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The Security Situation in East Asia and the Pacific and Japan's Role & Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security

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Kunihiko Saito

Abstract

After the end of the Cold War, a number of welcome indications, such as attaining peace in Cambodia and the admission of Vietnam to ASEAN membership, signaled that the Asian-Pacific region was headed into a more predictable era. The Asian countries were becoming more mature politically, and this political stability in turn engendered eye-opening economic growth. However, the end of the Cold War in and of itself, did not remove any of the various causes of tension and confrontation in Asia. In northeastern Asia in particular, destabilizing factors continue to exist unabated: a divided nation remains, territorial disputes continue, a former superpower looks toward an uncertain future, and heavy accumulations of military forces remain. On the Korean peninsula, 1.6 million troops continue to stare each other down on either side of the 38th parallel, and the relationship between Taiwan and China has become very tense. The territorial dispute over the Spratley Islands is yet another possible source of tension. These issues continue to demand our undivided attention. This article discusses the actions of Russia and Japan post Cold War, and addresses what Japan should do to assure its own security, what Japan should do to assure regional security, and what the role of the United States is in this conflict.

THE SECURITY SITUATION IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND JAPAN'S ROLE & JAPAN-U.S. JOINT DECLARATION ON SECURITY

*Kunihiko Saito**

I. *THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION*

After the end of the Cold War, a number of welcome indications, such as attaining peace in Cambodia and the admission of Vietnam to ASEAN membership, signaled that the Asian-Pacific region was headed into a more predictable era. The Asian countries were becoming more mature politically, and this political stability in turn engendered eye-opening economic growth.

However, the end of the Cold War in and of itself, did not remove any of the various causes of tension and confrontation in Asia. In northeastern Asia in particular, destabilizing factors continue to exist unabated: a divided nation remains, territorial disputes continue, a former superpower looks toward an uncertain future, and heavy accumulations of military forces remain. On the Korean peninsula, 1.6 million troops continue to stare each other down on either side of the 38th parallel, and the relationship between Taiwan and China has become very tense. The territorial dispute over the Spratley Islands is yet another possible source of tension. These issues continue to demand our undivided attention.

Even though Russia has put a great deal of effort into democratization and economic reforms, there is well-grounded concern that strengthening conservative trends and growing ethnocentricity might roll back these reforms. On the military side, the Russian military is tending to shrink quantitatively due to the severe financial constraints on the government, and the growing number of draft dodgers brings down the overall activ-

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ity and troop levels. Still, the Far East region remains a vast storehouse for military armaments, including nuclear weapons, and these continue to be upgraded at a moderate pace. Even now, five decades since the end of World War II, the Northern Territories issue between Russia and Japan remains unsettled, and Russian military occupation of these four islands continues. Japan also has other serious problems with Russia, including Russian dumping of radioactive waste in the ocean, and their capturing and firing upon Japanese fishermen in the area of the Northern Territories. Japan believes that the resolution of the territorial issue and the complete normalization of Russo-Japanese relations is vital to lasting peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. To this end, Japan expects Russia to make a constructive contribution toward relieving the historical burdens of the region.

For its part, China has been advancing reforms and more open political policies. With a political emphasis on economic development, China itself clearly sees the need for "a stable international environment." In the national defense area, even though much of their main line equipment is aging, and their primary effort to modernize their air forces is proceeding only haltingly, they continue nuclear testing in order to modernize their nuclear weapons. While China explains these efforts totally in terms of national self-defense, greater transparency in their defense policy and programs would be most welcome. Last year, China was a main player in a territorial dispute over the Spratley Islands. China's recent military exercises around Taiwan underline the fact that China causes considerable anxiety among its neighbors.

Amid the situation described above, a number of efforts have begun to focus on regional dialogues and cooperation. But as detailed below, the Asia-Pacific region is quite different from Europe in that there are only the bare inklings of movements toward the creation of regional security frameworks. The current situation demands that the countries of the region find some way to guarantee their own security.

In addition to the aforementioned regional concerns, Japan has also focused its attention on global problems such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as it affects security in the post-Cold War era. The main problems in Japan's region

are North Korea's nuclear weapons development and Russia's management of its nuclear arsenal.

