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~~SECRET~~ SPECAT SECTION 01 OF 04 TOKYO 06987

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TAGS: MARR, MCPA, JA, US, KS, PX
SUBJECT: SECDEF'S APRIL MEETING WITH FOMIN ABE

1. ~~SECRET~~ -- ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: IN AN EXPANDED BILATERAL MEETING APRIL 5, SECRETARY WEINBERGER AND JDA MINISTER KATO REVIEWED THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SITUATIONS, DEFENSE-RELATED DISCUSSIONS IN THE US AND JAPAN, AND KEY BILATERAL DEFENSE ISSUES. THEY EXPRESSED SHARED CONCERN OVER THE SOVIET MILITARY BUILD-UP. ON SDI, KATO REPORTED JDA WAS COMMENCING A STUDY OF THE STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPAN. KATO ALSO NOTED THE RECENT DIET DEBATE HAD PAVED THE WAY FOR EMERGENCY INFORMATION SHARING WITH THE US, REVISION OF JDA DEFENSE EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION PLANNING AND OTH-R ACQUISITION STUDIES. SECDEF ASSURED THE JAPANESE THERE WAS NO "US PRESSURE" ON FSX WHILE KATO SAID THE GOJ STUDY OF POSSIBLE FOREIGN FSX INTRODUCTION WOULD PROCEED WITH A FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONNAIRE AND A JDA TEAM VISIT TO THE US IN MAY. THE SECRETARY NOTED OUR CONTINUING NEED FOR A NEW NLP AND HOUSING FACILITIES AND OUR HOPE FOR MORE GOJ CONTRIBUTION UNDER LABOR COST SHARING. WHILE PLEDGING CONTINUED GOJ EFFORTS ON THE FIRST TWO PROBLEMS, KATO INDICATED FURTHER LABOR COST SHARING REMAINED DIFFICULT. HE DID AGREE TO CONTINUE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO EASE THE COSTS FOR US FORCES IN JAPAN. END SUMMARY.

3. FOLLOWING THE TWENTY-MINUTE RESTRICTED MEETING, (SEE SEPTEL/NOBIS) SECDEF WEINBERGER AND MINISTER KATO CONVENED AN EXPANDED ROUNDTABLE MEETING INCLUDING VICE MINISTER YAZAKI, DEFENSE FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION AGENCY DIR-GEN SASSA AND THE PRINCIPAL JDA BUREAU DIRECTORS ON THE JAPANESE SIDE, ASD ARMITAGE, ASD SIMS, VADM JONES, STATE DAS SHERMAN, RADM LESS AS WELL AS DCM ANDERSON AND LT. GEN. TIXIER ON THE U.S. SIDE.

INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

4. SECDEF OPENED WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THE SOVIET MILITARY BUILD-UP WHICH, DESPITE PROPAGANDA TO THE CONTRARY, SHOWED NO SIGNS OF DIMINISHING IN REAL TERMS, ESPECIALLY IN THE PACIFIC. EFFORTS BY THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES TO REDRESS THE BALANCE HAD SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING THE SOVIETS BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE BUT OUR EFFORTS COULD NOT STOP NOW. PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN U.S. STRENGTH. TURNING TO THE PHILIPPINES, SECDEF NOTED PRESIDENT AQUINO APPARENTLY WANTED THE BASES TO STAY AT LEAST THROUGH 1991 AND WILL PROBABLY AGREE TO NEGOTIATE ON CONTINUING THE ARRANGEMENT THEREAFTER. WE REGARD THE BASES AS VITAL TO OUR DEPLOYMENT IN THE REGION. THE U.S. MEANWHILE INTENDED TO PROVIDE AS MUCH HELP AS POSSIBLE TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT, BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY, TO DEAL WITH THE COMMUNIST INSURGENCY. RE THE ROK, SECDEF REPORTED BASED UPON THE JUST-COMPLETED SCM

