



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, January 31, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All networks led with reports on the confusion over President Trump's executive order on immigration. NHK and NTV highlighted President Trump's dismissal of Acting Attorney General Yates after she told Justice Department officials not to defend the president's executive order that suspends immigration from seven majority-Muslim countries. TBS and Fuji TV reported that President Trump defended his immigration policy and blamed an airline system outage and protests for the confusion. TV Asahi highlighted the first statement released by President Obama since leaving the White House, in which he indirectly criticized President Trump's travel ban.

## SECURITY

### Secretary Mattis has no intention to roll out major policy changes while in Japan

NHK reported that Pentagon spokesperson Davis told reporters on Monday that Secretary of Defense Mattis, who will visit Japan this week, has no intention to present major policy changes during his trip. Davis reportedly said that Japan and South Korea are the most important allies of the U.S. and are essential to the stability of the Asia Pacific region. He also said Secretary Mattis "has no intention to roll out major policy changes during the visit." Davis also said the Secretary will exchange views with his counterparts about security issues, including China and North Korea. NHK reported that a source close to the governments of the U.S. and Japan told the network that the issue of having Japan pay more for hosting U.S. troops is not on the agenda for the visit.

### Okinawa protesters express mixed feelings about governor's U.S. trip

Concerning Governor Onaga's visit to the U.S. starting today, Okinawa Times wrote that protesters staging sit-in rallies in front of the Camp Schwab gate expressed both expectations and doubts. The leader of a citizen's group expressed hope that the governor will directly convey the sentiments of the Okinawan people to the U.S. government because President Trump probably has no knowledge of the situation in Okinawa and the GOJ apparently has no intention to explain Okinawa's situation to the new U.S. government. Another leading activist expressed hope that the governor will convey to the American people the local citizens' determination to continue to protest against the FRF construction at Henoko. However, a resident in central Okinawa told the paper that the visit is useless because nobody knows who the governor will be able to meet during his trip to Washington.

### **Osprey "crashes" in Yemen**

With a headline reading "Osprey makes failed landing," Okinawa Times wrote that the Department of Defense announced that one U.S. service member was killed and three others were injured during a raid against Al Qaeda fighters in Yemen in the early morning of Jan. 29, noting that this marked the first combat death under the Trump administration. The paper added that an MV-22 Osprey, which was called in to evacuate the wounded American soldiers, made a failed landing, in which another service member was injured. Ryukyu Shimpo also reported on the incident, quoting U.S. media reports as saying that an MV-22 Osprey made a "hard landing" or "crashed" in Yemen.

- [University websites hacked, Education Ministry urges caution](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan and U.S. differ over Japan's share of USFJ cost](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Broadcaster betrayed ethics in anti-U.S. bases coverage](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Summit with President Trump to involve political risks to Abe**

TV Asahi's "Hodo Station" aired a 20-minute report on the confusion in the U.S. and around the world caused by President Trump's executive order on immigration. Doshisha University Professor Masanori Naito commented that President Trump's executive order will not make the U.S. safer and might instead increase the threat of terrorism. Kenji Goto, a Kyodo News editorial writer and regular commentator to the news show, commented on Prime Minister Abe's evasive remarks during an Upper House Budget Committee session on Monday. Goto said: "Many European leaders criticized President Trump's immigration policy, but Prime Minister Abe has remained evasive. I wonder whether this attitude will be acceptable to the international community for someone who considers himself to be a 'world leader. The premier stated after his first meeting with Trump last November that Trump is a leader whom he can trust. I wonder if President Trump is really a trustworthy leader. The premier will have to take political risks in his meeting with President Trump on Feb. 10 in view of

the growing worldwide criticism of his immigration policy. The meeting will test the prime minister's responsibility as a world leader.”.

### **Protest against President's immigration order held near U.S. Embassy**

NTV reported at noon that about 30 American citizens and others living in Japan gathered near the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo this morning to protest President Trump's executive order on immigration. One of the protestors was quoted as saying in an interview: "I'm here because these policies that Trump is making are against the Constitution and against what America stands for. People should not remain silent, people need to stand up." Another protestor said in Japanese: "We don't need a wall. America and other nations should build a bridge." NHK, TBS, and Fuji TV carried similar stories.