Today, the Asia-Pacific region, often called the growth center of the world, is achieving dynamic economic growth. In truth, however, it also embraces many potential sources of instability and uncertainty. Peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region are not only a vital concern of Japan, but also of the United States.

In light of this situation in Asia, Japan faces a number of fundamental questions. What policies should Japan pursue to assure its own security? What steps by Japan will help assure regional security and build peace? Further, what should be the role of the United States in these processes? These areas will be explored further below.

II. JAPAN'S BASIC SECURITY POLICIES

Since the end of World War II, Japan's basic policy has been to never become a military power, which would pose a threat to neighboring countries. Japan has opted for a program of building up its own defense forces of an appropriate scale as the means to assure national security, while strictly adhering to the Japan-U.S. security arrangements.

Some mention needs to be made of the new "National Defense Program Outline" ("NDPO") that was adopted by the Government of Japan late last year. For years, Japan's defense capability had been determined under the "National Defense Program Outline" adopted in 1976. The new NDPO was adopted last year in light of the new security environment after the end of the Cold War and other domestic and international changes. The new NDPO, while acknowledging positive developments in the security field in the wake of the end of the Cold War, reflected upon many sources of potential instability and uncertainty that remain, and committed Japan to continuing to maintain the minimum necessary level of defense capability for preserving Japan as an independent country. It recommitted Japan to its basic support of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. Another noteworthy feature in the new NDPO was its new and clear acknowledgment that the Japan-U.S. security arrangements were important not just for Japan's own security, but also for the important role they have in the peace and security of the areas sur-

rounding Japan. The new NDPO promised that Japan would make every effort to strengthen the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. It also acknowledged the need for Japan to actively join the regional security dialogue and to promote confidence among its neighbors.

Thus, Japan continues to premise its own national security, and the alleviation of confrontations and tensions in the Asia-Pacific region, on the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. It seeks to help resolve specific problems in the region through close cooperation with the United States, and to augment with bilateral, sub-regional, and pan-regional level security dialogues with neighboring countries as well. These dialogues also contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, together with the presence of U.S. forces in the region.

A. The Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements

As stated above, the Japan-U.S. security arrangements are indispensable for Japan's own security, and the presence of U.S. forces in Japan is also extremely important for maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole. These arrangements also form the political foundation for the cooperative relationship between Japan and the United States on a global scale.

Japan wholeheartedly welcomes the clear commitments in various forms that the United States has made to this region. For its part, Japan continues to bear an appropriate part of the expenses involved in the stationing of U.S. forces in Japan, which is the central feature of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. At the present time, Japan's host nation support amounts to more than US\$6 billion annually, by far the highest level among the United States' allies. A special new agreement was concluded late last year which increased even further the level of Japan's host nation support. It is also important for Japan and the United States that both nations' forces be able to conduct reciprocal provision of supplies and services in the field of logistic support. A new agreement, concerning the reciprocal provision of supplies and services just recently signed by both governments, is a significant step to further promote the bilateral cooperation between the Japan Self-Defense Forces and U.S. forces.

Another way that Japan is working to improve the effectiveness of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements is through the mutual exchange that is going on in the area of defense equipment and technology, such as the Japan-U.S. joint development of the next generation support fighter (F-2) for the Japan Self-Defense Forces. Japan continues to promote interoperability between the Japan Self-Defense Forces and U.S. forces.

Furthermore, the two governments are going to review the 1978 Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation and promote studies on bilateral cooperation in dealing with situations that may emerge in the area surrounding Japan.

Since the latter half of 1995, U.S. military facilities and areas in Okinawa have been under close scrutiny. Recently, this has become a very important issue in improving the credibility of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements.

It is a fact that a debate over the necessity of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements and the way in which the U.S. forces were stationed in Japan was sparked by the most regrettable rape incident that occurred last year in Okinawa. Still, it must be emphasized that even during the height of this incident, public opinion polls indicated the vast majority of the Japanese people continued to support the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. It is also a fact that the concentration of U.S. facilities on that island has imposed a great burden on its people since the war. The credibility of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements is strengthened when the Japanese Government and the U.S. Government can act in good faith in handling issues related to the consolidation, realignment, and reduction of U.S. facilities and areas in Okinawa. In fact, Japan and the United States have set up a Special Action Committee on Facilities and Areas in Okinawa ("SACO") for close consultations on these subjects.

