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JAPAN'S DEFENSE EFFORTS

Talking Paper for the President for his meeting with Prime Minister Nakasone on January 18, 1983

ISSUE

(U) Japan's defense forces are totally incapable of defending even Japanese territory and surrounding seas and skies; U.S. Forces are too overburdened to provide even local self-defense to the world's second richest country.

BACKGROUND

(U) Recent statements going back to the mid-1950's that Japan should provide for its own territorial self-defense and statements of the 1980s that Japan cannot legitimately include air and sea-lane defense to 2000 miles within its responsibilities, Japan is fundamentally unable to carry out these tasks.

- (C) The Army and Air Force have obsolete equipment.
- (C) The Army, Air Force and Marine Force all have only token levels of capability.
- (C) The Navy and Air Force are too small to provide for the extended sea-lane responsibilities for which Japan has recently become responsible.

(U) The Constitution and public opinion have been cited in the past as reasons why Japan cannot do more. Now that these have passed, the only reasons are financial and fears of other Asian nations. The removal of these factors would allow Japan to meet its self-defense goals.

- (C) Japan's economic growth and public works as it has done.
- (C) Japan cannot achieve its requisite level of self-defense capability within this decade and still spend less than 1% of its GNP on defense.
- (C) Asian nations will support Japan's limited defense as long as Japan's security remains tightly linked to the strong U.S. Pacific presence.

(S) The need for a significantly increased Japanese defense efforts in order to participate in a division of labor with the United States has been strongly and specifically pushed from the White House, and Japanese proponents of the status quo to argue that the highest levels of the USG don't support increased Japanese defense efforts.

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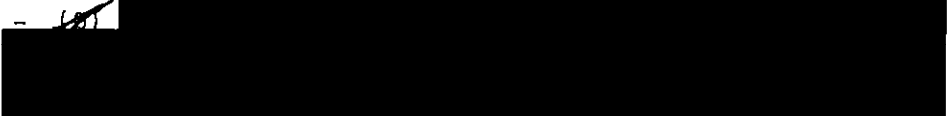
DISCUSSION

(S) For U.S. national security, a reasonable but strong approach is necessary from the President to Prime Minister Nakasone, a career Japanese politician who understands and supports defense. This would provide the Prime Minister the impetus he needs to get a candid and thorough Japanese reevaluation of its defense requirements in order to cooperate with the United States in a meaningful division of labor to be achieved within this decade.

(U) FROM 1945 TO THE PRESENT, THE U.S. HAS PROVIDED FOR JAPAN'S STRATEGIC AND CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE.

(U) WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FOR JAPAN'S STRATEGIC PROTECTION AND TO PROVIDE FOR JAPAN'S SECURITY IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AND IN THE INDIAN OCEAN WHERE JAPAN'S COMMERCE WOULD OTHERWISE BE VULNERABLE.

(U) THE U.S. MUST CONTINUE TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE LOCAL SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITY TO 1000 ISLES, THE SOUTH PACIFIC, AND THE SOVIET DEPENDENCE ON STRATEGIC OIL.



(S) JAPAN'S ECONOMIC CAPABILITY IS SUSTAINABILITY. CONITION, GIL... A LARGE NAVY AND... THIS NEEDS TO BE... BY... OF G... DEFENSE. THE PACIFIC... 1990, 81, AND 82 ARE... BY...

(J) THE... APAR IN PLANNING... SUPPORTS JAPAN'S... SECURITY.

(S) THE... SPACE COMBINES TO... CONFLICT IN... HUMAN AFFAIRS.

(U) PRIME... AS... CHAMPIONED... DECIDED BY... LET US... TO DO... NECESSARY IN OUR... FESTS.

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