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John Neagle

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Japan Wants Greater Influence In I.m.f.

by John Neagle

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In an interview with the Financial Times (London) published Dec. 18, Japanese Deputy Finance Minister Makoto Utsumi said that Japan should be given a larger role within the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said: "I am convinced that the US is and should be the lead manager on things for example, the Latin American debt issue and we are, so to speak, co-manager." Utsumi added that Japan did not "have the ability to lead on international issues yet." Meanwhile, however, Utsumi said Japanese officials were becoming impatient with being "asked only for money" by international organizations. "It will be increasingly difficult for us to have the approval of parliament for any co-operation in relation to multilateral institutions without having an adequate position in the IMF," he said. (Basic data from AFP, 12/18/89)

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