

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

JAPAN
POLITICS AND SOCIETY

REPORT 2
OF THE
SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE
REFERENCES COMMITTEE

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

That the following matter be referred to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee for inquiry and report to the Senate:

- (1) Examination of developments in contemporary Japan with respect to:
 - (a) contemporary economic conditions, including:
 - (i) the impact of low and expected continuing low growth;
 - (ii) the effect of the Asian currency crisis;
 - (iii) blockages to economic efficiency and areas of reform in the domestic economy; and
 - (iv) trading patterns and the significance of Japan's growing trade surplus in its relations with its leading trading partners;
 - (b) contemporary political changes, including:
 - (i) the changes in the major political parties, the emergence of new parties and the electoral and structural changes that are occurring;
 - (ii) the political significance and power of land-holders and farmers in influencing social and economic progress; and
 - (iii) Japan's view of itself in the world and its role in the Asian region;
 - (c) significant contemporary changes in Japanese society;
- (2) examination of the implications of the above matter for Australia.

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