



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, May 10, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

Most networks led with reports that Prime Minister Abe's former advisor Yanase testified in the Diet this morning and said he met with Kake Gakuen officials at the Kantei three times. TV Asahi led with a CNN report that the White House is preparing to hold the U.S.-DPRK summit in Singapore.

## INTERNATIONAL

### PM Abe congratulates President Trump on release of American detainees

All networks reported at noon that President Trump and Prime Minister Abe held a teleconference this morning. PM Abe was quoted as telling reporters: "I congratulated him on the release of the three American detainees, which is a huge achievement. I welcome the release as it represents North Korea's positive stance." PM Abe also reportedly said President Trump briefed him in detail on the latest meeting between Secretary of State Pompeo and Chairman Kim, adding that PM Abe also reportedly explained to the President that the leaders of Japan, China, and South Korea agreed to seek the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula during their trilateral summit held in Tokyo on Wednesday. In addition, NHK quoted PM Abe as saying: "The three American detainees have been released. Unfortunately, there are still many abductees left in North Korea. By seeking bilateral cooperation with the United States as well as trilateral cooperation with the U.S. and South Korea and the cooperation of China, I will make all-out efforts to resolve the abduction issue."

- [Abe hails N. Korea's release of detained U.S. citizens](#) (Kyodo News)

### U.S. pressing DPRK to dispose of data on past nuclear tests

Asahi reported from Seoul on the disclosure by a source connected to North Korea that in demanding complete denuclearization, the Trump administration has been pressing the Kim regime to dispose of data on its six nuclear tests and nuclear facilities in Yongbyon. It has also been asking North Korea to move out of the country several thousand scientists and engineers who have been

involved in its nuclear programs. By making these demands, Washington is reportedly aiming to completely eradicate North Korea's capability to resume its nuclear development. According to the source, Washington is also insisting on the elimination of other weapons of mass destruction, such as chemical weapons, and the discontinuation of satellite launches using "rockets" in the belief that they are equivalent to ICBMs. The daily said Pyongyang has been dismissing these requests, speculating that Kim Jong Un hurriedly held a second meeting with Chinese President Xi in Dalian earlier this week perhaps in order to deflect strong U.S. pressure by teaming up with Beijing.

- [Abe, Trump hold phone talks ahead of U.S.-N. Korea summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of joint declaration by leaders from Japan, China, S. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of Japan-ROK summit, May 9](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Gist of summit talks between Japanese, Chinese prime ministers](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, China, ROK ally in free trade promotion to check U.S. protectionism](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan-China summit highlights rapprochement; 10 agreements signed](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Expert: A step to end tripartite confrontation](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Former envoy to China: Beijing has shifted to improvement of ties with Japan](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan-China-ROK summit prevents division between Japan, Korea from surfacing](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: 3-way summit a chance to fill the 'vacuum' that Abe created](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Cartoon: Japan-China summit](#) (Asahi)
- [ROK municipality asks for removal of statue of forced laborer](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Nikai to visit China from May 25](#) (Yomiuri)

## **ECONOMY**

- [China premier urges Japan to join "Silk Road" infrastructure project](#) (Kyodo News)
- [New Japan-U.S. trade dialogue not intended to lead to bilateral pact: Abe](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Business organizations from Japan, China, ROK propose stepping up partnership in infrastructure](#) (Nikkei)
- [Nuclear reactor in central Japan restarted, joins 3 units nearby](#) (Kyodo News)

## **POLITICS**

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 9, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP takes over chairmanship of Upper House Cabinet Committee in charge of IR bills](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Strength of in-house groups in House of Representatives and House of Councillors](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Genba joins Group of Independents](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Appointment of next MOFA Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau Director-General likely to be problematic](#) (Sentaku)
- [Cartoon: Abe still reaching for Article 9](#) (Akahata)

## SCIENCE

### China bans import of plastic waste

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on China's sudden decision to ban imports of plastic waste in January, saying that many nations, including Japan, are faced with the serious issue of what to do with the huge volume of plastic waste they generate. Noting that Japan used to export about 1 million tons of plastic waste to China every year, the program said Japan is now looking at exporting the waste to nations in Southeast Asia, including Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia. The program said, however, that there are limits to the amount of waste these nations can accept. The program also reported on moves to recycle various types of plastic into high-quality products.

## SECURITY

- [Main points of Japan-China agreement on military liaison mechanism](#) (Yomiuri)

## OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

### Ginowan mayor to visit U.S.

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times reported that Ginowan Mayor Sakima plans to visit Washington from May 21 to call for the swift return of MCAS Futenma. He is expected to meet with State and Defense Department officials and ask them to specify a timeline for the reversion, which the two governments agreed in 2013 to realize in "FY2022 or later." During his trip to the U.S. through May 27, the municipal leader will also visit PACOM headquarters in Hawaii and ask for measures to prevent further mishaps involving Futenma-based aircraft. Sakima is reportedly planning to visit the U.S. Embassy later this week to request support for his U.S. tour.

- [Okinawa to have new U.S. military leader](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)