



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

Prime Minister

Agree to see the Japanese  
Ambassador once a year?

15 October 1982

A.T.C. 15  
10.  
The F.O. once a year  
occasionally  
not

Dear John,

Political Consultations with Japan

You will recall that during her visit to Japan, the Prime Minister agreed with Mr Suzuki that it was important to give an impetus to contact on political matters at both Ministerial and official level. As a part of our response to this decision, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has agreed that the Japanese Ambassador should be invited to call at the FCO regularly, perhaps three times a year, for a discussion of current topics of international political interest to be agreed in advance. Mr Pym would see the Japanese Ambassador for this purpose on at least one of these occasions and would if necessary ask Lord Belstead and the Permanent Under-Secretary to take on others. The Japanese are clearly interested in developing the political relationship with Britain, and we would hope in this way to foster a better understanding of our views and approach to the main international issues.

We would also ask for more frequent and better access by the British Ambassador in Tokyo to the Japanese Foreign Minister. This would help to strengthen the connection between Europe and Japan at a time when contacts are relatively thin. The discussion would be largely confined to political issues but it would be right and natural that economic and trade issues should be covered.

Mr Pym wonders whether the Prime Minister might herself be prepared to see the Japanese Ambassador very occasionally, perhaps once a year, for a general discussion of this kind. The Japanese would of course be delighted if we were to propose this; and it would be one of the most effective ways of demonstrating that we take the Japanese seriously, that they are increasingly important and that we want more

/exchanges



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exchanges with them. If the Prime Minister agrees, we should then have a programme of contacts which would go a long way towards meeting the desire expressed during her visit for greater dialogue.

/ I enclose a draft telegram of instructions to Tokyo which could be sent if the Prime Minister agreed.

*Your ever*  
*John Holmes*

(J E Holmes)  
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq  
10 Downing Street

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OUT TELEGRAM

Classification and Caveats  
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Precedence/Deskby  
**PRIORITY**

ZCZC  
 GRS  
 CLASS  
 CAVEATS  
 DESKBY  
 FM FCO  
 PRE/ADD  
 TEL NO

1 ZCZC  
 2 GRS  
 3 CONFIDENTIAL  
 4  
 5  
 6 FM FCO  
 7 TO PRIORITY TOKYO  
 8 TELEGRAM NUMBER  
 9 POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPAN  
 10 1. Paragraph 8 of your telno 583 recorded the agreement by  
 11 both Prime Ministers during Mrs Thatcher's visit that it was  
 12 important to give an impetus to contact on political matters  
 13 at both ministerial and official level.  
 14 2. The Prime Minister has now agreed that she should receive  
 15 the Japanese Ambassador on occasion, perhaps once a year, for  
 16 a discussion of current topics of international political  
 17 interest to be agreed in advance. The Ambassador would also  
 18 be invited to call on the FCO for similar discussions on say  
 19 three other suitably-spaced occasions in a year: I could  
 20 see him once, with Lord Belstead and the PUS taking other  
 21 meetings. Economic and trade issues would be covered as  
 22 appropriate, although the emphasis would be political.  
 23 3. I hope that Japanese Ministers will feel able to make a  
 24 similar commitment, so that meetings in Tokyo may take place  
 25 alternately with those in London. The timing can of course be

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File number	Dept	Distribution
Drafted by (Block capitals) <b>PRIVATE SECRETARY</b>		
Telephone number <b>233 4641</b>		
Authorised for despatch		
Comcen reference	Time of despatch	



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1	<<<<
2	flexible.
3	4. Please now put this proposal to the Minister of Foreign
4	Affairs at a senior level, and report reactions. Although my
5	agreement to receive the Japanese Ambassador is not necessarily
6	conditional on the agreement of Japanese Ministers to act
7	similarly, we naturally hope that they will be prepared to
8	grant you equivalent access and assume that you will be able to
9	make use of any such agreement to advantage.
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15 OCT 1982







10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 October, 1982

POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPAN

The Prime Minister has seen your letter of 15 October in which you set out the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's intentions as regards consultations with Japan.

Mr Pym asked whether the Prime Minister might herself be prepared to see the Japanese Ambassador very occasionally, perhaps once a year, for a general discussion. Mrs Thatcher has noted that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will himself see the Japanese Ambassador at least once a year. She herself would be prepared to see him "very occasionally" (i.e. not more frequently and perhaps less than once a year).

A. J. GOLES

J.E. Holmes, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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