



Afternoon Alert - Friday, October 28, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that a UN General Assembly committee adopted a resolution seeking the establishment of a new treaty to ban the use of nuclear weapons. Noting that Japan voted against the resolution together with nuclear powers such as the U.S., the network said criticism against Japan, the only nation to have experienced atomic bombing, is increasing. All commercial networks led with reports that a small truck plowed into a group of primary school students in Yokohama this morning, killing a six-year-old boy and injuring several others.

INTERNATIONAL

Japan votes against nuclear arms ban resolution

All networks reported at noon that Japan voted against a resolution seeking the establishment of a treaty to ban the use of nuclear arms at a UN committee on Thursday. NHK quoted FM Kishida as telling reporters this morning: "The treaty does not match our basic stance of seeking a world without nuclear weapons, and encourages conflict and deepens the rift between the nuclear powers and non-nuclear powers... If the negotiations begin, we will make our point from the standpoint of placing importance on cooperation between the nuclear powers and non-nuclear powers." NHK said, however, that non-nuclear powers and NGOs are stepping up their criticism of Japan, which has been calling for nuclear abolition as the only nation to have suffered atomic bombing. The network said while the negotiations are set to begin next March if the resolution is adopted at the UN General

Assembly in December, Japan is expected to face difficulties. According to the network, atomic bomb survivors have expressed their disappointment to the Japanese government.

Duterte's "opportunistic" diplomacy to be tested

A foreign news reporter commented on NHK's "News 7" that the main purpose of Philippine President Duterte's visits to foreign nations is to obtain economic assistance from them. Duterte told Chinese President Xi that he will seek to resolve the South China Sea issue through dialogue. The reporter speculated that this remark was welcomed by Beijing since it wants to reduce U.S. and Japanese involvement in the South China Sea. However, the Philippine leader assured Prime Minister Abe during their meeting in Tokyo that he is on Japan's side. Duterte successfully obtained massive amounts of economic assistance from both Japan and China as a result. Nevertheless, the Philippine president made critical comments about the United States both in Beijing and Tokyo. The reporter conjectured that Duterte's "opportunistic" diplomacy will be tested in the future.

- [Duterte attends drill by Japan Coast Guard](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Cartoon: Duterte](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Duterte](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan wary of South Korean opposition to GSOMIA](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan, U.S., S. Korea agree to put more pressure on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [High-ranking Japan, U.S. diplomats agree to increase pressure on North Korea](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan to provide "30 billion yen in yen loans" to Jordan](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan, Taiwan to hold first meeting on maritime issues on Oct. 31](#) (Mainichi)
- [Indian PM Modi to visit Japan Nov. 10-12, hold summit with Abe](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Putin nixes time limit for peace treaty talks with Japan](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

Okinawa assembly to adopt protest resolution over derogatory remarks by police

TBS reported at noon that the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly is expected to adopt a resolution of protest against the Osaka police officers who made derogatory remarks about protesters at the Northern Training Area in Okinawa. According to the network, the resolution states that "police

officers should sincerely accept the fact that a great deal of criticism is being voiced in Okinawa and elsewhere and that distrust is spreading." Meanwhile, the network said the LDP, an opposition party in Okinawa, has submitted a written opinion saying that the resolution is "one-sided" in that it ignores the hurtful comments made about the police by the protesters.

- [LDP to resume discussions to regulate land purchase using foreign capital](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Article 9](#) (Akahata)

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Kennedy expresses hope that people of Okinawan heritage will help strengthen U.S.-Japan relations

Ryukyu Shimpo reported online that on Friday in Naha Ambassador Kennedy made remarks at a gathering of leaders of associations abroad of people of Okinawan heritage. They are visiting Okinawa to attend the 6th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival, an event held every five years to bring together people of Okinawan heritage. The paper quoted the Ambassador as saying that she hopes they will help strengthen U.S.-Japan relations. The Ambassador closed her remarks by saying "thank you" in the Okinawa dialect. Okinawa Vice Governor Ageda gave the Ambassador a catalog of an exhibition of colorful *bingata* resist-dyed fabrics from Okinawa that will open at the Textile Museum at George Washington University on Nov. 5.

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on October 27](#) (Nikkei)
- [PM Abe faces high hurdles for third term as LDP president](#) (Nikkei)
- [Wakasa joins LDP parliamentary group](#) (Asahi)
- [Nukaga busy trying to dispel rumor that he may step down as faction chief](#) (Mainichi)
- [Nikai dines with JTUC-RENGO president](#) (Asahi)
- [LDP takes advantage of backlash against DP-JCP cooperation to woo labor group](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: Renho](#) (Asahi)
- [DP launches committee on social security, fiscal restructuring](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Deliberations at Lower House Constitution Commission to resume on Nov. 10](#) (Asahi)
- [Advisory panel to consult with 16 experts, including those cautious about abdication](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House special committee on TPP, Oct. 27](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [IWC assessment to be required for research whaling](#) (Mainichi)
- [National Tax Agency to expand monitoring of ultra-wealthy for tax avoidance](#) (Tokyo Shimbun Evening edition)
- [Japan gov't wants to extend child care leave, allocate some time to dads](#) (The Mainichi)
- [France says ASTRID should be ready for operation after 2033](#) (Mainichi)
- [METI aims to develop fast breeder domestically on top of project with France](#) (Yomiuri)

SCIENCE

- [Gov't to draw up green bond guidelines to stimulate environment-friendly investment](#) (Asahi)

SOCIETY

- [Subsidies to address child poverty only offered to one in six organizations](#) (Mainichi)
- [53 companies certified as "Gold" in providing friendly environment to sexual minorities](#) (Asahi)

OPINION POLLS

- [Mainichi Shimbun's 70th survey on reading](#) (Mainichi)
- [Opinion poll & results of the Mainichi Shimbun's 70th survey on reading](#) (Mainichi)

TV PROGRAMS

Philippine President Duterte

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Thursday reported on Philippine President Duterte, who is currently visiting Japan. Duterte is causing controversy due to his extreme remarks toward the U.S. and consent for extrajudicial killings of suspected drug dealers, while maintaining high popularity at home. The program aired a one-on-one interview with the president, who refrained from clearly saying whether he hates the U.S. or not. However, a close aide of his said that Duterte developed his anti-U.S. sentiment during the U.S. occupation of the Philippines, during which many people were killed. He said an incident in which an American bombed a hotel in Davao but was not brought to justice in the Philippines had a profound effect on him and gave him the idea that the Philippines should be a truly independent nation. University of Tokyo Professor Kiichi Fujiwara said Duterte represents one of the "pitfalls of democracy" in that it allows leaders elected by the people to do whatever they want, adding that "populism" is a growing trend in the Philippines.