

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3344

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16354

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, JA, UR, PFOR

SUBJECT: JAPAN-SOVIET RELATIONS: NEGOTIATIONS FOR RETURN OF MIG-25

REF: TOKYO 15888

1. SOVIETS AND JAPANESE HAVE MOVED CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON SCENARIO FOR RETURN OF MIG-25. ACCORDING TO FONOFF FIRST EAST EUROPEAN DIVDIR TOGO, SOVIET EMBASSY MINISTER TSEKONYA CALLED AT FONOFF NOV 1 AND EXPRESSED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH JAPANESE PROPOSAL THAT DETAILED EXAMINATION OF CRATES CONTAINING MIG BE CARRIED OUT ABOARD SHIP WHICH WOULD TAKE AIRCRAFT HOME. JAPANESE HAD MAINTAINED THAT SECURITY AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOVIETS TO UNPACK AND EXAMINE CRATES ON DOCK. JAPANESE PROPOSED CURSORY CHECK ON DOCK AND MORE DETAILED EXAMINATION ON BOARD BY SOVIET EXPERTS IN PRESENCE OF JAPANESE TECHNICIANS.

2. REMAINING STICKING POINT IS LENGTH OF TIME NEEDED FOR SHIPBOARD EXAMINATION. JAPANESE ORIGINALLY STIPULATED ONE DAY. SOVIETS, TSEHONYA EXPLAINED, THOUGHT PROCESS COULD TAKE UP TO SIX DAYS, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT
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BE LESS IF EXAMINATION WENT SMOOTHLY. TOGO

ESTIMATED TO US THAT THE TWO SIDES WOULD SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE AND SETTLE FOR THREE DAYS.

3. ONCE SCENARIO FINALLY AGREED UPON, IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE AT LEAST A WEEK FOR MIG TO DEPART JAPAN--THREE DAYS FOR SOVIET VESSEL TO ARRIVE AT HITACHI, AND PRESUMABLY FOUR FOR DELIVERY AND EXAMINATION. TOGO HAS PROMISED TO KEEP IN TOUCH.

4. IN MEANTIME, JAPAN-SOVIET RELATIONS REMAIN IN HOLDING PATTERN WITH ALL SIGNIFICANT UPCOMING MEETINGS AND VISITS HELD IN ABEYANCE. TOGO SAID SOVIETS STILL FELT "SULKY" ABOUT WHOLE AFFAIR, AND GUESSED THAT IT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE THEIR SPIRITS IMPROVED.
HODGSON

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