

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: Land Expropriations (5 pages)	03/26/1997	P1/b(1)
002. cable	Re: Special Advisor (2 pages)	03/31/1997	P1/b(1)
003. cable	Re: Lunch with Governor Ota (6 pages)	04/01/1997	P1/b(1)
004. cable	Re: March 24 Meetings (6 pages)	04/03/1997	P1/b(1)
005. cable	Re: Scenesetter for Visits to Tokyo (8 pages)	04/04/1997	P1/b(1)
006. cable	Re: Japan-U.S. / Security Relationship (6 pages)	04/07/1997	P1/b(1)
007. cable	Re: Digest Executive Edition (11 pages)	04/09/1997	P1/b(1)
008. cable	Re: SECDEF Cohen April 7 Meeting (7 pages)	04/09/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997-Dec 1998 ([Futenma])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[03/26/1997 - 04/09/1997]

2016-0420-F
sb1900

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- 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.

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]
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- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
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Cable

PREC: IMMEDIATE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

LINE1: OAAUZYUW RUEHKO A2885 0940317Z UUUU--RHEHAAA.

LINE2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH

LINE3: O 040317Z APR 97

LINE4: FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

OSRI: RUEHKO

DTG: 040317Z APR 97

ORIG: AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4753
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4151

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

SUBJ: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 4

TOP HEADLINES:

TEXT:

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 08 TOKYO 002885

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR
EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA
WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN;
TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB
IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN
GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC
FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 4

TOP HEADLINES:

ASAHI: SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW WILL BE AMENDED AND
APPROVED WITHIN THE MONTH; SHINSHINTO AGREES TO SUPPORT
IT; MAY AFFECT THE COALITION GOVERNMENT SETUP

NIHON KEIZAI: LDP, SHINSHINTO REACHES ACCORD ON THREE
ITEMS; FIRST STEP TOWARD A PARTIAL ALLIANCE; AMENDMENT TO

THE SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW WILL BE APPROVED BEFORE PM'S U.S. TRIP (TRANSLATION BELOW)

TOKYO SHIMBUN: AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW TO BE APPROVED; SHINSHINTO, TAIYO PARTY ARRIVE AT AGREEMENT; PRIME MINISTER, OZAWA AGREE ON THE VIEW THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MILITARY BASES ON OKINAWA

MAINICHI: AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW TO BE APPROVED BEFORE PRIME MINISTER'S U.S. VISIT; SHINSHINTO SHOWS "ITS SUPPORT"; PRIME MINISTER, OZAWA AGREE ON THREE POINTS IN OKINAWA PROBLEM

YOMIURI: SHINSHINTO ALSO SUPPORTS AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW; TO BE APPROVED BY SUPPORT FROM AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY; HASHIMOTO, OZAWA MEET AGAIN; MAY AFFECT THE COALITION GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENT

SANKEI: PRIME MINISTER, OZAWA AGREE TO AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW; SHINSHINTO WILL DECIDE ON ITS PARTY POLICY LINE TODAY; TAIYO PARTY ALSO TO SUPPORT, BUT MINSHUTO WITHHOLDS ITS DECISION

LDP-SHINSHINTO 3-POINT SECURITY-TREATY-RELATED AGREEMENT A STEP TOWARD POLITICAL ALLIANCE
(NIHON KEIZAI - TOP PLAY)

PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO MET SUCCESSIVELY WITH NEW FRONTIER PARTY (SHINSHINTO) PRESIDENT ICHIRO OZAWA, DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN (MINSHUTO) REPRESENTATIVES YUKIO HATOYAMA AND NAOTO KAN, AND TAIYO PARTY (TAIYOTO) PRESIDENT TSUTOMU HATA AT HIS OFFICIAL RESIDENCE ON THE NIGHT OF THE 3RD, AND THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED FOR THEIR PARTIES' COOPERATION ON THE DIET'S EARLY PASSAGE OF A BILL TO AMEND THE SPECIAL LAND LEASE LAW FOR (U.S.) ARMED FORCES STATIONED IN JAPAN ("TOKUSOHO" ACT).

CONSEQUENTLY, THE PRIME MINISTER AND OZAWA HAVE AGREED ON THREE POINTS, SUCH AS MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS TO BEAR ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE NATION'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY TREATY, AND THE NFP IS THEREFORE EXPECTED TO VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENT BILL. THE TAIYO PARTY ALSO HAS CLARIFIED ITS STANCE IN FAVOR OF THE BILL. ACCORDINGLY, IT HAS NOW BECOME DEFINITE THAT A REVISED TOKUSOHO LAW WILL BE LEGISLATED BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO THE U.S. FROM THE 24TH AS PLANNED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. THE LDP AND THE NFP HAVE NOW PAVED THE WAY TO THEIR 'PARTIAL ALLIANCE,' AND THE LDP, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND SAKIGAKE PARTY WILL LIKELY BE URGED TO TRANSFORM THEIR CURRENT TRIPARTITE RULING FRAMEWORK.

THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON THE FOLLOWING THREE POINTS: (1) BASED ON A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY TREATY AS WHAT AFFECTS THE NATION'S BASIS, THE GOVERNMENT, IS TO ASSUME ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE NATION'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE BILATERAL SECURITY TREATY; (2) THE PROBLEM OF U.S. MILITARY BASES

ON OKINAWA SHOULD BE RESOLVED ON THE BASIS OF THE POLICY THAT THE BURDEN ON THE PEOPLE OF OKINAWA PREFECTURE IS TO BE SHARED BY THE WHOLE NATION; AND (3) THE GOVERNMENT IS TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM UNDER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT IS TO BEAR ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISSUES CONCERNING THE USE OF BASES ON OKINAWA -- INCLUDING REALIGNMENT, REDUCTION, AND RELOCATION.

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 08 TOKYO 002885

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 4

OVER THE ISSUE OF AMENDING THE ACT, THE SDP HAS CLARIFIED ITS NEGATIVE STANCE AND THEREFORE, IT HAS BECOME DIFFICULT (FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LDP) TO DEAL WITH IT UNDER THE CONVENTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF RULING PARTIES. IN THE MEANTIME, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD FIRMED UP HIS INTENTION OF AIMING TO HAVE THE AMENDMENT BILL PASSED AT THE DIET BY OBTAINING SUPPORT FROM WIDE-RANGING PARLIAMENTARY FORCES, INCLUDING OPPOSITION PARTIES AS WELL, WHILE IN CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL'S BEING CONCERNED WITH THE NATION'S BASIC POLICY PERTAINING TO NATIONAL SECURITY.

OZAWA EMPHASIZED TO THE PRIME MINISTER, "THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE A DRASTIC SOLUTION TO SECURE BASE LAND ON ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITY." IN REPLY, THE PRIME MINISTER SHOWED NO CHANGE IN HIS STANDPOINT OF ASSERTING THAT "REVISING THE LAW IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR THE PRESENT," BUT THE PRIME MINISTER THEN CAME UP WITH THE SAME STANCE IN THE FORM OF CLEARING UP HIS VIEW FOR THE PRESENT. OZAWA APPRECIATED THIS, AND THEIR MEETING EVENTUALLY REACHED THE THREE-POINT AGREEMENT. OZAWA, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, EXPRESSED HIS PARTY'S STANCE IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDMENT BILL, REMARKING: "IF WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING NEW, THEN WE WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT A MEASURE FOR THE PRESENT."

HATA POINTED OUT THE NECESSITY OF CONTINUING FROM NOW ON AS WELL TO GRAPPLE WITH SUCH ISSUES AS REALIGNING AND REDUCING THE U.S. MILITARY BASES ON OKINAWA. BASED ON THIS VIEW, HATA TRANSMITTED HIS PARTY'S INTENTION OF VOTING FOR THE AMENDMENT BILL, SAYING: "WE WOULD LIKE TO DEAL WITH IT IN A POSITIVE WAY IN CONSIDERATION OF OUR COUNTRY'S NATIONAL INTERESTS."

THE DPJ'S HATOYAMA AND KAN CALLED FOR FIVE POINTS, SUCH AS REDUCING THE U.S. MARINES AND FULFILLING A PACKAGE OF OKINAWA PROMOTIONAL MEASURES. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY ALSO CAME UP WITH THEIR IDEA: "THE GOVERNMENT'S DRAFT BILL MAY LEAD TO THE PERMANENT USE OF LAND. LEGISLATING A LAW IN FORCE ONLY FOR A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME IS ALSO ONE OF THE POSSIBILITIES."

THEREFORE, LDP SECRETARY GENERAL KOICHI KATO, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THEIR MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, PROPOSED TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS AMONG POLITICAL PARTIES. THE DPJ, BASED ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CONSULTATIONS, WILL DECIDE ON WHETHER OR NOT TO VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENT BILL.

THE GOVERNMENT IS TO SPELL OUT THE AMENDMENT BILL AND ITS PURPORT AT A PLENARY SESSION OF THE LOWER HOUSE ON THE 4TH, AND THEN THE DIET IS TO ENTER INTO SUBSTANTIVE DELIBERATIONS ON THE BILL. AFTER THIS WEEK, FROM THE 7TH, THE BILL WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE LOWER HOUSE'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LAND USE INCIDENT TO IMPLEMENTING THE JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY TREATY." THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LDP WANT TO HAVE THE AMENDED LAW LEGISLATED ON THE 18TH AT THE EARLIEST AFTER THE LOWER AND UPPER HOUSES' RESPECTIVE DELIBERATIONS FOR ABOUT A WEEK EACH.

PRIME MINISTER AVOIDS APRIL CRISIS; AIMS AT TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY VOTE ON OKINAWA BILL (TOKYO SHIMBUN - PAGE 2)

(COMMENTARY) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SHINSHINTO (NEW FRONTIER PARTY) AND TAIYO PARTY, THE BILL AMENDING THE SPECIAL LAND LEASE LAW FOR THE U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN, A CENTRAL PRIORITY FOR THE HASHIMOTO ADMINISTRATION, HAS NOW LIKELY TO PASS THE DIET LATE THIS MONTH BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER LEAVES FOR THE U.S. THE PRIME MINISTER, GAINED CONFIDENCE FROM THE SUCCESS OF THE JAPAN-U.S. SUMMIT TALKS, HAS WEATHERED YET ANOTHER CRISIS, FOLLOWING THE PASSAGE OF THE FY1997 BUDGET.

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 08 TOKYO 002885

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 4

THE PRIME MINISTER, WHO PERCEIVES THAT AMENDING THE SPECIAL LAND LEASE LAW EXTREMELY CRITICAL FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES, REPEATEDLY STRESSED, "IT IS THE FACTOR THAT CONCERNS THE FOUNDATION OF JAPAN."

HE HAS BEEN RESOLUTE TO PASS THE BILL AT AN EARLY STAGE, PLACING MORE EMPHASIS TO IT RATHER THAN TO SUSTAIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK ITSELF. SPECIFICALLY, HIS GOAL WAS TO OBTAIN "TWO-THIRDS OF ALL VOTES IN ORDER TO PASS THE BILL BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY" (CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SEIROKU KAJIYAMA). IT CAN NOW BE SAFELY BE SAID THAT HIS GOAL HAS GENERALLY BEEN ACHIEVED.

ANOTHER RULING PARTY, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP), IS STILL STICKING TO ITS STANCE OF NOT APPROVING THE BILL. BUT WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SHINSHINTO AND TAIYO PARTY, TIES AMONG THE LDP, SDP AND THE SAKIGAKE PARTY HAVE WEAKENED EVEN MORE.

IN THAT CONTEXT, THE APPROVAL OF THE SHINSHINTO AND TAIYO PARTY MAY SERVE AS A FACTOR TO SHIFT THE FRAMEWORK OF THE HASHIMOTO ADMINISTRATION.

NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS DISCORD IN THE LDP BETWEEN THE GROUP LOOKING FOR WAYS TO FORM A NEW CONSERVATIVE-CONSERVATIVE ALLIANCE (HO-HO RENGO) WITH THE SHINSHINTO AND ANOTHER GROUP AIMING TO ADD MINSHUTO (DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN) AND TAIYO PARTY TO THE "LDP-SDP-SAKIGAKE" ARRANGEMENT. THE RIVALRY BETWEEN THE TWO MAY INTENSIFY DEPENDING ON HOW THE LAND-LEASE BILL WILL TURN OUT.

THE HASHIMOTO ADMINISTRATION HAS A MYRIAD OF TOUGH ISSUES, SUCH AS ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL REFORMS AND MEDICAL INSURANCE SYSTEM REFORM. DIFFICULTIES LIE AHEAD FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S POLITICAL MANAGEMENT. (KOKI MIURA)

HASHIMOTO FOCUS ALSO ON FUTENMA ISSUE AND OKINAWA PROMOTIONAL MEASURES (NIHON KEIZAI - PAGE 3)

AN AGREEMENT REACHED YESTERDAY BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO AND SHINSHINTO (NEW FRONTIER PARTY) PRESIDENT ICHIRO OZAWA REVEALED THE PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION TO REGARD SECURITY AFFAIRS AS HIS TOP PRIORITY IN LINE WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF JAPAN'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY AND THE NEEDS OF OKINAWA. THE AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED TO EVOKE A STRONG REACTION FROM OKINAWA, WHICH HAS HIT THE GOVERNMENT WITH A PLETHORA OF POLITICAL REQUESTS ON THE STRENGTH OF THE EXPIRATION OF LAND LEASES FOR U.S. BASES THERE. THE FOCUS HAS NOW SHIFTED TO HOW THIS WILL AFFECT THE FUTENMA ALTERNATIVE HELIPORT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AND AN OKINAWA REVITALIZATION PACKAGE.

