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POLICY

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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

30 December 1979

MEMO FOR SECDEF

Anent your comment on my Japanese defense budget nudging, how can we keep pressing the Europeans for more and not do the same with the Japanese? You recall how M. Thatcher perked up when you mentioned Japan problem in passing.

Even "increasing at a 6% per year real rate for 4 years or so" is unimpressive when starting from such a low base. Moreover, while the GOJ has just agreed on keeping 1980 budget at 0.9% of GNP, this is woefully inadequate by anyone's count.

The common defense in Northeast Asia will require a JDF contribution of at least 1.5% (the JDA goal) or even 2% of GNP by 1984-85. ISA and PA&E are studying the details right now. But JDA itself lacks the clout to get what it needs without steady US pressure too (we should have started 3-5 years ago). All this is why I keep laboring the point (indeed, I feel I've already helped get things moving a bit). It is why I strongly recommend that you lay down a marker in Tokyo that the JDA 1.5% goal is a bare minimum, and that the escalating Soviet threat will probably require more.

RWK

R. W. Komer

cc: ASD/ISA
ASD/PA&E

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BY DASD(APN)

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