



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, November 7, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and Fuji TV led with reports that President Trump and the First Lady left this morning for South Korea, ending their three-day visit to Japan. Other networks gave top play to reports that the Kyoto District Court has sentenced a woman to death for murdering her husband and two other men and attempting to murder another man by poisoning them with cyanide.

INTERNATIONAL

The United States under President Trump

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported that almost one year has passed since the election of Donald Trump, saying that despite his extreme remarks and hardline approach, stock prices are rising and employment in some parts of the country is recovering. The program said many people who voted for President Trump still support him, even in areas where the economy is not picking up. According to an expert in the U.S., the President frequently uses "extreme, catchy, and straightforward" words such as "hell," "strong," and "disaster," and does not use words such as "freedom," "rights," and "peace." A commentator said the President is still popular because the public is hoping that he will turn the U.S. economy around, adding, however, that he will need to produce results such as tax cuts so as not to disappoint them.

Journalists assess President Trump's first visit to Japan

In their Monday evening programs, NHK and all commercial networks reported extensively on President Trump's activities in Japan on Sunday and Monday, including a bilateral meeting and a joint press conference with Prime Minister Abe, a call on the Emperor, and a meeting with the families of the Japanese abductees. An NHK reporter commented that President Trump and Prime Minister Abe sent a strong message to the world, especially China and Russia, about their resolve to

apply greater pressure on North Korea. The journalist said that the Japanese government is pleased with the support expressed by the President for its efforts to resolve the abduction issue. The reporter added, however, the President did not comment during the press conference on whether the U.S. will take military action against North Korea.

The reporter said that attention will be focused on what kind of message the President will convey in his address to the South Korean parliament on Wednesday and whether he will be able to obtain China's cooperation in dealing with North Korea in his talks with the Chinese leader on Thursday. Attention will also be focused on his speech in Vietnam on Friday, during which the President is expected to present the United States' vision for the Asia-Pacific region. The journalist commented that the Japanese government is satisfied with the outcome of the visit by President Trump because the leaders of the two nations agreed on the "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy" that was initiated by Prime Minister Abe.

Another NHK reporter commented that President Trump will be tested on whether he can resolve the North Korean issue peacefully. The journalist also said that although President Trump did not directly call for FTA negotiations with Japan, the Japanese government is worried that Washington will probably make such a request in the future in view of Washington's concern about such issues as automobile and agricultural trade and pharmaceutical prices in Japan because eliminating the trade imbalance is the President's key interest.

A reporter of the commercial network NTV speculated that although President Trump did not mention the possibility of the United States taking military action, it is possible that the President and the prime minister discussed the issue, including how to evacuate Japanese nationals from South Korea in the event of a contingency on the Korean Peninsula, during their meetings. TV Asahi took note of the President's reference during the joint press conference to Japan's planned purchase of military equipment from the U.S. The President stated that Japan will be able to shoot down North Korean missiles if it purchases U.S.-made military equipment. A regular commentator for its nightly news program "Hodo Station" stated that some in the Japanese government are worried that Japan will be forced to purchase expensive equipment.

Japanese crane reportedly used for DPRK missile development

Fuji TV reported at noon that the U.S. think tank Nuclear Threat Initiative has pointed out that a crane seen in a photo released by the North Korean media when North Korea first test-launched its Hwasong-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile in May 2017 was manufactured by Kato Works. Professor Jeffrey Lewis said that the Japanese crane lifted the missile off the ground and put it on a truck. Meanwhile, a manager at Kato Works reportedly said the type of crane seen in the photo is no longer manufactured and that it should not be a problem if it is being used in North Korea because there were no export restrictions at the time of its manufacture. The manager reportedly said that the crane was probably exported about 25 years ago before the imposition of economic sanctions on

North Korea. The network said the report shows once again that Japanese products are being used for missile development in North Korea.

President Trump won't allow North Korea to finish developing ICBM

NTV reported at noon that it learned from Kantei officials that President Trump told Prime Minister Abe repeatedly during their meetings in Japan that he will not allow North Korea to complete the development of an ICBM that can reach the U.S. mainland. The network quoted a senior GOJ official as saying: "North Korea had better not misjudge President Trump's stance." The network added that the two leaders also discussed military options against North Korea. According to the network, the President also promised PM Abe that he will convey the results of his summit meetings with his South Korean and Chinese counterparts to PM Abe at an international forum where the two leaders will meet again. Meanwhile, the network said opposition parties are alarmed by the possibility of a military clash.

GOJ to freeze assets of additional 9 entities and 26 individuals in DPRK

All networks reported at noon that the Abe cabinet endorsed this morning a plan to freeze the assets of 9 additional entities and 26 additional individuals in North Korea, including banks with addresses in China, Russia, the UAE, and Libya, and their representatives. NHK said that with the addition, the GOJ will have frozen the assets of 84 entities and 108 individuals in total. Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga was quoted as saying at a press briefing this morning: "We have been carefully studying measures by assessing North Korea's responses to our unilateral sanctions and the UNSC resolutions. North Korea has continued with its provocative rhetoric and actions and no progress has been made on the abduction issue. We decided to freeze additional assets from the viewpoint of further increasing the pressure on North Korea while keeping in mind the U.S.'s unilateral sanctions imposed on Sept, 26."