THE BILL PRESENTED TO THE DIET YESTERDAY TO AMEND THE SPECIAL LAND LEASE LAW FOR U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN WILL ENABLE THE (U.S. MILITARY FORCES) CONTINUE TO USE THEIR FACILITIES EVEN AFTER THE LAND LEASES EXPIRE AS LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDES SUFFICIENT MATERIAL AS COLLATERAL. IN ADDITION, IN CASE THE EXPROPRIATION COMMITTEE TURNS DOWN THE GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST, THE CONSTRUCTION MINISTER WILL BE ABLE TO FILE A REQUEST FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION, AND DURING WHICH TIME, THE

GOVERNMENT WILL BE ENTITLED TO CONTINUE TO USE LAND. THE BILL THUS INCLUDES DOUBLE AND TRIPLE SAFEGUARD MEASURES.

ANTI-WAR LANDOWNERS ARE REACTING STRONGLY TO SUCH A BILL, "IF THE GOVERNMENT IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO USE LAND SO EASILY, THE EXPROPRIATION COMMITTEE'S HEARINGS WOULD BECOME MORIBUND." OKINAWA GOVERNOR MASAHIDE OTA REMARKED YESTERDAY IN A STRONG TONE, "IT IS TRULY REGRETTABLE."

THE AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND OZAWA HAS ALSO POINTED TO THE POSSIBLE SHIFT OF UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 08 TOKYO 002885

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 4

ADMINISTRATIVE WORK ASSIGNED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING THAT FOR FORCIBLE USE OF LAND BY THE U.S. MILITARY, TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. THE GOVERNMENT'S BILL DOES NOT CALL FOR ANY CHANGE IN THE AUTHORITY OF LOCAL HEADS OR THE EXPROPRIATION COMMITTEE OUT OF CONSIDERATION TO OKINAWA. NEVERTHELESS, IF THE DECENTRALIZATION PROMOTION COMMITTEE COMES UP WITH A REPORT IN JUNE CALLING FOR THE SHIFT OF LAND-USE ADMINISTRATIVE WORK TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, OZAWA-PROPOSED "FUNDAMENTAL REFORM" MAY ASSUME REALISTIC OVERTONES ALL AT ONCE.

THE OKINAWA BASE PROBLEM HAS NOW BECOME A MAJOR NATIONAL ISSUE CHIEFLY BECAUSE FUNCTIONS LIKE SIGNING, PUBLIC NOTICE AND INSPECTION OF MILITARY SITES AND PUBLIC HEARINGS BY THE EXPROPRIATION COMMITTEE ARE NOW ALL ASSIGNED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. UNDER SUCH A SYSTEM, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT IGNORE LOCAL MOVES.

WHETHER OR NOT THE GOVERNMENT CAN CARRY OUT DRASTIC REFORM REMAINS TO BE SEEN. SOME SUSPECT, "NOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT-PRESENTED BILL IS LIKELY TO PASS THE DIET, OKINAWA PREFECTURE HAS VIRTUALLY LOST ITS GREATEST POLITICAL CARD OF THE LAND-LEASE DEADLINE. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, NAGATA-CHO (JAPAN'S CAPITOL HILL) MAY LOSE ITS INTEREST QUICKLY IN THE OVERALL OKINAWA PROBLEM, INCLUDING A PACKAGE TO BOOST OKINAWA'S ECONOMY." (DEFENSE AGENCY SOURCE).

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PAVING THE WAY BEHIND THE SCENES IN ORDER TO COME UP WITH A CERTAIN TIME FRAMEWORK FOR

CONDUCTING FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR CONSTRUCTING A HELIPORT OFF CAMP SCHWAB, WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S U.S. TRIP COMING UP ON THE 24TH. OKINAWA PREFECTURE, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HOPES TO ACT AS A COORDINATOR, STILL REMAINS ALOOF, ARGUING, "PRIMARILY, IT IS A MATTER BETWEEN THE STATE AND THE CITY."

SOME ARE WORRYING, "UNLESS A CLEAR DIRECTION IS SHOWN BEFORE THE STATE LOSES ITS ENTHUSIASM, THE PLANNED REVERSION OF THE BASE MAY END UP BEING A CASTLE IN THE AIR" (DEFENSE AGENCY OFFICIAL). THE GOVERNOR IS LIKELY TO BE PRESSED FOR A TOUGH DECISION.

GOVERNMENT LACKS STRATEGY IN DIET DELIBERATIONS ON SPECIAL MEASURES BILL (MAINICHI - PAGE 3)

THE GOVERNMENT SUBMITTED YESTERDAY TO THE DIET AN AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIAL MEASURES LAW FOR LAND USE BY THE UNITED STATES MILITARY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE THE USE OF LAND FOR U.S. FORCES' FACILITIES. THE GOVERNMENT EMPHASIZES THAT THAT AMENDMENT IS THE "MINIMAL NECESSARY STEP" (PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO) IN ORDER TO GET IT APPROVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BUT CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SEIROKU KAJIYAMA HAS SUGGESTED THE STRONG POSSIBILITY OF DRASTICALLY REVISING SECURITY AND DEFENSE-RELATED BILLS IN THE FUTURE, STATING, "I WONDER IF THIS (AMENDMENT) WILL BE THE FINAL ONE." PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO AND SHINSHINTO (NEW FRONTIER PARTY) PRESIDENT ICHIRO OZAWA IN THEIR TALKS REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON THE FORM THAT "THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WILL SET UP A MECHANISM." ON THE OTHER HAND, REGARDING THE PROBLEM OF REDUCING U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN (USFJ), INCLUDING THE MARINES, THE PRIME MINISTER STATED, "AT THIS POINT, I WILL NOT TAKE IT UP AS AN AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION." BUT THE FACT IS THAT HE HAS LEFT SOME LEEWAY FOR HIM TO MAKE A RESPONSE WHILE LOOKING AT POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE SITUATION IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. A MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE AND A DIRECTION REMAIN AMBIGUOUS, INTERTWINING DEBATES ON THE COALITION GOVERNMENT ARRANGEMENT.

THE AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW KEEPS THE UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 08 TOKYO 002885

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 4

PRESENT SYSTEM, WHICH SEEKS A DECISION FROM PREFECTURAL EXPROPRIATION COMMITTEES IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE THE RIGHT TO USE LAND LOTS FOR BASES. REFERRING TO THE AMENDMENT, THE GOVERNMENT EXPLAINS IT IS "A MINIMAL NECESSARY REVISION." BUT SOME MEMBERS OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) AND THE SHINSHINTO (NEW FRONTIER PARTY) CALL FOR A DRASTIC REVISION, ARGUING: "A JUDGMENT ON WHETHER TO OFFER LAND LOTS TO OUR ALLY IS THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S JOBS" (JIN MURAI, LOWER-HOUSE MEMBER OF THE SHINSHINTO).

CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY KAJIYAMA IN A PRESS BRIEFING YESTERDAY IMPLIED THAT IN HIS OPINION, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO AMEND THE LAW IN ORDER TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO HANDLE THE CLERICAL STEPS FOR THE USE AND EXPROPRIATION OF LAND PLOTS FOR THE MILITARY. AT A MEETING HELD YESTERDAY OF THE LOWER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE, THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING TO SOME EXTENT, LINKING IT TO THE WAY DECENTRALIZATION OF AUTHORITY SHOULD BE, NOTING: "I WOULD LIKE TO LISTEN TO SUCH A VIEW." ALL THESE NOW GIVE A GLIMPSE OF THE AIM OF STEPPING UP THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S POWERS IN SECURING LAND LOTS FOR MILITARY BASES.

ON THE PROBLEM OF REDUCING U.S. TROOPS, OKINAWA PREFECTURE, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) AND THE MINSHUTO (DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN) AND OTHERS ARE CALLING FOR REDUCTION, BUT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS REITERATED: "IT IS NOT THE RIGHT TIME TO RAISE THAT PROBLEM TO THE U.S. SIDE." FOR NOW, HE GIVES STRONGER CONSIDERATION TO THE U.S. SIDE, WHICH IS INCREASING ITS SENSE OF ALARM TO A RESPONSE BY THE JAPANESE SIDE.

HOWEVER, HE NEVER FAILS TO SPOTLIGHT "CLOSE CONSULTATIONS ON THE STRUCTURE OF TROOP STRENGTH SO AS TO MEET CHANGES," AS IS SPECIFIED IN THE JAPAN-U.S. JOINT SECURITY DECLARATION RELEASED IN APRIL LAST YEAR. IN VIEW OF THE MURKY INTERNATIONAL MILITARY SITUATION WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO HAVE SOME PROSPECTS, REACHING A SHORT-TERM JUDGMENT IS IN FACT DIFFICULT, BUT WITHOUT MAKING CLEAR WHAT KINDS OF "CHANGES" WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO TRIM TROOPS, THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING GREAT PAINS TO FIND A "MAKE-SHIFT MEASURE" (SHINSHINTO (NEW FRONTIER PARTY) PRESIDENT ICHIRO OZAWA) OVER SECURITY POLICY. NOTICEABLE IS THE GOVERNMENT'S "RESPONSE THAT HAS NO STRATEGY." (NATSUKI MOTODANI)

FOLLOWING MAY-15 MEMO, REST OF JAPAN WANTS RELEASE OF OTHER AGREEMENTS ON BASE LAND USE (ASAHI - PAGE 2)

A PORTION OF THE "MAY 15 MEMO" -- THE DOCUMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES THAT SET THE TERMS OF THE USE OF U.S. MILITARY BASES ON OKINAWA -- HAS BEEN RELEASED, BUT LOCAL COMMUNITIES ON MAINLAND JAPAN ARE ALSO BEGINNING TO VOICE THEIR REQUESTS THAT SINCE SIMILAR DOCUMENTS EXIST TOWARD BASES ON THE MAINLAND, "THESE SHOULD BE RELEASED."

ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (MOFA) AND THE DEFENSE FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION AGENCY (DFAA), FROM 1952 TO 1953 THE JAPAN-U.S. JOINT COMMITTEE APPROVED MEMORANDUMS OF AGREEMENT REGARDING THE U.S. BASES ON MAINLAND JAPAN. ACCOMPANYING THE COMING INTO EFFECT OF THE OLD SECURITY TREATY IN 1952, TERMS FOR USE AND OTHER PROVISIONS WERE SET IN ORDER TO ALLOW AS FACILITIES PROVIDED BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT THE CONTINUED USE OF BASES THAT THE U.S. MILITARY HAD HAD DURING THE OCCUPATION.

COMPARED TO THE MAY 15 MEMO WHICH WAS SET IN 1972 FOR OKINAWA BASES, THE TERMS OF USE AND OTHER PROVISIONS (FOR MAINLAND JAPAN BASES) REPORTEDLY WERE ONLY AGREED TO IN GENERAL AND THE CONTENTS OF SUCH AGREEMENTS HAVE CHANGED GREATLY SINCE THAT TIME.

UNCLAS SECTION 06 OF 08 TOKYO 002885

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 4

A HIGH LOCAL OFFICIAL IN TOKYO'S FUSSA CITY, THE LOCAL COMMUNITY THAT HOUSES YOKOTA AIR FORCE BASE, WHICH IS THE U.S. FORCES LARGEST MILITARY TRANSPORT CENTER IN THE FAR EAST, WAS SURPRISED: "THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I FOUND OUT ABOUT AGREEMENTS HAVING BEEN MADE TOWARD BASES ON MAINLAND JAPAN."

AN AGREEMENT FOR NOISE-REDUCTION MEASURES WAS REACHED IN THE JAPAN-U.S. JOINT COMMITTEE IN 1964, AND REVISED IN 1993, ON THE ISSUE OF NOISE FROM MILITARY AIRCRAFT AT YOKOTA A.F.B. THE ONLY JOINT AGREEMENT DOCUMENT EVER RELEASED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO THE CITY WAS THIS ANTI-NOISE AGREEMENT. MOREOVER, ON PROVISION IN THE NOISE-ABATEMENT MEASURES WAS REPORTEDLY EXCISED FROM THE DOCUMENT.

THE CITY OFFICIAL STATED, "AT THE TIME, WE WERE THINKING OF ASKING FOR RELEASE OF THE AGREEMENT DOCUMENT SETTING USE TERMS, AS WELL AS THE MISSING PROVISION FROM THE RELEASED NOISE-ABATEMENT AGREEMENT.

IN ADDITION, KAZUHIKO TAMAKI OF THE ORGANIZATION "DISARMAMENT NETWORK CATCHPIECE" (OFFICE IN YOKOHAMA CITY), WHICH WAS FORMED BY 23 LOCAL ANTI-BASE ASSOCIATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, STATED, "WE HAVE NO CLEAR FIX ON ANY OF THE AGREEMENT DOCUMENTS FOR ANY OF

THE BASES OR LANDS THAT ARE USED." HIS ORGANIZATION PLANS A MOVEMENT IN EACH LOCAL COMMUNITY TO SEEK PUBLIC RELEASE OF THOSE DOCUMENTS.

