

**Dialogue Picks Up**

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**The flurry of official and private consultations with the Soviets that begins today reflects Japan's desire to ease tensions in bilateral relations, but movement on the key issues dividing Moscow and Tokyo is unlikely** [REDACTED]

The Soviets and Japanese have not had such a full schedule of talks since the invasion of Afghanistan. Tokyo bills the meetings as a "breakthrough" in Foreign Minister Abe's "creative diplomacy." According to press reports, Foreign Ministry officials hope the exchanges will pave the way for a visit by Foreign Minister Gromyko. In private, however, they do not foresee much improvement resulting from these meetings and believe a thaw cannot be expected until after the US presidential election, when they hope US-Soviet relations will improve. [REDACTED]

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The Soviets have stressed their willingness to resume contacts but have warned that only "practical deeds" can reduce tensions. They have shown no sign of moderating their propaganda campaign against Japanese "militarism" and in private talks with Japanese officials have displayed no flexibility. [REDACTED]

Gromyko said in mid-July that signs of Japanese independence of the US would be the touchstone of Moscow's future policies. [REDACTED]

**Comment:** Both Abe and Prime Minister Nakasone, aware of popular uneasiness over Japan's tense relations with the Soviets, are using this diplomatic posturing to strengthen their positions before the ruling party elects its president in November. They probably see the consultations as paving the way for seizing opportunities that might open up if US-Soviet relations begin to improve. [REDACTED]

Moscow does not expect the increased dialogue with Tokyo to alter the close relationship Nakasone has forged with the US but may hope it will encourage the Japanese to moderate their position on mutually contentious issues. [REDACTED]

## Scheduled Meetings Between Japanese and Soviets

Participants	Subject	Dates	Venue	Comment
<b>Official</b>				
Working-level Foreign Ministry officials	Middle East/Gulf War	16-17 Aug	Moscow	First consultations on Middle East
Cabinet ministers Yamamura and Kamentsev	Fishery issues	16-22 Aug	Moscow	Yamamura first cabinet minister to visit USSR since Chernenko took office
Representatives from Supreme Soviet and Japanese Diet	Bilateral relations	October	Tokyo	First since Afghanistan
Government-sponsored Japanese film festival	Cultural	Uncertain	Soviet Union	First in six years
<b>Private</b>				
Former Foreign Minister Sakurauchi and (possibly) Gromyko	Bilateral relations	28 Aug-2 Sep	Moscow	Sakurauchi chairman of Nakasone faction and new chairman of Dietmen's League for Friendship with Soviet Union
Domei Labor Federation and Soviet General Council of Trade Unions	Labor issues	Late August	Soviet Union	First Domei mission to USSR since 1973
Japan-USSR Joint Economic Committee	Trade	Autumn	Tokyo	First meeting since Afghanistan
Japan-USSR Round Table Conference	Bilateral relations	October	Moscow	Has met periodically since 1979

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