THAT ROK ECONOMIC GROWTH WAS PROPELLING THAT COUNTRY AHEAD OF THE DPRK BUT THAT PYONGYANG REMAINED MORE MILITARILY POWERFUL AND WAS NOW RECEIVING MORE SUPPORT FROM THE SOVIETS. THE DPRK WAS THREATENING TO DISRUPT THE ASIAN GAMES OR THE OLYMPICS, BUT THIS THREAT WAS PARADOXICALLY HELPING TO UNIFY THE ROK POLITICALLY. THE U.S. HAD REITERATED ITS COMMITMENT TO DEFEND THE ROK AGAINST ATTACK. ON TERRORISM, THE SECRETARY OBSERVED THE THREAT WAS GROWING IN PART DUE TO LIBYAN SUPPORT. SECDEF EXPLAINED THE U.S. POSITION ON THE RECENT OPERATION IN THE GULF OF SIDRA. TURNING TO ARMS REDUCTION TALKS, SECDEF SAID THE U.S. SOUGHT DETERRENCE AT LOWER LEVELS OF ARMAMENT, STARTING WITH ELIMINATION OF ALL SOVIET INF'S, WHETHER IN EUROPE OR ASIA. RE SDI, SECDEF EXPLAINED RESEARCH WAS MAKING GOOD PROGRESS AND THAT THE U.S. INVITATION TO FRIENDS AND ALLIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANNER THEY DEEMED MOST SUITABLE REMAINED OPEN. HE NOTED JAPANESE CONTRIBUTIONS COULD BE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IN VIEW OF JAPAN'S TECHNOLOGICAL GENIUS. FINALLY, SPEAKING ON THE REGIONAL MILITARY SITUATION, SECDEF NOTED THE SOVIETS CONTINUED TO EXPAND THEIR FAR EASTERN NAVAL FORCES WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE FRUNZE AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW AIRCRAFT CARRIERS. THESE DEPLOYMENTS WERE CLEARLY IN EXCESS OF THE SOVIETS' BT

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TAGS: MARR, MCP, JA, US, KS, PX
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LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS, HE SAID.

5. KATO RESPONDED THAT THE GOJ SHARED VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL VIEWS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE SOVIET THREAT. HE OBSERVED SOVIET MILITARY FLIGHTS AROUND JAPAN HAD INCREASED 2.5 TIMES IN THE LAST 10 YEARS AND THAT SURFACE SHIP TRANSITS NEAR AND THROUGH JAPANESE STRAITS HAD MORE THAN DOUBLED. (KATO PRODUCED A CHART DEPICTING SOVIET FLIGHT PATHS NEAR JAPAN - POUNCHED TO EAP/J AND DOD/ISA FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION.) KATO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DPRK AND THE USSR, WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO PYONGYANG'S FEAR OF RAPPROCHMENT BETWEEN SEOUL AND BEIJING. KATO ALSO AGREED CLARK AND SUBIC WERE VITAL TO THE FREE WORLD; HE UNDERSTOOD FONMIN ABE WAS TAKING STEPS TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT AQUINO'S ADMINISTRATION. ON TERRORISM, HE SAID THE GOJ WAS VERY CONCERNED AND EXPECTED FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE PROBLEM AT THE SUMMIT. HE EXPRESSED GOJ GRATITUDE FOR THE U.S. POSITION ON INF, TREATING ASIA AND EUROPE ON AN EQUAL BASIS. FINALLY, ON SDI, KATO NOTED MOFA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE QUESTION OF JAPANESE PARTICIPATION, BUT SAID JDA WAS LAUNCHING A STUDY OF THE STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROGRAM FOR JAPAN.

DOMESTIC DEFENSE DEBATE

6. KATO REPORTED THAT THE DIET SESSION CONCLUDED THE PREVIOUS DAY WAS NOTABLE FOR ITS LACK OF "DISRUPTION" OVER DEFENSE ISSUES. PAST SESSIONS HAD OFTEN BEEN THROWN INTO TURMOIL BY DEBATES OVER THE "ONE PERCENT" ISSUE - WHICH RESEMBLED MORE A DEBATE AMONG ECONOMISTS THAN DEFENSE EXPERTS - BUT THIS HAD DISAPPEARED. KATO SAID THAT "NOT DEBATING IS ONE WAY OF SETTling THINGS," AND WENT ON TO DESCRIBE SOME PROGRESS MADE AT THE RECENT DIET SESSION:

INFORMATION SHARING: KATO BELIEVED THE GOJ HAD ESTABLISHED THAT TRANSFERS OF INFORMATION TO THE U.S. IN AN EMERGENCY NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVING JAPAN WERE POSSIBLE. IN THE PAST, THIS CONCEPT HAD BEEN CRITICIZED AS COMMITTING JAPAN TO "COLLECTIVE DEFENSE". HE NOTED.