HIGH-LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL VISITING ISRAEL
(ASAHI - PAGE 3)

(JERUSALEM BUREAU, APRIL 3) DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SHUNJI YANAI, NOW ON AN OVERSEAS TOUR OF RUSSIA, TURKEY AND OTHER COUNTRIES, ENTERED JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, ON APRIL 3. HE MET WITH PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU AND OTHER LEADERS TO ASK THEM TO SOOTHE THE NOW-STRAINED PALESTINIAN SITUATION SET OFF BY ISRAEL'S CONSTRUCTION OF JEWISH HOUSING IN JERUSALEM. AT THE SAME TIME, HE HANDED OVER PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO'S PERSONAL LETTER CALLING FOR ACTION TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU EMPHASIZED AGAIN THAT ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES BY THE PALESTINIAN SIDE WOULD BE OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE IN ORDER TO BRING THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS BACK ON TRACK. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER YANAI ASKED THAT BOTH ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS REBUILD A COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK IN THE SECURITY AREA, AND HE PROMISED THAT HE IN HIS MEETING WITH PALESTINIAN CHAIRMAN ARAFAT SET FOR THAT NIGHT IN GAZA HE WOULD TRANSMIT PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU'S DESIRE REGARDING ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES.

RULING CAMP HOPELESSLY SPLIT OVER REFORM OF HEALTH INSURANCE (NIHON KEIZAI - PAGE 2)

THE RULING PARTIES' CONFERENCE FOR MEDICAL INSURANCE SYSTEM REFORM (CHAIRMANED BY FORMER MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE YUYA NIWA) HELD A MEETING AT THE DIET TO WORK OUT BASIC POLICY MEASURES FOR MEDICAL INSURANCE REFORM. BUT WITH THE GAP REMAINING FAR APART BETWEEN THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP) AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) OVER A REVIEW OF MEDICAL FEES SYSTEM, THE MEETING ENDED IN RUPTURE. COORDINATION WORK WILL BE CONTINUED BY THE CHAIRMEN OF THE POLICY AFFAIRS RESEARCH COUNCIL AND POLICY DELIBERATION COUNCIL OF THE THREE RULING PARTIES.

OVER MEDICAL TREATMENT COSTS, THE SDP AND SAKIGAKE HAVE INSISTED THAT "THE CURRENT PIECEMEAL-RATE SYSTEM UNDER WHICH MORE TREATMENT OFFERS, THE MORE INCOME MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS RECEIVE HAS CONSTITUTED THE MAJOR CAUSE FOR UNCLAS SECTION 07 OF 08 TOKYO 002885

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 4

BOOSTING MEDICAL SPENDING." THEY STRESSED THE NEED TO ADOPT FOR MORE CASES THE FIXED-RATE SYSTEM DESIGNED TO SET THE MEDICAL FEES IN ADVANCE. BUT THE LDP RAISED OBJECTION TO PROVIDING FOR IT, KEEPING IN MIND ITS SUPPORTER GROUP THE JAPAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, WHICH HAS ASSERTED "AN EXPANSION OF THE FIX-RATE SYSTEM MEANS THE SETTING OF A FRAMEWORK FOR MEDICAL SERVICES AND SO THE QUALITY OF MEDICAL SERVICES MIGHT BE AGGRAVATED."

AGREEMENT WAS ABOUT TO BE REACHED ON STIPULATION OF AN WIDER ADOPTION OF THE SYSTEM AT THE FINAL STAGE, BUT "THE INTERVENTION BY THE JAPAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION UPSET SUCH AN EFFORT" (SDP MEMBER). THE SDP AND SAKIGAKE HAVE FIERCELY REACTED, SAKIGAKE MEMBERS' GROUP CHAIRMAN AKIKO DOMOTO REMARKING: "IT IS UNACCEPTABLE THAT AN INTERPARTY AGREEMENT WAS TOPPLED BY THE DESIRES OF A SPECIFIC ORGANIZATION."

REGARDING DRUG PRICES AND THE HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM FOR THE ELDERLY, THE THREE RULING PARTIES HAVE ALREADY AGREED: (1) TO REVAMP THE STANDARD PRICING SYSTEM FOR DRUGS AND TO LOOK INTO THE SYSTEM, BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF SETTING MEDICINE PRICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH MARKET RATES; (2) TO FUNDAMENTALLY REVIEW THE ELDERLY HEALTH INSURANCE SYSTEM, WHILE HAVING IN MIND SUCH OPTIONS AS THE CREATION OF AN ELDERLY MEDICAL SERVICE SYSTEM OR THE CONTINUOUS SUBSCRIPTION OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE EVEN AFTER RETIREMENT. THE ISSUE OF RESTRUCTURING THE MEDICAL TREATMENT FEE SYSTEM ALONE IS LEFT AS A POINT OF CONTENTION. BUT WITH NO BREAKTHROUGH LOOMING AHEAD, THE PLANNED MEETING BY THE COUNCIL CHAIRMEN COULD RUN INTO TROUBLE.

JAPAN REBUTS U.S. ON FILM ISSUE IN WTO
(NIHON KEIZAI - PAGE 7)

(GENEVA, APRIL 3, SEIICHIRO MISHINA) AS PART OF A TRIAL AT A (DISPUTE-SETTLEMENT) PANEL OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) OVER THE JAPANESE PHOTOFILM AND PRINTING PAPER MARKET, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ON THE 3RD SUBMITTED AN OPINION PAPER REFUTING THE ASSERTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE U.S., WHICH FILED A COMPLAINT WITH THE WTO ON THE PHOTOFILM ISSUE, PRESENTED ITS REPORT IN FEBRUARY. WITH JAPAN'S SUBMISSION, FULL-FLEDGED DISCUSSION WILL START IN MID-APRIL. A RULING IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE THIS FALL.

IN THE SUBMISSION, JAPAN DENIES THE U.S. ALLEGATION THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WORKED OUT "COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST LIBERALIZATION" AIMED TO KEEP FOREIGN-PRODUCED PHOTOFILM AND PRINTING PAPER OUT OF THE JAPANESE MARKET. IT FURTHER INSISTS THAT (1) THE U.S. COMPLAINTS ABOUT JAPAN'S INFRINGEMENT ON U.S. BENEFITS, EVEN IF THEY DO NOT COME UNDER A VIOLATION OF THE WTO AGREEMENT, FAIL TO

SATISFY THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS; AND (2) BUSINESS PRACTICES AND MARKET STRUCTURE DO NOT COME UNDER THE WTO DISPUTE-SETTLEMENT SYSTEM.

KODAK AND FUJI FILM SEEM TO BE EASING THEIR CONFRONTATIONAL STAND TOWARD EACH OTHER (ASAHI - PAGE 13)

AMID A PHOTOFILM DISPUTE CONTINUING BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE STAGE OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO), EASTMAN KODAK AND FUJI FILM -- THE PARTIES CONCERNED -- HAVE BEGUN TO DELICATELY SOFTEN THEIR CONFRONTATIONAL STANCE. YESTERDAY, YOSHIKAZU HORI, PRESIDENT OF KODAK-JAPAN, NOTED, "IN JAPAN, WE HAVE TO CONFORM OUR BUSINESS STYLE TO THAT OF JAPAN." IN THE MEANTIME, MINORU ONISHI, CHAIRMAN OF FUJI FILM, STATED, "WE WANT TO FURTHER DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION WITH KODAK ON THE VANGUARD TECHNOLOGY AREA." IT SEEMS THAT THE TWO COMPANIES ARE CHANGING THEIR STRATEGY TO TAKE THE GOODS HOME, COOPERATING WITH EACH UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 08 TOKYO 002885

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 4

OTHER ON THE PROMISING DIGITAL PHOTOFILM MARKET, INSTEAD OF CONTINUING AN "UNPRODUCTIVE BATTLE" (INFORMED SOURCE).

THE PHOTOFILM ROW HAS ITS ORIGIN IN EASTMAN KODAK OF THE U.S.' FILING A COMPLAINT IN 1995 WITH THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (USTR), CLAIMING, "OUR SALES ON THE JAPANESE MARKET ARE STAGNANT BECAUSE FUJI IS MAINTAINING A MARKET SHARE OF 70 PERCENT, USING A KEIRETSU (INTERLOCKING BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS) SALES SYSTEM THAT HAS A CLOSED NATURE AND A REBATE SYSTEM." FUJI REBUTTED, "THERE ARE NO EXCLUSIONARY SALES PRACTICES. KODAK IS NOT MAKING FULL SALES EFFORTS." SINCE THEN, A LENGTHY STANDOFF HAS BEEN CONTINUING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

REFERRING TO THE JAPANESE MARKET AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD THAT DAY, HORI, WHO HAS JUST TOOK OFFICE AS PRESIDENT OF KODAK-JAPAN, NOTED WITH THE PREFACING REMARK THAT IT IS A "GENERAL ARGUMENT," "KODAK'S FILM COMMANDS A LARGE SALE IN THE U.S., BUT IT DOES NOT GUARANTEES THAT IT SELLS WELL ALSO IN JAPAN. IT MEANS THAT WHEN YOU ARE IN ROME, DO AS THE ROMANS DO." THE SHARE OF KODAK ON THE JAPANESE MARKET REMAINS LOCKED AROUND 10 PERCENT, BUT

PRESIDENT HORI SAID, "WE HAVE TO CHANGE UNFAIR ASPECTS, BUT I DO NOT NECESSARILY THINK THAT DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS ARE IMPEDED. FUJI'S HIGH SHARE MAY BE THE RESULT OF ITS EFFORT." PRESIDENT HORI, WHO HAS EXPERIENCE AS PRESIDENT OF CRAY RESEARCH-JAPAN, SEEMS TO THINK THAT U.S.-STYLE THINKING ALONE WILL NOT IMPROVE THE SITUATION."

IN THE MEANTIME, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ASAHI SHIMBUN THAT DAY, CHAIRMAN ONISHI OF FUJI REVEALED A STANCE OF LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION WITH KODAK ON THE DIGITAL CAMERA AREA, WHILE NOTING, "WE WILL NEVER LET THE MATTER DROP." HE CONTINUED, "FOR THE SAKE OF THE CONSUMERS, WE WOULD LIKE TO HOLD FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH KODAK SO THAT WE CAN COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER ON AREAS WHERE JOINT DEVELOPMENT IS POSSIBLE."

THE TWO COMPANIES ARE ALREADY COOPERATING WITH EACH OTHER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC SYSTEM -- "ADVANCED PHOTO SYSTEM." IT IS AN AGE WHEN "BUSINESS TIE-UPS BEYOND SHORT-TERM INTERESTS ARE NEEDED" (EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF A LEADING MANUFACTURER) IN ORDER TO KEEP UP WITH RAPID TECHNOLOGY PROGRESS. WITH THE EMERGENCE OF A MOOD TIRED OF THE PROTRACTED ROW, THE TWO COMPANIES SEEM TO BE PRESSED TO TAKE A REALISTIC RESPONSE.

MITI REBUTS U.S.

IN THE JAPAN-U.S. TRADE DISPUTE OVER JAPAN'S PHOTOFILM AND PAPER MARKET, THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY YESTERDAY SUBMITTED AN OPINION PAPER TO THE WTO AND ASSERTED, "THERE EXIST NO POLICY MEASURES AND GOVERNMENT MEASURES THAT HAMPER THE ACCESS OF IMPORTED FILM TO THE DOMESTIC MARKET." THE USTR SUBMITTED AN OPINION PAPER IN FEBRUARY, CLAIMING, "THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CREATED AN EXCLUSIONARY DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FROM THE 1960'S THROUGH THE 1970'S." THE WTO WILL LAUNCH FULL-STREAM STUDIES AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH. THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT A PANEL DECISION, WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO A RULING, WILL BE REACHED AROUND OCTOBER.

CRANE

SECT: SECTION: 01 OF 08

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005. cable	Re: Scenesetter for Visits to Tokyo (8 pages)	04/04/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997-Dec 1998 ([Futenma])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[03/26/1997 - 04/09/1997]

2016-0420-F
sb1900

RESTRICTION CODES

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

- 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]
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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006. cable	Re: Japan-U.S. / Security Relationship (6 pages)	04/07/1997	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Cables
Jan 1997-Dec 1998 ([Futenma])
OA/Box Number: 520000

FOLDER TITLE:

[03/26/1997 - 04/09/1997]

2016-0420-F
sb1900

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- 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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(1) EDITORIAL: Don't Mislead the Nation!

MAINICHI (Page 5) (Full)
April 8, 1997

On board a plane bound for Japan on April 5 (6th; Japan time), United States Secretary of Defense William Cohen indicated that in his view, the U.S. did not intend to reduce in the foreseeable future the current strength of Marines deployed on Okinawa.

He revealed his opinion to reporters accompanying him to Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK). But it is incorrect to see his statement focused only on the U.S. Forces in Japan (USFJ) and their bases on Okinawa, for he referred mainly to the Korean problem and the U.S. forces stationed in the ROK.

He made it clear that "the level of 36,000 U.S. troops now in the ROK will be maintained even after peace is brought to the Korean Peninsula and consequently South and North Korea are unified." In addition, he categorically stated the U.S. would keep the 100,000 troop strength level in place in the Asia-Pacific region in the foreseeable future.

His statement is now translated as showing a policy direction that the size of U.S. forces in Asia will not be affected by relaxation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula and the unification of South and North Korea. If that is the case, the question is what kind of rationale we can find in the previous explanation by government officials and key members

of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that the Marines stationed on Okinawa are there to provide for a contingency on the Korean Peninsula, so if tensions ease there, it would be possible to
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downsize that force.

