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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: SEP 21 2018

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PMS RMC JHF
12 OCT 1976

In reply refer to:
I-11022/76

File "Japan" 100-8991976, Box 79, 79-0049
MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS

SUBJECT: JDA Vice Minister Maruyama's Letter Soliciting Assistance
Concerning Japan's Next ASW Aircraft -- ACTION MEMORANDUM

In a 16 September letter to you Japan Defense Agency (JDA) Vice Minister Maruyama has summarized the selection status and the options facing Japan in choosing a new ASW aircraft (TAB A), and has asked for further DOD technical assistance to aid the JDA in choosing between options. In a subsequent letter to DSAA the JDA has requested specifically that a DOD team come to Tokyo as soon as possible to again brief and answer questions on the technical merits of the P-3, the S-3A, and the new Lockheed-Canada CP-140. Admiral Samejima referred to this request during his meeting with you last Friday.

During the past four years Japan has attempted to choose a new ASW aircraft. Heretofore the candidate aircraft have been (1) the P-3C and (2) a home-grown Japanese aircraft (the PXL, as yet undesigned) which the GOJ hopes to fit with US avionics. We have steadfastly counselled against trying to fit the P-3 avionics into a Japanese airframe. The arguments we use involve technical considerations, and the fact that the P-3 is available now while a new Japanese aircraft would be seven to eight years away.

Going into February 1976 the P-3 was the front-runner. Then the Lockheed scandal broke. The Japan Maritime Self Defense Force still champions the P-3 but other Japan Defense Agency elements and the GOJ Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) favor the so-called PXL Japanese airframe -- for political as well as business reasons, the Japanese aircraft industry being depressed.

The recent arrangement whereby the Canadians will acquire the P-3 airframe with certain S-3A avionics components (renamed CP-140) has added another complicating factor. Now the Japanese believe they must examine the CP-140 configuration as well. This is probably for political show, to indicate to the Japanese that all reasonable candidates were considered.

The JDA request for further assistance from us may only be window dressing. Nevertheless, some complex considerations are involved in developing a response. The Japanese possibly are probing to see if we will

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our position of not wishing to make the P-3 avionics available... Further, we do not think the CP-140 configuration is... militarily and militarily suitable for Japan's needs. Finally, the... political problems in Tokyo, where elections are to be held next month, must be considered before we send further official assistance.

Thus we believe you should respond to the JDA letter by temporizing. Our goal is to see Japan acquires the best ASW capability. On technical and military grounds the P-3 is the best aircraft for Japan's ASW needs, is the most cost effective, and it can be put into service sooner than the other candidates. To try to achieve that goal we want to consider the JDA request carefully, avoid the political pitfalls, and find the right response.

Recommendation:

Recommend you send the attached letter to Mr. Maruyama, acknowledging his letter and the significance thereof and promising a response soon. Mr. Abramowitz will carry this letter to Tokyo this weekend during his trip to the Far East and have our Embassy deliver it to the JDA.

Attachments

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~~MAY 1 2001~~
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Eugene V. McAuliffe
Eugene V. McAuliffe
Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

No letter attached

Prepared by LTC William R. Barrett, X74689

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
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