Shortly before President Clinton visited Japan, Japanese Foreign Minister Ikeda, Defense Minister Usui, U.S. Defense Secretary Perry, and Ambassador Mondale agreed to, at the Security Consultative Committee, several significant initiatives on the basis of the discussions conducted at SACO. These measures will reduce the impact of the activities of U.S. forces on communities in Okinawa, while fully maintaining the capabilities and readiness of the U.S. forces in Japan. The total acreage of U.S. facilities and areas in Okinawa is estimated to decrease by ap-

proximately twenty percent. The measures thus far agreed upon by SACO also include a number of concrete steps such as noise reduction initiatives and adjustments to operational procedures. SACO is expected to make final recommendations by this fall.

B. Close Japan-U.S. Liaison in Responding to Individual Problems

Japan and the U.S. must maintain close consultation and operate in concert on all the issues involved in the Asian-Pacific region, not just on bilateral issues. One of the bigger of such issues that has arisen in recent years involves the regional security tensions caused by the North Korean nuclear development program. In addition to being a security issue for the countries in the region, this issue also involves global scale nuclear non-proliferation. As such, it merits serious attention by the world community. Close cooperation among Japan, South Korea, and the United States, however, is especially important here. Indeed, such cooperation is evident in the recent supply agreement between the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization ("KEDO") and North Korea for a light water reactor project. This agreement came about only as a result of the close cooperation of Japan, the United States, and South Korea with KEDO.

C. Attempts to Broaden the Regional Security Dialogue

Efforts to further develop the security dialogue on a bilateral, sub-regional, and regional basis in order to further stabilize the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region will grow in importance. Promoting such fora will require close cooperation between Japan and the United States.

The first example of such regional security cooperation is the ASEAN Regional Forum ("ARF") that was initiated in 1994. ARF held its second meeting in Brunei last August, where it agreed to take steps to move beyond "dialogue" to "concrete cooperation." For its part, Japan co-chaired with Indonesia a confidence building meeting among governments in January in Tokyo. A third ministerial level meeting in Jakarta in July should advance special cooperative initiatives.

In this connection, the role that APEC plays in the political stability of the Asia-Pacific region should be noted. APEC, which started in 1989, is primarily a forum for economic cooperation,

while ARF is the forum where political and security issues should be raised. As an economic forum, however, APEC seeks to secure economic prosperity as the foundation for security, and to deepen cooperative relations within the area. It also plays an important role as an informal forum for regional leaders to exchange views. Hopefully, both Japanese and Americans will take an interest in and encourage APEC's impact in these interrelated areas.

There also are movements within Southeast Asia to work for greater stability in the South China Sea area on a sub-regional basis. Northeastern Asia has its own forum for the discussion of regional security issues called the Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue, a private sector initiative attended by scholars and government officials from Japan, the United States, Russia, China, and South Korea in an individual capacity. North Korea expressed some interest, but has not taken part in the meetings. Japan encourages North Korea's participation in this forum as a means of building confidence among the region's countries.

Japan continues to advance and develop bilateral security and other dialogues with China and Russia. In January 1996, the Third Sino-Japanese Consultation on Security Matters was held where the two countries furthered their understanding of security related policies.

While the above represents just the tip of the iceberg in the ongoing regional efforts to improve dialogue on security, Japan remains determined to stay actively involved. Yet, even though these efforts are constructive ways to build dialogue and feelings of trust in the region, in guaranteeing Japan's overall safety and the stability of the region, there is still no substitute for the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. In other words, the presence of U.S. forces in Japan remains as one of the keys to the security of the Asia-Pacific region.

D. *Global Efforts*

More needs to be said about the importance of Japan-U.S. cooperation on the global security issue of nuclear non-proliferation, which is inextricably linked to the security of the Asia-Pacific region.