We are not saying that they were stating an official view linking eased tensions on the Korean Peninsula to a reduction of the Marines' presence on Okinawa, but senior LDP members as well as numerous politicians in the ruling bloc have maintained that "the Marines on Okinawa are kept in place in preparation for a contingency on the Korean Peninsula." It is then undeniable that they have given the impression that if the tense situation on the Korean Peninsula eased and the possibility of a contingency diminished, the size of troop strength might be cut back.

In contrast, Secretary Cohen, seen from his just-given statement, adopts the position that the troop strength of the USFJ including the Marines on Okinawa has no linking to changes in the situation on the Korean Peninsula and relaxation of tensions there.

Cohen's statement is connected in part with the review effort regarding Asia strategy that is now underway. In that process, a conclusion seems to have emerged that the troop strength of the U.S. forces now in place in Asia must not be affected by debates on emergencies on the Korean Peninsula.

What lies behind is the reality that an argument indicating a possible occurrence of emergency on the Korean Peninsula on the ground of the threat of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) is losing persuasiveness. The U.S. and North Korea are expected to establish liaison offices within the year at the latest, and the four-party talks (South and North Korea, the U.S. and China) are most likely to occur. Such being the

case, the likelihood is that the threat from the Korean Peninsula will fade away.

Assuming such a case, the judgment might have emerged that it would not be a possible option in terms of strategic aspects to reduce the U.S. forces stationed in the ROK and Japan. Otherwise it is illogical, according to the hitherto explanations, that the easing of tensions on the Korean Peninsula will not be linked directly to a cutback in U.S. troops installed on Okinawa.

In truth, there is no clear-cut account of the propriety of the maintenance of the 100,000-troop strength level in the Asia-Pacific region. In Europe, U.S. troops under the command of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were significantly reduced, but why isn't it possible to trim U.S. troops in place in Asia?

What the Government now needs to do is to seek the U.S. to give accounts of the grounds for the presence of their troops in Asia and to get a national understanding. The reason is the security policy in the contemporary age cannot be
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implemented unless a national understanding and support are both obtained.

It is a fact that the U.S.-Japan security arrangement has played a crucial role for the peace of Japan and Northeast Asia. But it is dangerous to put strategy and the defense problem in a hands of a few government officials. We now urge that a forum be established to give explanations in a transparent fashion to the people and to hold a wide-ranging debate.

(2) Yomiuri Nationwide Public Opinion Survey on Public Awareness of Constitution: Public Call for "Constitutional Debate" Marks All-Time High at 75 Percent; 68 Percent "Feel Contradiction"; People in Favor of Constitutional Revision Form Majority for

5 Consecutive Years

YOMIURI (Top Play & Pages 12-13) (Extracts)
April 6, 1997

Questions & Answers

(The figures are shown in terms of percentage.)

Q: What is your interest in the Constitution of Japan now? All the problems listed below are concerned with the Constitution. If there is anything you are particularly interested in, pick as many as you like.

Problems about the Emperor and the Imperial Household	10.6
Problems about Japan's renunciation of war and the Self-Defense Forces	31.4
Problems about equality and discrimination	16.2
Problems about freedom of speech, press, and all other forms of expression	11.6
Problems about information disclosure	19.0
Problems about privacy protection	14.5
Problems about the right to live and social welfare	20.6
Problems about the environment	25.3
Problems about the rights to assemble, demonstrate, and strike	2.2
Problems about the electoral system	23.7
Problems about the right of access to the courts	11.6
Problems about cabinet ministers' paying official homage at Yasukuni Shrine	8.1
Problems about amending the Constitution	8.8
Problems about the separation of the three powers (of administration, legislation, and judicature)	3.6
Problems about local autonomy	8.3
Problems about the Diet's two-chamber system	9.0
Nothing in particular	17.7
Other answers; no answer	1.6

Q: In your daily life, when did you become interested in the Constitution? Pick as many as you like from among those listed below, if any.

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When the Self-Defense Forces' participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations (PKO) became a topic of conversation	33.0
When the people's right to know is not protected as in such cases as government offices' failure to disclose information	41.0
When private rights are restricted as in such cases as the compulsory expropriation of landed properties	16.0
When freedom of expression is restricted as in such cases as photographic and visual restrictions	9.3
When individual privacy is violated by such media as magazines and television	19.3
When men and women are not treated equally as in such cases as workplace discrimination	22.3
When children's rights are not protected as in such cases as cruel treatment	20.3
When the necessity of environmental rights became a topic of conversation as new rights as in such cases as environmental disruption	29.8
Other answers	0.4
Nothing in particular; no answer	17.3

Q: It has been nearly 50 years since the Constitution came into effect. Do you appreciate the role which the Constitution has played in the Japanese society or not?

Appreciate it very much	16.7
Appreciate it somewhat	59.5
Don't appreciate it very much	15.1
Don't appreciate it at all	2.4
No answer	6.3

Q: What do you think has been the positive effect of the Constitution on postwar Japanese society? Pick as many as you like from among those listed below, if any.

The Emperor is now close to the people as a symbol of the nation	23.7
Japan has enjoyed peace and economic prosperity	56.2
Fundamental human rights are now respected	35.5
Men and women now have equal rights	28.6
Workers' rights are now protected	21.7
Freedom of expression and press is now guaranteed	19.4

The people's will is now reflected in politics	10.2
Government authority is now decentralized with the separation of the three powers	6.8
Other answers	0.1
Nothing in particular; no answer	11.4

Q: Do you think that the trend of holding active
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debate among political parties and academics on the
Constitution is desirable, or do you think
otherwise?

Desirable	75.1
Undesirable	15.3
No answer	9.5

Q: Do you feel any contradiction between the
stipulations of the Constitution and the realities
of politics and society, or do you feel otherwise?

Feel very much	21.4
Feel somewhat	46.5
Don't feel very much	22.3
Don't feel at all	3.0
No answer	6.9

Q: (To only those who answered they feel "very
much" and "somewhat" in the foregoing question)
What concretely makes you feel contradictions?
Pick as many as you like from among those listed
below.

Problems about the Emperor and the Imperial Household	11.3
Problems about Japan's renunciation of war and the Self-Defense Forces	45.9
Problems about equality and discrimination	20.9
Problems about freedom of speech, press, and all other forms of expression	14.6
Problems about information disclosure	28.0
Problems about privacy protection	15.8

Problems about the right to live and social welfare	22.4
Problems about the environment	22.1
Problems about the rights to assemble, demonstrate, and strike	3.5
Problems about the electoral system	32.5
Problems about the right of access to the courts	18.1
Problems about cabinet ministers' paying official homage at Yasukuni Shrine	15.6
Problems about amending the Constitution	10.3
Problems about the separation of the three powers (of administration, legislation, and judicature)	4.5
Problems about local autonomy	9.5
Problems about the Diet's two-chamber system	8.9
Other answers	0.4
No answer	2.0

Q: Do you think it would be better to revise the Constitution or not?

It would be better to revise it	44.9
It would be better not to revise it	36.8
No answer	18.3

Q: (To only those who answered "it would be better to revise it" in the foregoing question) Why do you think so? Pick as many reasons as you like
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from among those listed below.

Because America forced it on Japan	29.9
To stipulate the nation's right of self-defense and the Self-Defense Forces' existence	20.9
Because there are too many claims for rights, and obligations are neglected	26.7
Because there would be confusion if Japan deals with changes in the situation just by interpreting or applying the Constitution	32.3

Because there are now new problems the Constitution cannot adequately respond to, such as Japan's international contribution.	49.9
Other answers	1.7
No answer	3.1

Q: (To only those who answered "it would be better to revise it" in the foregoing question) In what form do you think the Constitution should be revised? Pick just one from among those listed below.

Complement what was not expected before when the Constitution was established	9.6
Rectify what is inconvenient today due to the change of the times since the Constitution was established	30.4
Complement what was not expected before and rectify what is inconvenient today	46.4
Establish a new constitution	9.0
Other answers	0.5
No answer	4.1

Q: (To only those who answered "it would be better not to revise it" in the foregoing question) Why do you think so? Pick as many reasons as you like from among those listed below.

Because the Constitution has already taken root among the people	55.4
Because it's a peace constitution	
Japan boast of in the world	34.8
Because it guarantees fundamental human rights and democracy	27.1
Because it would be all right to interpret and apply the Constitution in a flexible way along with the change of the times	22.6
Because revising the Constitution may pave the way for Japan to turn into a military power	20.9
Other answers	1.2
No answer	1.4

Q: There are five opinions here about the Constitution. Concerning each of these opinions, answer if you think so or don't think so.

(1) There is a view saying that "it would be better to have the Constitution stipulate that Japan has
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the right of self-defense as a state." Do you
 think so, or do you not think so?

Think so	69.5
Don't think so	20.5
No answer	10.0

(2) "It would be better to have the Constitution stipulate that Japan should positively cooperate on international organizations' peaceful activities in such forms as offering some of Japan's self-defense capabilities." What about this opinion?

Think so	66.1
Don't think so	23.0
No answer	10.9

(3) "It would be better to have the Constitution stipulate enhanced power for the Prime Minister and the Cabinet so that Japan will be able to meet emergency situations."

Think so	64.8
Don't think so	27.1
No answer	8.2

(4) "It would be better to have the Constitution incorporate an idea of new rights, such as personal rights, privacy rights, and environmental rights."

Think so	73.9
Don't think so	15.8
No answer	10.3

(5) "It would be better to have the Constitution guarantee certain rights also for foreign residents in Japan to meet internationalization."

Think so	66.7
Don't think so	21.2
No answer	12.1

No answer	5.1
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(Method of Survey)

Date of Survey = March 15, 16

Objects of Survey = 3,000 persons chosen from among

all eligible voters throughout the country (at 250 points, on a stratified two-stage random-sampling basis)

Method of Conducting = Door-to-door visits for individual interviews

Number of Effective Respondents = 1,963 persons (65 percent)

Breakdown of Respondents = Males -- 47 percent, females -- 53 percent; persons in their 20s -- 16 percent, 30s -- 16 percent, 40s -- 21 percent, 50s -- 19 percent, 60s -- 18 percent, 70 and over
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-- 10 percent; big cities (TokyoQs wards and Government-ordinance-designated cities) -- 19 percent, medium-size cities (with a population of more than 100,000) -- 39 percent, small cities (with a population of less than 100,000) -- 19 percent, towns and villages -- 23 percent.

(3) Japan's Plan for Scrapping Pension Welfare Service Public Corporation; U.S. Calls for Halt on "Administrative Reform;" Industry World Concerned about Opening of Management of Pension Funds; Another "Financial Dispute" May Surge

SANKEI (Page 4) (Full)
April 7, 1997

(Washington, April 6, Yoshihisa Komori)

As part of its efforts for administrative reform, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has adopted a plan that would abolish the Pension Welfare Service Public Corporation (PWSPC). In this connection, it was learned on the 6th that the United States Government had expressed concern that such a decision might create a situation that would violate the bilateral financial service agreement, which was reached in 1995.

The Japan-U.S. agreement provides that the management of public pension funds, now under the PWSPC's control, are to be liberalized. The U.S. Government is concerned that if this public corporation is disbanded, it will jeopardize the implementation of the proposed liberalization. The U.S. has fully supported Japan's efforts for administrative reform and deregulation, but on this issue, it is taking the unusual action of trying to put the brakes to the administrative reform proposal.

The Administrative Reform Promotion Headquarters (chaired by Koko Sato) of the LDP on March 27 adopted a plan for scrapping five public special corporations, such as the PWSPC, the Employment Promotion Corporation and the like, as part of the streamlining of special and authorized public corporations designed to promote administrative reform, and reported its decision to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

However, according to what was revealed on the 6th by sources related to the U.S. Government, the U.S. Department of the Treasury is concerned that the abolition of such might lead to violation of the agreement on the financial service sector reached between Japan and the U.S. in January 1995, or rendering it meaningless. The U.S. Government, therefore, informally expressed concern to the Japanese Government and conveyed that the U.S. wants Japan to delay the proposed scrapping of those corporations or to make sure that it will put the agreement into effect even if they are to be scrapped.

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The agreement reached in January 1995 regarding the financial service sector removed a restriction on the autonomous management of employees' pension funds, of which the PWSPC is in charge, and entrusted the funds to life insurers and trust banks, enabling investment advisory companies,

including foreign firms, to take part in the market. The U.S. concern is that if the PWSPC, which is the key part of the agreement, is scrapped, the agreement itself might lose its validity. American securities houses and leading investment organizations, which are interested in the management of Japan's public pension funds, are especially concerned about the situation.

The Investment Firms Research Center -- a federated body of the American Securities Industry Association and investment organs -- has informally called on the U.S. Government to closely monitoring how the proposed abolishing of the PWSPC will develop, resting on the authority of the bilateral agreement on the financial service sector. It repeatedly sent letters to the Treasury Department from around the middle of March even before the LDP adopted the plan.

The letters called on the Treasury Secretary to respond to the following: (1) As a result of the 1995 agreement, the PWSPC has so far entrusted the management of employees' pension funds totaling 25 billion dollars to 23 investment advisory firms. Of these, 11 are foreign firms, including seven American companies; (2) the agreement has largely boosted foreign firms' share in the management of 107 billion dollars in pension funds from 2 percent registered in 1991 to 8.5 percent; (3) the stepped-up participation of foreign firms in the management of Japan's public funds and pension funds is largely due to the opening of the PWSPC; and (4) however, given the development of the proposal for doing away with this public corporation, it is not known how liberalized public funds will be taken over by other investment organs. The conclusion was that there was a danger that the results of liberalization up to now might be undermined.

