

While there is talk of an "all-Europe" seat into which Britain, France and the FRG would ultimately be subsumed, delays on the Maastricht front indicate that it may well be some time before European foreign policy is sufficiently unified to make this a reality.

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JAPAN AT THE UN: THE RISING SUN

Japan is already campaigning openly and has also passed legislation recently enabling it to shoulder peacekeeping responsibilities: not a written requirement but understood to be a minimum peace and security undertaking for P5 membership. It has even begun modest peacekeeping services in Cambodia. Certainly, its emergence as a leading world economic power must have consequences for the UN system. Since its wartime role excluded Japan (and Germany) in 1945 from membership in the elite group of post-war allies, the Japanese have concentrated intensively and with brilliant success on technology and economic growth. Encouraged and emboldened by the talk of reform, its own growing international prestige, prominence in international development assistance (it recently pledged 20% of total IDA replenishment) and the knowledge that it has graduated from being the UN's third contributor to its second, Japan is now firmly committed to more political activism and an SC seat.

Already the Japanese have begun tentatively but unmistakeably to cut a new figure in UN agencies after years of passively sitting back, and this has met with mixed reviews. As evidenced by an early performance at UNESCO's Executive Council in the spring of 1992 when aggressiveness rather than constructive interventionism characterized their new style, this may not endear them to still-wary Asian neighbours and others. Even less attractive was their rough campaign in January 1993 to have their candidate re-elected at almost any price for a second term as head of the WHO, in spite of widespread criticism of his record. They may need, in other words, some help in the art of managing power gracefully.

Several aspects of this situation offer opportunities. Firstly, it is an unfortunate fact that Japan routinely delays its payments to the UN budget until late in the year - rather than the beginning, as required, since UN operations are planned by calendar year - and this, added to the massive US arrears, has been highly damaging to many programs. Fiscal year differences are cited, but of course any country, including Canada, could earn interest on their UN contribution by holding it back for a few months. The opportunity then is this: it should be made clear to the Japanese that support for a permanent Security Council seat would be contingent on unfailing fiscal responsibility i.e. payment of dues on time, along with peacekeeping duties.