



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, January 11, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NTV and Fuji TV led with reports that a proposal is being discussed within the GOJ for Crown Prince Naruhito to ascend the throne on Jan. 1, 2019. NHK and TBS led with reports on severe blizzards in northern Japan today. TV Asahi gave top play to President Obama's farewell speech in Chicago.

INTERNATIONAL

Flynn says Trump administration to value alliances

NHK reported this afternoon that National Security Advisor-designate Michael Flynn delivered a speech in Washington on Tuesday, during which he stressed that the Trump administration will continue to value relationships with U.S. allies. Flynn was quoted as saying: "We will keep in mind the sacrifices and deep commitments that many of our allies and our partners have made on behalf of our security and our prosperity.... Alliances are one of the great tools that we have, and the strengths of those alliances magnify our own strengths." The network said President-elect Trump has raised concerns about security policy by demanding that U.S. allies such as Japan pay more for the stationing of U.S. troops, adding that Flynn's remarks are apparently aimed at dispelling such concerns.

Trump's broadsides reverberate through Japan

Tuesday's nightly news programs highlighted the repercussions of President-elect Trump's tweets, including Toyota's unexpected announcement on investing \$10 billion in the U.S. over the next five years, noting that it is discomfiting that such brief messages posted by a world leader have resonated so strongly across the globe. Sophia University media specialist Kazuhiro Maeshima said

on NHK's "News Watch 9" that many of Trump's tweets might be "bluffs" intended to please his core constituents in the "rust belt." He advised Japanese companies not to overreact to tweets by Trump, who as a successful businessman is willing to be flexible in the end to cut a deal.

On TV-Asahi's "Hodo Station," former Kyodo News managing editor Goto warned Prime Minister Abe against trying to arrange a summit with Trump soon after his inauguration, given that it will probably still be unclear at that point what kind of approach the Trump administration will take vis-à-vis China, Russia, and other countries. Projecting that the outline of the next U.S. administration's foreign policy will emerge around June, the journalist recommended that Abe not meet with Trump before the summer so that the Japanese leader can adjust his diplomacy, if necessary, to take into account any changes in Washington's Asia policy.

TBS's noontime infotainment program today took up a range of controversies unleashed by the President-elect's online messages, finding that most of his tweets have contained language that is "offensive," "provocative," or "self-aggrandizing" The panelists questioned Trump's temperament, with one saying: "His apparent short temper makes me nervous because he will soon have control over America's nuclear briefcase."

Chinese flattop transits Taiwan Strait

NHK reported at noon that the Taiwanese defense ministry announced this morning that China's aircraft carrier was heading north through the Taiwan Strait this morning, circling the island of Taiwan. According to the network, the local media is reporting that the move is aimed at sending a message to Taiwanese leader Tsai Ing-wen, who is not supportive of the One-China principle. The Chinese carrier is expected to return to a Chinese port.

- [Survey of newspaper editorials on Abe's visit to Pearl Harbor](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Toughness needed from Abe over U.S., Russia, China / Utilize experience for national interests](#) (The Japan News)
- [Stronger Japan-U.S. alliance hinges on Trump's "awareness": Abe](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Record number of Russian vessels spotted around Japan](#) (Yomiuri)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 10](#) (Nikkei)
- [Key legislative bills to be deliberated at ordinary Diet session](#) (Mainichi)
- [Nikai intends to enact "conspiracy legislation" during this Diet session](#) (Sankei)

- [Interview: Nikai speaks about Abe's third term as LDP president, general election, Constitution, Koike](#) (Nikkei)
- [DP's Noda to pledge to secure 5 trillion yen for core policy from permanent revenue sources](#) (Nikkei)

SECURITY

[Massive drilling vessel to be deployed off Camp Schwab](#)

Today's Okinawa Times front-paged the disclosure by a GOJ source that the Okinawa Defense Bureau is planning to mobilize this week one of the largest drilling vessels in the country for conducting a seabed survey off the coast of Camp Schwab in preparation for the early start of the FRF construction. By using the large vessel, the bureau is hoping to complete the survey by the end of February so that the construction work, including reclamation, can be commenced without additional delays.

ECONOMY

- [Strengthen competitiveness toward "profitable agriculture"](#) (Sankei)
- [Start of the era of agricultural reform](#) (Mainichi)
- [Toshiba's biggest lenders promise conditional support](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Nuclear power plants to be sticking point in four opposition parties' policy coordination](#) (Yomiuri)

SCIENCE

- [GE revamps jet engines with innovative composites](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [AI steals jobs](#) (Sankei)

EDUCATION

- [Abe cites "free education" as constitutional amendment topic](#) (Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

[Poll: Half of Japanese support temporary recall of envoy from ROK](#)

NHK aired the results of its latest monthly public opinion survey, finding that 50% of respondents gave a positive assessment to the Abe administration's decision to recall its ambassador to South Korea in response to the installation of a comfort woman statue in Busan. About 9% disapproved of it. Four out of five appreciated Prime Minister Abe's joint visit to Pearl Harbor with President Obama last month. Some 40% were pessimistic about U.S.-Japan relations under the incoming Trump administration, while only 5% projected that bilateral ties will improve. About 34% predicted no change in the bilateral ties. While 53% welcomed the recent agreement between Abe and Russian President Putin to start "joint economic activities" in the Northern Territories, 48% did not think it will lead to progress in negotiations on the territorial dispute.

TV PROGRAMS

Thriving market for second-hand goods

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on the issue of cleaning up the clutter in elderly people's homes. The program said the market for second-hand goods is thriving in Japan and there are special apps for selling such items. According to the program, many second-hand goods from Japan are sold overseas and sometimes things that appear to have no value are sold for surprisingly high prices.

AMBASSADOR

- [2016 ranking of "Front Runner" profiles](#) (Asahi)