In response to such views of the industry, the Treasury Department has informally expressed its concern to the Japanese Government.

(4) Emergency Report on Amendment to Special Land Lease Law (Part 1): The Wall of 'Alliance'; Consultations with U.S. Long Way off 'Equal Footing'

ASAHI (Page 1) (Full)
April 4, 1997

Takako Doi (Social Democratic Party's head):
"Don't you have any understanding of the hearts of the Okinawans? Don't you think you should make even more efforts to reduce the U.S. military
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presence on Okinawa?"

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto: "I have devoted all my energies. The reversion of the Futenma airfield is all I can do. If you say that's not enough, then I will take your criticism."

On the evening of March 25, the ruling parties' heads met at the Prime Minister's official residence to talk about an amendment to the special land lease law for (U.S.) armed forces stationed in Japan (or the so-called "tokusoho"). Their meeting eventually broke off in a terrible atmosphere.

One of the secretaries to Hashimoto explains the Prime Minister's innermost thoughts:

Everybody thought that the Futenma airfield's overall reversion would be difficult. But it was I who made the U.S. side promise that. The problem of land expropriation for the U.S. forces is a task carried over from the government of Prime Minister Murayama, isn't it? Now I have accomplished the task to a certain extent. Nevertheless, the Social Democrats are still complaining even now ...

The Prime Minister had meant from the start to explore a 'soft landing' with the understanding of Okinawa Prefecture-- including Governor Masahide OtU -- for the issue of requisitioning land lots for U.S. military use there, by setting forth a triple set of policy measures -- realigning and downscaling the U.S. military bases on Okinawa, fulfilling a package of promotional measures for Okinawa, and reducing the U.S. military presence in the future.

However, the Government could not obtain Okinawa Prefecture's understanding even at least for its idea of relocating the Futenma airfield's functions to somewhere in the same prefecture.

In the fall of last year Governor Ota changed over to cooperation on going through due formalities for

the compulsory use of plots. But the Governor encountered a strong reaction from his prefecture, so the Prime Minister suffered a setback. In the end, the Prime Minister was driven to choose to revise the tokusoho law, which might not have been what he had really aimed at.

Even so, however, revising the law does nothing but overburden Okinawa in return for securing Japan's implementation of its obligation to provide bases under the Japan-U.S. security treaty. The Prime Minister also should be thinking to himself that he will have to endeavor for a future reduction in the U.S. forces as strongly demanded by Okinawa Prefecture so as to alleviate the pain of Okinawa, even slightly.

Undoubtedly, the Prime Minister himself must have been anxious -- at least until the beginning of
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last month -- to procure a specific outlook for consultations (with the U.S. side) about U.S. military cuts. Several senior officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have testified that they "explored its possibility through various channels."

On the 3rd of last month, however, the Japanese and U.S. Governments held a meeting of their working-level officials for foreign and defense affairs in a suburb of Washington, D.C., where the U.S. side argued that "it's inappropriate to propose a change now in the troop strength of our forces." Facing such a zero-sum answer, the Prime Minister's enthusiasm seemed to have faded away.

Soon after that, Yukio Okamoto, a special assistant to the Prime Minister for Okinawa, called off his scheduled visit to the U.S. at the orders of the Prime Minister and others. Okamoto, formerly a MOFA official with the experience of First North America Division Director and some other posts, was one of the "various channels."

Around that time, the Prime Minister confessed his problem to SDP Dietmember Kosuke Uehara for U.S. Secretary of Defense Perry had been succeeded by Secretary Cohen and the Prime Minister could not fully read the U.S. side's intention.

About consultations on a reduction in the U.S. military presence in Japan, the Prime Minister stated at a press conference held on the 31st: "I suppose there is no such idea in the present U.S. administration (about reducing the Marines)." This seemed to be the Prime Minister's 'give-up' declaration to say that he could not go against the U.S. side's intention.

When the cold war was heating up, it was certainly difficult for Japan to act against the U.S.' strategy as an ally. However, now that Japan and the U.S. have "redefined" the two countries' bilateral relationship as a security device in the Asia-Pacific region and have also started their joint work of reviewing the Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation to study Japan's backup measures for the U.S. in times of emergency, an environment is being gradually prepared for holding consultations to discuss the troop strength of the U.S. forces in Japan.

However, once the two countries begin full-fledged consultations on the problem of reducing the U.S. forces in Japan, it is well conceivable that Japan, an ally of the U.S., will be asked to build up its own defense forces and give operational backing to the U.S. forces, and the Prime Minister does not seem to be ready for that. The Prime Minister also does not seem to have taken any initiative to promote stability in the international environment surrounding Japan, such as trying to ease the tensions over the Korean Peninsula, which could

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serve as a precondition for U.S. military presence cuts in Japan. The Prime Minister has only a

glimmer of what national security is all about.

In the summer of 1995, Japan and the U.S. held cabinet ministerial talks over the automobile issue. At that time, Prime Minister Hashimoto (who was in office as Minister of International Trade and Industry) fought fiercely to push through Japan's assertions in his negotiations with U.S. Trade Representative Kantor. An aide to the Prime Minister notes that the security problem "differs in nature from the economic problem that can reach a compromise with numerical benchmarks." Even so, however, such cannot become a reason for Japan to blunt its spearhead in negotiating with the U.S.

(Tetsuya Okazaki, Political Section)

(5) Politics of Ryutaro Hashimoto (Part 3); Will He Be Able to Surpass His Mentor?

YOMIURI (Page 5) (Excerpts)
April 3, 1997

Late Prime Minister Sato's Demeanor

"Prime Minister Hashimoto's manner has been increasingly becoming like that of the late Eisaku Sato. In fact, the Prime Minister often looks askance at people just like the late prime minister Mr. Sato did."

Minister of International Trade and Industry Shinji Sato, Eisaku Sato's son, has recently heard the above comment from his associate.

For Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, the late prime minister Eisaku Sato has been his "political mentor" ever since he joined the Sato faction after being elected to the Lower House for the first time. The Prime Minister's administrative office is decorated with Sato's picture.

Sato's style was referred to as the "politics of patience" -- wait patiently for the opportunity to ripen.

What about Hashimoto's approach?

Top-Down Method

Hashimoto's top-down method is evident in dealing with the Okinawa issue.

An agreement was reached in April last year between Japan and the United States on a total reversion of the U.S. forces' Futenma Air Station. The road for that agreement had been laid out two months earlier by Prime Minister Hashimoto during his meeting with

President Clinton in Santa Monica.

Having Futenma back was and still is Okinawa's long-
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cherished desre. But the Foreign Ministry,
concerned about ovrall Japan-U.S. relationship,
strongly opposed te idea of bringing the subject
up from the Japanse side.

But reportedly, Prime Minister Hashimoo has made
up his mind on his way to the U.S. todiscuss with
President Clinton the reversion of Futenma Air
Station even if that would strain the ilateral
relationship.

The flip side of his tp-down approach is strict
information control.

The Futenma case had been kept secret from Foreign
Minister Yukihiko Ikeda and then-Defense Agency
Director General Hideo Usui. Shortly before the
joint press conference (with the U.S. ambassador),
the Prime Minister called them in to apologize for
keeping them in the dark.

Gag on Government Officials

Prime Minister Hashimoto is severe when it comes to
controlling information. Occasionally, government
officials have been ordered to keep silent.

Such is because the Prime Minister thinks that
leaking out his next move would weaken his hand.

Another unique feature of Hashimoto's approach is
that he prefers to listen to views from such front-
line officials as bureau directors general and
councillors rather than from administrative vice
ministers.

During a luncheon meeting, held last October after
a review ceremony of the Self-Defense Force's
Hyakuri Base, Ibaraki Prefecture, the Prime

Minister declared right before Defense Agency internal bureau executives: "I would like to encourage you, uniformed officials, to come to my residential office (Kantei) without bothering to go through the internal bureaus."

Prime Minister Hashimoto has met a total of 141 administrative vice ministers (TN: sic) from this assumption of office to the end of March this year. This comes to 115 vice ministers a year. In the case of Kiichi Miyazawa, the last Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) prime minister during its single-party rule, he met with 161 administrative vice ministers annually.

Such reflects the difference in approaches between Miyazawa, a former bureaucrat who attached importance to the order of the bureaucracy, and Hashimoto, a person reputed to be most bureaucratic although he has had no experience in the bureaucracy.

Former lower house speaker Hajime Tamura says this about Hashimoto's political style: "Because the
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foundation of the Prime Minister's Administration is somewhat unstable, his approach is generally circumspect. In that respect, his approach is similar to that of the late Eisaku Sato."

Danger of an One-Man Show

The Sato Administration overlapped with Japan's fast-growth period. "That's why he was allowed to sustain such a long-term administration by just waiting patiently for the political situation to turn for the better without displaying any leadership" (Sam Jameson, an Asia Times reporter who has long covered Japanese politics).

But today's Japan is "in an impasse with no clear way out of it" (former deputy prime minister Masaharu Gotoda). The difference in overall

condition does not allow a similar political approach. At least, no one calls Hashimoto's method the "politics of patience."

In handling the Okinawa issue, the construction of an alternative heliport for Futenma and other factors are expected to come into focus. High hurdles await Hashimoto as he addresses his top priority of administrative and fiscal reforms.

Hashimoto's approach of writing the screenplay, producing it, and then playing a major role runs the risk of ending up being a "one-man show."

(6) Japanese Economy Really in Slump? -- Part 2:
Interview with Mitsubishi Research Institute
Advisor Noboru Makino; Capable Employees Contain
Latent Strength

YOMIURI (Page 1) (Full)
March 30, 1997

-- There is the view that Japanese companies have lost their competitiveness.

"To be sure, they once lost their strength after the asset-inflated bubble economy burst, but they have now completely regained strength. It is nonsense to view Japanese companies and the economy as on the verge of bankruptcy. The Japanese people are prone to view everything pessimistically. When the yen value surged, they said it was in a serious situation, and they have taken the same reaction to the recent yen's depreciation. When companies have poor business results, German corporate executives tend to admit their responsibility, but Japanese managers are liable to place the blame on others, such as the government. If a company sees bad business showings, the responsibility lies with the company itself."

-- Do you mean that cloudy outlooks harbored by only a few have now been spread widely?

"Differences have been observed in business
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confidence by each business type. Even in the same line of business, there are differences. In the heavy industries, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries has shown an outstanding business performance. Although leading synthetic chemical manufacturers have been suffering, Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., and Kao have been enjoying good results, even compared with foreign manufacturers. When poor business results are shown, I recommend executives should refrain from mentioning it, because such is a manifestation of their poor management ability than the standard."

"The Japanese economy contains great potential. What is of concern now is the future of the American economy, which has long been enjoying an upward trend. While the Japanese economy is on a recovery path from the stagnation caused by the bubble burst, the U.S. economy might start on a downward slope. I foresee that the reversal will occur between the Japanese and U.S. economies in the next year or so, sowing economic friction. I am worried about such a possibility more than about the Japanese economy."

-- Where does the Japanese economy have latent strength?

"There are well-organized workers and solid medium to small-sized companies as latent power. For instance, medium to small-sized subcontractors have supported with 'just-in-time' delivery major companies that have no stocked inventories. Regardless of the size of the company they are working for, the employees are all the cream of the crop. If a company that has by far the best employee is called 'American type,' the Japanese type is pointed to a company whose component members are all excellent. There is a trend of favoring the American type, but if each company sets great value on cooperation as a character of the Japanese people, there will be no need to worry about their future."

The basic research area, which needs creative personnel, is certainly weak in Japan. But Japan will be able to attain results in the practical area, which Japan can take pride in."

-- Amid the youthful population dwindling, is it possible for Japanese companies to keep at their current strength?

"The reduced population for production would certainly pose a problem. But such a concern will

be brushed away with workers from foreign countries, including Southeast Asia. Japan should promote such a measure. Japanese citizens tend to refuse to accept aliens. The issue of how to accept them lies ahead as a challenge. The wording 'globalization' appears to give us an image of things "going out of Japan" but it is also necessary to think about 'introvert'
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globalization'."

-- The move of shifting production bases abroad has picked up. Will this not work as a negative factor?

"This might be taken as a serious trend in view of the so-called hollowing out of domestic industries. But we had better take this approach as a means to strengthen Japan's cooperative ties with foreign countries for production. The ratio of goods produced overseas to its overall output is still lower in Japan than in the U.S."

-- In order for Japan to maintain its strength, how should Japan reconstruct its industrial systems?

"In the past, Japanese industries were of a Mt. Fuji-shape structure with a gigantic leading industry on the top, like coal, textile or vehicles. But such a structure has changed into a mountain range-shape one with a flock of medium-sized industries. As a result of giant industries disappearing and some changes taking place in the Japanese market, more opportunities have been given to smaller or newly-established corporations. That is why we are said to be in an "age of venture." Looking at the current situation based on our past experiences, some might harbor a pessimistic view toward the shrinking scale. Actually, however, we are in an age where we can find a lot of opportunities for growth. We should fix our eyes on such an aspect."

