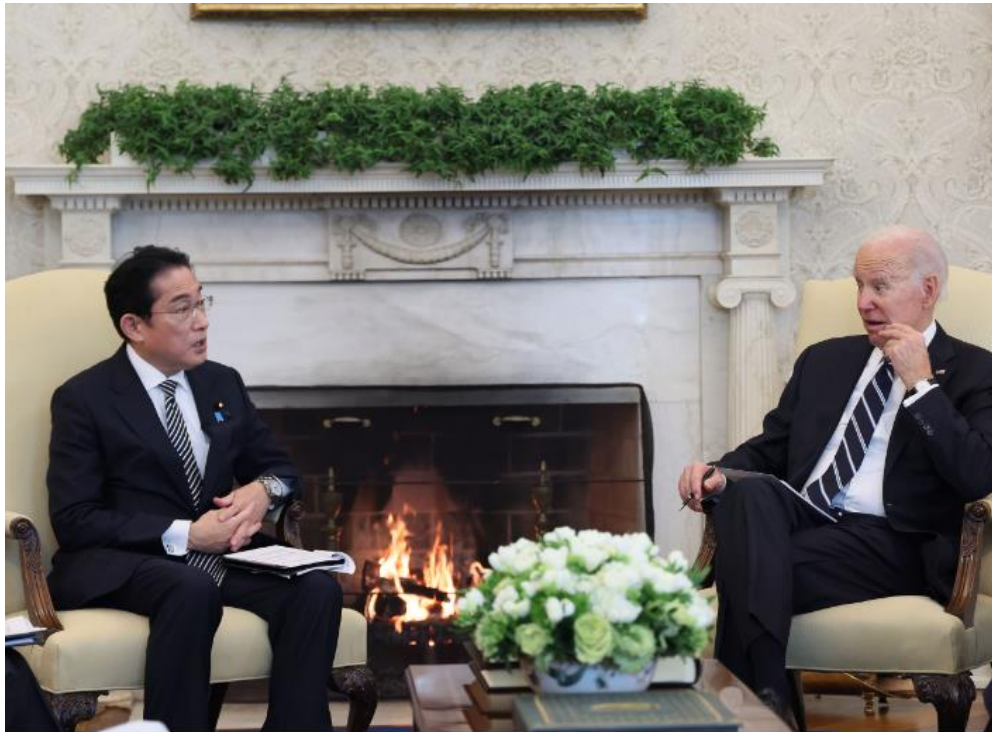


USA is fully Committed to Defense of Japan

Summit: Japanese Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida & President Joe Biden

Friday, January 13, 2023

“The United States is fully, thoroughly, completely committed to Japan’s defense,” said President Biden, after a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the White House.



Summit Meeting: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida with President Joe Biden

The Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa also signed a US-Japanese co-operation agreement on space. PM Kishida had earlier met Vice-President Kamala Harris at her residence for a breakfast meeting.



China's aggressive posture & threat to use force to annex Taiwan and North Korea's missile testing over Japanese islands has forced Japan to raise its defense spending to 2% of its GDP in five years. This decision was taken in December 2022.

Before coming to Washington DC, the Japanese Prime minister had signed an agreement, with Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, for joint military exercises of UK and Japan. Kishida also discussed security co-operation with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and French President Emmanuel Macron.



January 12, 2023: Japan-Canada Summit



January 11, 2023: Japan-UK Summit



January 10, 2023: Japan-Italy Summit

In December 2022, Japan had also decided to buy U.S.-made Tomahawks and other long-range cruise missiles that can hit targets in China or North Korea .

On December 9, 2022, the Global Combat Air Program (GCAP) was launched by Japan, Britain and Italy to collaborate on a next-generation jet fighter project by combining the British-Italian Tempest and Japan's F-X program. The main contractors - Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd for Japan, BAE Systems Plc for the UK, and Leonardo SpA for Italy - have been asked to complete the project by 2035, with a working plan to be approved by 2024. The Jet Fighter will ensure interoperability with USA and NATO.

In 2022, IHI Corporation, Japan and Rolls-Royce, UK signed to work together on a new aircraft engine. USA and Japan have decided to work on autonomous systems, for use in the Jet Fighter.

It is expected that Saab AB of Sweden, which currently makes the Gripen fighter, may also join GCAP.

France and Germany's Future Combat Air System is another project, similar to GCAP.
