MANILA. IN IT, REFERRING TO REFORMS OF FIVE AREAS -- ADMINISTRATION, ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, FINANCIAL SYSTEM, FISCAL STRUCTURE, AND SOCIAL WELFARE --THE PRIME MINISTER CATEGORICALLY STATED, "I WILL TACKLE WITH FRONTALLY." HIS COMMITMENT TOWARD THE UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 07 TOKYO 010849

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 26

"HASHIMOTO REFORM SCHEME" WAS EVIDENT THAT WOULD KICK OFF IN FULL SCALE WITH THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE ON ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM (GYOSEI KAIKAKU KAIGI), SET FOR THE 28TH. THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS "RESOLVE" WAS IN PART A MESSAGE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

AS FOR THE SEPARATION OF MOF'S TWO MAJOR FUNCTIONS, NAMELY THE INSPECTION AND CONTROL SECTIONS, THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP), MEETING WITH MOF'S RESISTANCE, HAS ALREADY RECEDED TO GOING AHEAD WITH THE INSPECTION SECTION ALONE. DUE PART TO SOME OBJECTIONS FROM THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN (SDPJ) AND THE SAKIGAKE PARTY, THE LDP'S WORK OF MAPPING OUT SPECIFIC STEPS MAY BEGIN CONSIDERABLY LATER THAN ITS ORIGINAL TARGET OF DECEMBER 6.

VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAVE BEEN KEEPING CLOSE TABS ON HOW THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD HANDLE MOF REFORM AS AN INDICATOR OF THE OVERALL REFORM SCHEME. SIMILARLY, OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN WATCHING CLOSELY THE DEVELOPMENTS OF JAPAN'S REFORM PROGRAM. IN OTHER WORDS, THE "HASHIMOTO REFORM SCHEME" HAVE BEEN DRAWING ATTENTION AT HOME AND ABROAD WITH HIS ADMINISTRATION'S FATE AT STAKE.

PRIME MINISTERQS ACTIVIST DIPLOMACY TOWARD U.S., CHINA, AND THE ROK (NIHON KEIZAI - PAGE 2)

(MANILA, NOVEMBER 26TH, ATSUSHI IJUIN) PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO, WHO IS NOW IN THE PHILIPPINES, WRAPPED UP YESTERDAY ALL OFFICIAL PROGRAMS THERE. IN HIS SERIES OF SEPARATE SUMMIT MEETINGS IN MANILA, HE HAS MADE IT CERTAIN THAT REPUBLIC OF KOREAN (ROK) PRESIDENT KIM YOUNG SAM WOULD VISIT JAPAN EARLY NEXT YEAR, AND HE ALSO WAS ABLE TO PAVE THE WAY TO REALIZING AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT JIANG Z EMIN. IN ADDITION, HE INTENDS TO TRAVEL IF AT ALL POSSIBLE TO THE UNITED STATES NEXT SPRING. NOW THAT THE ONCE-CHILLY RELATIONSHIP WITH

CHINA HAS STARTED MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF RESTORATION AT LONG LAST, THE PRIME MINISTER PLANS TO WORK TO MAKE MUCH CLOSER THE TIES WITH THE U.S., THE AXIS OF JAPANESE DIPLOMACY. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WOULD LIKE TO UNFOLD SUMMIT DIPLOMACY, FOCUSING ON BUILDING STABLE RELATIONS WITH BOTH CHINA AND THE ROK.

"WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE PROCESS OF RECONSIDERING THE GUIDELINES FOR JAPAN-U.S. DEFENSE COOPERATION WILL MAKE STEADY PROGRESS." SO SAYING, PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO TOUCHED ON THAT (DEFENSE-RELATED) PROBLEM, OVER WHICH REQUESTS COMING FROM THE U.S. HAVE ALWAYS DRAWN THE PUBLIC ATTENTION, AND DECLARED HE WOULD THROW ALL HIS ENERGIES INTO COMPILING NEW GUIDELINES BY NEXT SEPTEMBER.

BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE U.S., TRADE DISPUTES HAVE NOW QUIETED DOWN, BUT THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN OFTEN SWAMPED WITH THE HANDLING OF PROBLEMS RELATED TO U.S. FORCES' BASES ON OKINAWA. THE PRIME MINISTER'S ABOVE REMARK COULD BE THEN TAKEN AS A MESSAGE TO FURTHER STEP UP THE JAPAN-U.S. ALLIANCE CENTERING ON DEFENSE COOPERATION AFTER THE OKINAWA PROBLEM CLEARS THE FIRST STAGE OF WORK WITH A FINAL REPORT, WHICH THE JAPAN-U.S. SPECIAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON OKINAWA (SACO) WILL ISSUE IN ITS MEETING SET FOR DECEMBER 2.

IN THE TALKS WITH CHINESE PRESIDENT JIANG, THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER MADE SURE THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD ENDEAVOR TO IMPROVE BILATERAL BONDS BEFORE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIPLOMATIC NORMALIZATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA COMES NEXT SEPTEMBER. AS A PART OF SUCH EFFORTS, BOTH COUNTRIES DECIDED TO REALIZE AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS BY LEADERS. PRESIDENT JIANG WILL LIKELY COME TO JAPAN AROUND NEXT APRIL, WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER WILL PLAN TO VISIT CHINA SOMETIME AROUND SEPTEMBER.

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 07 TOKYO 010849

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 26

RELATIONS WITH THE ROK HAD ONCE TURNED SOUR OVER (JAPAN'S) RESPONSE TO THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (NORTH KOREA) AND THE PROBLEM OF RESPECTIVE VIEWS OF HISTORY, BUT SINCE THE JUNE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KIM, THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN IMPROVING. REGARDING THE NEXT SUMMIT MEETING, "IT IS DESIRED TO HOLD IT AT A CITY OTHER THAN TOKYO SO THAT IT WILL BE A COZY

ONE" (SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL), AND ON THAT OCCASION, THE TWO LEADERS WOULD DEEPEN THEIR TRUST EVEN MORE AND DIRECT "A FUTURE-ORIENTED JAPAN-ROK RELATIONSHIP."

THE MOMENT HE RETURNS HOME, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS TO GRAPPLE, USING ALL HIS EFFORTS, WITH "FIVE REFORMS," SUCH AS ADMINISTRATIVE, ECONOMIC STRUCTURAL, AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM REFORMS. BEHIND THE SERIES OF SUMMIT DIPLOMACY EVENTS ALREADY PLANNED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IS HIS AIM OF SEEK TO RUN IN THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) PRESIDENTIAL RACE SET FOR NEXT SEPTEMBER WITH CAREFULLY-THOUGHT-OUT PREPARATIONS: USING SPECTACULAR DIPLOMATIC EVENTS TO BOOST HIS ABILITY TO TACKLE DIFFICULT DOMESTIC ISSUES.

MAJOR DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL EVENTS IN THE COMING MONTHS

1996

LATE DECEMBER FOREIGN MINISTER IKEDA WILL TRAVEL TO THE ROK.

1997 JANUARY PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO WILL MAKE A ROUND OF TRIPS TO SOUTHEAST ASIA.

LATE JANUARY THE REGULAR DIET SESSION WILL BE CONVENED.

FEBRUARY

- MARCH PRIME MINISTER WILL VISIT THE U.S. (?)
ROK PRESIDENT KIM YONG SAM WILL COME TO

JAPAN (?)

FOREIGN MINISTER IKEDA WILL TRAVEL TO

CHINA (?)

LATE MARCH

- EARLY APRIL FISCAL 1997 BUDGET WILL BE APPROVED.

APRIL

JAPAN (?) CHINESE PRESIDENT JIANG Z EMIN WILL COME TO

LATE JUNE

THE REGULAR DIET SESSION WILL CLOSE.

JUNE 20 - 22

G-7 SUMMIT (DENVER SUMMIT)

SEPTEMBER

LDP PRESIDENTIAL RACE.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC

NORMALIZATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA.

JAPAN-

U.S. SECURITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

(2 PLUS

2).