The proliferation of nuclear weapons, including weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, is an example of an

issue that must be approached on a global basis. It is not even necessary to point out the example of North Korean nuclear development to realize that nuclear non-proliferation is an issue of vital importance to the security of the Asia-Pacific region. Japan has been very active on the international scene in promoting the nuclear non-proliferation regime, and it must continue these efforts. An international approach is also required on the management of the former Soviet Union's nuclear assets. To date, Japan has closely cooperated with the United States and has contributed US\$100 million to support the dismantling of nuclear weapons in Russia and three other areas of the former Soviet Union. This weapons destruction program is crucial for a variety of reasons.

As was previously explained, the international situation in the areas surrounding Japan is not at all clear. Because of this, Japan firmly supports the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and U.S. deterrent force as the starting point for ensuring Japan's own security. On the other hand, Japan's ultimate goal always has been the abolition of nuclear weapons. As such, it believes that taking steady and realistic steps toward reducing nuclear armaments contributes positively to international security. From this perspective, Japan is looking forward to the effective implementation of the START II treaty between the United States and Russia, which provides further reductions in strategic nuclear weapons. Right now, the most pressing issue in global nuclear arms control and disarmament is reaching an early conclusion of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty ("CTBT"), again a matter in which close cooperation between the United States and Japan is required.

The prevention of the proliferation of other types of weapons of mass destruction is also of great importance. Japan has been very active in promoting the non-proliferation of chemical weapons, and even greater attention has been focused on this matter ever since the sarin gas attacks on Japan's subways in March of last year. No country is immune from the ravages of such an attack, and a legacy of these attacks must be the redoubling of efforts to eliminate the potential horrors of both chemical and biological weaponry and their potential use by terrorist groups. It is vitally important that the major countries, including the United States and Russia, quickly ratify the treaty to abolish chemical weapons.

As another example of Japan's contribution to the improvement of global security, Japan has dispatched Self-Defense Forces personnel to Cambodia, Mozambique, Zaire, and the Golan Heights to join the U.N. peacekeeping operations or humanitarian relief activities in these regions. In the coming years, it will become even more important for Japan and the United States to promote their cooperation in the field of U.N. peacekeeping operations and humanitarian international relief operations.

CONCLUSION

The preceding can only summarize the policies Japan has been implementing in order to secure peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and to improve the environment for global security. After the end of the Cold War, NATO, a collective security organization, and the OSCE, a regional security cooperation organization, have been groping for a new security architecture in Europe, together with other regional institutions. On the other hand, in the Asia-Pacific region, attempts to broaden the regional security dialogue have just been initiated recently.

The military and political roles played by the United States have maintained the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region, where the U.S. commitment and the presence of its forces under the Japan-U.S. security arrangements remain as a vital pillar. This feeling is widely shared among the Asian countries, including the ASEAN nations.

The recent State Visit of President Clinton to Japan signaled the importance of relations between our countries. Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Clinton had very candid discussions on various matters and issued two documents: "Message from Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Clinton to the Peoples of Japan and the United States" and "Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security Alliance for the 21st Century." Our stance on the security issues in this region is best represented in those two documents, particularly in the latter. In short, the document reaffirms several basic views which we share with the United States. First, it clearly describes why and how the Japan-U.S. security arrangements should play an important role in the Asia-Pacific region. Secondly, it points out the importance of the continued enhancement of the credibility of our security re-

lations. Thirdly, it discusses how our two countries should cooperate with each other in contributing to regional and global peace and stability.

The security declaration signed by Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Clinton should serve as an important foundation in dealing with the variety of security issues discussed in this Essay. In the years ahead, a fitting legacy for both Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Clinton—and for the Japanese and American people—would be to provide momentum toward resolution of the regional security issues.

The Joint Declaration is the first step on the way, which our two countries should take hand-in-hand, toward a better future in the twenty-first century.

*JAPAN-U.S. JOINT DECLARATION ON SECURITY
—ALLIANCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY—*

1. Today, the Prime Minister and the President celebrated one of the most successful bilateral relationships in history. The leaders took pride in the profound and positive contribution this relationship has made to world peace and regional stability and prosperity. The strong Alliance between Japan and the United States helped ensure peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region during the Cold War. Our Alliance continues to underlie the dynamic economic growth in this region. The two leaders agreed that the future security and prosperity of both Japan and the United States are tied inextricably to the future of the Asia-Pacific region.

