

JAPAN-U.S.S.R JOINT COMMUNIQUE \*

January 19, 1986

At the invitation of the Government of Japan, Mr. Eduard A. Shevardnadze, Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, paid an Official Visit to Japan from January 15 to 19, 1986.

During his stay in Tokyo, Soviet Minister for Foreign Affairs E.A. Shevardnadze met with Japanese Prime Minister Yosuihiro Nakasone. Prime Minister Nakasone affirmed the invitation which has already been extended to the General Secretary of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the U.S.S.R. Mikhail S. Gorbachev to pay an Official Visit to Japan.

Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze expressed his appreciation for this invitation.

Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze conveyed to Prime Minister Yosuihiro Nakasone a letter from General Secretary Gorbachev inviting the Prime Minister to pay an Official Visit to the Soviet Union.

Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze met as part of the regular consultations, in which they discussed the bilateral relations between Japan and the Soviet Union as well as international issues of concern to both sides.

The two sides emphasised that developing Japan-U.S.S.R relations based upon the principles of mutual benefit and equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs is not only in the shared interests of the Japanese and Soviet peoples but makes a major contribution to the peace and stability of Asia and the world.

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\*[This is a "provisional and unofficial translation by the Foreign Press Centre", provided by the Embassy of Japan, Canberra. The text of the extract is followed by an extract from Japan Brief No 72 dated 28 January 1986 No. 1212 issued by the embassy.]

## 2.

The two Foreign Ministers pointed out the important significance of political dialogue between the leaders of Japan and the Soviet Union. In this connection, the two Foreign Ministers affirmed their agreement to hold regular consultations between the Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Soviet Union at least once a year, alternating between Moscow and Tokyo. Soviet Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze invited Japanese Foreign Minister Abe to pay an Official Visit to the Soviet Union in 1986, and Japanese Foreign Minister Abe conveyed an invitation to Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to pay an Official Visit to Japan in 1987. These respective invitations were accepted with gratitude by the two sides. The details of the visits will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

The two Foreign Ministers, positively assessing the fact that Vice Minister-Level Consultations have been held annually, expressed agreement with the continuation with the said Consultations. The next round of Consultations will be held in Moscow at a time to be agreed upon by the two sides.

The two Foreign Ministers conducted negotiations on the conclusion of a Peace Treaty, including the problems which might constitute the content of the said Treaty, on the basis of the Agreement affirmed in the Joint Communiqué of October 10, 1973. The two sides agreed to continue these negotiations in the next round of consultations which will take place in Moscow.

The two sides expressed their intention to further promote trade and economic relations between Japan and the Soviet Union based upon mutual benefit. The two Foreign Ministers signed the Trade and Payment Agreement for 1986-1990 and the Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income.

The two Foreign Ministers agreed to upgrade the level of the Annual Trade Consultations and to have the next round of the said Consultations take place between the Japanese Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Soviet Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade in Moscow at a time mutually convenient to the two sides in 1986.

## 3.

The two sides noted the conclusion between the two Governments of the Agreement concerning mutual relations in fisheries off the coasts of both countries and the Agreement concerning cooperation in the fisheries field and agreed to continue their efforts for the smooth implementation of these Agreements. In this connection, the two sides expressed their agreement with discussing all issues related to the implementation of said Agreements in a constructive manner in consideration of the two countries' long-term cooperation in the fisheries field and on the basis of mutual benefit.

The two Foreign Ministers exchanged notes concerning the extension of the terms of validity of the exchange of notes on cultural exchanges dated January 27, 1972.

The two sides pointed out that there has been progress made in the negotiations on an Agreement concerning cultural exchanges between the two Governments and expressed their intention of promoting the negotiations with a view to concluding the Agreement at the earliest possible time.

The two sides agreed to have the Japan-U.S.S.R. Scientific and Technological Cooperation Committee hold its third meeting, based upon Article 3 of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement, at a mutually convenient time in 1986.

Regarding Foreign Minister Abe's request concerning visits by Japanese families to Japanese graves, the Soviet side said that this issue would be studied with all due attention from the humanitarian standpoint.

