

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 959000This By AT NARA Date 9-17-16
NumberOPR/LS: Wickel:cam
(Drafting Office and Officer)

SECRET

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1476

Memorandum of Conversation

Approved in S
2/3/65DATE: January 13, 1965
Secretary Rusk Luncheon
for Prime Minister Sato
Thomas Jefferson Room

SUBJECT: U.S.-Japan Relations and Related World Problems

PARTICIPANTS: Eisaku Sato, Prime Minister of Japan

FEB 5-1965

Secretary Rusk
James J. Wickel, OPR/LS (Interpreter)

COPIES TO:

S/S	E - 3	INR/OD	DOD/ISA - 11	Amembassy TOKYO	12
G	ACDA - 1	G/PM	White House	CINCPAC POLAD	13
S/P - 1	NEA - 5	O/CPR		HICOMRY POLAD	14
FE - 2	AF - 6	CIA - 19			

17
Jan 15, 16, 17

Ryukyu Islands

The Prime Minister said that he recognized the importance of the American military presence on Okinawa for the security of the Far East, and understood that administrative control would continue to be exercised by the United States.

The Secretary said that the attitude of Peiping and the recent Communist Chinese nuclear test underscore the importance of Okinawa.

The Prime Minister asked whether consideration might be given by the United States to the restoration of administrative control to Japan of some of the Ryukyu Islands, other than Okinawa, which are not essential to defense and are not presently being used for that purpose. Even a partial restoration would be welcomed as a great step forward in Japan and by the Ryukyuan residents. Specifically, the island of Iriomote, covered by jungle growth, on which Japan and the United States are presently conducting a joint program to improve the welfare of the inhabitants, would fall into this category, especially since it does not appear to be used for training purposes.

Japan's Expanding International Role

The Secretary said that he was pleased with the increasing role Japan is playing in the world, a rightful role to which Japan's accomplishments entitle it.

SECRET

Microfilmed for
LBJ LibraryPo L
Japan - US

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NN0959000By AT NARA Date 9-17-96SECRET

-2-

The Prime Minister said that Japan hoped to play a larger and even more useful role. He added, however, that some concern exists in Japan that it might over-extend itself. For that reason, Japan must exercise some restraint in increasing its commitments abroad. He said, nevertheless, that Japan could expand its participation in the affairs of Asia.

The Secretary said that it would be very useful if Japan could bring diplomatic pressure to bear in such capitals as Djakarta, Phnom Penh and Rangoon — where the United States is unable to do so — to improve the situation. He said that we would be pleased to see greater diplomatic activity by Japan, particularly "silent diplomacy".

Asian Development Bank

The Prime Minister said that Mr. WATANABE, formerly the Japanese Director at the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), is conducting studies on the practical aspects of formation of an Asian Development Bank, which would operate much along the lines of similar institutions for the Americas. He did not think that overt American participation would be desirable, but he asked the Secretary whether the United States might support such a plan.

The Secretary welcomed the idea of an Asian Development Bank and said that the United States, to the extent possible, could play the role of a "silent partner" in such an undertaking.

Afro-Asian Conference

The Prime Minister said that Japan had given a preliminary indication that it would send a representative to the Afro-Asian Conference, but in view of the activities and statements of President Sukarno, Japan may decide not to send anyone.

The Secretary said that it would be desirable to have Japan, and other free nations such as the Philippines and India, participate so that they could exert their influence on the Conference. It would be best not to allow those leaning toward Peiping to dominate such a conference. He hoped that a Japanese representative would attend and would support the position of the free nations within the Afro-Asian group.

The Prime Minister said that India seemed inclined to propose that the Soviets join the Conference. He thought this would be interesting, bringing Peiping and Moscow into the same body. The Secretary agreed and said that the United States had no objection to the Soviets' membership in the conference.

The Secretary said that, next to Nigeria, the United States has the largest Negro population in the world, but that this fact is generally

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

overlooked. He reported that when he had mentioned this to a number of Foreign Ministers of African nations at the United Nations General Assembly this past fall, their reaction had been one of surprise. He asked why the African nations allowed such men as Ben Bella and Nasser to assume the role of spokesmen for Africa. Even though the United States has the second largest Negro population, we are not pressing to participate in the Afro-Asian Conference.

The Secretary said that recently it had appeared that a split had developed between Nasser and the other Arab nations over his assertion of leadership of the Arab nationalist movement. Such Arab nations as Lebanon, Jordan, Libya, and Tunisia do not feel that he speaks for them.

Disarmament

The Prime Minister said that Japan had been proposed for membership in the Disarmament Conference, but this had been vetoed. However, Japan has a deep and abiding interest in participating in this important conference. He asked the Secretary to exert his best efforts to have Japan included as a member.

The Secretary said that the community of interests between Japan and the United States was such that the United States would also benefit from such participation.

Japanese Political Situation

The Prime Minister noted that great changes had taken place in Japan, changes which would prevent even those who wished to do so from reviving the pre-war Japan. In particular, the post-war generation is a stable democratic element in the society. While those juveniles who commit cruel crimes gain the publicity, it should not be forgotten that the mass of youth are admirable.

The Prime Minister referred to the age composition of the Japanese Diet, in which his Liberal Democratic Party has a number of Members in their twenties and thirties, but the Japan Socialist Party has only older Members. Sato said that he enjoyed the overwhelming support of the younger voters in Japan when he was named Prime Minister.

The Secretary pointed out that President Johnson had enjoyed similar support from young people in the United States in the recent election — 75 percent of those in their twenties. He said that the lack of youthful representation in the Japan Socialist Party indicated an awareness of the fact that Marxism is out of date — that it is no longer the wave of the future. Even in the Soviet Union it is out of date, for the Russians have recently begun to talk of private initiative, profits and decentralization.

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

The Prime Minister said that he was considered — in Japan — to be conservative, even "ultra-conservative" by some, but he could not see how anyone could be "progressive" (meaning Marxist) under the present circumstances.

The Emperor

The Prime Minister said that he had been received by the Emperor prior to his departure for the United States. The Emperor no longer plays a role in politics in Japan, but he is most interested personally in furthering strong Japanese-American relations.

The Secretary said that he and the other American cabinet officers who had been received by the Emperor at the time of the Joint Economic Committee meeting had been favorably impressed by him.

The Prime Minister said that he would report to the Emperor upon his return that the Secretary has had a life-long interest in Japan, and that he has played a valuable role in promoting Japan-United States relations.

U.S.-Japan Economic Committee

The Secretary asked the Prime Minister to insure that the Japanese cabinet members who attend the meeting of the Joint U.S.-Japan Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs in Washington this July bring their wives. He was directed to make this representation by the American cabinet officers' wives, who wish to reciprocate the cordial welcome they received in Japan at the last meeting.

SECRET