THE G.W. BUSH ADMINISTRATION AND NORTHEAST ASIAN SECURITY: A JAPANESE PERSPECTIVE

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are overreacting. Relevant confidence-building measures need to be taken as the matter of top priority. The Bush Administration will continue an engagement policy, however, with deterrence elements more salient. Essentially, the Administration will take a "lounger" stance, at least, at rhetoricly, to the PRC and North Korea. Many Japanese leaders and analysts take this renewed Bush posture as a fact of life, but are concerned because it may lead to unforeseen effects on the Northeast Asian security, both positive and negative. Yet, it is very difficult to evaluate these effects at this point.

NORTH KOREA

Bush's North Korean policy will be based explicitly on deterrence, while producing a virtual tri lateral alliance of the U.S., Japan and South Korea. Even after the North-South summit meeting in Pyongyang, June 2000, and the subsequent rapprochement, North Korea still keeps its military posture intact for invasion and aggression, with some temporary improvement in economic and diplomatic maneuvers. But, many Chinese analysts have already suggested to this renewed Bush posture as a fact of life, but are concerned because it may cause a new nuclear-armed state in the Northeast Asia. The Bush Administration will continue an engagement policy, however, with deterrence elements more salient. Essentially, the Administration will take a "lounger" stance, at least, at rhetoricly, to the PRC and North Korea. Many Japanese leaders and analysts take this renewed Bush posture as a fact of life, but are concerned because it may lead to unforeseen effects on the Northeast Asian security, both positive and negative. Yet, it is very difficult to evaluate these effects at this point.

THE BILATERAL ALLIANCE

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