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Dear friend of Japan,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

It has been almost one month since I assumed my post as Ambassador. During this time I am pleased to have had the opportunity to meet and exchange views with various Australian politicians, government officials, business people, academia, journalists and the broader Australian public.

Today, I would like to share with you one recent development in Japan, the new draft legislation for peace and security, which the Japanese government submitted to the Diet last Friday, 15 May.

Firstly, the exercise of the right of collective self-defense (which will only be allowed under very strict conditions compared to international standards) is incorporated in the legislation and this will most certainly enhance the deterrence provided by the Japan-U.S. Alliance.

Secondly, how to better cope with a situation which has an important influence on Japan's peace and security is another significant aspect of the draft legislation. Although support activities are currently only permitted for the U.S. forces, the new legislation will enable the provision of necessary support activities to the U.S. and other countries' armed forces.

Thirdly, Japan will be able to participate in a wider range of UN PKOs and other internationally coordinated efforts under the legislation. When Japan sought to deploy its Self Defense Forces (SDF) to operations other than UN PKOs, it had to enact each time a special law with a fixed period for every single mission (and such a special law had to be extended in the Diet when it expired). Furthermore, the scope of activities that the deployed SDF can engage was limited. Under the new draft legislation, Japan will be able to participate in multilateral operations other than UN PKOs and will be able to expand our current roles (such as the protection of civilians). What Japan is trying to achieve with this legislation is simply to better contribute to internationally coordinated peace and security operations with wider scope of activities.

The attached document will provide you with an understanding of the overall nature of the new legislation. The first paper is designed to give you an overview, and the second paper illustrates more specific details (the matrix on the second page illustrates how this new legislation package will address different situations with an expanded scope of activities).

Lastly, Japan will continue to make its best efforts to explain about current efforts for the legislation to other countries with transparency and will stress that there will be no change whatsoever in Japan's basic posture and orientation as a country committed to peace for the past 70 years. Japan will continue to uphold a basic policy of maintaining an exclusively national defense-oriented policy, not becoming a military power that poses a threat to other countries, and observing the Three Non-Nuclear Principles of not possessing, not producing and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons. This legislation will only increase the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, less risk of attacks, and will enable Japan to further contribute to peace and stability of international community which is facing increasing challenges today.

Yours sincerely,

Sumio Kusaka

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Ambassador of Japan to Australia

[Japan's Legislation for Peace and Security](#)

[Japan's Security Policy](#)