The benefits of peace and prosperity that spring from the Alliance are due not only to the commitments of the two governments, but also to the contributions of the Japanese and American people who have shared the burden of securing freedom and democracy. The Prime Minister and the President expressed their profound gratitude to those who sustain the Alliance, especially those Japanese communities that host U.S. forces, and those Americans who, far from home, devote themselves to the defense of peace and freedom.

2. For more than a year, the two governments conducted an intensive review of the evolving political and security environment of the Asia-Pacific region and of various aspects of the Japan-U.S. security relationship. On the basis of this review, the Prime Minister and the President reaffirmed their commitment to the profound common values that guide our national policies: the maintenance of freedom, the pursuit of democracy, and respect for human rights. They agreed that the foundations for our cooperation remain firm, and that this partnership will remain vital in the twenty-first century.

THE REGIONAL OUTLOOK

3. Since the end of the Cold War, the possibility of global armed conflict has receded. The last few years have seen expanded political and security dialogue among countries of the region. Respect for democratic principles is growing. Prosperity is more widespread than at any other time in history, and we are witness-

ing the emergence of an Asia-Pacific community. The Asia-Pacific region has become the most dynamic area of the globe.

At the same time, instability and uncertainty persist in the region. Tensions continue on the Korean Peninsula. There are still heavy concentrations of military force, including nuclear arsenals. Unresolved territorial disputes, potential regional conflicts, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery all constitute sources of instability.

THE JAPAN-U.S. ALLIANCE AND THE TREATY OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND SECURITY

4. The Prime Minister and the President underscored the importance of promoting stability in this region and dealing with the security challenges facing both countries.

In this regard, the Prime Minister and the President reiterated the significant value of the Alliance between Japan and the United States. They reaffirmed that the Japan-U.S. security relationship, based on the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between Japan and the United States of America, remains the cornerstone for achieving common security objectives, and for maintaining a stable and prosperous environment for the Asia-Pacific region as we enter the twenty-first century.

(a) The Prime Minister confirmed Japan's fundamental defense policy as articulated in its new "National Defense Program Outline" adopted in November, 1995, which underscored that the Japanese defense capabilities should play appropriate roles in the security environment after the Cold War. The Prime Minister and the President agreed that the most effective framework for the defense of Japan is close defense cooperation between the two countries. This cooperation is based on a combination of appropriate defense capabilities for the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. The leaders again confirmed that U.S. deterrence under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security remains the guarantee for Japan's security.

(b) The Prime Minister and the President agreed that continued U.S. military presence is also essential for preserving peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The leaders shared the common recognition that the Japan-U.S. security relation-

ship forms an essential pillar which supports the positive regional engagement of the U.S.

The President emphasized the U.S. commitment to the defense of Japan as well as to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. He noted that there has been some adjustment of U.S. forces in the Asia-Pacific region since the end of the Cold War. On the basis of a thorough assessment, the United States reaffirmed that meeting its commitments in the prevailing security environment requires the maintenance of its current force structure of about 100,000 forward deployed military personnel in the region, including about the current level in Japan.

(c) The Prime Minister welcomed the U.S. determination to remain a stable and steadfast presence in the region. He reconfirmed that Japan would continue appropriate contributions for the maintenance of U.S. forces in Japan, such as through the provision of facilities and areas in accordance with the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security and Host Nation Support. The President expressed U.S. appreciation for Japan's contributions, and welcomed the conclusion of the new Special Measures Agreement which provides financial support for U.S. forces stationed in Japan.

BILATERAL COOPERATION UNDER THE JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY RELATIONSHIP

5. The Prime Minister and the President, with the objective of enhancing the credibility of this vital security relationship, agreed to undertake efforts to advance cooperation in the following areas.

(a) Recognizing that close bilateral defense cooperation is a central element of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, both governments agreed that continued close consultation is essential. Both governments will further enhance the exchange of information and views on the international situation, in particular the Asia-Pacific region. At the same time, in response to the changes which may arise in the international security environment, both governments will continue to consult closely on defense policies and military postures, including the U.S. force structure in Japan, which will best meet their requirements.