(Interviewer: Ikuya Shigeta in the Economic Section)

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SUBJ: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 9

TOP HEADLINES:

TEXT:
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ASAHI: ORGAN TRANSPLANT BILL WILL BE PUT TO A VOTE IN
LOWER HOUSE POSSIBLY THIS MONTH; "FREE VOTING" EXCEPT FOR
THE JCP

NIHON KEIZAI: MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGY: (POSTS AND

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY WILL BACK UP PRIVATE-SECTOR FIRMS FOR INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION; TO SHIFT TO A EUROPEAN-U.S. PATTERN OF STRATEGY; STARTING WITH MOVABLE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC., FROM NEXT FISCAL YEAR

TOKYO SHIMBUN: DONEN'S FALSE REPORT ON EXPLOSIVE ACCIDENT AT NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT: "IT WAS CONFIRMED FIRE WAS PUT UNDER CONTROL"; CORNER-CUTTING RESPONSE TO FIRE; APOLOGIZES AFTER CORRECTING THE REPORT

MAINICHI: "EXTINGUISHING WAS CONFIRMED" IS A FALSE REPORT; DONEN CORRECTS THE REPORT ON ACCIDENT AT ITS NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT

YOMIURI: INTERVIEW WITH THIS NEWSPAPER: MAYOR OF NAGO CITY WILL ALLOW A SURVEY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE HELIPORT FOR FUTENMA AIRFIELD; RESIDENTS' UNDERSTANDING AS CONDITION; EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT CONFIRMED (TRANSLATION BELOW)

SANKEI: ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY'S SIMULATION ABOUT ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF DEREGULATION DURING THE PERIOD FROM FY1990; AN EFFECT EQUAL TO 0.98 PERCENT OF GDP; 4.6210 TRILLION YEN OF MERITS FOR USERS ANNUALLY; PRICE DECLINE IN ELECTRIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS AREA, ETC.

SECDEF COHEN: WILL NOT CHANGE TROOP STRENGTH IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE (ASAHI - PAGE 2)

U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE COHEN, VISITING JAPAN, HELD TALKS FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS LAST EVENING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER YUKIHIKO IKEDA AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S IIKURA HOUSE. SECRETARY COHEN MADE THIS REMARK REGARDING THE DEPLOYMENT OF 100,000 U.S. TROOPS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: "EVEN IF THERE WERE TO BE A UNIFICATION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA, NO ONE KNOWS HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO COMPLETE THAT PROCESS. I DO NOT ENVISAGE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE THE NEED TO ADJUST THE PRESENCE OF THE U.S. FORCES IN THE REGION, INCLUDING THOSE IN JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA."

IN ADDITION, SECRETARY COHEN MADE THIS CLEAR STATEMENT ON QDR, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REVIEW OF ITS PLANS EVERY FOUR YEARS: "THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE 100,000 TROOP LEVEL." HE THEN ADDED, "IF INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS CHANGE, WE WOULD AS USUAL GO INTO CONSULTATIONS WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ON THE U.S. MILITARY FORCE STRUCTURE AND MILITARY POSTURE." FOREIGN MINISTER IKEDA REITERATED THAT AT THIS POINT, JAPAN HAD NO INTENTION OF ASKING FOR A REDUCTION OF U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN.

PRIOR TO THAT MEETING, SECRETARY COHEN HAD MET WITH LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL KOICHI KATO AND POLICY AFFAIRS RESEARCH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN TAKU YAMASAKI IN A TOKYO HOTEL. ASKED BY YAMASAKI ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF REVIEWING AMERICAN TROOP STRENGTH IN JAPAN, SECRETARY COHEN REPLIED, "IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO

KEEP THE PRESENT LEVEL OF TROOP STRENGTH FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, BUT IF THERE IS CLEAR AND DRAMATIC CHANGE (IN THE REGION), WE WOULD CONSULT JAPAN FOR A REVIEW." IN ADDITION, YAMASAKI SAID, "JAPAN IS NOT WRESTLING WITH THE TASK OF REDUCING FISCAL EXPENDITURES, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO OUR SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN, WE WILL UPHOLD THE CURRENT LEVEL, BASED ON OUR UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 09 TOKYO 003018

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 9

STANCE OF FIRMLY UPHOLDING THE JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY ARRANGEMENT." HE CLEARLY STATED HIS THINKING THAT HOST NATION SUPPORT EXPENDITURES WOULD NOT BE A TARGET FOR BUDGET CUTS.

HASHIMOTO IN THE DIET: NATIONAL SECURITY AN SHEATHED SWORD (ASAHI - PAGE 2)

"BASICALLY, NATIONAL SECURITY SHOULD BE LIKE A SHEATHED SWORD." THIS VIEW OF THE SECURITY TREATY ARRANGEMENT WAS EXPRESSED BY PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO YESTERDAY IN THE DIET SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE USE OF LAND UNDER THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY.

SHINSHINTO (NEW FRONTIER PARTY) DIETMEMBER SHINGO NISHIMURA WAS ASKING (THE PRIME MINISTER) WHAT JAPAN'S RESPONSE WOULD BE TO AN EMERGENCY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. HE WAS LOOKING FOR A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW: "WE ARE CONSTRAINED BY THE DRAMA OVER NOT USING THE RIGHT TO COLLECTIVE SELF-DEFENSE." IN REBUTTAL, THE PRIME MINISTER RETORTED, "WE ARE FABRICATING A DEBATE LIMITED TO THERE BEING SOME KIND OF BATTLE ACTION, BUT NATIONAL SECURITY IS SOMETHING THAT PREVENTS SUCH BATTLE ACTION FROM OCCURRING."

ALTHOUGH THE SHINSHINTO'S COOPERATION ON THE BILL TO AMEND THE SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW IS NEEDED, THE GAP EXISTS (BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER'S THINKING AND) THE THINKING OF THE SHINSHINTO REGARDING NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY. SO (HASHIMOTO'S REMARK) SOUGHT TO APPLY THE BRAKES TO THE HAWKISH POLICY LINE THAT WAS GUSHING OUT (IN THE DIET), A LINE WHICH HAS CAUSED CONCERNS ABOUT A POSSIBLE "CONSERVATIVE-CONSERVATIVE ALLIANCE."

NAGO CITY MAYOR WILLING TO ALLOW HELIPORT FEASIBILITY

STUDY IF RESIDENTS GO ALONG (YOMIURI - TOP PLAY)

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN PLANING TO CONSTRUCT A SEA-BASED HELIPORT IN AN OFFSHORE AREA OF NAGO CITY IN OKINAWA PREFECTURE AS AN ALTERNATIVE FACILITY FOR THE U.S. FORCES' FUTENMA AIR STATION. THE CITY'S MAYOR, TETSUYA HIGA, RESPONDED TO THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN'S EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW AT THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL OFFICE ON THE 8TH. IN THE INTERVIEW, MAYOR HIGA CLARIFIED HIS INTENTION FOR THE FIRST TIME TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT'S CONDUCTING A PRELIMINARY SURVEY IN THE WATERS OFF CAMP SCHWAB, A U.S. MILITARY BASE LOCATED IN THE CITY, FOR THE PLANNED CONSTRUCTION OF A HELIPORT. MAYOR HIGA HAS SO FAR BEEN IN THE POSITION TO OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION PLAN AND HAS MAINTAINED THAT HE CANNOT ACCEPT THE SURVEY, BUT THE MAYOR HAS NOW CHANGED SUCH A STANCE. IN RESPONSE TO THIS, THE GOVERNMENT WILL HURRY TO MAKE COORDINATION WITH OKINAWA PREFECTURE AND OTHER PARTIES CONCERNED, AND WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN PROSPECTS BEFORE PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO'S U.S. VISIT FROM THE 24TH FOR STARTING THE SURVEY. THE OFFSHORE HELIPORT CONSTRUCTION ISSUE IS NOW MAKING HEADWAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO AND A HALF MONTHS AFTER THE GOVERNMENT MADE A REQUEST IN LATE JANUARY FOR COOPERATION ON THE SURVEY.

IN THE INTERVIEW, MAYOR HIGA CLARIFIED HIS INTENTION OF HOLDING AND ATTENDING A MEETING FROM THE 9TH FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS LIVING IN THE VICINITY OF CAMP SCHWAB TO EXPLAIN THE PRELIMINARY SURVEY. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE MAYOR REMARKED, "IF A SURVEY IS NOT CARRIED OUT, THERE IS NO KNOWING WHAT TO DO ABOUT (THE PLANNED HELIPORT'S) NOISE, WATER SUPPLY, FUEL, AND WASTE." ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MAYOR ALSO SAID, "I THINK THAT IF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS SHOW THEIR UNDERSTANDING, THEN WE WILL HAVE TO LET THE GOVERNMENT CARRY OUT A SURVEY. IF I'M ASKED (BY THE RESIDENTS), I WILL ANSWER, 'IF WE DON'T LET THE GOVERNMENT CARRY OUT A SURVEY, I GUESS THERE IS NO WAY

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USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 9

OUT OF IT." THE MAYOR SO EXPRESSED HIS INTENTION TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT'S STARTING A PRELIMINARY SURVEY IF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND FISHERMEN'S UNDERSTANDING IS OBTAINED IN THE EXPLANATORY MEETING.

HOWEVER, MAYOR HIGA ALSO SAID, "AS FOR THE REST, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PREFECTURE SHOULD DO THINGS AFTER THAT. THEY'RE GOING TO RELOCATE THE FUTENMA BASE, SO NOW IT'S THE PREFECTURE'S TURN TO COME OVER HERE TO PERSUADE US. MY POSITION IS TO SAY, 'IN PRINCIPLE, I WILL NOT LET THEM CONSTRUCT IT HERE.'" THE MAYOR HAS THUS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD OPPOSE THE OFFSHORE HELIPORT CONSTRUCTION PLAN TO THE LAST AT THIS POINT OF TIME, AND THE MAYOR HAS ALSO CALLED FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PREFECTURE TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY AFTER THE SURVEY IS COMPLETED.

BASED ON THE FINAL AGREEMENT REACHED IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR BY THE SPECIAL ACTION COMMITTEE ON FACILITIES AND AREAS IN OKINAWA (SACO), THE GOVERNMENT MADE A REQUEST TO NAGO CITY ON JANUARY 21 OF THIS YEAR FOR THE CITY'S COOPERATION ON CARRYING OUT A PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY. BUT NAGO CITY REJECTED THE REQUEST. NAGO CITY HAS ASSERTED THAT THE CITY WOULD RESPOND TO HOLDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT IF THE PREFECTURE'S OFFICIALS ARE PRESENT AS WELL. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, THE PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO JOIN IN SUCH CONSULTATIONS, REASONING THAT "THE PREFECTURE IS NOT THE PARTY CONCERNED." SINCE THEN THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO HOLD ANY FORMAL CONSULTATION.

HOWEVER, PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE U.S. LATE THIS MONTH FOR A JAPAN-U.S. SUMMIT MEETING. IN CASE THE GOVERNMENT, IN SUCH A SITUATION, FAILS TO OBTAIN EVEN AN OUTLOOK FOR A PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY SURVEY OF THE OFFSHORE HELIPORT CONSTRUCTION SITE, A GOVERNMENT SOURCE PREDICTS THAT "THE U.S. SIDE WILL CERTAINLY BECOME DISTRUSTFUL, AND MOREOVER, SUCH MAY AFFECT EVEN THE TIMETABLE FOR THE FUTENMA AIRFIELD'S REVERSION FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS FROM NOW." THEREFORE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS CONTINUED INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH OKINAWA PREFECTURE AND NAGO CITY AND ASKED THEM TO ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A SURVEY.

IF LOCAL UNDERSTANDING IS OBTAINED, THE GOVERNMENT, FROM NOW ON, IS GOING TO CARRY OUT A BASIC SURVEY FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT ONE MONTH TO LOOK INTO NOISE AND OTHER FACTORS, SUCH AS POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND FISHERIES. FURTHERMORE, THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO GOING TO CARRY OUT A FULL-SCALE BORING SURVEY. IN THE END, THE GOVERNMENT, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE PREFECTURE AND NAGO CITY, WANTS TO HAVE THE 'FUTENMA IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (FIG)' -- A WORKING GROUP OF JAPAN AND THE U.S. -- MAKE A FORMAL DECISION WITHIN THE YEAR ON AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REGARDING SUCH MATTERS AS WHERE AND HOW TO CONSTRUCT THE PLANNED HELIPORT.

PRIME MINISTER CRITICIZES GOVERNOR OTA ON FUTENMA: IF NO COOPERATION, BASE STAYS PUT (TOKYO SHIMBUN - PAGE 2)

"IF THE GOVERNOR KEEPS REJECTING ANY ALTERNATIVE PLAN, THE FUTENMA AIRFIELD WILL REMAIN." IN A MEETING OF THE LOWER HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND LAND USE HELD ON THE 8TH, PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO SO

CRITICIZED OKINAWA PREFECTURE'S GOVERNOR MASAHIRO OTA FOR HIS STANCE OF KEEPING AWAY FROM A PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE PLANNED CONSTRUCTION OF AN ALTERNATIVE HELIPORT FOR (THE U.S. FORCES') FUTENMA AIR STATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER STATED, "THE GOVERNOR HIMSELF ARDENTLY ASKED FOR THE REVERSION OF THE FUTENMA AIRFIELD THAT IS LOCATED IN A DENSELY POPULATED AREA." SO REMARKING, THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE PROBLEM ORIGINATED FROM UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 09 TOKYO 003018

USIA

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 9

THE GOVERNOR'S PETITION. BASED ON THIS VIEW, THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE GOVERNOR FOR HIS RECONSIDERATION, SAYING: "I ASKED FOR THE GOVERNOR'S COOPERATION ON THE PLANNED SURVEY. REGRETTABLY, HOWEVER, I HAVEN'T OBTAINED HIS CONSENT YET. IF THE GOVERNOR SAYS HE DOESN'T LIKE THE PLAN (TO RELOCATE THE AIRFIELD SOMEWHERE IN HIS PREFECTURE), THE CURRENT DANGEROUS SITUATION WILL REMAIN."

