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## **MORE ASSERTIVE JAPAN STANDS UP TO RUSSIA OVER UKRAINE**

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VOA News (18 March 2022)

William Gallo

Pallets loaded onto the Japanese Self-Defense Force cargo aircraft this month contained bulletproof vests, helmets, and other nonlethal military equipment □ much different from the shoulder-fired missiles, drones, and other weapons many Western countries have sent to Ukrainians fighting Russias invasion.

Japans decision to ship military equipment to Ukraine still marked a major step for Tokyo, whose pacifist constitution has for decades kept the country out of foreign military conflicts.

This kind of mission is the first case for us, but we will do our utmost to swiftly deliver [the equipment] to Ukraine, tweeted Japans Defense Ministry, referring to the March 9 shipment.

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