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Emne: Amb. Tokyo 67 - Irak. Afklaring af Japans holdning.

Til: Udenrigsministeriet;S.MELA;N.SP;N.USA;Søndergaard, Carsten;Zilmer-Johns,
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Irak. Afklaring af Japans holdning.

Udenrigsminister Kawaguchi udsendte den 8. ds. en erklæring vedr. Irak, hvori Japan giver udtryk for støtte til det af USA, UK og Spanien reviderede resolutionsudkast. Fra japansk side begrundes støtten med, at udkastet understreger vigtigheden af international solidaritet, det udøver et samlet pres fra det internationale samfund på Irak, og med udkastet gøres et sidste forsøg på at få Irak til at afvæbne frivilligt. Erklæringsteksten er vedhæftet nedenstående webadresse.

Afgørende for afklaringen af den japanske holdning har formentlig været, at regeringen har følt, at tiden nu var inde til klart at tilkendegive og bekræfte, at Japan i Irakspørgsmålet står på USA's side.

Højtstående embedsmænd i herværende udenrigsministerium anfører endvidere som baggrund for den japanske holdning, at man nu har nået til et punkt, hvor ansvaret for at verificere om WMD er blevet destrueret eller ikke, er blevet flyttet fra FN over på Irak. Eller sagt med andre ord, at medmindre Irak tager ansvaret på sig nu og fremlægger beviser for WMD-destruktionen, har landet mistet sin sidste chance iht. resolution 1441.

Den japanske regering har nok også erkendt, at tiden er inde til at komme ud af busken: Hvis regeringen ønsker at påvirke holdningen i det internationale samfund og blandt medlemmerne af FN's Sikkerhedsråd i en mere pro amerikansk retning, skal den melde ud nu. Hensynet til opinionen i den japanske befolkning har formentlig også været en stærk bevæggrund for at melde ud nu, idet regeringen antagelig har kalkuleret med, at den vil stå sig endnu dårligere i folkeopinionen, hvis den venter med at offentliggøre dens holdning til efter afstemningen i Sikkerhedsrådet under den antagelse, at resolutionsudkastet bliver nedstemt.

Udtalelser fra repræsentanter for partierne i regeringskoalitionen, der har flertal i parlamentet, indikerer opbakning til det reviderede resolutionsudkast. Derimod har flere af oppositionspartierne herunder det største oppositionsparti Democratic Party of Japan taget afstand fra resolutionsudkastet og dermed til den japanske regerings holdning i Irakspørgsmålet.

PAV/Johan Friis

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2003/3/0308.html>

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