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**JAPAN HINTS AT DISPATCHING FORCES TO STRAIT OF HORMUZ FOR MINESWEEPING  
AFTER CEASEFIRE**

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Anadolu Agency (22 March 2026)

Japan on Sunday hinted at the possibility of sending its Self-Defense Forces for minesweeping operations in the Strait of Hormuz if a ceasefire is realized between Iran and the US and Israel, local media reported.

"Japan's minesweeping technology is at the top level in the world. Let's say (in case of a) ceasefire, and in the event that mines pose an obstacle, we may have to think about it," Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said, referring to a potential SDF dispatch, Tokyo-based Kyodo News reported.

Motegi, who was present during the Japan-US summit talks in Washington last Thursday, said there was "no specific promise" made nor any issue that Tokyo had to bring back home to consider.

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