



~~SECRET~~

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JUN 24 2019

18 JUL 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Japan's Defense Efforts: Talking Points for the  
Ottawa Summit (U)

(S) During the recent visit of Japan's Defense Minister, Defense, State, the NSC, and the Hill all spoke with one voice on the necessity for Japan to participate meaningfully in a rational division of labor in the defense field despite domestic financial constraints. The GOJ is still uncomfortable with a military buildup. This is understandable in view of Japan's wartime experience. Unfortunately Tokyo has become too comfortable with allowing the U.S. to shoulder the majority of costs even for burdens which fall clearly within Japan's self-defense responsibility.

(S) In your private meeting with Prime Minister Suzuki at Ottawa I recommend you make the following points:

(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. in no way desires that Japan exceed the limits prescribed by your Constitution. I am completely comfortable with the missions you stated in Washington as appropriate for your defense forces.

(S) -- You and I are both dedicated to fiscal restraint and administrative reform. But defense is one area in which we must ensure that we are doing enough to preserve the continuity of our democratic systems.

(S) -- Japan has achieved a great deal in the defense area which we appreciate -- but we must base our estimates of what is required on the threat we face. Regrettably that threat has grown much more quickly than we anticipated even five years ago.

(S) -- If you continue to pursue the pace you have indicated, you will not be able to carry out the missions you set forth. The United States will have to try to cover the shortfall well into the 1990s.

330-83-0104, bxc 9

Japan (Aut Dec)  
~~SECRET~~

Classified by

19-M-0855

R2

~~SECRET~~

2.

~~(S)~~ -- In view of our own increased efforts, the Congress, the American people, and our European allies question why Japan cannot do more.

~~(S)~~ -- Doing more does not mean massive military spending. It means doing what is necessary to provide legitimate self-defense in a reasonably rapid timeframe.

~~(S)~~ -- Japan's achievement of effective self-defense capability will help to ensure your own security and promote greater understanding of Japan's meaningful role in the Free World.

Office of the Secretary of Defense 50.2C 6552  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS †  
Date: 24 JUN 2019 Authority: EO 13526  
Declassify: X Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason: \_\_\_\_\_  
MDR: 19 -M- 0855

*Sup*

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL  
Authority: EO 13526  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS  
Date: JUN 24 2019

~~SECRET~~