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DEF 7 JAPAN-45  
Department of State TELEGRAM (E121)

SECRET 924

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by Hans M. Kristensen

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EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/IPS/CB/TR Date: 7/10/97  
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 DENY IN PART EO Citations

FOIA Exemptions B1 TS authority to  
PA Exemptions  CLASSIFY as  S or  C Sec.  
 DOWNGRADE TS to  S or  C

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DOD FOR ISA

SUBJ: POLARIS SUBMARINES AND JAPAN:

FORWARDED BY 157

1. SUBJECT OF SSBN'S AS RELATED JAPAN AND OKINAWA SEEMS HAVE GREAT AND RECURRING FASCINATION TO PRESS, OPPOSITION AND PERHAPS SOME ELEMENTS GOJ. FOR EXAMPLE THERE WAS PRESS STORY LAST WEEK TO EFFECT THAT U.S. HAD INDICATED ROCK-BOTTOM U.S. REQUIREMENT FOR OKINAWA REVERSION WOULD BE RIGHT HAVE SSBN'S CALL AT OKINAWAN PORTS. WHILE RATIONALE NOT SPELLED OUT, LINE OF REASONING MIGHT BE THAT POLARISES WOULD TAKE OVER JOB [REDACTED] AND THAT IN ORDER MAKE THIS FULLY CREDIBLE, THERE SHOULD BE OVERT LINK BETWEEN OKINAWA AND SSBN'S. SUCH OVERT LINK WOULD BE PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN OKINAWAN HARBORS FROM TIME TO TIME OF SSBN'S.

2. AS SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, IN RESPONSE TO NEEDLING QUESTIONS IN DIET YESTERDAY BY JSPI INTERPELLATOR FONMIN AICHI SAID THAT U.S. WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT GOJ PRIOR TO ENTRY SSBN'S INTO JAPANESE PORTS, BECAUSE THEY USUALLY CARRY NUKES, AND THAT IF SO CONSULTED, GOJ MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT AGREE, DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES. HE SAID HE WAS THINKING FOR INSTANCE OF POSSIBLE PORT ENTRY NEED FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES, SUCH AS SICK OR INJURED CREWMAN.

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3. IT IS CONCEIVABLE GOJ IS DELIBERATELY PLAYING AROUND ON THIS SUBJECT FOR PURPOSE LOOSENING UP OKINAWA [REDACTED] PROBLEM AND TRYING MOVE TOWARD FORMULA WHICH U.S. WOULD FIND ACCEPTABLE. PRESS STORY MENTIONED PARA 1 ABOVE FOR EXAMPLE IS PUZZLING ONE AND IT COULD HAVE BEEN GOJ-INSPIRED IN SOME MANNER (FONOFF SAYS IT ORIGINATED WITH DEPUTY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY KIMURA). WHETHER RELATED TO JAPAN OR OKINAWA, THIS PLOY WOULD BE A DANGEROUS ONE, SINCE TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE ANY PRESENT OR LIKELY FUTURE SSBN RELATIONSHIP TO OKINAWA IS ZERO AND SINCE IN ANY CASE THE LESS SAID IN JAPAN ABOUT SSBN'S THE BETTER. THEREFORE SEEMS TO EMBASSY THIS WHOLE SUBJECT SHOULD BE CLEARLY KNOCKED ON HEAD IF POSSIBLE, FIRST BECAUSE AS INDICATED IT UNNECESSARILY CONFUSES DIFFICULT OKINAWA PROBLEM EVEN FURTHER, AND SECOND BECAUSE IT COULD WELL HAVE UNDESIRABLE RAMIFICATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CALLS AT JAPANESE PORTS BY OTHER WARSHIPS. ONE WAY DO THIS MIGHT BE TO PLANT SUITABLE QUESTION AT MCCLOSKEY PRESS BRIEFING WITH ANSWER ALONG FOLLOWING LINES QUOTE SSBN'S HAVE NEVER VISITED ANY FOREIGN PORT EXCEPT HOLY LOCH AND ROTA, WHERE THEY ARE BASED IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREEMENTS WITH THE U.K. AND SPAIN RESPECTIVELY. SSBN'S IN WEST PACIFIC AREA OPERATE OUT OF GUAM. THERE IS NO PLAN OR INTENTION TO HAVE THEM VISIT JAPANESE OR ANY OTHER FOREIGN PORTS IN AREA UNQUOTE. THIS MANNER, WE COULD GET GOJ AND OURSELVES OFF LIMB ONTO WHICH THEY SEEM TO HAVE CLIMBED.

GP-3. OSBORN

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