American Embassy TOKYO

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FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDRE//
TO RUEHKY/CHMDO TOKYO JA
INFO RUHOHGA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUADJNA/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA
RUEHKY/AMEMB TOKYO JA
PUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
BT
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SUBJ: FOURTH SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY FORUM (S&TF)/(U)
1. (C) FROM ALL INDICATIONS, THE GOJ APPEARS TO BE MOVING TOWARD A MODIFICATION OF, OR EXEMPTION FROM, THEIR THREE PRINCIPLES ON ARMS EXPORTS WHICH WILL PERMIT PURELY DEFENSE RELATED TECHNOLOGY TO FLOW FROM JAPAN TO THE US. THE EXACT FORM THAT THE CHANGE WILL TAKE AND TIMING OF ITS ANNOUNCEMENT REMAIN UNCLEAR. NEVERTHELESS, IF THE CHANGE IS ANNOUNCED WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS (APRIL-MAY), IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO HOLD THE FOURTH S&TF IN WASHINGTON DURING JUNE TO PERMIT DISCUSSION OF THE NEW POLICY, INCLUDING HOW BEST TOGET TWO-WAY TECHNOLOGY

PAGE 02 RUEKJCS8304 C O N F I D E N T I A L
FLOW AND CLOSER DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION MOVING. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD PRIVATELY SOUND OUT WADA CONCERNING OPTIONS FOR MEETING DATES AND AGENDA.
2. (C) FYI: WITHOUT A POLICY CHANGE PERMITTING TRUE TWO-WAY TECHNOLOGY FLOW THERE IS LITTLE INTEREST HERE IN HOLDING AN S&TF MEETING. THUS, YOUR OPENING TO WADA IS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT A POLICY CHANGE IS FORTHCOMING. END FYI.
3. (C) IN OUR VIEW, AN S&TF DURING JUNE WOULD PROVIDE WADA AN OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER AND EXPLAIN THE NEW POLICY TO ALL INTERESTED US OFFICIALS. THEN WE COULD DISCUSS HOW TO PROCEED, INCLUDING HOW BEST TO BRING US AND JAPAN INDUSTRIES INTO THE PROCESS.
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DECLASSIFIED BY AUTHORITY OF
(USD CAPITAL)/OASD(ISA)
11 JUL 2002 01-F-1692
DATE CASE #

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