



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, May 16, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters led with reports that what appears to be the wreckage of the GSDF aircraft that went missing yesterday was discovered in the mountains of Hokuto, Hokkaido, today.

INTERNATIONAL

Kawai stresses need for pressure on North Korea instead of dialogue

NHK reported on its website that Katsuyuki Kawai, special advisor to the prime minister, visited Washington and met with senior members of the Trump administration on Monday. Kawai reportedly stressed the importance of a stronger U.S.-Japan alliance to respond to North Korea, pointing out that "now is not the time to hold dialogue but to increase pressure." According to the network, Kawai met with Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs Paul Teller and Heritage Foundation CEO Edwin Feulner. Kawai also reportedly stressed the importance of cooperation between the U.S. and Japan as well as trilateral cooperation between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea's new administration. The network said Special Assistant Teller reportedly expressed hope to deepen the partnership between the U.S. and Japan based on the trust relationship between PM Abe and President Trump. The network added that Kawai is expected to meet with Republican lawmakers on Tuesday to exchange views on North Korea policy.

Secretary Tillerson, FM Kishida confirm close cooperation on DPRK

All networks reported at noon that Secretary of State Tillerson and Foreign Minister Kishida held a 20-minute teleconference this morning, during which they confirmed close cooperation in strengthening pressure on North Korea. According to NHK, Kishida said: "The ballistic missile launch

was unacceptable. We need to respond to North Korea in a resolute manner. There is no point in holding dialogue for the sake of dialogue. We need to apply pressure on North Korea now." The network said the Secretary expressed a similar view. The two ministers also reportedly agreed to cooperate closely with the new South Korean administration and to urge China to play a greater role.

NHK reported that the UN Security Council released a press statement strongly condemning North Korea's ballistic missile launch and urging all nations to thoroughly implement the sanctions resolutions against the North. The network said the UNSC is expected to hold an emergency meeting tomorrow morning, Japan time, to discuss concrete measures to prevent North Korean provocations.

LDP Secretary General Nikai meets with Chinese President Xi

NHK, NTV, Fuji TV, and TV Asahi reported at noon that LDP Secretary General Nikai met with Chinese President Xi this morning in Beijing. At the onset of the meeting, President Xi reportedly expressed hope to "remove obstacles to bilateral rapprochement and lead Japan-China relations in the right direction for the future in view of history." In response, Nikai reportedly said: "The greatest takeaway from my visit is that everyone is more confident that if two nations cooperate, we can do anything." NHK said Nikai also expressed the intention to work closely with China to resolve the North Korea issue. He also reportedly delivered a letter from Prime Minister Abe to President Xi.

- [Lighthizer to attend APEC trade chiefs' meeting](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Xi considers high-level leader visit to Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Xi tells Japanese lawmaker he wants to improve ties](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan-India nuclear pact clears Japan's lower house](#) (Kyodo News)
- [N. Korean missile fell within Japan's aerial defense zone: Inada](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan wants new UN sanctions if Pyongyang conducts nuke test: Abe](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Pressure on DPRK should take priority](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: North Korea's missile launch not just provocation against China, S. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [South Korea to send special envoy to Japan](#) (The Japan News)
- [Opinion: Japan, ROK must realize precariousness of agreement on comfort women issue](#) (Mainichi)

- [Commentary: Japan's role in enlightening the U.S. on the DPRK](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Moon](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Kim and Xi](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [American Merrill Lynch employee arrested for robbery in Tokyo](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [Rights group demands investigation of detention of hearing-impaired Japanese at U.S. airport](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [Japanese ex-residents leave for disputed isles held by Russia](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, Indonesia confirm cooperation in LNG base construction](#) (Nikkei)

SECURITY

USS Ronald Reagan to depart Yokosuka today

TV Asahi reported at noon that the USS Ronald Reagan will leave Yokosuka Port this afternoon. The network said that although the U.S. nuclear carrier was supposed to sail on Monday, its departure was delayed due to a mechanical problem. The network speculated that the flattop may set a course for the East China Sea, where China is expanding its presence, or for the Sea of Japan to increase pressure on North Korea.

Wide gap between Okinawa, mainland 45 years after reversion

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on the 45th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa on Monday, saying that there is a widening gap between Okinawa's perceptions of U.S. base issues and those of other prefectures. The program reported on the results of its opinion poll conducted last month, which found that 70% of respondents in Okinawa said mainland Japanese do not understand the feelings of the Okinawan people. In addition, nearly 60% of respondents in Okinawa said they feel that Okinawa has increasingly become a target of malicious slander over the last five years. The program reported on various efforts by Okinawa's people, including the young generation, to bridge the gap between Okinawa and mainland Japan.

LDP Okinawa chapter lodges protest over parachute training at Kadena

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that a group of members of the LDP's Okinawa chapter paid visits to Consul General Ehrendreich and Defense Ministry Okinawa bureau chief Nakajima on Monday to protest the U.S. military's parachute drop training at Kadena AB on May 10. The group requested that such training not be carried out again, insisting that it does not qualify as an "exception" as designated by the U.S.-Japan Joint Committee. The defense bureau chief reportedly told the local LDP legislators:

“We also feel that it was very regrettable that the U.S. military conducted the training without providing a sufficient explanation.”

- [Global cyberattack claims 16 Japanese victims according to METI](#) (NHK Online)
- [Use of returned U.S. sites vital to Okinawa economy](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Abe gov't must stop ignoring voices of Okinawa](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Science Council of Japan denounces military research](#) (Asahi)
- [U.S. military again lets visitors touch guns at open base event](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

POLITICS

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- [Prime minister's schedule on May 15](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe appoints Kato as minister for investment in human resources development](#) (Sankei)
- [Interview with Komeito deputy leader on PM Abe's constitutional revision plan](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Abe's push for constitutional amendment may divide nation](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Abe and Article 9](#) (Akahata)
- [Aso and Santo factions reach basic agreement on merger](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP fails to field candidates in local elections](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe names three rising leaders in his faction](#) (Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [51% support Abe cabinet, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)
- [Cabinet and political party support rates, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)
- [41% say Article 9 needs to be amended, 44% disagree, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)
- [Opinion poll & results from Asahi Shimbun](#) (Asahi)

ECONOMY

- [Arbitration, auditing woes endanger Toshiba turnaround](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Free education gives Abe cover for delaying debt reduction](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't growth strategy outline eyes intensive investment in IT](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gov't briefs municipalities on final disposal of radioactive waste](#) (Yomiuri)

SCIENCE

- [GOJ to develop comprehensive regulations for human reproductive cells](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

- [Population continues to rise in urban areas and shrink in rural ones](#) (Nikkei)
- [Keidanren urges member firms to make work environments LGBT-friendly](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan to assist orphans until they turn 22](#) (Mainichi)