

YANKEES of the ORIENT?

Can Japan remain an industrial giant, but a political and military dwarf? Obvious signs of restlessness, a call to arms and power, are appearing in modern Japan. Only an uninformed idealist could expect the second-largest economy in the non-Communist world to continue living in unarmed neutrality. For years, we have reminded our readers to watch Japan. We're still doing it. Here's why.

by Garner Ted Armstrong

JAPAN is second only to the United States in all the non-Communist world in total output of goods and services — gross national product — 200 billion (£83.4 thousand million) projected for 1970 as compared with 176 billion (£73.4 thousand million) for West Germany and only 100 billion (£41.7 thousand million) for Britain.

The economic growth rate is phenomenal — 16% per year, and one of the highest in the world. Japan has led the world for the past 14 years in tonnage of shipping built, and passed West Germany recently in automobile production, becoming second only to the United States.

The shipbuilders of Japan have helped create a situation which can burst on an unsuspecting world like a bombshell in a few years. Not only has Japan built itself a huge merchant marine, but it has made shipping a major export item, with sales of 5.1 million tons of ships to 60 different countries in 1967, and in only two short years about \$1,000,000,000 worth of ships skidding down the ways to represent nearly 10% of Japan's total exports.

Japan's throbbing shipbuilding industry has built its merchant marine up to 17.5 million gross tons of ships, and this large merchant marine is the funnel through which all Japanese economy is fed. Fuel, raw materials, trade goods flow in, and millions of tons of manufactured goods flow out.

But this vital economy is built on a very precarious physical base. Japan

must import nearly all her essential raw materials. While she has demonstrated to the rest of the world that a high rate of literacy, ultra-modern technical ability, and capacity for self-sacrificing hard work can build a nation into a modern economic miracle — she has nevertheless projected herself into an almost total dependence on the caprice of other nations, world markets, and chance military upsets.

Japan, then, while riding the crest of the wave of industrial boom, and experiencing a satisfying rise in the standard of living, is finding herself at the mercy of world trade, subject to the vagaries of international political climates.

Japanese Dependence on Trade

Unlike most of the big industrial powers, Japan must depend almost entirely on the flow of raw materials from faraway ports. Europe, with its many navigable rivers and canals and with its own extensive coal deposits, is the antithesis of Japan for physical base of industry.

While Japan does have hundreds of hydro-electric stations dotting her rugged mountainous interior, and is well supplied with qualified, hard-working manpower, she lacks the third major element for big industry — iron, primarily, and other raw materials to feed her industrial plants.

She must import most of the zinc, tin, bauxite and lead with which to make aluminum; import prodigious quantities of iron, oil, coal, and other raw materials. This demand for materials has sent thousands of well-educated, multi-

lingual Japanese businessmen to the far nooks and crannies of the world to tie up future sources of supplies. Hardly a month goes by without Tokyo announcing another long-term contractual agreement with another faraway country for coal, iron ore, or other material. And the Japanese iron and steel makers are looking on beyond the time when they foresee America's and West Germany's iron ore resources depleted.

They are already seeing beginning competition from American and German steel firms in tying up supplies for steel production which have already been exploited by Japan's long-term raw-material purchase departments.

Japan depends on trade more than any other country approaching her size — and her industry could grind to a silent halt far more quickly than that of Germany or the United States, should those trade sources be cut off.

Japan is naturally vitally concerned with world conditions. She depends on favorable trading climates — open sea lanes. As a result, she is seeking a larger voice, and a more powerful influence on world affairs.

She wants a larger role in the United Nations, commensurate with her economic strength. The Japanese Ambassador to the U.N., Mr. Senjin Tsuruoka, said: "Our influence is still that of a middle-class power, though our gross national product ranks second to America in the free world. Japan's say in the international political arena is not yet commensurate with its economic strength."

Japan obviously is vitally concerned

with international political conditions. No nation of such size and importance dares choose to be otherwise.

