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TORONTO ECONOMIC SUMMIT: JAPANESE APPROACH TO POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS

SUMMARY

1. THE JAPANESE REGARD THE SUMMIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE JAPAN'S ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR WESTERN POLITICAL INTERESTS.

DETAIL

2. THE PRINCIPAL JAPANESE OBJECTIVE IN THE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AT TORONTO WILL BE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT JAPAN IS NOW WILLING TO ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES MORE IN KEEPING WITH HER ECONOMIC STRENGTH. THIS WAS THE THEME OF PRIME MINISTER TAKESHITA'S SPEECH AT THE MANSION HOUSE ON 1 MAY. AT THE UNITED NATIONS SESSION ON DISARMAMENT ON 1 JUNE HE ELABORATED FURTHER ON JAPAN'S POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION, PARTICULARLY TO SUPPORT UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PEACE KEEPING ACTIVITIES. THE JAPANESE INITIATIVE TO COORDINATE WESTERN POLICY ON AID FOR AFGHANISTAN IS INDICATIVE OF THIS MORE ACTIVE POLICY.

3. AT TORONTO, TAKESHITA EXPECTS TO ANNOUNCE QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN JAPAN'S ODA. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LOOKS LIKELY TO LOSE ITS BATTLE WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE TO SECURE A COMMITMENT TO RAISE JAPAN'S ODA AS A PROPORTION OF GNP TO THE AVERAGE OF OTHER OECD DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS. BUT A NEW TARGET FOR AID DISBURSEMENTS SHOULD CONSOLIDATE JAPAN'S POSITION AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST AID DONOR. AT THE SUMMIT THE JAPANESE WILL INDICATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE TO USE THEIR AID PROGRAMME TO BOLSTER MRS AQUINO'S GOVERNMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES. THEY MAY ALSO EXPRESS THEIR READINESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REHABILITATION OF CAMBODIA ONCE A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED.

4. THE JAPANESE SEE THE DISCUSSION OF EAST/WEST RELATIONS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE WEST TO REAFFIRM ITS SOLIDARITY. THE JAPANESE REGARD THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF AN INF AGREEMENT AS PRIMARILY ATTRIBUTABLE TO WESTERN UNITY. MR TAKESHITA WILL USE THE SUMMIT TO RESTATE JAPAN'S POLITICAL ORIENTATION AS A MEMBER OF THE WEST AND

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THE INDIVISIBILITY OF WESTERN SECURITY, INCLUDING THAT OF JAPAN. HE WILL URGE THAT, JUST AS IN THE INF NEGOTIATIONS, THE WEST SHOULD CONTINUE TO ADOPT A GLOBAL APPROACH TO ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT. IN EVALUATING GORBACHEV'S POLICIES, THE JAPANESE WILL EMPHASISE THAT SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY IN THE FAR EAST SHOWS LITTLE SIGN OF MOVEMENT, ESPECIALLY TOWARDS JAPAN, WHERE THE RUSSIANS REMAIN INFLEXIBLE IN THEIR INSISTENCE THAT THE RETURN OF THE OCCUPIED NORTHERN TERRITORIES IS NOT, AS THE JAPANESE CLAIM, AN UNRESOLVED BILATERAL ISSUE. THE JAPANESE WILL ARGUE THAT SOVIET ASIAN POLICY REQUIRES CONTINUED WESTERN VIGILANCE AND REALISM.

5. THE JAPANESE DO NOT EXPECT OTHER REGIONAL ISSUES TO TAKE UP MUCH OF THE TIME OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. BUT THEY WILL BE LOOKING FOR THE SUMMIT TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK IN CAMBODIA AND TO BACK THE SUCCESS OF THE SEOUL OLYMPICS. IN ANY DISCUSSION OF THE MIDDLE EAST, THE JAPANESE CONSIDER THAT IN THIS REGION TOO THEY CAN SHOW THAT JAPAN HAS A ROLE TO PLAY AS IS INDICATED BY THE VISIT AFTER THE SUMMIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER UNO TO SYRIA, JORDAN, EGYPT AND ISRAEL (IN THE CASE OF ISRAEL THIS WILL BE THE FIRST VISIT BY A JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER).

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