HASHIMOTO'S PRESS CONFERENCE COVERS APEC RESULTS, OKINAWA, CHINA, AND INSURANCE TALKS (MAINICHI - PAGE 2)

(MANILA, NOVEMBER 25, HIROKO ARITA) THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MAIN POINTS OF PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO'S PRESS REMARKS IN MANILA ON NOVEMBER 25: APEC RESULTS IT WAS A SIGNIFICANT MEETING AS A TURNING POINT THAT MARKS A TRANSITION TO THE STAGE OF ACTION: THE GOAL OF BRINGING TO FRUITION THE IDEAL OF BUILDING AN ASIA-PACIFIC COMMUNITY. AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AS WELL, WE WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN EXCELLENT RESULTS THAT ARE APPROPRIATE FOR

THE INITIAL YEAR OF ACTION. WE HAVE NOW ENTERED INTO A PERIOD TO STEP UP OUR ACTIVITIES FURTHER AND ACCUMULATE SPECIFIC RESULTS, WHILE LIBERALIZING AND FACILITATING TRADE INVESTMENTS AND CARRYING OUT ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION AS MAIN FEATURES. REGARDING AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT (ITA), I REGARD HIGHLY THE FACT THAT A STRONG MESSAGE WAS SENT OUT IN THE FORM OF A CALL FOR CONCLUDING IT BY THE SINGAPORE MINISTERIAL MEETING (OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION). FROM NOW ON, I WOULD LIKE UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 07 TOKYO 010849

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 26

TO WORK HARD TO ENCOURAGE THE APEC MEMBERS AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO JOIN IN.

ALTERNATIVE HELIPORT FOR FUTENMA AIR STATION IN OKINAWA

AS LONG AS THE PEOPLE OF OKINAWA BASICALLY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THIS MATTER, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR US TO SEE ACTUAL PROGRESS, NO MATTER WHAT WE DECIDE. WHATEVER SUCH A DECISION MAY CONTAIN, I DO NOT THINK THE DISCUSSIONS AMONG THOSE CONCERNED HAVE BEEN BOILED DOWN ENOUGH TO CONVINCE THE PEOPLE OF OKINAWA PREFECTURE. WE SHOULD CONSIDER DISCUSSING THE MATTER FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF HOW TO MAKE IT ACCEPTABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF OKINAWA IN THE PROCESS OF SHOWING A GENERAL FRAMEWORK OR A COURSE OF ACTION. WHEN THINKING OF THE JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY ARRANGEMENT AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE, I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD MAKE ONLY THE PEOPLE OF OKINAWA TAKE ON THIS BURDEN. I STRONGLY HOPE THAT THE WHOLE NATION WILL WANT TO SHARE THEIR PAIN.

JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS

WE NOW GREET THAT TURNING-POINT CALLED THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA, AND WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT VARIOUS MATTERS, SINCERELY HOPING THAT THIS WILL BECOME A STEP FOR MAJOR PROGRESS IN JAPAN-CHINA RELATIONS. I ATTENDED THE JAPAN-CHINA SUMMIT MEETING WITH SUCH A FEELING IN MIND. WE WERE ABLE TO HOLD VERY CONSTRUCTIVE TALKS. AS FOR GRANT AID COOPERATION, WE ARE NOW ENTHUSIASTICALLY STUDYING WAYS TO RESUME IT. (IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ASKING WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER THOUGHT THERE WAS PROGRESS IN DEMOCRATIZATION:) CHINA HAS A POLITICAL SYSTEM THAT DIFFERS FROM OURS. WHILE RECOGNIZING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN

OUR RESPECTIVE WAYS OF THINKING, WE WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE AN EVEN MORE CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP.

JAPAN-U.S. INSURANCE TALKS

JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE NOW STARTED SUB-CABINET-LEVEL TALKS, AND I GUESS HIGHER-LEVEL TALKS ALSO WOULD BE HELD AS A MATTER OF COURSE. WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO REACH A SETTLEMENT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. I HAVE ALREADY TOLD OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF NEGOTIATIONS TO HOLD TALKS IN A PACKAGE ABOUT POSSIBLE COOPERATION FOR A SETTLEMENT. I BELIEVE THE UNITED STATES ALSO IS THINKING OF ASSUMING SUCH A POSTURE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE GOING TO CARRY OUT A REFORM OF OUR FINANCIAL SYSTEM BY THE YEAR 2001. WE ARE GOING TO CHANGE OUR ENTIRE SYSTEM SO THAT THE JAPANESE MONEY MARKET WILL BE ABLE TO RANK WITH NEW YORK'S AND LONDON'S. WE MUST NOT COME OUT WITH RESULTS THAT WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THAT.

