Yeltsin's Japan Trip to Define Russia's Place in G-7

By Sam Jamerson

KARUIZAWA, JAPAN

Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin's visit to Japan beginning Sept. 13 will test whether Russia can become a "partner" of the so-called Group of Seven advanced industrialized democracies, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa declared here Sunday.

Speaking to a seminar of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Miyazawa said Japan, the United States, Canada, Germany, Britain, France and Italy agreed at the Munich summit in July that "we want Russia to be our partner."

"That was the basic thinking of the political declaration" at Munich, Mctawawa said, adding that to build that kind of relationship, Moscow must "close the books on Stalinism by resolving the northern territories issue."

He was referring to Russia's claim to four islands off its northern coast that were annexed by the former Soviet Union after the end of World War II and continue to be held by Russia. Tokyo's claim was supported by Japan's six G-7 partners, Miyazawa said.

"Those islands have never belonged to anyone except Japan. If Yeltsin can agree to that point, we can be flexible (about the timing of their return). There are many ways to deal with the issue," Miyazawa said.

Such an agreement by Yeltsin, the prime minister said, would open the door to "large-scale aid" to Russia from Japan. "But we can't give large-scale aid, which would come from the tax money, without the people's support," he said.

Earlier at the seminar, Chairman Koko Sato of the ruling party's general affairs bureau, who had just returned from a trip to two of the islands at issue, predicted that pressure from hard-liners in Moscow would keep Yeltsin from recognizing Japan's sovereignty over the islands. But he said the Russian islanders themselves were "beginning to lend an ear" to Japan's sentiment from Democrats and the onc after that to the state's business. "It is long past the time the public tolerates a philosophical fight between the Democrats and the Republicans," said Senate President Pro Tem David A. Roberti, a Democrat, who crafted the compromise with the state's Republican Leader Ken Maddy of Pico
town.

Democratic Assemblyman Bruce Bronsman, chairman of the Assembly Budget Committee, said the public's anger over the lack of a budget had overwhelmed concerns about the issues that were at stake.

"We have a tyranny of circumstances," Bronsman said. "What we are fighting for is the same money that it would come from local governments and reduce spending on higher education while boosting fees 24 percent at the University of California and 40 percent at the California State and University campuses.

In the Assembly, liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans found common cause in ending the gridlock. But in exchange, Wilson agreed to cut into health and welfare programs for the poor and the disabled and to pay from local governments and reduce spending on higher education while boosting fees 24 percent at the University of California and 40 percent at the California State and University campuses.

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