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KYODO: JAPANESE MINISTRIES SEE NO DANGER FROM SATELLITE DEBRIS

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1 (TEXT) TOKYO JAN 27 KYODO--LEADERS OF 12 JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES FRIDAY AGREED THAT JAPAN WOULD VIRTUALLY
BE UNAFFECTED BY THE RADIOACTIVE DEBRIS FROM A SOVIET SATELLITE
THAT PLUNGED INTO NORTHWEST CANADA TUESDAY. THEY ARRIVED AT
THIS CONCLUSION AFTER HEARING A REPORT ON THE SOVIET SATELLITE
AND STUDYING A DIAGRAM OF AIR CURRENTS COMPILED BY THE
METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY. THEY CALCULATED THAT THE RADIOACTIVE
SUBSTANCE, IF IT WAS ACTUALLY RELEASED IN THE ATMOSPHERE,
WOULD HAVE TO TRAVEL TWO-THIRDS AROUND THE EARTH IN ORDER TO
REACH JAPAN FROM THE NORTHERN PART OF CANADA. DURING ITS
TRAVEL AROUND THE EARTH, THE RADIOACTIVITY WOULD DIMINISH
CONSIDERABLY, AND THEREFORE, IT WOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT
ON JAPAN, THEY CONCLUDED. THIS CONCLUSION WAS REACHED AT THE
MEETING OF THE SECRETARIES OF THE RADIATION COUNTERMEASURES
HEADQUARTERS HELD FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

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HOWEVER, SINCE RADIATION FROM THE SOVIET NUCLEAR DEBRIS
IS ESTIMATED TO REACH JAPAN IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS IF IT WAS
RELEASED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 5,000 TO 6,000 METERS AND IN 10
DAYS IF IT WAS RELEASED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 10,000 METERS, THE
JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE ITS CURRENT RADIATION DETECTION
EFFORTS BEING MADE AT 11 PLACES AROUND JAPAN.

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FRIDAY'S MEETING AGREED THAT THE DEFENSE AGENCY WOULD
CONDUCT AN AERIAL SURVEY OF RADIATION CONTAMINATION OF
PARTICLES IN THE ATMOSPHERE AND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD
TRY TO COLLECT AS MUCH INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENT AS POSSIBLE
FROM CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

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IN CONNECTION WITH THE SOVIET NUCLEAR DEBRIS, IT BECAME
KNOWN FRIDAY THAT A DIFFERENCE OF 30 ^{MINUTES?} SECONDS MIGHT HAVE CAUSED
THE RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE TO FALL ON A CITY WITH A POPULATION
OF 600,000 INSTEAD OF ON A REMOTE AREA IN THE NORTHWESTERN
PART OF CANADA. THIS WAS REVEALED BY CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
DONALD JAMIESON WHEN HE MET WITH PRIME MINISTER TAKEO FURUDA
FRIDAY MORNING, ACCORDING TO CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SHINTARO
ABE. ABE TOLD REPORTERS THAT JAMIESON HAD TOLD FURUDA THAT THE
NUCLEAR DEBRIS FROM THE SOVIET SATELLITE WAS AT FIRST EXPECTED
TO FALL ON NEW ZEALAND OR AUSTRALIA.

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JAMIESON REPORTEDLY TOLD FURUDA THAT A DIFFERENCE OF 30
SECONDS MIGHT HAVE CAUSED THE RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE TO DROP
ON A NEARBY CITY WITH A POPULATION OF 600,000. JAMIESON DID
NOT GIVE THE NAME OF THE CITY, ABE SAID.

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