ALREADY 450 DIETMEMBERS APPROVE AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW (MAINICHI - PAGE 1)

THE MINSHUTO (DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN) ON THE 8TH DECIDED TO SUPPORT A BILL TO AMEND THE SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW FOR THE UNITED STATES MILITARY BASES IN JAPAN, WHICH WILL ENABLE THE U.S. MILITARY BASES ON OKINAWA TO CONTINUE THE FORCED USE OF LAND. ON THE SAME DAY, THE SAKIGAKE PARTY FORMALLY DECIDED TO APPROVE OF THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED AMENDMENT. WITH THIS, IT HAS BECOME CERTAIN THAT THE AMENDMENT WILL PASS THE LOWER HOUSE ON THE 11TH BY APPROVAL OF AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF 450 OR MORE DIETMEMBERS -- MORE THAN 90 PERCENT OF THE LOWER HOUSE MEMBERS -- FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDP), SHINSHINTO (NEW FRONTIER PARTY), MINSHUTO, TAIYO PARTY AND SAKIGAKE PARTY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE 200-LEVEL OR MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF THE UPPER HOUSE MEMBERS WILL SUPPORT THE BILL. DESPITE THE OKINAWA PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY HAVING ADOPTED A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL, THIS LARGE A NUMBER OF DIETMEMBERS HAVE DECIDED TO SUPPORT THE BILL. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT IS A RESULT OF A MEETING BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO AND SHINSHINTO PRESIDENT ICHIRO OZAWA. THE "ICHI-RYU MEETING" HAS GIVEN IMPETUS

TO VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES' "RESPONSE TO THE POLITICAL SITUATION." AS A RESULT, A WIDE GAP BETWEEN THE DIET AND OKINAWA HAS BEEN CLEARLY EXPOSED.

MINSHUTO CO-LEADER NAOTO KAN AND OTHER OFFICIALS MET WITH LDP SECRETARY GENERAL KOICHI KATO AND POLICY AFFAIRS RESEARCH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN TAKU YAMASAKI IN THE DIET BUILDING. IN THE SESSION, THE TWO PARTIES' LEADERS REACHED AGREEMENT ON FIVE POINTS, INCLUDING: (1) CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS CONSULTATIONS TO BE HELD BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE MILITARY TROOP STRENGTH AND THE LEVEL OF U.S. FORCES STATIONED ON OKINAWA AND OTHER PREFECTURES; AND (2) BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE EFFECTS CAUSED BY MILITARY EXERCISES ON THE ADJACENT AREAS. THEY HAVE SIGNED THE DOCUMENT. KAN HIGHLY EVALUATED THIS AGREEMENT. LATER IN THE DAY, AT A MEETING OF THE PARTY EXECUTIVES AND A GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF BOTH UPPER AND LOWER HOUSES, HE PROPOSED A POLICY DIRECTION THAT THE PARTY WOULD PRESENT ITS OWN TIME-LIMIT AMENDMENT OF FIVE YEARS, NOTING THAT WHEN THE PLAN WAS TURNED DOWN, THE PARTY WOULD THEN APPROVE THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL, PLACING RESTRICTIONS ON ANY FURTHER PARTY DEBATE. (OSAMU KOGA)

U.S. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL CRITICIZES MINSHUTO STANCE ON USFJ (ASAHI - PAGE 7)

VISITING UNITED STATES DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CAMPBELL ON THE 8TH MET WITH MINSHUTO (DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN) CO-LEADERS YUKIO HATOYAMA AND NAOTO KAN AT THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS. IN THE SESSION, THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY CRITICIZED THE MINSHUTO'S ARGUMENT CALLING FOR A REVIEW OF U.S. TROOP STRENGTH ON OKINAWA, REMARKING: "I SEE SOME PROBLEMS IN YOUR SECURITY APPROACH WITHOUT STATIONED FORCES. HOW TO DEAL WITH A CONFLICT, SHOULD SUCH A CASE OCCUR, IS A SECONDARY FACTOR. WHAT MATTERS THE MOST IS THAT THE U.S. PRESENCE ITSELF IS NOW WORKING AS A DETERRENCE."
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USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 9

SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW COMPARED TO CAR WITH NO BRAKES
(ASAHI - PAGE 7)

SEIJI NAKAMURA AND TAIICHI SHIRAHO OF THE SHINSHINTO (NEW FRONTIER PARTY), ELECTED FROM OKINAWA PREFECTURE, IN AN LOWER HOUSE SECURITY TREATY AND SPECIAL LAND LEASE SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE 8TH SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT'S BILL AMENDING THE SPECIAL LAND LEASE LAW.

THE SHINSHINTO HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO APPROVE THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN. NAKAMURA, WHO HAS LOSE FIVE FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE WAR, RAPPED THE GOVERNMENT'S STEP, CITING HIS OWN EXPERIENCE. SPECIFICALLY, HE CRITICIZED THE BILL: "THE AMENDMENT THAT WILL ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO USE LAND TEMPORARILY REGARDLESS OF THE HEARINGS BY THE OKINAWA PREFECTURE EXPROPRIATION COMMITTEE WILL BE LIKE A CAR WITHOUT BRAKES. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT'S RECKLESS DRIVING."

SHIRAHO FOLLOWED SUIT: "THE AMENDMENT BROUGHT UP BY THE GOVERNMENT WHILE THE EXPROPRIATION COMMITTEE'S HEARING ARE STILL GOING ON HAS AMPLIFIED OKINAWA'S DISTRUST TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT." WHEN DEFENSE AGENCY DIRECTOR GENERAL FUMIO KYUMA REFERRED TO THE SCHOOLGIRL RAPE CASE IN THE PROCESS OF HIS EXPLANATION, THEY REBUTTED: "YOU ALWAYS BRING THAT CASE UP IN ORDER TO BLAME (THE SLOW LEGL PROCESS). SUCH IS SIMPLY IRRELEVANT. THE REASON IS SIMPLE: BECAUSE THERE ARE BASES ON OKINAWA."

THE SHINSHINTO LEADERSHIP HAS DECIDED NOT TO PUNISH THE TWO, REASONING THEY MADE SUCH REMARKS UNDER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

RENGO QREGRETSQ THE AMENDING OF THE SPECIAL LAND-LEASE LAW (ASAHI - PAGE 7)

RENGO (JAPANESE TRADE UNIONS CONFEDERATION; CHAIRED BY JINNO SUKE ASHIDA) AT ITS THREE OFFICERS MEETING ON THE 8TH DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF AMENDING THE SPECIAL LAND LEASE LAW FOR THE U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN. AS A RESULT, THE RENGU COMPILED A REPORT EXPRESSING ITS "REGRET" TOWARD SUCH FACTORS AS: 1) SUCH A STEP MAY MAKE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE PREFECTURAL EXPROPRIATION COMMITTEE MORIBUND; AND 2) SUCH MAY PROMOTE THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT OF THE U.S. BASES ON OKINAWA. THE ORGANIZATION WILL SOON MAKE A PROPOSAL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO LOOK INTO A SOUND OKINAWA REVITALIZATION PACKAGE AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS THE BASE REDUCTION APPROACH IN THE UPCOMING JAPAN-U.S. SUMMIT MEETING.

RENGO VICE CHAIRMAN KIYOSHI SASAMORI AND OTHER EXECUTIVE MEMBERS HAVE REPEATEDLY VISITED OKINAWA AS ITS EFFORT TO STUDY MEASURES CLOSELY.

CITING PUBLIC OPINION, JAPAN HARD PRESSED TO RESPOND ON UN CALL FOR FOOD AID TO NORTH KOREA (SANKEI - PAGE 4)

(NEW YORK, APRIL 8, SUMIO YAMAGIWA) THE UNITED NATIONS ISSUED ITS THIRD APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

FOR AID TO NORTH KOREA. THE REQUESTED AMOUNT, THREE TIMES MORE THAN THAT IN ITS SECOND CALL, INDICATED THE UN'S SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE FOOD CRISIS IN NORTH KOREA. JAPAN REMAINS UNABLE TO RESPOND TO THE CALL PROMPTLY DUE TO THE ISSUE OF THE SUSPECTED ABDUCTION, BUT WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS PINNED ON JAPAN AS A MAJOR AID DONOR, THE GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO BE PLACED UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE TO RESPOND.

UN TO SEEK JAPAN'S CLEAR RESPONSE

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USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 9

STATIONING RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN PYONGYANG SINCE A YEAR AGO, THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ENGAGED IN RELIEF EFFORTS IN NORTH KOREA.

IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRST CALL MADE AFTER THE FLOOD TWO YEARS AGO, NO MORE THAN HALF THE TARGETED AMOUNT WAS COLLECTED, AND THE UN HAS VIEWED IT A FAILURE. BUT RESPONDING TO ITS SECOND APPEAL LAST JULY, JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK) OFFERED NEARLY HALF THE TOTAL AMOUNT, WITH 6 MILLION DOLLARS, 6.2 MILLION DOLLARS AND 3 MILLION DOLLARS, RESPECTIVELY. IN THE THIRD APPEAL, THE UN AIMS TO COLLECT 126 MILLION DOLLARS (ABOUT 15.8 BILLION YEN). THE U.S., THE ROK AND AUSTRALIA HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE A TOTAL OF 18.5 MILLION DOLLARS AT THE REQUEST OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) IN FEBRUARY. FOLLOWING CALLS BY UN STANDING ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO), THE U.S. AND THE ROK MAY INCREASE THEIR DISBURSEMENTS.

JAPAN REMAINS UNDECIDED, BUT WITH THE UN'S OFFICIAL REQUEST ISSUED FOR THE THIRD PORTION OF AID, JAPAN WILL LIKELY BE PRESSURED TO MAKE A CLEAR RESPONSE. SOME UN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT WHETHER JAPAN WOULD BE ABLE TO TURN DOWN ONLY THE REQUEST FOR FOOD AID NOW THAT THE KOREAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (KEDO) HAS BEEN PUSHING AHEAD WITH PREPARATORY WORKS FOR THE PROJECT TO CONSTRUCT LIGHT-WATER REACTORS TO START NEXT MONTH OR AFTER, IN WHICH THE U.S., THE ROK AND JAPAN WILL PARTICIPATE.

THE WFP CALLED FOR 100,000 TONS IN FOOD AID IN FEBRUARY AND THEN PROMPTLY DOUBLED THE AMOUNT AFTER CHIEF OF SECRETARIAT BERTINI (TN: PHONETIC) VISITED NORTH KOREA IN MARCH TO INSPECT THE ACTUAL SITUATION. BERTINI REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED: "NORTH KOREAN RESIDENTS EAT EVERYTHING, INCLUDING BARKS. RATIONS TO THE MILITARY HAVE BEEN CUT." IT HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED THAT WITH FOOD SHORTFALLS NOW AMOUNTING TO 2.36 MILLION TONS, THE SITUATION WOULD BECOME MORE SERIOUS IN PREHARVEST MONTHS FROM JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER. BUT THERE IS NO MEANS TO PROVE IT.

YASUSHI AKASHI, UN UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL, SAID IN A PRESS CONFERENCE TO APPEAL FOR THE THIRD PORTION OF AID: "NORTH KOREA IS NOW IN A CRITICAL STATE FROM A HUMANITARIAN VIEWPOINT," BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANCES FOR HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, SUCH AS THE ABDUCTION OF MEGUMI YOKOTA BY NORTH KOREA, TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE UN.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE FINAL DECISION AFTER LOOKING INTO PUBLIC OPINION

WITH THE UN'S APPEAL FOR AID TO NORTH KOREA, WHICH IS SUFFERING FROM A FAMINE THREAT, THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY STARTED TO STUDY HOW IT SHOULD REACT. IT HAS ALREADY SET THE POLICY LINE OF BEARING A DUE PORTION IN LINE WITH THE U.S. AND THE ROK, BUT REFLECTING HARSH PUBLIC OPINION TOWARD THE SUSPECTED ABDUCTION OF A JAPANESE BY NORTH KOREA, THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE A FINAL DECISION AFTER FULL CONSIDERATION.

WHILE REVEALING HIS READINESS TO TAKE A PROMPT RESPONSE, PRIME MINISTER RYUTARO HASHIMOTO ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE ABDUCTION CASE TO BE AIRED, SAYING "THE SITUATION WILL NOT CHANGE BEFORE A CLEAR REPLY IS GIVEN TO THE GOVERNMENT." THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA) ALSO HAS TAKEN THE STANCE OF "BEING UNABLE TO AUTOMATICALLY RESPOND TO THE APPEAL" (SENIOR OFFICIAL). THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO LOOK INTO VARIOUS ASPECTS, INCLUDING NORTH KOREA'S REACTION TO THE CALL FOR FOUR-PARTY TALKS BY THE ROK, NORTH KOREA, THE U.S. AND CHINA.
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USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 9

DIETMEMBERS FORM GROUP TO LOOK INTO ALLEGED NORTH KOREAN KIDNAPPINGS (SANKEI - PAGE 3)

A "PARLIAMENTARIAN LEAGUE FOR RESCUING KIDNAPPED JAPANESE" WILL BE LAUNCHED ON APRIL 15. IT IS A SUPRA-PARTY GROUP AIMING AT INVESTIGATING THE MISSING CASES OF JAPANESE THAT HAVE CROPPED UP ONE AFTER ANOTHER SINCE THE LATE 1970S AND THAT HAVE AROUSED ALLEGATIONS THAT THEY WERE KIDNAPPED BY NORTH KOREAN AGENTS.

