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JAPAN: The government's offer to revise the defense budget should bring an end to the opposition's boycott of Diet proceedings.

Opposition parties in the Lower House, charging that the government violated normal legislative procedure by rushing the budgetary process, have blocked all parliamentary activity for more than two weeks.



The review process, which could take a month, will delay passage of the national budget. In the interim, the government is preparing a provisional budget to cover non-military needs, including Okinawan reversion projects. In the new defense budget, cuts probably will be made in funding for aircraft development and procurement.

The precedent set by the government's yielding to pressure may open the door for more thorough scrutiny of the budget by the opposition in the future.



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