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## Almanac

# lapan's no-armament constitution rouses unrest as threats grow

### United Press International TOKYO — Japan, constitutionally

was when b n from Evan rohibited from maintaining an my, navy or air force, is in the mid-le of a storm over the nation's dem the bus 1978. He were policy. on until M. U.S. Defense Secretary Harold the winter Brown's recent call for "combined

Brown's recent call for "combined planning efforts" among the United ave bough tes, Japan and Western Europe to

interbalance the Soviet global itary buildup has provoked a flurmy mother of attacks by opposition leaders in ents, my and e Diet (parliament). merican smi cht forever."

Although the current controversy prompted by Washington, the nnial debate over defense is eply rooted in the Japanese postpsychology. Since defeat in rld War II, the nation has failed each a consensus on how best to nd itself.

While the Soviets are rolling tanks Afghanistan and building militarinear Japan's northern borders,

#### politicians are still debating the leg-ality of the country's so-called selfin everything but name.

the country's defense capability.

And the gaps seem enormous.

440 aircraft. defense forces, Japan's armed forces

In terms of quality, the Japanese defense is also far behind in most crucial areas. Like all his predecessors in the

Liberal-Democratic Party which has Recently the Japanese Defense been in power for most of the post-Agency said the Soviet Union has war period, Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira maintains that the upgraded its air power in the Far East with deployment of supersonic and low-flying Mig-27 fighter bom-Japan-U.S. security pact — in effect since 1952 — forms the backbone of bers, which reportedly have a range encompassing all the Japanese Isthe nation's security and fills what the Defense Agency calls "gaps" in lands

On naval warfare, the Soviet Far East naval command is equipped with the powerful Kiev-class aircraft In crude numbers alone, Japanese defense intelligence figures that the carrier Minsk, while the Japanese Soviet Union — the only major powadmirals have to be content with er without a peace treaty with the Japanese — has deployed some what one local newspaper call the navy's pride - a couple of missile-300,000 ground troops, over 1.3 milfiring destroyers and other lesser lion tons of naval ships and 2,040 vessels Against Moscow's awesome nuc-

warplanes in the Soviet Far East. This compares with Japan's first-line defense of 155,000 ground lear arsenal, Tokyo simply has to seek shelter under the American

troops, 174,000 tons of warships and nuclear umbrella While internationally acknow-

ledged to have the technological know-how to join the world's exclusive nuclear club, most Japanese the world's only war victims of the atom bomb - are still adverse to the

possession of any form of nuclear veapons. Japan has officially counted itself out of the nuclear game by adhering to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty

Tokyo's passive reaction to repeated U.S. calls to arms is very much the result of historical irony.

Mindful of a possible revival of pre-war militarism, the U.S. occupation authorities dictated the unique war-renouncing constitution on the conquered nation.

Article 9 provides that the country "renounces war as a sovereign right of the nation," and declares that 'land, sea, and air forces will never be maintained.

Holding the constitution as a sacred document of Japan's democracy, most politicians — particular-ly those to the left of the political spectrum — have resisted any effort to rewrite it.

Pacifist groups and the vocal left still see militarism a living spectre, and the suggestion last year by the country's top general that the milit-ary might be forced to take "supralegal" action in time of a foreign invasion provoked a national outcry and led to the general's resignation.

Under such fierce opposition, the overnment has been forced to hold down defense spending and has budgeted \$9.3 billion, just 0.9 per-cent of the GNP— the lowest ratio in all major industrial powers - for the next fiscal year.

With politicians still sharply divided on national defense, the possibility of Japan playing any significant role in the defense of the western world seems remote.

#### United Press International Today is Wednesday, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 1980 with 315 to

#### Today is Ash Wednesday.

The moon is moving toward its first quarter. The morning stars are Mars, Jupiter and Saturn

The evening stars are Mercury and Venus.

Those born on this day are under the sign of Pisces.

On this date in history:

In 1809, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the power of the federal government was no greater than that of any individual state of the Union.

In 1938, Anthony Eden resigned as British foreign secretary to protest the "appeasement" policy of Prime Minister Neville Chamber-lain toward Nazi Germany.

In 1962, American astronaut John Glenn landed safely after three orbits of the earth in a spacecraft. In 1976, former President Richard Nixon and his wife left California

for a private visit to China.

A thought for the day: At the battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, American Revolutionary War hero William Prescott said, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."



#### Olney pancakes stack up; WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG, BAD default win to Kansan RUSSIAN BEAR?

United Press International OLNEY, England — A television truck blocked the finish line in the Great TransAtlantic Pancake Race Tuesday, producing a pile-up of thwarted flapjack-flipping women and forcing officials to declare two winners.

But no winning time was given because no one could cross the finish line. At least one race official said it looked like the ladies of Olney must default to their competition in Liber-

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the race properly," said the Rev. Ronald Collins, Anglican vicar of Olney Church. "Nor could I take the time Asked how it would affect the trans-Atlantic competition with Li-beral, he replied, "It seems to me,

al. Kan, a few hours later

Beetham said Jenkins had reiter- Vance left Washington Tuesday on a tour of Bonn, Rome, Paris and London. He arrives in Rome today to meet Italian Foreign Minister Attilio Ruffini, who will report the present

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we have to give it to them this year. Obviously we just have to renounce any chance of winning this year. **NOTICE:** Battalion

Effective Feb. 25, 1980 the security lockers that are located in the entry area on both levels of the Texas A&M Bookstore will be cleaned out each day at 5:00 p.m.

All articles removed may be claimed at the main office of the bookstore. There will be a \$2.00 charge.



British urge fghanistan Theutrality

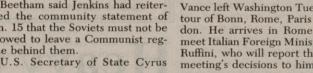
> United Press International OME — British Foreign Secret-Lord Carrington proposed to his pean Economic Community ers Tuesday that Afghanistan's trality should be internationally anteed if Soviet troops move

at neutrality must be acceptto the Soviets as well as the rest e world, said a spokesman for ine-nation community said here was a consensus among the ers that the British proposal a good idea and discussion of it is uing," said Roger Beetham, a esman for community commis-President Roy Jenkins.

of its usual Asked if Carrington was proposing N. force to guarantee neutrality e been un Afghanistan, Beetham said, "They hifts in key aven't got to that yet. The Danish elegation said the idea should be neled through the United Nans but the subject of troops would to be raised at a later meeting. eetham also was asked if ngton would have to guaranit would not go into Afghanistan if Soviets pulled out. "That is hing to be discussed," he re-

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ime behind them.



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ated the community statement of Jan. 15 that the Soviets must not be allowed to leave a Communist reg-