[redacted]

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 [illegible] 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) Despite 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 can legitimately include air and sea-lane defense to 1000 miles within its responsibilities, Japan is fundamentally [illegible] carry [illegible] those tasks.

- (C) The Japanese Army has obsolete equipment.

- (C) The Army, Navy, and Air Force all have only token levels of ammunition.

- (C) The Navy and Air Force are too small to provide for the extended [illegible] for which Japan has recently opted.

(U) The Constitution and public opinion have been cited in the past as [illegible] Japan [illegible] more. Now that these have passed, [illegible] and fears of other Asian nations [illegible] neither of these factors inhibit [illegible] self-defense goals.

- (C) J[illegible] much on public works as it [illegible].

- (C) [illegible] Japan can achieve its requisite level of self-defense capability within this decade and still spend less [illegible] of its [illegible] defense.

- (C) [illegible] Asian nations will support Japan's limited defense [illegible] as long as Japan's security remains tightly lashed to [illegible] strong U.S. Pacific presence.

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

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Declassify on [illegible]

DISCUSSION

(S) For U.S. national a policy, a reasonable but strong approach is necessary from the President to Prime Minister Nakasone, a career defense politician who understands and supports defense. This would provide the Prime Minister the impetus he needs to [illegible] a rapid and thorough Japanese reorganization of its defense [illegible] in order to [illegible] 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 JAPANESE SECURITY IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS [illegible] JAPAN'S COMMERCE WOULD OTHERWISE BE VULNERABLE.

- (U) THE U.S. NAVY [illegible] PROVIDING EFFECTIVE LOCAL DEFENSE [illegible] TO 1000 MILES, [illegible] D, AND THE SOVIET [illegible] ICATED. THUS DETERRENCE [illegible].

- (S) [redacted]

- (S) JAPAN'S [illegible] SUSTAINABILITY [illegible] A LARGER NAVY AND [illegible] NECESSARY BY [illegible] OF GNP ON DEFENSE. [illegible] 1990, 81, AND 82 ARE [illegible]

(U) THE [illegible] JAPAN IN PLANNING [illegible] SUPPORTS JAPAN'S [illegible] SECURITY.

(S) [illegible] RENCE CONTINUES TO [illegible] THE [illegible] AN CONFLICT IN [illegible] HUMAN [illegible] ITS.

- (U) PRIME [illegible] REASONS AS [illegible] ASSIVELY CHAMPIONED [illegible] BECAUSE OF [illegible] AN DECIDED BY PAN. LET US [illegible] TOGETHER TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY IN OUR [illegible] DIVIDUAL AND [illegible] INTERESTS.

SECRET