Japan's Stake in the Middle East

Much of the oil flowing into Japanese industry must originate in the Middle East. Today, Japanese businessmen are negotiating for additional interests in rich Mideast oil fields, including a slice of Red Sea offshore fields, where Japanese investments already total \$83 million. Japan competes with France, the Soviet Union and the United States in the race to buy and develop oil and natural gas deposits of the Algerian Sahara.

Over ninety percent of Japan's oil imports must come from Mideast ports through the narrow Strait of Malacca, between Singapore and Sumatra (the tip of Malaysia and one of the main islands of Indonesia).

With British forces disappearing from Indian Ocean areas and soon from Singapore, and with increased Communist threats along the periphery of Southeast Asia, Japan cannot afford to blind herself to the obvious.

President Nixon has said the United States will undertake no new defense commitments in Asia. To Japanese ears, this means Japan must protect her own interests.

Already, Japanese admirals are asking, "Should not Japan build up a naval fleet at least strong enough to protect her merchant marine through the Strait of Malacca?"

Another school of thought within the Japanese defense establishment calls for a highly specialized attack force that could cut off any potential threat to the Strait of Malacca at its source.

By sheer size, Japanese industry has forced some critical reevaluation of public views on defense. Despite their strong aversion to militarism, and still-painful memories of defeat in World War II, there is a large and growing segment of the public which feels Japan's own self-defense capabilities must be drastically improved.

Japan cannot help wondering, in the wake of American disasters at the Bay of Pigs, the Powers incident, and the Pueblo seizure, whether mighty Uncle

Sam really *would* exercise his strength to help Japan in case of another Southeast Asian flareup which this time might threaten Japanese supply routes. If America could not rescue her own — will she rescue her former enemies?

The security treaty between Japan and the U.S. may not be totally scrapped, but you can look for drastic revision. This may take the form of an automatic extension of the treaty — allowing Japan to continue dwelling under the American "nuclear umbrella" while building, at the same time, her own powerful defense force.

Interestingly enough, Kazutaka Kikawada, representative director of the Japan Committee for Economic Development said, "As a leading nation in Asia, Japan should realize its responsibility, and take over as much as possible the role of the U.S. which has over-committed itself in this part of the world. . . ."

For years, I have been saying on *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast that Japan would move into any power vacuum in the East — that she was the natural, logical, inevitable leader of East Asia.

Powerful industrial leaders have complained that Japan is "only half a nation" and remarked that, "Japan is the world's most modernized and industrialized nation. Yet it is in a nuclear vacuum, and its defensive strength is extremely weak."

These same industrialists know that Japan's industry would grind to an immediate halt should that vital conveyor belt of ships be interrupted through the Strait of Malacca.

Within the Pentagon, some voices urge that Japan must NOT be encouraged to rearm.

But Americans shall soon see the Japanese making their own decisions without any noticeable worry over furrowed American brows.

The Air Force Role

Visitors to a large Japanese air base heard a general say, "Attack is the best defense." Perhaps this is the sort of remark one expects from generals in much of the world. But it had such poignant political overtones in Japan, the

general hastily asked that his name be withheld from the press.

The Japanese Constitution (it is American drafted) renounces war and forbids "war potential."

The armed forces are not even called an "Army" but "Ground Self-Defense Force" or GSDF. Some observers have said it could not "fight its way out of a paper bag" and one leader shook Japanese people with the pronouncement that the GSDF would be overwhelmed in "10 days" if Japan were attacked with even a "conventional force."

Today, leaders argue over whether the Phantom (F-4E), scheduled to become the mainstay of Japan's Air Defense Force by 1976, has offensive as well as defensive capabilities.

Today, the Force has 1,000 aircraft, of which 200 are the F-104 all-weather fighters, and 330 are the older F-86 fighters. Major General Takeo Kaburagi wistfully remembers Japan had between 4,000 and 5,000 aircraft before World War II and says that, naturally, being an airman, he should wish his country to have "as many aircraft as possible."

