



JULIA AIDSOAK

3/12/1960.

1. Broccoli on 10/12/60.
2. P.m. Not have cabinet Committee approval  
to 5 of Jan.
3. We have not  
received money.
4. Deed. Nam: Commission has not had a visit  
from who deals with SAPP.
5. SAPP can already report only in Asia.  
NOT DEMAND in a meeting.  
We need a political view, see -
6. NOT JUST EUROPE BUT AMERICA  
AS WELL
7. Enjeu negotiable as well.
8. This will come to light  
Second to Committee from Treasury Office.
9. P.m. Must be on a common  
BASIS.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 November 1980

*Dear Nick,*

Thank you for your letter of 12 November with which you enclosed a copy of Julian Ridsdale's letter of 4 November to the Prime Minister about his recent visit to Japan.

*[attaché]* You will have seen a copy of Mr Ridsdale's separate letter of the same date to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary. I now enclose a copy of Lord Carrington's reply.

There is one point in the letter to the Prime Minister on which you may wish to have our comments. Mr Ridsdale writes: 'I should like to help over Japan. It is irritating only being asked to do so by the Japanese'. Officials here are in more frequent contact with Mr Ridsdale about Japanese matters than with any other backbench MP. He is normally included in the guest list when Ministers are entertaining their Japanese colleagues and has often helped to look after important visitors. We were in close touch with him over his recent visit and, at his request, suggested a number of questions which might usefully be raised with Japanese Ministers. It is difficult to think of other ways in which he might help, but we will certainly bear his offer in mind.

*yours ever*  
*Roderic Lyne*

(R M J Lyne)  
Private Secretary

N J Sanders Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

London SW1A 1AA

26 November 1980

Thank you for your letter of 4 November about our relations with Japan. I am grateful to you for writing so frankly.

I entirely agree that Japan now occupies a key position among the industrialised democracies and that we must strive to develop our relations accordingly. I was disappointed that events forced me to postpone my visit to Tokyo in September. One of my highest priorities for overseas travel is to make that visit early next year.

It is vital to get a better balance in our economic relationship. I am sure you were right during your recent visit to Tokyo to stress the need for more joint ventures. The encouragement of industrial collaboration and investment in both directions is a major aspect of the government's policies towards Japan.

It is inevitable that much of the discussion about trade matters should take place within the Community framework. As you say, the Japanese may find the Community a difficult body to comprehend. We are aware that this is a problem, and the Foreign Affairs Council of the Nine has in fact recently discussed ideas for a more unified and consistent European policy towards Japan.

/In

Julian Ridsdale Esq CBE MP

In the political field the Japanese have shown in recent months a new interest in aligning their policies with the Nine, particularly over such issues as the Iran hostages and the response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. I very much welcome this. I believe that those closer contacts reflect in part a growing awareness of the challenge posed by Soviet activities worldwide. A greater Japanese contribution in the defence field is certainly desirable; they are beginning to do more but we must be careful not to press them too hard.

The maturity of Britain's relationship with Japan naturally involves a wide range of direct contacts between the two governments at all levels. I think you will agree that we have not done badly during the past year. John Nott visited Japan in January and Ian Gilmour in July. Dr Okita, then Japanese Foreign Minister, came to London in May and I look forward to seeing his successor, Mr Ito, here next month. There have also been many contacts at official level, including a recent exchange of visits between senior FCO and Gaimusho officials.

There is of course a need to ensure that all this activity is properly co-ordinated and directed. I can assure you that Ministers and officials in different departments do keep closely in touch for this purpose. While I am not complacent I believe that in general the machinery works well.

It is clearly important to make the best use of those of our officials who have Japanese expertise. This

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does not mean that any particular post will always be filled by a Japanese specialist: able specialists need to be given wider experience. But we do try to ensure that there is always at least one member of Far Eastern Department and, as far as possible of key departments elsewhere in Whitehall with a detailed knowledge of Japan. We shall also be aiming, over time, to bring rather more Japanese expertise to bear on the Asian side of the Office.

Finally, I should like to say how much I appreciate your continuing efforts to promote Anglo-Japanese relations, and in particular to increase knowledge of Japan among Members of Parliament through the visits which you arrange. Your long experience and your excellent personal relations with Japanese politicians are very useful assets.

(CARRINGTON)