EQUIPMENT: THE GOJ HAD ALSO ESTABLISHED THAT IT COULD REVISE THE EQUIPMENT ANNEX (BEPPYO) TO THE GENERAL DEFENSE OUTLINE (TAIKO) DEPENDING UPON THE SITUATION WITHOUT REVISING THE TAIKO ITSELF.

OTH-R: KATO REITERATED THAT THE GOJ WAS STUDYING OTH-R ACQUISITION BASED UPON THE PRESUMPTION THAT JAPAN WOULD OPERATE THE SYSTEM ITSELF AND WOULD BE ABLE TO GATHER MILITARILY USEFUL INFORMATION FROM

ITS OWN SYSTEM. WHILE THE OPPOSITION HAD CRITICIZED THE PROPOSAL ON THE "SOFTWARE" ISSUE, THE KOMIITO'S RECENT WASHINGTON TALKS HAD CLEARED UP THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON THIS POINT AND THE STUDY WAS NOW ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

7. SECDEF RESPONDED FIRST ON OTH-R, NOTING THAT ITS ACQUISITION WOULD IMPROVE JAPANESE CAPABILITY FOR HOME ISLAND DEFENSE AND SLOC DEFENSE. JAPAN WOULD OWN AND OPERATE THE SYSTEM ITSELF AND, WHILE INFORMATION FROM OUR VARIOUS SYSTEMS COULD BE USEFULLY SHARED BETWEEN US, THIS WOULD BE ENTIRELY AT JAPAN'S DISCRETION. INFORMATION SHARING, THE SECRETARY NOTED, WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO DEFENSE IN THE MODERN WORLD AND WE FELT JAPAN AND WE COULD BOTH BENEFIT FROM SUCH EXCHANGES. RE BUDGET ISSUES, THE SECRETARY NOTED CONTINUED EFFORTS WERE VITAL AND SAID PRESIDENT REAGAN WOULD WORK TO PERSUADE CONGRESS OF THIS. GOJ DEFENSE SPENDING INCREASES WERE ENCOURAGING, ESPECIALLY TAKEN AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF SPENDING CUTS IN OTHER AREAS, AND HE INTENDED TO MENTION THIS TO PM NAKASONE IN THEIR MEETING LATER THE SAME DAY.

BILATERAL ISSUES BT

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8. SECDEF WENT ON TO ADDRESS BILATERAL ISSUES AS FOLLOWS: NLP AND IKEGO HOUSING: SECDEF STRESSED WE HAD REAL NEEDS BOTH FOR AN APPROPRIATE NLP FACILITY AND FOR MORE HOUSING IN THE IKEGO AREA. WE WERE WELL AWARE OF AND APPRECIATED GOJ EFFORTS TO OVERCOME LOCAL RESISTANCE TO GOJ PLANS TO MEET THESE NEEDS.

FSX: THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT DESPITE PRESS REPORTS CLAIMING HE WAS IN JAPAN TO PRESSURE THE GOJ ON FSX, THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. THE U.S. ROLE, HE SAID, WAS LIMITED TO FURNISHING INFORMATION ON OUR PLANES - THEIR TESTS AND CAPABILITIES - PER THE REQUESTS OF THE GOJ. HE ASSUMED THAT JAPAN WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT VARIOUS FACTORS IN MAKING ITS DECISION, INCLUDING COST, INTEROPERABILITY OF PARTS, MAINTENANCE COSTS, ETC. IF THERE WAS DESIRE FOR MORE INFORMATION, WE STOOD READY TO HELP.

TECH TRANSFER: WE WERE PLEASED THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER STRUCTURE WAS IN PLACE AND HOPED THAT REAL FLOWS COULD BEGIN TO TAKE PLACE SOON.