Never write off the Japanese aviation industry. Mitsubishi, while engaged in a panorama of production in other directions today, is nevertheless a giant of industry — a whole group of various industries — and the President of Mitsubishi Electric is also the president of one of the major arms-manufacturing firms.

The Step to Nuclear Weapons

And don't write off Japan from the next logical step — that of becoming a nuclear power. Japanese are acutely aware of massive China — and painfully aware of her A-Bomb experiments.

Japan already plans to generate one third of her electrical energy with nuclear power by 1985. As the world's foremost maritime nation and ship-builder, Japan is planning nuclear-powered cargo ships and tankers.

While most American leaders like to push Japan out of their minds as a future powerful competitor — even in world military strength — she looms large on the horizon despite wishful thinking.

Even the American return of Okinawa

nawa would force Japan to enlarge defensive forces to again embrace an ever-enlarging island nation. Japan is very active in space technology, and has been a leader in electronics and miniaturization of electronic components. While nuclear, electronic and missile technology have been used for peaceful purposes to date — Japan nevertheless has the basic ingredients for one of the most modern military powers the world has ever seen.

Japan will produce her own Nike-Hercules missiles, and while they are not presently planned to have nuclear warheads, such warheads could easily be fitted later on. Japanese nuclear reactors will be very likely producing fissionable plutonium in two or three years.

Only recently, Japanese nuclear scientists succeeded in carrying out a laboratory technique previously known only to the world's five Atomic Powers, America, Russia, Britain, France and Communist China.

Don't write off Japan as a nuclear power. There is a growing body of conservative opinion in Japan which sees nuclear weapons as the only possible future defense for Japan. Prime Minister Sato has denied plans to build nuclear weapons — but has spoken of "nuclear strength" as the contributing balance to military power in the world today.

Japan is very much a part of the modern world of today. Whether she dares remain outside the nuclear club while outproducing several nations in it will remain to be seen.

Resurgent Nationalism

There is a growing wave of anti-American sentiment in Japan. The very existence of American forces in Japan, and on Okinawa, is a daily reminder of humiliation, and a source of wounded Japanese pride.

Westerners would do well to ponder the importance of "face" to the Oriental mind.

Prestige, or "face," is ALL-important to Japanese people. They could never stand for the kind of "loss of face" America is experiencing in Vietnam — or that she experienced in the Pueblo incident. At least, not while Japan had any capability left to prevent it.

Recently Japan hosted Expo '70, one of the gaudiest of all the world's trade fairs. Over 30,000,000 visitors came — and every one of them went away visibly impressed.

The eyes of the world focused a few moments on Japan, and perhaps marvelled a little as they saw what has occurred in this island nation in only 25 years since her crushing, humiliating defeat.

The same year, Japan celebrated a painful birthday — the 25th commemoration of the dropping of Atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Meanwhile, Japan and the United States seem headed toward OPEN CONFLICT — not only over Okinawa, but this time over *trade*. The United States has requested Japan do something about the \$1,500,000,000 surplus Japan enjoys this year in its trade with the U. S. The Japanese flatly refused. Asst. Secretary of the Treasury John R. Petty

warned that the large surplus may soon double as trade between the two nations reaches the \$10,000,000,000 mark.

Asked to limit Japanese exports of synthetic textiles to the United States, Japanese trade officials announced they could not economically make such a move.

And Edwin O. Reischauer, who was U. S. Ambassador to Japan for five years, has warned that relations between the two countries may be approaching a "terrible crisis." He feels Okinawa should have been returned 10 years ago. Another American in Japan compares the worsening situation to a "Greek drama where the tragic ending can be seen in advance . . . but nothing is being done to change it."

For years we have warned our peoples about these overall *trends* in world conditions. Trends which mean increased hardship for America and Britain, along with her closest friends and allies.

For a big look at the whole story, you need to write for the free book, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*, and find out WHY these many developments take place.

But keep your eyes on Japan! She is BIG today — and will be even bigger tomorrow! What will she do then? □

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