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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

#14

13 JUL 1981

JH-PAW

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Defense Talking Points: Meeting with GOJ Foreign Minister Sonoda (U)

(S) Defense Minister Omura's visit to Washington June 29-30 was noteworthy in that you, the Hill, Dick Allen, and I all spoke with one voice on both the importance and steadfastness of U.S.-Japan relations and on the necessity of increased and more expeditious Japanese self-defense efforts.

(S) We need to maintain this posture on the occasion of every high-level meeting with responsible GOJ officials so that they realize that our pleas will not go away if they only exercise patience or that they can divide us into factions and claim U.S. requests are inconsistent.

(S) Reportedly Foreign Minister Sonoda does not want to be "instructed" but only wants to know what our problems are so that he can devise the appropriate Japanese solutions. Accordingly I recommend you utilize these thoughts in your conversations with Sonoda in New York:

(S) -- Defense is the most important issue in U.S.-Japan relations and is likely to remain so in view of the serious threat we face.

(S) -- The U.S. has no desire to dictate what roles Japan must fulfill or to ask Japan to do what is impossible under the Constitution.

(S) -- We are completely comfortable with the missions that Prime Minister Suzuki has stated as proper for Japan, i.e., the self-defense of Japanese territory, the seas and skies around Japan and the sealanes out to 1000 miles.

(S) -- The problem we see is that Japan lacks the capability to carry out these missions and has set a defense program accomplishment schedule which will take too long and still not provide the capability to carry out the missions enunciated by the Prime Minister.

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(S) -- This assessment is not ours alone. Your Defense Agency believes the capabilities you are aiming for will be insufficient for the threat of the 1990s and we share that assessment.

(S) -- We will be happy to discuss these issues with your officials in as great a detail as you desire.

(S) -- We desire that the solutions be those of your choosing. But we desire you achieve effective capability to carry out the missions you have set for yourselves in a reasonably rapid period of time in order to give meaning and substance to a unified Free World deterrent defense posture.

Sap

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