

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00  
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-05 CEA-01  
ITC-01 AGRE-00 /093 W  
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R 150838Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3594

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 19281

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, JA  
SUBJECT: MODERATE PARTIES PLEDGE SUPPORT OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY: IN SUCCESSIVE MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR DEC. 13-14, LEADERS OF BOTH CLEAN GOVERNMENT PARTY (CGP) AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY (DSP) HAVE BEEN AT PAINS TO ASSURE US THAT EVEN IF LDP SHOULD LOSE ITS MAJORITY AND COALITION GOVERNMENT WERE FORMED, THERE WOULD BE NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN GOJ'S BASIC POLICY TOWARD US, INCLUDING SECURITY TREATY. END SUMMARY.

1. AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY CGP CHAIRMAN TAKEIRI DEC. 13, HE AND SECGEN YANO STRESSED THAT EVEN IF LDP LOST ITS MAJORITY AND COALITION GOVERNMENT WERE FORMED, PROSPECTS WERE THAT SECURITY TREATY WOULD BE TETAINED INTACT. TAKEIRI SAID THAT CGP REGARDS RELATIONSHIP WITH US AS HEART OF JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY, AND YANO NOTED HE HAD MADE CGP'S POLICY CLEAR DURING HIS RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT. (HE WAS AT PAINS TO POINT OUT, INCIDENTALLY, THAT CGP HAD NO INTENTION OF CHALLENGING US VERSIONS OF HIS SEVERAL WASHINGTON CONVERSATIONS AND THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR WHAT WAS,  
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IN THEIR EYES, A WHOLLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT.)

2. CGP LEADERS ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT US-JAPAN TRADE PROBLEMS, BUT SAID BOTH SIDES MUST SHARE BLAME FOR CURRENT US DEFICIT. TAKEIRI ADDED THAT IMPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MUST BE LIBERALIZED, BUT THAT PSYCHOLOGICAL FEAR OF FOOD SHORTAGE AMONG JAPANESE

MADE REVISION OF CURRENT POLICY EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. HE ALSO SAID GROWTH OF US OIL IMPORTS WAS CREATING FAR GREATER PAYMENTS PROBLEMS FOR US THAN WAS TRADE BALANCE WITH JAPAN.

3. IN COURSE OF COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR DEC. 14, NEW DSP CHAIRMAN SASAKI REAFFIRMED HIS COMMITMENT TO DSP'S SUPPORT FOR CLOSE US-JAPAN RELATIONS. HE TOO SAID THAT SHOULD LDP LOSE MAJORITY AND BE FORCED INTO COALITION GOVERNMENT, SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN POLICY TOWARD US, ESPECIALLY SECURITY TREATY, WAS OUT OF QUESTION. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD CGP SEC GEN YANO HAD EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE DURING YANO'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN NOV., AND SAID THAT TWO PARTIES' STANDS ON US-JAPAN RELATIONS WERE QUITE CLOSE. AT FORTHCOMING SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL LEADERS' CONFERENCE, DSP PLANNED TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING US ROLE IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

4. SASAKI WAS ALSO CONCERNED WITH TRADE PROBLEMS. WHILE THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MITI MINISTER KOMOTO'S ADVOCACY OF LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS AND DSP'S EMPHASIS ON HOUSING AND WELFARE, SASAKI FOUND HIMSELF FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF KOMOTO'S GOALS OF 7 PERCENT GROWTH RATE AND EXPANSION OF JAPANESE DOMESTIC DEMAND IN CONFIDENTIAL

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FISCAL 1978 GOJ BUDGET.

5. COMMENT: SIMILARITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN SECOND AND THIRD LARGEST OPPOSITION PARTIES, ESPECIALLY ON SECURITY TREATY -- SPURRED BY RECENT TOP LEVEL WASHINGTON CONVERSATIONS -- INDICATES GROWTH OF CONSENSUS ON US-JAPAN RELATIONS AMONG CENTERIST FORCES. ALTHOUGH DIFFERENCES REMAIN, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN LDP AND CGP, DEVELOPMENT OF THIS CONSENSUS SUGGESTS CURRENT CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND JAPAN WILL NOT NECESSARILY SUFFER SHOULD LDP AT SOME STATE LOSE DIET MAJORITY IN FUTURE. MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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