(b) The Prime Minister and the President agreed to initiate a review of the 1978 Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Coopera-

tion to build upon the close working relationship already established between Japan and the United States.

The two leaders agreed on the necessity to promote bilateral policy coordination, including studies on bilateral cooperation in dealing with situations that may emerge in the areas surrounding Japan and which will have an important influence on the peace and security of Japan.

(c) The Prime Minister and the President welcomed the April 15, 1996 signature of the Agreement Between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America Concerning Reciprocal Provision of Logistic Support, Supplies and Services Between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and expressed their hope that this Agreement will further promote the bilateral cooperative relationship.

(d) Noting the importance of interoperability in all facets of cooperation between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the U.S. forces, the two governments will enhance mutual exchange in the areas of technology and equipment, including bilateral cooperative research and development of equipment such as the support fighter (F-2).

(e) The two governments recognized that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery has important implications for their common security. They will work together to prevent proliferation and will continue to cooperate in the ongoing study on ballistic missile defense.

6. The Prime Minister and the President recognized that the broad support and understanding of the Japanese people are indispensable for the smooth stationing of U.S. forces in Japan, which is the core element of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. The two leaders agreed that both governments will make every effort to deal with various issues related to the presence and status of U.S. forces. They also agreed to make further efforts to enhance mutual understanding between U.S. forces and local Japanese communities.

In particular, with respect to Okinawa, where U.S. facilities and areas are highly concentrated, the Prime Minister and the President reconfirmed their determination to carry out steps to consolidate, realign, and reduce U.S. facilities and areas consistent with the objectives of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and

Security. In this respect, the two leaders took satisfaction in the significant progress which has been made so far through the "Special Action Committee on Okinawa" (SACO), and welcomed the far reaching measures outlined in the SACO Interim Report of April 15, 1996. They expressed their firm commitment to achieve a successful conclusion of the SACO process by November 1996.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

7. The Prime Minister and the President agreed that the two governments will jointly and individually strive to achieve a more peaceful and stable security environment in the Asia-Pacific region. In this regard, the two leaders recognized that the engagement of the United States in the region, supported by the Japan-U.S. security relationship, constitutes the foundation for such efforts.

The two leaders stressed the importance of peaceful resolution of problems in the region. They emphasized that it is extremely important for the stability and prosperity of the region that China play a positive and constructive role, and, in this context, stressed the interest of both countries in furthering cooperation with China. Russia's ongoing process of reform contributes to regional and global stability, and merits continued encouragement and cooperation. The leaders also stated that full normalization of Japan-Russia relations based on the Tokyo Declaration is important to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. They noted also that stability on the Korean Peninsula is vitally important to Japan and the United States and reaffirmed that both countries will continue to make every effort in this regard, in close cooperation with the Republic of Korea.

The Prime Minister and the President reaffirmed that the two governments will continue working jointly and with other countries in the region to further develop multilateral regional security dialogues and cooperation mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, and eventually, security dialogues regarding Northeast Asia.

GLOBAL COOPERATION

8. The Prime Minister and the President recognized that the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security is the core of the

Japan-U.S. Alliance, and underlies the mutual confidence that constitutes the foundation for bilateral cooperation on global issues.

The Prime Minister and the President agreed that the two governments will strengthen their cooperation in support of the United Nations and other international organizations through activities such as peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations.

Both governments will coordinate their policies and cooperate on issues such as arms control and disarmament, including acceleration of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) negotiations and the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. The two leaders agreed that cooperation in the United Nations and APEC, and on issues such as the North Korean nuclear problem, the Middle East peace process, and the peace implementation process in the former Yugoslavia, helps to build the kind of world that promotes our shared interests and values.

CONCLUSION

9. In concluding, the Prime Minister and the President agreed that the three legs of the Japan-U.S. relationship—security, political, and economic—are based on shared values and interests and rest on the mutual confidence embodied in the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security. The Prime Minister and the President reaffirmed their strong determination, on the eve of the twenty-first century, to build on the successful history of security cooperation and to work hand-in-hand to secure peace and prosperity for future generations.

April 17, 1996 Tokyo

Prime Minister of Japan

President of the United States