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Afternoon Alert - Friday, October 6, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report that Party of Hope leader Koike announced her party's election platform this morning. The platform calls for postponing the consumption tax hike, phasing out nuclear power plants by 2030, and promoting debate on constitutional revision, including Article 9.

All commercial networks led with reports that a man was arrested in Ibaraki this morning after turning himself in for setting his house on fire and causing the deaths of his wife and five children.

AMBASSADOR

- [Okinawa governor's first meeting with Amb. Hagerty postponed for "reasons on the U.S. side"](#) (Sankei Online)
- [Ambassador Hagerty expresses eagerness to visit Hiroshima, Nagasaki](#) (Asahi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 5, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Interview with PM Abe on response to North Korea, other Lower House election issues](#) (Sankei)
- [Gist of Komeito's campaign pledges for Lower House election](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Koike's party losing steam after sparking realignment](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Koike's absence muddies political waters of post-election Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Interview with Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan leader Edano](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Interview: Edano says CDPJ may cooperate with Party of Hope to overthrow government](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japanese Communist Party makes moves to join forces with Constitutional Democratic Party](#) (Asahi)
- [JCP, CDPJ, and SDP to back joint candidates in Hokkaido](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Rengo in danger of fracturing following DP's demise](#) (Mainichi)
- [Upper House's Fukuyama appointed CDPJ's secretary-general](#) (Mainichi)
- [Commentary: Advantages of the Democratic Party's split](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe says current realignment of opposition forces "beyond his imagination"](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Political parties must show measures to tackle failing social security system](#) (The Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [54% say they will place priority on nuclear power in LH election vote, Asahi poll](#) (Asahi)

INTERNATIONAL

Nagasaki mayor asks President Trump to visit A-bombed cities

Nagasaki Shimbun reported online that Nagasaki Mayor Taue visited the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo with Hiroshima Deputy Mayor Tani on Thursday to meet with Ambassador Hagerty and request that President Trump visit the A-bombed cities. According to Taue, the Ambassador responded by saying that the President will appreciate the invitation from the two cities. The daily noted, however, that President Trump is also expected to visit other nations in Asia when he comes to Japan in November, reporting that the Ambassador expressed the view that coordinating such a visit would be difficult because of the President's tight schedule. The paper said although both cities have repeatedly asked for U.S. presidents to visit their cities in the past, this was the first time for them to make such a request under the Trump administration. Noting that the President has been making provocative remarks toward North Korea, the paper quoted Mayor Taue as saying: "We would like the world leaders to visit the A-bombed cities before talking about nuclear weapons. We will continue to make this request." In addition, the Ambassador reportedly expressed hope to visit both cities by

saying: "Visiting Nagasaki and Hiroshima is part of my job." Yomiuri posted a similar report in the Nagasaki section of its website.

Senators call for reinstating North Korea as state sponsor of terrorism

NHK reported that the parents of Otto Warmbier, who died after being held prisoner in North Korea for more than a year, met with Senate Majority Whip Cornyn and called for the re-designation of North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism. The network also reported online that Cornyn and 11 other influential senators from both parties sent a letter to Secretary of State Tillerson that reportedly calls on the Secretary to consider putting North Korea back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism since the reclusive state is accelerating its nuclear and missile programs and taking violent actions.

- [Gov't secretly studying option of condoning North Korea's possession of nuclear arms](#) (Sentaku)
- [Moscow announces 2nd field study for joint economic activities will take place in late Oct.](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan adding yen to standby lending facility for Philippines](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Will Seoul persist in fueling hatred of Japan with comfort women issue?](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

U.S.-Japan economic dialogue to be held on Oct. 16

Nikkei reported online on the disclosure by Deputy Prime Minister Aso today that the second round of the U.S.-Japan economic dialogue will be convened in Washington on Oct. 16, projecting that Japan's adoption of safeguard tariffs on U.S. beef imports will be taken up.

- [Interview: Former USTR Froman says TPP withdrawal is "biggest strategic mistake in U.S. history"](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan's embassies, consulates to help push agriculture exports](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Kindai tuna to make its way overseas](#) (Yomiuri)
- [U.S. may demand Japan increase its agricultural imports](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan's smart speaker market heats up as Line faces off against Google and Amazon](#) (The Japan Times)

SECURITY

- [MOF to introduce new CT-based device at airport customs](#) (Nikkei)
- [Marumo to be next ASDF chief of staff](#) (Sentaku)

SCIENCE

- [Research finds Japanese have weak kidneys](#) (Asahi)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Urasoe high school students enjoy online exchange with students in U.S.](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)