PRIME MINISTERQS DIET POLICY SPEECH TO STRESS REFORM AND CREATIVITY (SANKEI - PAGE 2)

THE OUTLINE OF PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO'S OVERALL POLICY SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED AT AN EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION STARTING ON THE 29TH WAS REVEALED YESTERDAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS POLICY SPEECH WILL POINT OUT THAT "JAPAN IS NOW APPROACHING A MAJOR TURNING POINT ON THE EVE OF THE 21ST CENTURY," AND THAT A REVIEW OF ALL ITS SYSTEMS IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY FOR THE SAKE OF ITS POLITICS, ECONOMY, ADMINISTRATION, AND SOCIETY, WHICH HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO JAPAN'S POSTWAR PROSPERITY. HE WILL THEN STRESS THE NEED FOR REFORM TO LED BY THE POLITICAL SPHERE, URGING "WE MUST BRING ABOUT REFORM AND CREATIVITY."

HE WILL BACK A VISION TO "BUILD A SOCIETY AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM APPROPRIATE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY," IN WHICH JAPAN WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO A RAPIDLY AGING SOCIETY AND PROSPER TOGETHER WITH OTHER COUNTRIES BASED ON COMMON
UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 07 TOKYO 010849

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 26

GROUND SHARED WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

HE WILL EXPRESS HIS DETERMINATION TO TACKLE FIVE REFORMS:

1) GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, 2) THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM, 3) FINANCIAL SYSTEM, 4) FISCAL STRUCTURE, AND 5) SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM. TOUCHING ESPECIALLY ON HIS TACKLING THE URGENT TASK OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM, THE PRIME MINISTER WILL ANNOUNCE THAT HE HAS SET UP THE CONFERENCE ON ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM (GYOUSEI KAIKAKU KAIGI), A PANEL UNDER HIS DIRECT CONTROL. TARGETING JANUARY 2001, HE WILL REVEAL HIS POLICY APPROACH FOR CHANGING THE PRESENT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES INTO NEW ORGANS.

MEANWHILE, INDIRECTLY REFERRING TO THE SCANDAL INVOLVING A FORMER ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (MHW), HE WILL SEVERELY INSTRUCT THE ENFORCEMENT OF OFFICIAL DISCIPLINE OF BUREAUCRATS. HE WILL ALSO PLEDGE THAT THE SECOND HASHIMOTO ADMINISTRATION WILL DO ITS BEST TO SETTLE THE OKINAWA PROBLEM, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY BASE ISSUE, AS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TASK THE GOVERNMENT FACES NEXT TO ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

GOVERNMENTQS FLEXIBLE POLICY TOWARD IRAN DOES NOT INCLUDE UNFREEZING YEN LOANS
(NIHON KEIZAI - PAGE 2, NOV. 25 EVENING EDITION)

THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAMMERED OUT A NEW ENGAGEMENT POLICY TO DRAW IRAN OUT INTO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. WHILE IT WILL DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF NOW PENDING YEN LOANS UNTIL AFTER THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR, IT WILL CONVENE IN TOKYO ON THE 26TH AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GULF REGION INCLUDING IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA, THE FIRST TO BE HELD IN A COUNTRY OUTSIDE THE REGION, AND IT WILL THERE PROMOTE CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE GULF REGION. WITH A GROWING SENSE OF IMPASSE OVER THE UNITED STATES' CONTAINMENT STRATEGY TOWARD IRAN, THE AIM IS TO WIDEN THE POINTS OF CONTACT BETWEEN IRAN AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS JAPAN'S INDEPENDENT MIDDLE EASTERN DIPLOMACY.

ON THE YEN LOANS, THE GOVERNMENT SINCE THE SUMMER OF 1994 HAS BEEN DELAYING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND TRANCHE TO IRAN (APPROXIMATELY 48.5 BILLION YEN), THE POSITION BEING THAT "THE LOANS HAVE BEEN DECIDED, BUT THE TIMEFRAME IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION" (FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE). AT PRESENT, IT WAS DECIDED TO KEEP THE LOANS FROZEN FOR 1996, THE JUDGMENT BEING THAT SINCE IRAN HAS NOT YET LOOSENED ITS HARD-LINE STANCE, MORE TIME WOULD BE NEEDED BEFORE THE LOANS COULD BE RELEASED. IN SEPTEMBER AT THE JAPAN-IRAN FOREIGN MINISTERIAL MEETING IN NEW YORK ALSO, THIS POLICY APPROACH WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE IRANIAN SIDE.

ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, IN ADDITION TO IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA, SIX COUNTRIES ARE SENDING DIRECTOR GENERAL-CLASS OFFICIALS FROM THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES TO THE TOKYO MEETING.

IN THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW, THE U.S.' IRAN POLICY HAS CREATED AN IMPASSE EVEN IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND IT JUDGES THAT IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER, IT MUST WORK

SO THAT IRAN'S POINT OF CONTACTS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN BE EXPANDED. SINCE THERE IS UNDENIABLY THE ASPECT OF "PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY, BASED ON OUR RELATIONS WITH THE U.S." (FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE), DIPLOMACY TOWARD IRAN, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED, WILL SUPPORT ASPECTS OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE GULF REGION BY INDIRECT MEASURES, SUCH AS CONVENING THE ROPME CONFERENCE FOR PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE REGION.

INSURANCE TALKS: WORKING-LEVEL TALKS UNABLE TO OVERCOME CONFRONTATION; CABINET TALKS NEXT (YOMIURI - PAGE 9)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS IN THE JAPAN-UNITED UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 07 TOKYO 010849

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 26

STATES INSURANCE TALKS CONTINUED YESTERDAY AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (MOF) UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT, BUT THE STANDOFF BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE U.S. OVER SUCH ISSUES AS THE TIMING FOR OPENING SALES OF CASUALTY INSURANCE AND THE QUESTION OF LIBERALIZING AUTO INSURANCE PREMIUMS DID NOT EASE. A SECOND DAY OF MEETINGS WILL OCCUR ON THE 26TH, BUT SINCE THE DEADLINE FOR AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SET FOR DECEMBER 15, IT WILL START FINAL COORDINATION FOR A CABINET-LEVEL MEETING BETWEEN FINANCE MINISTER MITSUZUKA AND ACTING U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE BARSHEFSKY THAT WILL OCCUR IN EARLY DECEMBER.

HEALTH MINISTRY TO LOWER PRICES ON BIG TICKET MEDICAL ITEMS LIKE PACEMAKERS TOWARD U.S. LEVEL
(NIHON KEIZAI - TOP PLAY)

IN A BID TO ADJUST THE PRICES OF SUCH MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (SPECIFIC INSURANCE-COVERAGE EQUIPMENT) AS PACEMAKERS, WHICH ARE PRICED HIGHER IN JAPAN THAN IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE (MHW) WILL DRASTICALLY REVIEW ITS PRICING SYSTEM. THE MINISTRY IS PLANNING TO INTRODUCE A "REFERENCE PRICING SYSTEM" TO SET THE UPPER LIMIT FOR MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE OF MATERIALS PURCHASED BY HOSPITALS AND ALSO TO INSTRUCT SALES AGENTS TO REDUCE PRICES. WITH THE AIM OF RECONSTRUCTING MEDICAL INSURANCE SYSTEMS THAT ARE NOW IN DIRE FINANCIAL STRAITS, THE MINISTRY WILL ADOPT THIS NEW SYSTEM IN FY1997, STARTING WITH THOSE WHOSE PRICES ARE FAR HIGHER THAN OVERSEAS. THE REFERENCE PRICING SYSTEM FOR MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS IS VIEWED AN

INFLUENTIAL OPTION ALTERNATIVE FOR THE CURRENT STANDARD PRICING SYSTEM. THIS POLICY DIRECTION IS LIKELY TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON DEBATE ON REFORMING ENTIRE PHARMACEUTICAL ADMINISTRATION.

HIGH-PRICED SPECIFIC INSURANCE-COVERAGE MEDICAL EQPMNT, SUCH AS PACEMAKERS, IS A 650 BILLION YEN MARKET, ACCOUNTING FOR 2.5 PERCENT OF THE ENTIRE ANNUAL MEDIAL SPENDING. THE MHW SETS STANDARD PRICES FOR 750 KINDS OF MATERIALS, BASED ON THEIR MARKET PRICES, AND MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS REQUEST INSURANCE GROUPS TO PAY THESE AMOUNTS.

