

Japan's prime minister in Carter summit today

United Press International
TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda is meeting President Carter today in a White House summit that may do more to spotlight Japanese-American problems than solve them.

Awaiting Fukuda in Washington is the task of asking the Carter administration to do something to stabilize the crumbling dollar, while trying to explain away a Japanese trade surplus with America that now runs at a record level.

Outside the realm of official business, Fukuda also could encounter demonstrations from American environmentalists upset over the recent slaughter of 1,000 dolphins by Japanese fishermen.

Officially, the purpose of the visit is to coordinate Japanese and American efforts to foster world recovery from the recession that followed the 1973 oil crisis.

However, many Tokyo political commentators think Fukuda originally chose May 3 for the Carter summit with the idea of reaping a rich harvest of publicity just before calling a general election, a strategy now gone awry.

They note that Fukuda had left open the two months between the Carter summit and the meeting of chief executives of the world's economic powers in July, providing enough time for an election to be held.

Fukuda also hoped by now to be on his way to concluding a popular

treaty of friendship with China, the commentators say, and expected Japan's recovery from the recession to be farther along than it is.

However, the Chinese treaty has been sidetracked by a dispute between the two countries over ownership of the Senkaku Islands in the China Sea. And despite government pump priming, Japan's economy is still picking up slowly.

The Carter administration was not enthusiastic about the May 3 date. The Fukuda-Carter summit is being squeezed into one day instead of the two usually allowed for such meetings.

Fukuda is seeing Carter for three hours, including a lunch. Allowing an hour for interpreters to do their work, it will be about a one-hour conversation.

During the 1977 calendar year, Japan had a \$8.1 billion trade surplus with the United States, an all-time record according to U.S. Commerce Department figures.

Presidential trade envoy Robert Strauss visited Japan in January and reached agreement with Japanese officials on steps to cut the surplus to a level acceptable to the United States.

These measures have shown no signs of taking hold so far. For the first three months of this year the Japanese surplus with America has averaged about \$1 billion a month, even more than last year.

The Japanese are worried about the decline of the dollar, fearing that

the economy of the whole non-Communist world will be upset if the trend continues. Fukuda is expected to plead for American measures to support the greenback, and also express hope that Congress will soon pass Carter's energy bill.

Japanese officials believe the United States has no hope of slowing the drain of dollars to the Middle East oil companies until that happens.

Plants can pollute for lack of permit

United Press International
HOUSTON — Six local industries operate facilities without air quality permits because the law requires them to apply within 60 days but does not require prompt Texas Air Control Board action, health officials said Monday.

One of the industries in question, Southland Paper Mills in east Harris County, has been waiting since June 2, 1975, for air board action on its permit application.

Air board officials say they have withheld the permits because the plants fail to meet pollution control standards. Harris County anti-pollution chief Allison R. Pierce said the board should deny permits it does not immediately grant. "A new plant can have flaws in design, or maybe its pollution control equip-

ment doesn't perform as the manufacturer promised," Pierce said. "But there should come a time when a plant has to shut down if it can't meet the standards."

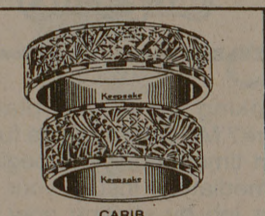
Currently, the law only requires the board to act one way or another in a "reasonable time," Pierce said. He called the lack of deadlines a "terrible weakness" in Texas pollution control law.

The city's air pollution chief, Kenneth W. Mackenzie, agreed. "When the conditions for operation are not finalized, it creates a real enforcement problem for us," Mackenzie said.

A regional official for the air board said the permits that have been delayed are not typical. He said permits normally are issued in about four months.

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- ★ Kept his promise of no new state taxes in three consecutive Legislatures; advocates property tax

relief for homeowners and family farmers and repeal of the sales tax on utilities.

- ★ Signed into law a requirement that all beef and dairy products purchased by state-supported agencies be produced in the U.S., and has urged President Carter to require federal agencies to do the same.
- ★ Has urged President and Congress to require imported agricultural products to meet the same inspection standards as domestically-produced goods and favors the Beef Import and Labeling Act of 1978 requiring imported beef to carry an identification label to the ultimate consumer.
- ★ Backs the Flexible Parity Act of 1978 which would establish new target prices for wheat, upland cotton and feed grain.
- ★ Backs emergency legislation in Congress directing Secretary of Agriculture to increase acreage set-asides for this year's crops of wheat, corn, cotton and soybeans by 31 million acres, thereby stimulating market prices.
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Pd. Pol. Adv. by The Mack Wallace Campaign, P.O. Box 8075, Austin, Texas 78712, Shelton Smith, Treasurer

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