

## **July 31, 1985**

### **Draft Letter, Nakasone Yasuhiro to Hafez al-Assad**

#### **Citation:**

"Draft Letter, Nakasone Yasuhiro to Hafez al-Assad", July 31, 1985, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, File No. 2017-0631. Translated by Stephen Mercado.  
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/280672>

#### **Summary:**

A letter from Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan to President Assad of Syria discussing the relationship between Japan and Syria, including the American hostages held in Lebanon and Ambassador Yoshihiro Nakayama's upcoming visit to Syria.

#### **Original Language:**

Japanese

#### **Contents:**

Original Scan  
Translation - English

(別紙)

大統領閣下、

先般 安倍外務大臣が貴国を訪問した折には 貴大統領閣

下をはじめ 貴国官民より 暖いおもてなしを頂き、感謝してあります。

私は 安倍大臣の貴国訪問が 我が国と貴国との二国関係の増進に

大きく寄与する 奥り多いものであります。ことに満足してあり

ます。

省みれば 過去六ヶ月の間に シヤラ外務大臣の訪日 及び

外務省

安倍大臣の貴国訪問が成功裡に実現する等、日本・シリア两国関係が急速に緊密度を増レテあることは誠に喜ばしい限りであります。

特に安倍大臣の貴国訪問の際は、<sup>術</sup>技術協定の締結、事務レベルの~~合同~~委員会設置が実現する等、関係強化の地固めが着々となつてあり、

経済技術協力を含む各分野における

の二層の

私としても、今後とも貴大統領閣下と協力して两国関係強化のため尽力する決意があることと、ここに御伝えしたいと思ひます。

大統領のシヤラ外相の御見解

また安倍大臣よりは、中東和平問題に関する貴国の立場について、も詳細に報告を受けてあり、中東和平問題の鍵を握る貴国の重要

外務省

今後とも中東和平問題の鍵を握る  
 貴国との間でこの問題に充分な  
 意見交換を行っていくように願う。

3

貴国の立場については十分承知してあります。私はかねより中東  
 地域の平和と安定については多大の関心を有してあり

~~貴国は~~ 今秋に

貴国は米ソ首脳会談開催が予定される等国際情勢は重大な時期  
 に入り、更に我が国は来年の東京サミットを主催国として

大きく動いて

右会議開催のたりの諸般の準備を行ってあります。

かかる事情を背景として私は、今秋の国連総会出席に際し、貴国

とのかかる意見交換を踏まえ、各国の指導者と中東和平問題を合意  
 国際情勢に付き突込んだ意見交換を行っていただきたいと考えてあります。

外務省

4

更に

私をけいめとする我が国政府国民は先般のTWA機ハイジャック事件  
の際貴国が米国人人質の解放に向け私われは多大の御努力を人道

的見地からも高く評価してあります。更に安倍大臣よりは現在もレバ

ノンで捕われている米国人人質の名の解放に向け貴国が最大限の努

力を行っている旨を報告を受けました。私にかかると貴国の努力に深い

敬意を表するものであります。



外務省

米領土を含む外国人

これら白人の質解放については困難な問題が多くあることは十分承知してあります。私時貴国が領土の白人質解放の促進に全道的

代わつては人道的面面を

加へて一日も早く東を結ぶことを心より希望する次第であります。

望むところの期待しており、貴大臣領内下におかれても

最大限の御努力を払われること

外務省

6

このまうん

今後はとも

私は貴国との関係強化を重視しており、経済、技術協力を  
含む多くの分野と~~わたり~~両国関係の推進と中東和平問題、国

際テロリズム問題等に関する両国間の意見交換の継続が  
不可欠と考えております。

かかる見地から、今回、中東問題全般に造詣が深く、私が最  
も信頼している中山大使を特使として貴国に派遣いたします。

とけ私の大まな喜びであります。私は貴大使が~~私の名代にあ~~  
る中山大使と、おろの肉題につき有意義な意見交換を

外務省

7

行めぬるよう人より命ぬする次第であります。

外務省





(Attachment)

Your Excellency the President,

I am thankful that, when Foreign Minister Abe recently visited your country, he enjoyed a warm welcome from Your Excellency the President, as well as from the officials and the people of your country. I am satisfied that Minister Abe's visit to your country was a fruitful one that greatly contributed to the promotion of bilateral relations between my country and yours.

[TN: portion of text blacked out]

It is a great pleasure, looking back, that in the past six months the visit of Foreign Minister Shara to Japan and that of Minister Abe to your country have successfully taken place and that bilateral relations between Japan and Syria have rapidly been growing closer. In particular, with the conclusion of a technical cooperation agreement on the occasion of Minister Abe's visit to your country, the establishment of an office-level joint commission, and such, the foundation is being progressively laid for strengthening relations. I wish to inform you that I am determined to strive to cooperate with Your Excellency the President for the further strengthening of bilateral relations in every field, including those of the economy and technology.

Also, I have received from Minister Abe a detailed report on the views of the President and Foreign Minister Shara concerning the issue of peace in the Middle East and am now fully aware of your country's position. Having for some time had a great interest in the peace and stability of the Middle East, I intend henceforth to engage in a full exchange of views regarding this issue with your country, which holds the key to peace in the Middle East.

This autumn there is going to be much movement in the international situation, with the scheduled holding of the US-Soviet Summit and such. Moreover, our country will be the host nation of the Tokyo Summit next year. As such, we are preparing to host this meeting.

With such a situation as background, on the occasion of my attending the United Nations General Assembly this autumn, I would like to engage in an in-depth exchange of views with the leaders of various countries regarding the international situation, including the issue of peace in the Middle East, in taking into consideration the exchanges of views conducted with your country.

Furthermore, Japan, the Japanese people, and I greatly appreciate from a humanitarian point of view the great efforts made by your country for the release of the American hostages in the TWA hijacking incident. Also, having received from Minister Abe a report on the utmost efforts of your country for the release of the seven American hostages now held in Lebanon, I express my deep respect for your country's efforts.

[TN: portion of text blacked out]

I am fully aware of the many difficult problems regarding the release of the foreign hostages, including these seven Americans, but Japan hopes from a humanitarian point of view that the release of these hostages will be realized as soon as possible. I sincerely hope for the utmost cooperation from Your Excellency the President.

Therefore, I attach great importance to the strengthening of relations with your country and think it indispensable that, henceforth, we promote relations between

our two countries in many fields, including those of the economy and technology, and continue exchanges of views between our two countries on such issues as those of peace in the Middle East and international terrorism.

From such a viewpoint, it is my great joy to be able to send at this time Ambassador Yoshihiro Nakayama, who has a profound knowledge of the issues of the Middle East and my utmost confidence, to your country as my special envoy. I sincerely hope that you and Ambassador Nakayama will conduct a meaningful exchange of views regarding these issues.

I also sincerely hope that you will realize in the near future a visit to Japan in order to develop even further the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

I pray for the continued health of Your Excellency the President and the lasting happiness of your country's people.