SUCH ABDUCTION CASES "CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED BECAUSE IT NOT ONLY CONCERNS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE BUT ALSO GREATLY VIOLATES THE SOVEREIGNTY OF JAPAN" (SHIGETO NAGANO, UPPER-HOUSE MEMBER OF THE SHINSHINTO (NEW FRONTIER PARTY)). FROM THIS STANDPOINT, THE SHINSHINTO WILL WORK ON RULING PARTIES AND OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES TO ESTABLISH THE LEAGUE. FOR NOW, ABOUT 50 LAWMAKERS OF THE SHINSHINTO AND THE TAIYO PARTY ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN IT. THEY WILL INVESTIGATE THE ACTUAL STATE OF THE MISSING CASES, GATHER RELEVANT INFORMATION, ASK FOR COOPERATION FROM INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND WORK TO SMOOTHLY REALIZE TEMPORARY VISITS TO JAPAN BY JAPANESE WIVES LIVING IN NORTH KOREA. THEY WILL ALSO PLAN TO MAKE APPROACHES THROUGH THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF KOREAN RESIDENTS IN JAPAN (CHOSEN SOREN) TO NORTH KOREA.

AT THE CHARTER MEETING SET ON THE 15TH, THE PARENTS OF MEGUMI YOKOTA (13 YEARS AT THE TIME), A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRL IN NIIGATA WHO HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE 1977, WILL ASK FOR COOPERATION. TSUTOMU NISHIOKA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT TOKYO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY WHO ALSO SERVES AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR GENDAI KOREA, ALSO WILL BE ASKED TO GIVE HIS OPINION ABOUT THE KIDNAPPING CASES THAT HAVE OCCURRED UNTIL NOW.

GOVERNMENT ASKS ROK TO STOP REBUILDING BULWARKS ON TAKESHIMA ISLAND (SANKEI - PAGE 1)

SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE TAKESHIMA ISLANDS IS CLAIMED BY JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK). ON THE 8TH, IT WAS LEARNED THAT THE ROK HAS RESTARTED CONSTRUCTION OF A PIER ON ONE OF THE ISLES, THOUGH DURING THE WINTER SEASON, IT HAD SUSPENDED IT. THIS INFORMATION WAS RELEASED IN A PRESS BRIEFING BY PRESS SECRETARY HIROSHI HASHIMOTO OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MOFA).

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED ON THE 9TH THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS THE RESUMPTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION BY THE ROK SIDE. IT SWIFTLY CONVEYED THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN THE ROK ITS CLAIM THAT "THE TAKESHIMA ISLANDS ARE AN INHERENT TERRITORY OF JAPAN." AND EXPRESSING ITS REGRETS, IT REQUESTED THAT THE CONSTRUCTION BE STOPPED. IN RESPONSE, THE ROK SIDE OBJECTED TO JAPAN'S REQUEST, REPEATING ITS PREVIOUS POSITION THAT THERE IS NO TERRITORIAL ISSUE.

THE ROK STARTED THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AT THE END OF 1995. LATER, IT SPEEDED UP THE PACE OF THE INITIAL PLAN,

AIMING AT COMPLETING THE CONSTRUCTION LATE THIS YEAR. THE PIER, NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION, WILL BE 80 METERS LONG, MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR 500-TON-CLASS SHIPS, SUCH AS PATROL AND FISHING BOATS, TO COME ALONGSIDE. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO REQUEST THAT THE PROJECT BE CANCELED.

PACKAGE BOMB SENT FROM JAPAN TO BURMA (MYANMAR)
(ASAHI - PAGE 9)

(BANGKOK, APRIL 8, ATSUEO HIRATA) A SOURCE CONNECTED WITH THE STATE LAW AND ORDER RESTORATION COUNCIL (SLORC) OF THE MILITARY JUNTA OF BURMA (MYANMAR) REVEALED ON THE 8TH UNCLAS SECTION 08 OF 09 TOKYO 003018

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 9

THAT A PARCEL BOMB CARRYING JAPANESE POSTAL STAMPS AND SEAL EXPLODED AT THE HOME OF TIN OO, SECRETARY 2 OF THE SLORC, ON THE 6TH. IT WAS THE FIRST PARCEL BOMB EXPLOSION UNDER THE MILITARY REGIME. THE REGIME THAT ATTACHES FOREMOST IMPORTANCE TO SECURITY IS IN SHOCK AS ONE OF ITS FOUR TOP OFFICIALS WAS ATTACKED.

JAPANESE POSTAGE STAMPS WORTH 1,000 YEN WERE AFFIXED TO THE PARCEL, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE. BUT AT THIS POINT, WHETHER IT WAS REALLY MAILED FROM JAPAN IS NOT KNOWN.

ACCORDING TO A SOURCE CLOSE TO TIN OO, THE PARCEL WAS DELIVERED ON THE 3RD. HIS FAMILY DID NOT OPEN IT, THAT IS, UNTIL TIN OO'S 33-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER CHO LEI OO TRIED TO OPEN IT ON THE 6TH. AS SHE LAID HER HANDS ON THE PARCEL TO OPEN IT, THE PARCEL EXPLODED, KILLING CHO LEI INSTANTLY. REPORTEDLY, THE PARCEL CONTAINED A THICK BOOK LIKE A DICTIONARY.

THE SOURCE SUGGESTED THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF AN ANTIGOVERNMENT GROUP IN JAPAN.

LAST DECEMBER, A BOMB EXPLOSION OCCURRED AT A YANGON TEMPLE. IN RESPONSE, THE GOVERNMENT ISSUED A STATEMENT DENOUNCING THE ALL-BURMA STUDENTS DEMOCRATIC FRONT (ABSDF) AND THE KAREN NATIONAL UNION (KNU). BUT THIS TIME, THE NATIONAL TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS AND NEWSPAPERS HAVE ONLY BRIEFLY REPORTED THE ATTACK.

MEANWHILE, BOTH THE ABSDF AND KNU ISSUED STATEMENTS ON THE 7TH DENYING THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ATTACK.

THE UNION OF BURMA PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE GOVERNMENT (?) ON THE 8TH ISSUED A STATEMENT NOTING THAT THE ATTACK OCCURRED FROM THE POWER STRUGGLE IN THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. THE STATEMENT SUGGESTS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE BOMB ATTACK LAST DECEMBER, IN WHICH TIN OO NARROWLY ESCAPED, AND THE ATTACK THIS TIME.

AN OBSERVATION IS FLOATING IN BURMA SUSPECTING DISCORD BETWEEN THE HARD-LINER TEAM OF ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF MAUNG AYE AND TIN OO, AND KHIN NYUNT, SECRETARY 1 OF SLORC.

U.S. SEEKS MORE OPENING OF JAPANESE PAPER MARKET; WANTS MARKET SURVEY (ASAHI - PAGE 12)

(WASHINGTON, APRIL 9, KAZUHIKO YAMASE) COMPLAINING THAT "FOREIGN FIRMS' PRESENCE IN JAPAN'S PAPER PRODUCT MARKET IS STILL INSUFFICIENT," THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (USTR) ON THE 7TH REVEALED WHAT MEASURES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE FOR THE TIME BEING, SUCH AS THAT IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. PAPER MANUFACTURERS IT WILL CONDUCT A FACT-FINDING SURVEY BEFORE AUGUST OF THE JAPANESE MARKET REGARDING ITS MARKET BARRIERS AND HOW FOREIGN FIRMS ARE DOING BUSINESS THERE. ON THE ISSUE OF OPENING JAPAN'S PAPER PRODUCTS MARKET, THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT CONCLUDED IN 1992 EXPIRED ON APRIL 4. THE USTR LATE IN MARCH PROPOSED THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO PUSH FORWARD WITH MARKET-OPENING MEASURES.

USTR BARSHEFSKY SOUGHT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO PROCEED WITH FURTHER MARKET-OPENING MEASURES, CITING, "JAPAN'S PAPER IMPORTS ARE MUCH LOWER THAN THE LEVELS OF OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES."

SHE THEN INDICATED A SET OF MEASURES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE FOR THE TIME BEING, SUCH AS THAT IT WILL CONDUCT A FACT-FINDING SURVEY OF THE JAPANESE MARKET AND THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE JAPANESE USERS AND DISTRIBUTION SOURCES TO MAP OUT A PURCHASING PROGRAM THAT WILL PROVIDE FOREIGN FIRMS WITH A FAIR PARTICIPATION
UNCLAS SECTION 09 OF 09 TOKYO 003018

USIA

FOR: USIA D/P, I/GEA, I/RF, I/RFW, EA, R/MR; STATE FOR EAR/J; STATE PASS TO USTR/PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE; VIA WASHDC; SECDEF FOR JCS-J-5/JAPAN, OASD/ISA/EAPR/JAPAN; TREASURY/OASIA/IMI; WHITE HOUSE; JUSTICE FOR STU CHEMTOB IN ANTI-TRUST DIVISION; COMMERCE FOR JEAN GRIER IN GENERAL COUNCIL'S OFFICE, DAS; USCINCPAC/PA; CINCPAC FLT/PA; COMNAVFORJAPAN/PA.

E.O. 12958: N/A

SUBJECT: JAPANESE MORNING PRESS HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 9

OPPORTUNITY.

EPA SAYS EACH JAPANESE HAS DERIVED 100 YEN A DAY FROM DEREGULATION (MAINICHI - PAGE 3)

THE ECONOMIC PLANNING AGENCY (EPA) YESTERDAY COMPLETED ITS REPORT ON THE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY BROUGHT ABOUT BY DEREGULATORY STEPS TAKEN FROM FISCAL 1990 TO 1995. THE REPORT IS THE REVISED VERSION OF TENTATIVE CALCULATIONS ISSUED LAST SEPTEMBER. THE CALCULATIONS THIS TIME INCLUDED THE BENEFITS CONSUMERS AND PRIVATE COMPANIES RECEIVED FROM LOWER PRICES AS A RESULT OF DEREGULATION. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, A COMBINED AVERAGE PROFIT OF 4.621 TRILLION YEN A YEAR WERE PRODUCED IN FIVE SECTORS, INCLUDING ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS. THE FIGURE INCLUDES BENEFITS RECEIVED BY COMPANIES, BUT SIMPLE CALCULATIONS INDICATE THAT THE PEOPLE ENJOYED A PER-CAPITA AVERAGE BENEFIT OF APPROXIMATELY 36,800 YEN A YEAR, OR 147,200 YEN FOR A FOUR-MEMBER HOUSEHOLD.

ESTIMATION OF THE BENEFIT CONSUMERS RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF DROPS IN PRICES FOCUSED ON FIVE AREAS (11 COMMODITY GOODS AND SERVICES), NAMELY, ENERGY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, FINANCIAL SERVICES, TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION. BY SECTOR, LARGER BENEFITS WERE ACCRUED BY THE ENERGY SECTOR, WHICH ACCUMULATED AN ANNUAL BENEFIT OF 1.874 TRILLION YEN (ANNUAL PER CAPITA BENEFIT OF 14,900 YEN) AND A CUT IN TELEPHONE RATES PRODUCED AN ANNUAL BENEFIT OF 1.231 TRILLION YEN (ANNUAL PER CAPITA BENEFIT OF 9,800 YEN).

IT WAS ALSO FOUND THAT A REDUCTION IN PRICES IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY SECTORS ALONE PRODUCED THE EFFECT OF PUSHING DOWN CONSUMER PRICES BY ABOUT 1.14 PERCENT DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

THE CALCULATIONS MADE LAST SEPTEMBER, WHICH CENTERED ON DEMAND, ESTIMATED THAT DEREGULATION IN THE SELECTED SIX SECTORS, SUCH AS THE TELECOM AREA AND THE OPENING OF LARGE-SCALE RETAIL STORES GENERATED DEMAND WORTH AN AVERAGE 7.9 TRILLION YEN OR SO. "CIVIL AVIATION" AND "LEASEHOLD HOUSING" WERE ADDED TO THE REVISED SURVEY REPORT. IN ADDITION, A DROP IN SALES BY SMALL-SIZED RETAILERS (627 BILLION YEN A YEAR ON AVERAGE) DUE TO THE EASING OF THE APPLICATION OF THE LARGE-SCALE RETAIL STORE LAW (DAITENHO) WAS INCLUDED IN THE REPORT AS A NEGATIVE EFFECT OF DEREGULATION.

AS A RESULT, THE DEMAND-EXPANSION EFFECT OF DEREGULATION WAS ON AVERAGE 7.282 TRILLION YEN A YEAR AND SUCH AN EFFECT IN TERMS OF THE RATIO TO THE GNP IS 1.55 PERCENT. THE EPA CONCLUDED, "DEREGULATION PRODUCES A MUCH LARGER POSITIVE ECONOMIC EFFECT THAN A NEGATIVE EFFECT" (COORDINATION BUREAU). (MASAHIRO WAKAJIMA) CRANE

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