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DEFENSE BUILDUP SHOULD BE JAPAN'S 'OWN INITIATIVE,' SAYS TOP DIPLOMAT

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Berk Kutay Gokmen

Japans foreign minister said Tuesday that the countrys defense buildup should be Tokyos own initiative, in the wake of a new US national security strategy document.

The security environment surround(ing) Japan is perhaps the most challenging and severe and complex in the post-war history * I have stressed in the past * buildup of defense capability should be conducted by Japan's initiative based on the basic attitude that a nation should defend itself, Motegi Toshimitsu Motegi told a news conference in Tokyo.

His remarks came in response to the new US national security strategy document, which outlined the Trump administrations priorities in foreign and security policies, and sought increased defense spending by Washingtons allies, including Tokyo.

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