- [Gist of Abe-Trump summit on Nov. 6 according to the Japanese government](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of Abe-Trump joint news conference on Nov. 6](#) (Mainichi)
- [FOCUS: Chummy Trump visit to boost Abe's image at home, at least for now](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, U.S. to deepen cooperation over energy infrastructure](#) (Kyodo News)
- ["Japan-U.S. alliance gives sense of security," say ruling parties, opposition parties have concerns about economic negotiations](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan, U.S. reconfirm relocation to Henoko is "only solution"](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Editorial: It is vital to get China, Russia on board for N. Korean response](#) (The Asahi)

Shimbun)

- [Editorial: Trump, Abe must lead the way to a more stable Asia](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Overcome national crisis through bonds of Japan-U.S. alliance](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: The U.S. needs to develop strategic diplomacy](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Commentary: Tale of two Trumps poses dilemma for Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [OPINION: First stop, Japan...but more to watch ahead](#) (Kyodo News)
- [FOCUS: N. Korea abduction issue becomes more complex amid tensions](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan expands sanctions on N. Korea, freezing more assets](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Expert's view on Japan-U.S. summit: Todai professor](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Expert's view on Japan-U.S. summit: Kyoto Univ. professor](#) (Nikkei)
- [Expert's view on Japan-U.S. summit: Keio Univ. professor](#) (Yomiuri)
- [President Trump's changing view of Japan](#) (Asahi)
- [INSIGHTS into the WORLD / Use deterrence, sanctions against N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japanese prof says now is the chance to resolve abduction issue](#) (THEMIS)
- [Cartoon: Golf diplomacy](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

ECONOMY

Deputy PM Aso negative about FTA with U.S.

Asahi and Nikkei took up press remarks this morning by Deputy Prime Minister Aso, who commented on President Trump's repeated calls for Tokyo to rectify the bilateral trade imbalance by saying: "It is true that the United States has a trade deficit [with Japan], but this will not be corrected with an FTA.... We've come to the conclusion that we will study how to rectify it at the economic dialogue."

- [Japan rejects idea of US free-trade deal to fix imbalance](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Trump stirs concerns of return to Japan-U.S. trade friction](#) (Jiji Press)

- [Japan not to seek revisions in TPP pledges: Motegi](#) (Jiji Press)
- [SoftBank CEO Son plays up investment in U.S. to President Trump](#) (Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 6, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [All state ministers and parliamentary vice-ministers reappointed](#) (Yomiuri)

OPINION POLLS

- [Kyodo News opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [91% say "Japan is reliable friend," MOFA opinion poll on ASEAN countries' views of Japan](#) (Sankei)

SECURITY

Suga comments on purchase of defense equipment

NHK reported at noon that in relation to Prime Minister Abe's remarks during Monday's joint press conference that Japan will purchase more defense equipment from the U.S., such as stealth fighters and the latest interceptor missiles, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning that the GOJ will continue to improve its defense equipment based on existing plans in order to strengthen Japan's defense capability. Suga was quoted as saying: "As the security environment surrounding Japan is becoming severe, it is essential to ensure our defense capability both in quality and quantity." He also said: "We obtain SDF equipment systematically based on the National Defense Program Guidelines and the Mid-Term Defense Program. We would like to steadily improve our defense capability."

Meanwhile, when asked whether the GOJ will maintain records of the two leaders' exchanges during golf and other occasions as diplomatic records, Suga reportedly said: "In general, I think it makes sense to maintain records of the diplomatic exchanges that need to be recorded."

Three U.S. aircraft carriers to conduct joint training in Western Pacific

NHK reported at noon that several USG officials disclosed that the USS Ronald Reagan, USS Theodore Roosevelt, and USS Nimitz will hold joint military exercises in the Western Pacific in the near future. The network said it is rare for three U.S. carriers to conduct military drills together, adding that it will be the first time for such training to be conducted in the Asia-Pacific region since 2007 when joint drills were held off Guam. The three carriers are already deployed in the 7th Fleet's

area of responsibility. The network said that the U.S. military is increasing its military pressure to keep North Korea in check while President Trump is visiting Asia.

- [Trump's sales pitch for military gear dismays Japan](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

U.S., Japanese leaders reaffirm Henoko as only option for Futenma relocation

Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged a report saying that it learned from a briefing by the Japanese government that President Trump and Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed during their summit meeting on Monday that Henoko is the only option for Futenma relocation. Okinawa Times gave top play to a similar report, adding, however, that the two leaders did not refer to the base issue during their joint press conference. The paper claimed that the excessive base-hosting burden on Okinawa is being justified in the name of a strengthened U.S.-Japan alliance. Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Abe commented during his meeting with the President on accidents and incidents involving U.S. military personnel by saying that it is important to address the concerns of local citizens. The paper noted that the President expressed in the press conference his gratitude to the Japanese people for warmly hosting U.S. military personnel.

