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2. JAPAN-USSR: THE JAPANESE DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT BREZHNEV'S ADDRESS TO THE SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS FORESHADOWS MAJOR CHANGES IN MOSCOW'S APPROACH TO JAPAN BUT ARE PREPARED TO REOPEN TALKS IN ORDER TO PROBE SOVIET INTENTIONS. [REDACTED]

BREZHNEV TOOK A MORE NEGATIVE LINE TOWARD JAPAN THAN HE DID IN HIS SPEECH IN ALMA ALTA LAST AUGUST. SOME JAPANESE OFFICIALS SEE HIS FAILURE TO MENTION THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES PROBLEM AND HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF JAPAN AS DRIFTING TOWARD MILITARISM AND PLAYING UP TO THE ANTI-SOVIET POLICIES OF CHINA AND THE US AS EVIDENCE THAT MOSCOW'S POLICY TOWARD JAPAN IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE. OTHERS VIEW HIS BID TO EXTEND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES TO THE FAR EAST AS--ALTHOUGH IMPRACTICAL--A SIGN THAT THE USSR MAY TACTICALLY SHIFT TO A

PAGE 5 RUEA11A 3667 [REDACTED]

SOFTER LINE TOWARD JAPAN. [REDACTED]

RECENT EVENTS IN TOKYO INDICATE AN INTEREST ON BOTH SIDES IN REOPENING THE HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD IN ABEYANCE SINCE THE INVAGION OF AFGHANISTAN. THREE DAYS AFTER BREZHNEV'S SPEECH, SOVIET AMBASSADOR POLYANSKIY ARRANGED TO MEET WITH THREE TOP EXECUTIVES OF THE RULING PARTY ON 11 MARCH. [REDACTED]

THE AMBASSADOR INFORMALLY SUGGESTED DIRECT TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER SUZUKI. THE JAPANESE LEADER SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED HIS WILLINGNESS TO MEET IF POLYANSKIY MAKES AN OFFICIAL APPROACH, AND THE SOVIETS MAY TAKE UP SUZUKI'S OFFER. [REDACTED]

THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT EITHER THE SPEECH OR POLYANSKIY'S INITIATIVE PRESAGES ANY REAL IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS. FOR THIS TO OCCUR, THE USSR WOULD HAVE TO MODERATE ITS POSITION ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES AND OTHER CONTENTIOUS

PAGE 6 RUEA11A 3667 [REDACTED]

ISSUES. [REDACTED]