

# Japanese official requests lift of U.S. trade sanctions

WASHINGTON (AP) — A high-level Japanese emissary asked President Reagan on Tuesday to lift trade sanctions against Japan, but Reagan's chief spokesman said action is unlikely before Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's visit next week.

Former Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said that during a 20-minute meeting with the president, he "mentioned the semiconductor sanctions issue and emphasized that this measure should be lifted as quickly as possible."

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, however, said, "It seems unlikely to us that we will be able to make a change in the sanctions before the prime minister's visit."

Nakasone is due in Washington on April 29 and 30 for meetings with the president and other officials and a state dinner. Abe said he handed Reagan a personal letter from the prime minister.

Reagan and Nakasone have become friends in recent years, but recent U.S. trade action has put a strain on the relationship.

The administration last Friday imposed a 100-percent tariff on some Japanese-manufactured lap-top and desk-top computers, some television sets with 18-to-20-inch screens and certain powered hand tools.

Reagan said he was trying "to enforce the principles of free and fair trade."

The U.S. government accused the Japanese of violating an agreement to refrain from selling semiconductors in Third World countries at prices below cost and to open its markets wider to the purchase of U.S.-made semiconductors, also known as computer chips.

Abe told reporters that during his visit with Reagan, "The president said . . . that he would like to discuss with the prime minister the broadly based relationship between Japan and the United States, not just trade but the entire breadth of our bilateral relationship."

On the trade issue, Abe said, "it is Japan's responsibility to discharge what is expected of it and I outlined

the measures I have formulated before coming to Washington."

He said these were expanded international contributions by Japan, expansion of manufactured and other imports and measures dealing with "individual trade issues."

"I also emphasized that we should approach U.S.-Japan trade issues, not from the confrontation approach, but we should try to solve them through amicable talks," Abe said.

Fitzwater told reporters, "I would say that overall our position is that we have tried to take a deliberate approach" to the sanctions. We are sympathetic to the disruption that (imposition of sanctions) causes . . . so that our precondition is one of looking for solutions."

Fitzwater reiterated administration opposition to a House trade legislation amendment that would require the government to automatically retaliate against countries found to have gained excessive trade surpluses through unfair competitive practices.

# Death of pilot in Nicaragua spurs family to legal action

WASHINGTON (AP) — Saddled with debt, relatives of an American pilot killed in Nicaragua last year said Tuesday they have started legal action to determine who should pay bills he incurred while supplying the Contra rebels.

"The hurt of his death is just now beginning to be felt," Wallace Blaine Sawyer Sr. said in a telephone interview from his home in Magnolia, Ark.

His son, Wallace Blaine Sawyer Jr., died last Oct. 5 when a C-123K

cargo plane loaded with guns, ammunition and supplies for the Contras was shot down in Nicaragua.

After the crash, the pilot's Thai-born widow, Kasanee, and her 4-year-old son were paid by his private life insurer, but they haven't received any settlement from his unknown employer, the elder Sawyer said.

Sawyer said the family has yet to determine who hired his son to fly weapons to the Contras and who is responsible for the pilot's credit card

bill of more than \$3,500 in motels and other expenses in Central America.

"Those bills were incurred in his line of work and we don't plan to pay them," he said.

Winslow Drummond, the Sawyers' attorney in Little Rock, Ark., said he has ordered that court papers be prepared seeking to have a court administrator appointed in Columbia County to handle matters for the estate. Creditors would have 90 days to file claims.

Since the Sawyers have few assets, the estate procedure may be the first step in taking some legal action, Drummond said.

Mrs. Sawyer, while not in desperate financial shape, does not work, her father-in-law said. Her husband left her with a mortgage of about \$75,000 and car bills, he said.

The elder Sawyer, a retired oil worker, said he has no idea who paid his son, but he hopes that he will learn more about his namesake's activities in Central America when a special congressional panel on the Iran-Contra affair begins public hearings on May 5.

He said an unknown person paid about \$3,000 for his son's funeral expenses. There is still \$875 due.

Mary Rodgers at the Lewis Funeral Home in Magnolia said an unidentified man walked in and handed the firm an envelope full of cash on the day of Sawyer's funeral.

Ruth Van Heuven, a State Department spokesman, said that when an American dies abroad, the department "facilitates in case they want the body returned." The government does not pay any costs, she said.

Two other men — American William J. Cooper and a Nicaraguan — died along with the 41-year-old Sawyer.

# Car bomb in Sri Lanka leaves up to 150 dead at main bus terminal

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A car bomb at rush hour created an inferno at the main bus terminal Tuesday that officials said killed up to 150 people, bringing the death toll from terrorism in five days to nearly 300.

A Health Ministry official said about 200 people were injured and some might die of burns or other wounds.

Many of the victims burned to death or were killed by smoke inhalation in six parked buses that were engulfed in flames, police and witnesses said.

The bombing was the third attack since Friday on this island south of India, where Tamil insurgents have waged a four-year war against the majority Sinhalese for an independent nation. Tamils killed at least 142 people in northeastern Sri Lanka Friday and Monday.

Witnesses said many of the in-

jured at the bus terminal had severe burns. Rescue work was hampered by heavy rain. Police took over private cars, buses and trucks to carry take victims to hospitals.

Windows of many cars and buildings were shattered, but no major structural damage was reported.

Army helicopters with searchlights clattered overhead after dark, helping with the rescue and the search for the bombers.

No one claimed responsibility for the bomb, but the government issued a statement blaming two Tamil separatist groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students.

Eelam is what the Tamils would call the nation they want to establish in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, where members of their ethnic group predominate.

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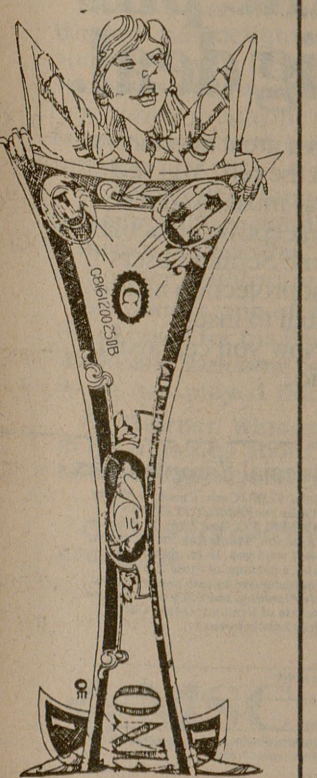
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