

Japanese Say They Are Disturbed and

THEY PLAN TO ASK NEW DEFENSE VOW

Tokyo Aide Going to Saigon
to View Situation—Policy
Reversal Is Seen

Special to The New York Times

TOKYO, April 3—Senior Japanese officials said today that they were disturbed and divided by the failure of the United States to help South Vietnam and Cambodia in their crises.

The officials said that Foreign Minister Kiichi Miyazawa would therefore seek a reaffirmation of the United States commitment to defend Japan, including a pledge to maintain the "nuclear umbrella," when he meets with Secretary of State Kissinger in Washington on April 10.

The Japanese Government is also sending a former Ambassador to Vietnam, Yoshihiro Nakayama, to Saigon tomorrow to assess the situation there. The dispatch of Mr. Nakayama, a diplomat experienced in Southeast Asian matters, is notable as the Japanese Government has been cautious and indecisive in similar crises.

Second Thoughts Apparent

The officials of America's major ally in East Asia and the free world's second largest industrial power seemed to have had second thought about American credibility as the Indochina crisis has deepened. Ten days ago, they expressed confidence that United States interests in Japan were so strong that they need not worry about the American security commitment.

The Japanese Government has taken a curious stand on the issue of American credibility, appearing to rebut the Ford Administration publicly and agree with it privately. In the past, the Japanese have often done the opposite.

Publicly, the senior spokesman for the Foreign Ministry asserted today that "we don't have any apprehension about the credibility of the American commitment to Japan." Mizuo Kuroda, whose rank is equivalent to Assistant Secretary of State, told newsmen that some members of the governing party had expressed concern about the American commitment "but that is not shared by this Government."

In the most forthright public statement on American posture since the Indochina crisis began, Mr. Kuroda noted that Japan had a security treaty with the United States and "we are confident that the United States will abide by its commitment under that agreement."

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Divided by U.S. Stand in

Some Japanese Agree

That appeared to rebut the contention of the Ford Administration that the failure of the United States to help its allies in Indochina would cause anxiety among other allies around the world. It also seemed to respond to the statement yesterday of South Vietnam's Ambassador to Washington, Tran Kim Phung, who said: "Probably it is safer to be an ally of the Communists and it looks like it is fatal to be an ally of the United States."

Privately, however, some Japanese officials agreed, at least to a degree. "What the Vietnamese Ambassador said is partially correct," said one. He said that Americans fought in Indochina "but then when they asked for more aid, it's not coming."

The officials said that Foreign Minister Miyazawa thus wants public reassurances that the United States intends to maintain the mutual security treaty with Japan, including the defense of Japan against nuclear attack.

Mr. Miyazawa, the officials said, would also like to obtain that assurance for domestic political purposes. His Government has promised to ratify the treaty to slow the spread of nuclear arms. But the treaty has been strongly opposed by hawks in the ruling Liberal-Democratic party. Mr. Miyazawa was reported to believe that he could overcome opposition if he could get a new pledge on nuclear defense from the United States.

That, however, will put Japan in an evidently contradictory position that officials have difficulty explaining. While wanting the nuclear guarantee on the one hand, Japan's policy is to prohibit the United States from bringing nuclear weapons into Japan because of pressures from pacifists and leftists.

Mr. Kuroda, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, told newsmen in a briefing that Japan was reviewing her policy toward Indochina, collecting information and assessing the impact of events there on neighboring nations. He termed the situation in Cambodia "critical" and in South Vietnam "very serious."

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Indochina Crisis

Mr. Kuroda said that Japan would withdraw her last three diplomats, including Ambassador Otori Kurino, from Cambodia on Saturday and send them to Bangkok temporarily. He indicated that Japan was prepared to recognize a new government in Pnom Penh and to return the embassy when order was restored.

The Japanese official said, however, that the Government had not ordered Japanese diplomats in Saigon to leave and

that it was not considering recognition of a new government there. A new Ambassador, Hiroshi Hitomi, is due to arrive in Saigon on April 10 in a routine switch of posts.

Mr. Kuroda said that Japan had agreed to lend the Saigon Government \$30-million for aid to refugees but that it remained to be decided who would control the commodities to be distributed in the chaotic situation there.

He also said that Japan had pledged more relief to refugees through the International Red Cross and that details were being worked out. It would go to refugees even if they are in areas controlled by the Government or the Vietcong, he said.

Mr. Kuroda said that Japan had no plans to act as a negotiator or mediator in Indochina and declined to speculate on what an all-Communist Indochina might mean to Japan.