

Spy-Plane Incident Helps Anti-

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TOKYO, April 16—The North Korean plane incident may produce profound long-term effects here in the increasingly explosive debate over the future of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty and the freedom of the United States to use bases on Okinawa.

For the beleaguered government of Prime Minister Sato, already facing rising opposition to U.S. bases in Japan, the incident has come at a very awkward moment, unlike the comparatively placid political setting prior to the Pueblo seizure. In the Pueblo incident, the fact that the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Enterprise headed for the scene from the Japanese

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port of Sasebo gave opposition parties an unprecedented opportunity to warn of possible Japanese involvement in another Korean war or a Chinese-U.S. conflict.

Now, nearly 15 months later, a Japan-based U.S. reconnaissance plane has been shot down at a time when public opinion has crystallized in a new nationalist mold, forcing the Sato government to the defensive on security and foreign policy issues.

The Prime Minister, for example, has veered away from his hawkish stand of a year ago and has been making stronger gestures to the goal of a nuclear-free Okinawa and U.S. presence

there subject to the same restrictions as in Japan.

Another area of sensitivity linked indirectly to the issue of U.S. bases in growing tension in relations with Communist China. Peking has had increasing success in its efforts to place the onus for the current impasse between the two countries on the Japanese government for its adherence to a nonrecognition policy. This strikes powerful emotional chords among many Japanese freighted with guilt feelings from the war and sensitive to their ancient cultural ties with China.

In order to avoid a bruising battle within his Liberal Democratic Party over China policy, Sato had little choice but to turn the other

cheek last week when Peking insisted on an anti-Sato, anti-Security Treaty passage in a communique concerning a trade agreement. The statement was signed by a prominent Liberal Democrat who has gone unpunished despite anguished protests by Party rightists.

It is this climate of volatile internal debate, focusing on the United States as a nationalist whipping boy, that gives the latest Korean incident such an unsettling impact.

Anticipating the opposition onslaught in a Diet (Parliament) discussion Thursday, Sato's Foreign Minister, Kiichi Aichi, said today that North Korea had "gone beyond defensive measures" and should have been content to compel a

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forced-landing if the plane was actually within its air space. Aichi also argued that the United States is not required to clear its reconnaissance missions with Japan under the "prior consultation" clause of the Security Treaty.

In a statement directed as much at Washington as at critics in Tokyo, Aichi and other government spokesmen have stressed their confidence that, even if it would not be permitted to delay an agreement on the reversion of Okinawa.

The Socialist Party moved quickly to exploit the public mood by calling at the American Embassy today and winning permission to send a Party "fact-finding" group to inspect the base at Atsugi where the ill-fated plane took off.

Even more important has been the prompt offensive on the issue by the rapidly growing Komeito the political arm of the Buddhist Soka Gakkai movement and the fastest-growing party in the country. The Komeito is widely expected to erode Sato's Liberal Democratic majority in the next Diet elections.

The Komeito has often equivocated in past pronouncements on Japan-U.S. security links. This time the Komeito statement pulled out all the stops, declaring that the clash between the United States and North Korea "proves that the Security Treaty has betrayed the hopes of the people for peace. Our worst fears have come to pass."

The Komeito has taken the lead against U.S. bases

during the past year and has been prominent among opposition groups capitalizing on anxieties in the communities most directly touched by the latest incident. Both the Komeito and the Socialists have keynoted their propaganda with the charge that the alliance with the United States does not basically serve the defense of Japan but is tailored to U.S. purposes in the Far East purposes on which Japanese and U.S. interests will not necessarily always coincide.

"The treaty means war for the country eventually," said Tomomi Narita, Socialist Party chairman. "It has become clearer than ever through this incident that the U.S. intends to make its bases in Japan the nucleus of its entire Far Eastern strategy."

"This shows," said the Komeito, "how Japan can get involved in international disputes with which we have nothing to do."

Aichi Cautions U.S. Against Retaliation

Washington Post Staff Writer

TOKYO, April 16—Japanese Foreign Minister Kiichi Aichi urged the United States today to refrain from taking retaliatory action against North Korea for the loss of the Navy reconnaissance plane.

Aichi told U.S. Charge d'Affaires David Osborn in a meeting at the Foreign Ministry that, even if the U.S. did not violate North Korean air space, retaliatory action would be "unwise," reliable sources said.