

## **S. Korea to block Japanese Security Council bid** (Sat 2 Apr, 2005)

### **WARM-UPS**

**CHAT:** Talk in pairs or groups about South Korea / United Nations Security Council / Japan / neighboring countries / WWII disputes / forgetting the past / moving on / ... Change topic / partner frequently to increase conversation.

**JAPAN BRAINSTORM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with Japan. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

**UNSC MEMBERSHIP:** Should Japan, along with Germany, Brazil and India, become get permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council? In pairs / groups, write down the pros and cons of these four countries joining the UNSC. Discuss what you have written. Which country has the greatest chance of membership? Which country should receive a seat?

**JAPAN MEMBERSHIP OPINIONS:** Read the following statements about Japanese aspirations to be a permanent member of the UNSC and express your opinion.

- a. Japan provides 20 per cent of the United Nations budget; more than the combined contributions of China (1%), Russia (1.1%) and France (6.5%).
- b. "Japan is a dangerous warlike state which is seeking overseas aggression going against the trend of peace." – North Korean Government
- c. WWII finished 60 years ago. Why does South Korea still bring it up today?
- d. America, Japan's greatest foe in WWII, supports Japanese (and German) membership.
- e. Japan needs to apologize for the atrocities it committed during WWII and pay compensation to its neighbours.
- f. If South Korea is worried about Japan, what does it think of China's past aggression? Doesn't it remember the Korean War?
- g. Japan is committed to promoting international disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. It has three non-nuclear principles of not possessing, not producing and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons into its territory.
- h. Japan really does need the support and trust of its neighbours to get a permanent seat.
- i. Japan has a pacifist constitution. Entry to the UNSC would mean having to abandon this by fighting UN-backed wars.
- j. Japan is an economically, politically and culturally important country. Its people are amongst the most peaceful in the world. Of course it should be a permanent member.
- k. Why should Japan get permanent membership and not South Korea?

## PRE-READING IDEAS

**WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'permanent' and 'member'.

**TRUE FALSE:** Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. South Korea supports Japan's bid to join the UN Security Council. T / F
- b. There are only five members of the UN Security Council. T / F
- c. A top South Korean diplomat thinks Japan is a good neighbour. T / F
- d. The diplomat said Japan has the trust of its neighbours. T / F
- e. Gaining UNSC permanent membership is not so important to Japan. T / F
- f. Japan is the second largest financial contributor to the United Nations. T / F
- g. South Korea is angry about a Japanese school history book. T / F
- h. China has voiced opposition to Japan's bid for permanent membership. T / F

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| (a) thrown a spanner in the works | condones      |
| (b) declared                      | hope          |
| (c) warrant                       | headed for    |
| (d) envoy                         | asserted      |
| (e) reflection                    | frustrated    |
| (f) set for                       | financing     |
| (g) aspiration                    | diplomat      |
| (h) bankrolling                   | express       |
| (i) justifies                     | contemplation |
| (j) voice                         | deserve       |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article:

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) thrown a spanner       | a diplomatic war           |
| (b) too untrustworthy      | the UN                     |
| (c) a Security Council     | in the works               |
| (d) its lack               | known as the G4            |
| (e) play                   | seat                       |
| (f) set for                | of reflection              |
| (g) international          | a neighbour                |
| (h) bankrolling            | its expected opposition    |
| (i) part of a group        | the role of a world leader |
| (j) China has yet to voice | aspiration                 |

## GAP FILL

### S. Korea to block Japanese Security Council bid

**BNE:** South Korea has thrown a \_\_\_\_\_ in the works of Japan's efforts to join China, France, Russia, USA and UK as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). A top South Korean diplomat has \_\_\_\_\_ Japan too untrustworthy a neighbour to warrant a Security Council seat. South Korea's envoy to the UN said his government would \_\_\_\_\_ any Japanese attempts at permanent membership. Ambassador Kim Sam-hoon said: "We do not think Japan has the qualifications to become a UN Security Council member, and we will try to make sure it does not". He added: "There are difficulties for a country that does not have the \_\_\_\_\_ of its neighboring countries because of its lack of \_\_\_\_\_ on the past to play the role of a world leader."

