



Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, September 20, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks led with reports on President Trump's speech at the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, highlighting his remarks referring to Megumi Yokota, who was abducted by North Korean agents at the age of 13. Megumi's mother Sakie Yokota held a press conference this morning and expressed her appreciation to the President for mentioning her daughter. TV Asahi gave top play to a report on the powerful earthquake that hit Mexico on Tuesday.

INTERNATIONAL

Japan welcomes President Trump's speech at UN

NHK reported at noon that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga commended President Trump on his speech at the UN General Assembly session on Tuesday, during which the President apparently referred to Megumi Yokota by mentioning a Japanese girl who was abducted by North Korean agents. Suga was quoted as telling reporters this morning: "We wholeheartedly welcome the fact that he strongly reaffirmed the stance of pushing North Korea to move toward denuclearization, strongly urged the international community, including China and Russia, to increase pressure on North Korea, referred to a Japanese girl whom we believe to be Megumi Yokota, and expressed his determination to resolve various issues concerning North Korea, including the abduction issue." In addition, Suga said: "Japan will work closely with the U.S. and other relevant nations to increase the pressure on North Korea, and strongly urge the North to take concrete actions toward resolving various issues, including the abductions and its nuclear and missile development programs."

Foreign Minister Kono told reporters that he also welcomed the President's speech by saying that President Trump clearly referred to the abductions in his address and that Japan will continue to

work closely with the U.S. in dealing with such issues as the abductions and nuclear and missile development by North Korea.

Meanwhile, Sakie Yokota, the mother of Megumi Yokota, expressed her hope that the President's speech will help accelerate efforts to bring the abductees home. NHK quoted Sakie Yokota as telling reporters: "We were surprised that the President took up the abduction issue in an international venue. We deeply appreciate it. It was probably the first time for many people to learn that North Korea has not yet returned a minor who was kidnapped 40 years ago. This is a chance for us. President Trump, who attracts a great deal of attention, clearly stated that North Korea kidnapped a 13-year-old girl."

DOS spokesperson explains President's speech at UNGA

NHK reported online on its one-on-one interview with DOS spokesperson Nauert, during which she talked about President Trump's speech at the UN General Assembly session in New York on Tuesday. Noting that the President referred to the North Korean leader as "rocket man" and strongly urged North Korea to stop its nuclear development in his speech, the network quoted Nauert as saying: "The President wanted to clearly demonstrate how angry the international community is about Kim Jong Un's actions and how important it is for the international community to unite and put more pressure on the North." She also reportedly said: "What we are actively discussing at the State Department is how to impose peaceful pressure. We are aware that the people of North Korea are starving and in a miserable situation, but what is important is to take away the money the Kim regime uses for its nuclear and missile development programs." In addition, she reportedly said: "We are looking forward to having talks with representatives of many nations participating in the UN General Assembly. President Trump's meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Abe is particularly important." The DOS spokesperson reportedly added that President Trump is planning to meet with PM Abe on Sept. 21 to talk about his planned visit to Japan in the fall in addition to North Korea.

- [Japan, European envoys call for int'l unity on N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Tokyo confirms arrest of Japanese man in China](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Convenient stores to be added to government's Technical Intern Training Program](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [Abe persuaded Putin to support Sept. 11 UNSC resolution at recent summit](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan to offer \\$4m to help Rohingya refugees](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Aso's aim in invoking "safeguard" measure against U.S.](#) (THEMIS)
- [Abe urges Guterres to include Security Council in U.N. reform](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Japan welcomes Trump's rebuke of N. Korea's abduction of Japanese](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan tells Iran of support for nuke deal on heels of Trump speech](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan vows to promote "quality infrastructure" in Indo-Pacific](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

Toshiba officially decides to sell chip unit to trilateral consortium

NHK reported this afternoon that Toshiba held a board meeting today to make a final decision on selling its memory chip business to a Japan-U.S.-ROK consortium led by U.S. fund Bain Capital. The network said Toshiba is hoping to resolve its capital deficit by selling its chip business by the end of March 2018 and remain listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The total acquisition price is expected to exceed two trillion yen.

- [Toshiba to sell chip unit to Japan-U.S.-S. Korea group](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Keidanren, business groups call for preventing subcontractors from working overtime](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan's beef shipments to U.S. predicted to reach new high in 2017](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan gives clarity on which international grads can stay — and which can't](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [The responsibility of the Nuclear Regulation Authority's new leadership](#) (Nikkei)
- [Rice farmers encouraged to diversify production after abolishment of gentan](#) (Asahi)
- [Five nuclear plants' cooling systems may fail during volcanic eruptions](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Sept. 18-19, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- ["Cabinet of professionals" at a loss in light of Abe's plan to call snap election](#) (Mainichi)
- [Nikai says no need to rush deliberations on constitutional revision](#) (Nikkei)
- [Hosono says new party to support exercise of collective defense right under security laws](#) (Mainichi)

- [New party of Tokyo Gov. Koike's ally to field dozens of candidates](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Prime minister must define the issues for debate in coming general election](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Abe's desire to call snap election disrespectful to the public](#) (The Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [All major opinion polls show recovery in cabinet support](#) (Sankei)
- [More pollees in favor of Japan gaining capability to attack enemy bases, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [60% of pollees in favor of explicitly stating existence of SDF in Constitution, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Pollees split on new party inspired by Koike, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Sankei Shimbun](#) (Sankei)

SCIENCE

- [Cutting-edge composting plant in operation on Shikoku](#) (Kyodo News)

EDUCATION

- [Increasing number of Japanese business schools seek international accreditation](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan's women's colleges grapple with shifting views on gender](#) (The Japan Times)
- [2,500 students to receive scholarship grants in FY17](#) (Sankei)
- [Companies want students who studied abroad, but youths lack ambition to study overseas: survey](#) (Yomiuri)

SOCIETY

More Japanese making career moves in middle age

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that a growing number of people in their 40s and 50s are making career moves in Japan today even though it was said in the past that it was extremely difficult to change jobs after the age of 35. A survey conducted by a human resources firm found that the number of people aged 41 or older who changed jobs has doubled over the last five years. The

program said some companies are beginning to hire more middle-aged people due to the labor shortage, but other companies are specifically seeking middle-aged employees from different industries because they can bring new ways of thinking or have a lot of connections and experience, including the experience of failure.

SECURITY

- [Onodera says ex post facto approval possible for DPRK responses after Diet dissolution](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)
- [National Security Council members to stay near Tokyo during election period](#) (Asahi)
- [Antimissile battery deployed in Hakodate after N. Korea missile tests](#) (Kyodo News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

PBS report says Okinawans want U.S. troops to leave

Okinawa Times wrote that PBS NewsHour aired a [report](#) on Sept. 16 about the issue of U.S. bases on Okinawa. The paper quoted a PBS reporter as saying: “Despite the government subsidies and spending by military personnel, the majority of Okinawans want the American troops to leave.”

Concerning the murder of an Okinawa woman by a U.S. military contractor, Okinawa Area Coordinator Nicholson was quoted as saying: “You can’t explain it. We were as shocked and horrified by the incident as anyone.” Governor Onaga told the broadcaster: “I can’t tolerate this over-concentration of U.S. bases.”