### **Abe mum on U.S. immigration order out of deference to President Trump**

Kyodo wrote that Prime Minister Abe on Monday did not make any specific comment on President Trump's controversial executive order on immigration probably to avoid displeasing the U.S. leader ahead of their bilateral meeting scheduled for Feb. 10 in Washington. The wire service quoted a diplomatic source as saying: "Japan wants to avoid making waves prior to the summit as much as possible." Pointing out that many European leaders have voiced strong opposition to the executive order, the article said the premier's "wait-and-see" attitude may give the impression that the Abe administration is treating human rights issues lightly and that he may be criticized for failing to follow through with the basic principle of his diplomacy to respect universal values including human rights.

### **TV pundits criticize Abe for being ambiguous about U.S. immigration order**

Commercial broadcasters' infotainment shows at noon took up the controversy unleashed by President Trump's immigration order, highlighting Prime Minister Abe's evasive comment made at the parliament yesterday. They contrasted Abe's ambiguity with the strong opposition expressed by European and other world leaders, with all the panelists expressing regret that the Japanese leader has failed to take a concerted line with the international community in condemning the U.S. policy. Waseda University Graduate School Professor Haruna said the absence of remarks by Abe calling for President Trump to respect human rights has left the impression that Tokyo is "blindly following" Washington. Waseda University Adjunct Professor Nakabayashi explained that the fact that Japan only accepts a handful of refugees a year probably makes it difficult for the premier to criticize the U.S. immigration policy. Another commentator insisted that Abe should convey the Japanese people's disapproval of the U.S. leader's failure to respect basic human rights.

- [Weekly internet trends: More Japanese respond to Trump's tweets](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Trump trade adviser sees bilateral deals replacing TPP](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [\*\*Abe seeks help from industry bigshot as tough auto talks loom\*\*](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [\*\*Editorial: Trump's "war" with the media evokes image of a dictatorship\*\*](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [\*\*Editorial: Specific, concrete steps essential to reinforce Japan-U.S. alliance\*\*](#) (The Japan News)
- [\*\*Editorial: Trump's travel ban defies what makes America great\*\*](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [\*\*N. Korea viewed as China's No. 2 threat after U.S.: China document\*\*](#) (Kyodo News)

## **ECONOMY**

### **USTR issues notification of official withdrawal from TPP**

Several networks reported this morning that the USTR has informed New Zealand that the U.S. "does not intend to become a party to the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement" following the executive order signed on Jan. 23 by President Trump. According to NHK, the USTR asked New Zealand, the depository of the agreement, to notify the other TPP signatories, and said that the U.S. "remains committed to taking measures for more efficient markets and higher levels of economic growth" and that it "looks forward to further discussions as to how to achieve these goals." The network said President Trump is hoping to conclude bilateral trade deals with other nations, and is expected to discuss the matter with Prime Minister Abe during their planned summit at the White House on Feb. 10.

- [\*\*Toyota jolted by global challenges\*\*](#) (Nikkei business)
- [\*\*Japanese business community concerned about U.S. immigration restrictions\*\*](#) (Yomiuri)
- [\*\*Has Abenomics decreased income disparity or not?\*\*](#) (Asahi)
- [\*\*Possible nuclear fuel debris sighted under damaged Fukushima reactor\*\*](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [\*\*Democratic Party to draw up bill on eliminating nuclear plants\*\*](#) (Asahi)

## **POLITICS**

- [\*\*Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 30\*\*](#) (Nikkei)

- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House Budget Committee, Jan. 30](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe on the defensive in Diet over how to deal with Trump](#) (Sankei)
- [Ruling parties, opposition clash over “conspiracy law” before submission to Diet](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Tokyo governor adopts dual strategy toward LDP](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Kazamidori column: Will the wave of populism hit Japan?](#) (Nikkei)

## OPINION POLLS

- [84% are concerned about Trump administration, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Women take harsher view of President Trump, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [77% say South Korea cannot be trusted, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Sankei Shimbun](#) (Sankei)
- [Kyodo News opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## SCIENCE

- [Terumo to build new catheter development site in Shizuoka](#) (Nikkei)

## EDUCATION

- [Opinion: Financial aid for education is investment in the future](#) (Mainichi)

## SOCIETY

- [Daily newspaper circulation dropped by nearly 1 million in 2016](#) (FACTA)

## TV PROGRAMS

### [\*\*China spends large amounts of money on foreign soccer players\*\*](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Monday reported on China's extravagant spending to hire foreign soccer players and coaches, adding that one Chinese company is now trying to get Cristiano Ronaldo to come to China. The program said soccer is becoming increasingly popular in China and

there are now about 100 million soccer fans in the nation. The Chinese government reportedly views soccer as one of China's growth industries, adding that Chinese President Xi is hoping that China will one day be able to host, qualify for, and win the World Cup.

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