



The Weekly Observer

Oct. 17-21

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Inaugural LDP-Komeito Council Meeting on National Security

The LDP and Komeito's newly established council discussing the **revision of the three national security documents** met for the first time on Tuesday.

Key discussion topics include **counterstrike capabilities**, the scope and financing of the **defense budget**, and how the NSS will refer to **China**.

At the first **working team meeting** on Wednesday, members agreed to work toward **toughening language on Russia** in the upcoming NSS.

PM Announces GOJ Investigation into Unification Church

On Monday, **Prime Minister Kishida Fumio** announced that the GOJ will enact for the first time its "right to ask questions" based on the Religious

Corporations Act to **investigate the Unification Church**.

The PM reversed course on the question of **dissolving the Church**, first saying this would only happen if it had violated the **penal code**, to later saying that **civil code violations** would count.

The **LDP, CDP and JIP** also agreed to craft a bill to relieve victims from expensive donations and psychic marketing and aim to pass it during this Diet session.

Yen Depreciates to 32-Year Low

On Friday, the yen depreciated to **¥152 against the dollar** for the first time since **Aug. 1990** due to growing speculation that U.S. interest rates will continue to rise while the BOJ maintains its **monetary easing policy**. Reports suggest the **GOJ/BOJ later intervened** in the market and pushed the yen back up to **¥144**.

Cabinet Approval



33% (-3 pts.)

41% (- pts.)

ANN (Oct. 16)

COVID-19 Cases (NHK, Oct. 21)

Total Cases: 21.93 million

Total Deaths: 46,152

Daily (Japan): 31,593 (-5,012)

7-Day Ave.: 33,389 (+4,312)
(1.15x from last week)

Deaths: 67 (+4)

Daily (Tokyo): 2,840 (-655)

7-Day Ave.: 3,184 (+344)
(1.10x from last week)

Vaccination Progress (Oct. 21)

First dose: 81.4%

Second dose: 80.4%

Third dose: 65.8% (+0.2%)