HOWEVER, REGARDING MATERIALS WHICH JAPAN HAS MOSTLY DEPENDED ON IMPORTS, SUCH AS PACEMAKERS (STANDARD PRICE EQUAL 1.6 MILLION YEN ON AVERAGE) AND BALLOON CATHETERS (300,000 YEN), SINCE SOME AGENTS SET PRICES, DOMESTIC PRICES HAVE JUMPED OVER THOSE OF THE U.S. AND EUROPE ABOUT THREE FOLD, RESULTING IN WORSENING MEDICAL INSURANCE FUNDS.

AS FOR PHARMACEUTICALS' PRICES, IT IS REGULATED THAT THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PRICE GAP BE CONTRACTED TO BELOW TWO TIMES. SOME SUGGEST THIS REGULATION ALSO SHOULD BE ADOPTED FOR EQUIPMENT.

YET, EVEN IF THE PRICE CAP SYSTEM IS ADOPTED, ONLY PAYMENTS FROM INSURANCE FUNDS WILL BE REDUCED. THE PORTION OVER INSURANCE COVERAGE WILL GO TO PATIENTS, SO IT COULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN THEIR UNDERSTANDING. GIVEN SUCH A SITUATION, THE MINISTRY WILL START AN INVESTIGATION ON DISTRIBUTION PRICES TO CALCULATE APPROPRIATE PRICES, AND THEN WILL INSTRUCT AGENTS SO THAT AN EXCESSIVE BURDEN WILL NOT BE IMPOSED ON PATIENTS.

EQUIPMENT SUBJECT TO THE APPLICATION OF THE REFERENCE PRICING SYSTEM WILL BE SELECTED BY THE CENTRAL SOCIAL INSURANCE MEDICAL COUNCIL (ADVISORY PANEL TO THE MHW MINISTER). THE MHW ALSO INTENDS TO REVEAL THE PRICING PROCESS TO THE PUBLIC, MAKING THE GROUNDS FOR SETTING UP STANDARD PRICES AND THE LIKE.

JDA VICE MINISTER SAYS SACO REPORT WILL LEAVE OUT METHOD OF HELIPORT CONSTRUCTION (SANKEI - PAGE 2)
UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 07 TOKYO 010849

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, RMR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; CIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS/J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; COMMERCE FOR DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPACFLT/PA; COMUSJ/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 26

THE GOVERNMENTS OF JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE REACHED A POLICY DIRECTION OF NOT NARROWING DOWN OFFSHORE HELIPORT CONSTRUCTION METHODS TO REPLACE FUTENMA AIR STATION AT THE SPECIAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON OKINAWA (SACO) MEETING ON DECEMBER 2 AND CONTINUE TO DISCUSS METHODS. THIS WAS REVEALED YESTERDAY BY ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER NAOAKI MURATA OF THE JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY. PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO ALSO INDICATED A SIMILAR VIEW IN HIS PRESS MEETING AFTER A NUMBER OF INFORMAL SUMMIT SESSIONS DURING THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) FORUM.

VICE MINISTER MURATA NOTED, "WE WILL NOT PICK JUST ONE CONSTRUCTION METHOD AT THIS POINT. INSTEAD, WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK INTO (SEVERAL) OPTIONS." MURATA ALSO INDICATED THAT NO SPECIFIC SITE WOULD BE STIPULATED IN THE REPORT BECAUSE DEPTH, SLOPE AND OTHER CONDITIONS NEED TO BE MET.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SUGGESTED A SITE OFF CAMP SCHWAB AS THE MOST LIKELY OPTION, BUT ROCKY DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN CONTINUING IN COORDINATION. THE CONSTRUCTION METHOD IS EXPECTED TO BE AFFECTED GREATLY BY THE CONSTRUCTION SITE, THE EXAMINATION OF COSTS, AND COORDINATION AMONG CONTRACTORS.

SO FAR, THE GOVERNMENTS OF JAPAN AND THE U.S. HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT THAT CONSTRUCTING FACILITIES COSTING 220 BILLION YEN TO 500 BILLION YEN WOULD BE FEASIBLE WITH EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS: 1) FLOATING-PIER TYPE (QIP); 2) PONTOON-TYPE; AND 3) SEMI-SUBMARINE TYPE. A FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT IS EXPECTED TO COME OUT ON THE 29TH. CRANE

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