*trust*  
*declared*  
*reflection*  
*block*  
*spanner*

South Korea and Japan are \_\_\_\_\_ for a diplomatic war over this issue. Japan's greatest international aspiration is to become a permanent member. It is the number two nation in \_\_\_\_\_ the UN. However, South Korea is angry over Japan's claim to a set of disputed islands between the two countries, currently under South Korean control; a new edition of a school history book that critics say \_\_\_\_\_ Japan's actions in World War II; and Prime Minister Koizumi's annual visits to the \_\_\_\_\_ Yasakuni shrine, which memorializes Japan's top WWII soldiers. Japan, Germany, Brazil and India are part of a group known as the G4, which all have ambitions on a UNSC seat. America strongly supports Japan's bid; China has yet to \_\_\_\_\_ its expected opposition.

*controversial*  
*set*  
*justifies*  
*voice*  
*bankrolling*

## HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or search engine to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on the UNSC. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. JAPAN'S BID:** Write a letter to the head of the UNSC about your feelings on Japan's membership bid. In your next class other students will reply to your letter.
- 4. MY COUNTRY:** You are the foreign minister / secretary of your land. You have to convince the United Nations that your country should be a UNSC permanent member. Write down some brief notes explaining these reasons. In your next class your classmates will vote on whether to accept your membership bid.

## DISCUSSION:

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Were you surprised by anything in this article?
- c. Were you angry about anything in this article?
- d. Should Japan become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council?
- e. There are currently five permanent members. Should this be expanded?
- f. Why do you think small countries like France and Britain are permanent members?
- g. Germany, Brazil and India also want to be permanent members. Is this OK?
- h. Japan finances twenty per cent of the UN. Isn't this enough to warrant permanent membership?
- i. Japan lacks the trust of its neighbours. Is this a fair argument?
- j. America has forgiven Japan for WWII. Shouldn't Japan's neighbours do the same?
- k. Is South Korea's attempt to block Japanese membership a thing a good neighbour would do?
- l. Do you think Japan is a peaceful country?
- m. Do you think China is a peaceful country?
- n. Do you think the USA is a peaceful country?
- o. Is it right to bring up the Second World War when Japan now has a pacifist constitution and leads the world in arguing against nuclear proliferation?
- p. All of the UNSC permanent members have nuclear weapons. Is this right?
- q. Would Japanese permanent membership upset the regional balance of power in Asia?
- r. Should your country become a permanent member of the UNSC?
- s. Did you like this discussion?

## TEXT

### S. Korea to block Japanese Security Council bid

**BNE:** South Korea has thrown a **spanner** in the works of Japan's efforts to join China, France, Russia, USA and UK as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). A top South Korean diplomat has **declared** Japan too untrustworthy a neighbour to warrant a Security Council seat. South Korea's envoy to the UN said his government would **block** any Japanese attempts at permanent membership. Ambassador Kim Sam-hoon said: "We do not think Japan has the qualifications to become a UN Security Council member, and we will try to make sure it does not". He added: "There are difficulties for a country that does not have the **trust** of its neighboring countries because of its lack of **reflection** on the past to play the role of a world leader."

South Korea and Japan are **set** for a diplomatic war over this issue. Japan's greatest international aspiration is to become a permanent member. It is the number two nation in **bankrolling** the UN. However, South Korea is angry over Japan's claim to a set of disputed islands between the two countries, currently under South Korean control; a new edition of a school history book that critics say **justifies** Japan's actions in World War II; and Prime Minister Koizumi's annual visits to the **controversial** Yasakuni shrine, which memorializes Japan's top WWII soldiers. Japan, Germany, Brazil and India are part of a group known as the G4, which all have ambitions on a UNSC seat. America strongly supports Japan's bid; China has yet to **voice** its expected opposition.