The two Foreign Ministers pointed out the great significance of developing international cooperation for the use of nuclear fusion for peaceful purposes for all humankind.

The two sides affirmed with satisfaction the various measures to enhance navigational safety over the Northern Pacific and the Agreement which was achieved among the Soviet Union, Japan and the United States of America regarding the formulation of policies for the implementation of these measures.

## 4.

The two Foreign Ministers held frank exchanges of views on the main international issues of interest to the two sides, including the issue of peace and disarmament and some regional issues.

The two sides saw agreement on the need to further promote the strengthening of the positive trends in the international situation's development through expanded dialogue on international issues between the two countries.

The two Foreign Ministers expressed their high regard for the Joint Statement between the United States and the Soviet Union on the results of the discussions held between Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Soviet Union, in Geneva from November 19 through November 21, 1985, and pointed out that they perceive this as the start of dialogue for achieving a change for the better in the international situation.

The two sides stated their assessments of the situation developing in the Asia-Pacific region and stressed that cooperation with these countries, self-help efforts in the spirit of respect for the autonomy of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region contributes to the peace and stability of the said region.

The two sides positively assessed the consultations being held between the Japanese and Soviet Foreign Ministries on international issues and agreed to continue these consultations.

The two sides pointed out that the negotiations and consultations conducted during the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to Japan were conducted in a business-like atmosphere and were useful to both sides.

## 6.

"In recent years the Soviet Union has refused even to enter into negotiations on the Territorial question, and when compared with this stance, I believe that it is a highly significant achievement that Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and I were able to conduct practical negotiations on the Territorial question surrounding the four Northern Islands, and that we were able to hold negotiations regarding a Peace Treaty along the lines set down in the 1973 Communique."

#### Three Sessions.

The Foreign Ministers of Japan and the Soviet Union met for regular consultations on three occasions on January 15 and 16. The two Foreign Ministers also met unofficially on the evening of January 17 to work out the draft of a Joint Communique.

Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze also met with Prime Minister Nakasone on the morning of January 18 for discussions that lasted approximately 90 minutes.

On the evening of January 18, the two Foreign Ministers signed and exchanged three documents regarding a Trade and Payment Agreement for 1986-1990, an Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to taxes on income, and the extension of the term of validity of the Japan-USSR cultural arrangements.

#### First Round of Talks.

Foreign Minister Shevardnadze expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and the arrangements made by the Japanese side. He stated that the Soviet leadership considered political dialogue with Japan to be very important, adding that there was great potential for the development of good relations between Japan and the Soviet Union. Japan and the Soviet Union are destined to be neighbours forever, Foreign Minister Shevardnadze said. Although there was a long hiatus in the regular Ministerial Consultations, he said, the Soviet Union definitely hopes that they will continue.

Leading off the discussion on international issues, Foreign Minister Shevardnadze stated the Soviet position on arms control and disarmament. He said the Soviet Union believes these are dangerous times for the world, that it is important to find a way out of the present danger, and that the Soviet Union believes that a way out can be found

## 5.

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Judging from the course of the recent talks, where Mr. Abe and Mr. Shevardnadze have spent more than 3 hours on the discussion of the Territorial question, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sees there is no room for double interpretation of the phrase "problems which might constitute the content of the said Treaty" in the Communique, and it made a clear reference to the Northern Territories issue. The Ministry further takes the view that although there has been no change in the Soviet stance toward the content of the Northern Territories question, the latest talks represent an important step forward in terms of laying the groundwork for negotiations.

The Communique also includes references to a number of working-level achievements.

Statement by Foreign Minister Abe

Following the departure of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, Foreign Minister Abe held a press conference during which he praised the outcome of the latest round of consultations as follows.

"I believe that the talks have been extremely significant in terms of establishing regular Foreign Ministerial Consultations on a permanent basis, both through our agreement to strengthen political dialogue between Japan and the Soviet Union, and more especially through the reaching of agreement on the specific years for such talks, whereby I will visit the Soviet Union this year and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze will come to Japan next year.

"The reopening of Peace Treaty Negotiations, including the Northern Territories question, with Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, and our agreement to hold continued negotiations represent a vital first step toward a new era of progress in Japan-Soviet relations.