9. KATO REVIEWED THESE ISSUES IN THE SAME ORDER:

NLP: NOW THAT THE BUDGET WAS PASSED, HE WANTED TO DEVOTE HIS FULL ATTENTION TO SOLVING THIS PROBLEM. THE GOJ WAS DOING ITS UTMOST WITH STRONG LDP SUPPORT. A SOLUTION SHOULD BE ACHIEVABLE IF THESE EFFORTS CONTINUE. ONE OBSTACLE - MIYAKE ISLANDERS' SUSPICION THAT THERE WAS NO BUDGET TO BACK UP THE GOJ'S OFFERS OF AID IN RETURN FOR THE NLP FACILITY - WAS OVERCOME BY GOJ TESTIMONY THE PREVIOUS DAY COMMITTING THE GOVERNMENT TO FULL FUNDING AS NECESSARY.

IKEGO: THE GOJ'S PLAN HAD BEEN COMPLICATED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARALYSIS OVER THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION. HOWEVER, ASSUMING THE PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT (KANAGAWA) ACCEPTED THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, THE GOJ WOULD PROCEED WITH CONSTRUCTION.

FSX: KATO ASSURED SECDEF HE DID NOT FEEL "PRESSURED". THE GOJ DID APPRECIATE THE SPEEDY RETURN OF U.S. RESPONSES TO ITS QUESTIONNAIRES ON THE F-16 AND F-18. IT WILL SEND FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS TO THE MAKERS SHORTLY AND NEXT MONTH PLANNED TO DISPATCH A JDA TEAM TO THE U.S. THE GOJ WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ITS SELECTION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THOUGHT IT AN EXCELLENT IDEA TO HAVE EXCHANGES AT THE LEVEL OF LT. GEN. GAST AND ASD/MG. GEN. SUZUKI. KATO WANTED THE DECISION TO BE MADE BASED ON JAPAN'S DEFENSE NEEDS AND THE OPINIONS OF THE EXPERTS. HOWEVER, THE DEBATE OVER FOREIGN VS. DOMESTIC PRODUCTION WAS VERY DIFFICULT AND KATO HIMSELF NEVER COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON THE ISSUE. THE GOJ WAS LOOKING AT THREE

OPTIONS -- DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, CONVERSION OF EXISTING AIRCRAFT AND INTRODUCTION OF FOREIGN-MADE AIRCRAFT. KATO STRESSED THAT JAPANESE MINDS REMAINED ENTIRELY OPEN AND NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE.

TECH TRANSFER: KATO TOO WAS PLEASED THAT PROCEDURES WERE ALMOST COMPLETE FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE FIRST ITEM UNDER THE TECH TRANSFER AGREEMENT AND HE HOPED ITEMS 2, 3, ETC. WOULD SOON FOLLOW. KATO EXPRESSED PRIDE IN THIS ARRANGEMENT AND THOUGHT IT WOULD ACT AS AN INCENTIVE FOR JAPANESE R&D.

COST SHARING

10. SECRETARY WEINBERGER THEN RAISED LABOR COST SHARING, NOTING THAT THE NEW YEN-DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE HAD INCREASED USFJ COSTS. WE HAD IDENTIFIED A FEW WAYS WE THOUGHT JAPAN COULD HELP WITH BURDEN UNDER SOFA, ANY HELP JAPAN COULD PROVIDE WOULD ASSIST IN CONVINCING CONGRESS TO REFRAIN FROM EFFORTS TO REDUCE OUR OVERSEAS COMMITMENTS. KATO SAID JAPAN WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE U.S. BURDENS DUE TO THE DOLLAR'S FALL IN VALUE. A LOT HAD BEEN DONE WITH FIP IN THE PAST. LABOR COST SHARING MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO EXPAND UNDER JAPANESE BT

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INTERPRETATION OF THE STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT. KATO
SAID JAPAN WOULD TRY TO FIND WAYS TO HELP US BUT RIGHT
NOW COULD NOT OFFER ANYTHING NEW. SECDEF ASKED THAT
JAPAN DO ITS BEST AND OFFERED TO CONSULT FURTHER ON
THIS QUESTION.
MANSFIELD BT

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