



Afternoon Alert - Monday, November 28, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that the leaders of the ruling parties will meet this afternoon to make a decision on extending the current Diet session until Nov. 30. Other top news included a report on the death of Fidel Castro.

OPINION POLLS

Poll shows Japanese perplexed by Trump's election

TV Asahi reported at noon on the results of its opinion survey conducted over the weekend, which showed that 48% welcomed the meeting between PM Abe and President-elect Trump in New York, while 33% did not. The network said while 45% of respondents were "not sure" how Trump's election will affect Japan, 44% said they think it will have a negative impact and 11% said they think it will have a positive impact. On the TPP, 39% expressed support for obtaining approval during the current Diet session, 31% expressed disapproval, and 30% said they don't know. Regarding allowing the SDF deployed in South Sudan to carry out "rush to the rescue" operations, 51% of respondents were not supportive and 34% were supportive. Public approval for the Abe cabinet was 50.0%, up 0.5 points from last month, and nonsupport was 30.7%, up 1.3 points.

- **86% say there is no need to increase Japan's host nation support, Kyodo News poll** (Tokyo Shimbun)

- [Kyodo News opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [56% say it is “not good” that Trump was elected U.S. president, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [Public understanding for key administration policies lacking, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)

SECURITY

Trump administration to support Futenma relocation plan

Sunday's Okinawa Times led with a report from Washington claiming that a draft document on the incoming Trump administration's foreign and security policies includes language supporting the plan to build the FRF off Camp Schwab. The draft, which was reportedly based on a recommendation by the Heritage Foundation and written by National Security Adviser-designate Michael Flynn, states: "We continue to support the present Okinawa Marines relocation plan that the U.S. and the Japanese governments are committed to.... Remarkable progress has been made in the FRF construction and the realignment and consolidation of existing bases and facilities." The document also mentions the incoming Republican administration's policy of enhancing the U.S. presence in Asia by steadily implementing the present force realignment initiatives, including the transfer of Marines to Guam and Hawaii from Okinawa. The draft will be finalized by the new secretary of defense.

In an accompanying article, the daily said that since many officials in the Trump transition team are supporters of the Marines, the chances are high that the draft will be adopted as is. According to a source close to Vice President-elect Pence, a strong proponent of strengthening the USMC, the transition team has no objections to the present Henoko plan financed by the Japanese government. The paper said that although it is highly unlikely that the next U.S. administration will conduct a review of the Futenma relocation plan, some Okinawa officials are calling for Governor Onaga to visit Washington at an early date to try to make that happen.

INTERNATIONAL

- [Commentary: Trump adviser meeting pays off for Suga](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Corporate Japan warily eyes Trump's Mexico plans](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Japan-ROK military intel accord will enhance deterrence against N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)

- [GOJ source: Japan, Russia vice foreign ministers held “unofficial” talks on Nov. 16](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP exec: Russia’s attitude on northern territories appears to have changed](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, Russia to strengthen ties by encouraging mutual tourism](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Ivanka as ambassador? Tabloid speculation shows deep domestic interest despite unlikely post](#) (The Japan Times)

ECONOMY

- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House special committee on TPP, Nov. 24](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Deputy CCS says Japan will not enter into bilateral trade talks with U.S. easily](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe vows to win TPP ratification](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan forced to rethink TPP strategy](#) (The Japan News)
- [CCS Suga: Japan to lead efforts to persuade U.S. to remain in TPP](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [U.S. withdrawal from TPP to require drastic review of TPP budget allocations](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Trump’s intention to pull U.S. out of TPP the wrong decision](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Abe and the TPP](#) (Asahi)
- [Japanese farming reforms take aim at co-ops’ shortcomings](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Keeping reform plans on track key for Japan’s farm sector](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Zen-Noh reform requires determined effort from all concerned parties](#) (The Japan News)
- [Tokyo eyes ‘womenomics’ gains from tax move](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [LDP agrees on 1.5 mil. yen income cap for spousal tax deduction](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Fukushima decommissioning costs to soar](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Overwork sanctioned by both firms and unions, with dim prospects for state intervention: expert](#) (The Japan Times)

+POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on November 27](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on November 26](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on November 25](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on November 24](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on November 22–23](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on November 21–22](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan aims to curb new debt in fiscal 2017 as spending edges up](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Corporate donations help Japan's LDP to top party revenue ranking in 2015](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan's 3 Megabank Groups Resume Donations to LDP](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan quietly prepares for worst from North Korea](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Japan-S. Korea intelligence pact will help counter N. Korea nuclear threat](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Japan-ROK military intel accord will enhance deterrence against N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Russian naval chopper approaches Senkaku Islands](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Upcoming base return does little to reduce burden on Okinawa](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Top MSDF officer exerted pressure over selection of next helicopters](#) (Kyodo News)

- [GSDF cyberattacked](#) (Sankei)
- [Tenure of Chief of Staff of Joint Staff Katsutoshi Kawano extended by six months](#) (Mainichi)
- [SDF recruitment flyer calls Defense Minister Inada “not dependable”](#) (Kyodo News)
- [U.S. airman arrested in Okinawa for DUI](#) (Okinawa Times)

SOCIETY

- [Japan leaves unapproved asylum seekers and kids born in-country with dire choices](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Refugee Applications in Japan Jan.-Sept. Exceed 7,900](#) (Jiji Press)

TV PROGRAMS

Ruling official vows to obtain Diet approval for TPP

NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" featured a live debate by policy affairs chiefs of major political parties on key agenda items in the ongoing Diet session, including pension reform, the TPP, and "rush to the rescue" operations by SDF personnel in South Sudan. In response to opposition representatives' insistence that the GOJ should give up on enacting the TPP legislation given that President-elect Trump has made clear his intention to withdraw from the regional free trade deal, LDP Policy Research Council Chairperson Motegi emphasized the importance of obtaining parliamentary approval during the current Diet session to demonstrate Japan's strong commitment to advancing free trade and reining in protectionism irrespective of the next U.S. administration's trade policy.

Panama Papers

Sunday evening's "NHK Special" reported on the Panama Papers, saying it was found that the names of more than 700 Japanese nationals, including CEOs, lawyers, doctors, and former diplomats, were included in the documents. When NHK participated in a project led by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) in June, it discovered the existence of an enormous amount of files pertaining to Japan. The program contacted the Japanese nationals included in the Panama Papers and discovered that their personal information had been stolen and sent to Hong Kong to create paper companies. The program also reported on the "alchemy" of powerful leaders and how they worked with journalists.

