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Barbara Khol

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Japan World's Largest Aid Donor

by Barbara Khol

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According to a recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Japanese aid to Third World nations in 1989 totaled \$9 billion, compared to \$7.7 billion donated by the US. The third largest aid donor was France, at \$5.14 billion, followed by West Germany with \$4.95 billion. In real terms, the US total dropped 27% from 1988. As a share of GNP, US aid dropped from 0.21% in 1988 to 0.15% last year. Washington's contribution in proportional terms was the worst among the advanced capitalist nations that comprise the OECD's principal donors. In 1989, the Scandinavian countries continued to provide the most aid as percentage of GNP, led by Norway with 1.02%, said the report. Joseph Wheeler, chairperson of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, told a news conference in Paris June 25 that US aid to Third World nations has declined steadily in recent years. US contributions, he added, are expected to rise to at least \$9 billion in 1990, and contributions to multilateral aid institutions should return to normal levels this year. Next, said Wheeler, substantial new aid programs in Central America are also likely. Wheeler said Japan plans to spend at least \$31 billion on aid over the next three years. Next, according to Wheeler, government assistance to developing countries from all sources in 1989 totaled \$51.3 billion, compared to \$51.7 billion in 1988. The total aid flow in 1989, including private funds and export credits, to Third World countries is estimated at \$109 billion, up 4.5% over 1988. (Basic data from AFP, 06/25/90)

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