

# U.S. and Japan seek balance

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States and Japan resumed efforts Wednesday to find ways to open Japan's markets, but U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor cautioned against expecting any immediate breakthroughs.

Japanese Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto held talks with both Kantor and Commerce Secretary Ron Brown as both sides searched for ways to break the stalemate in contentious negotiations aimed at lowering Japanese trade barriers.

The United States is threatening to impose trade sanctions on Japan if agreement is not reached in one of the areas — government purchases — by Sept. 30. Two other priority areas under discussion are insurance and autos and auto parts.

Kantor refused to characterize the status of the talks in any of the areas but he indicated that the discussions were likely to go right up to the Sept. 30 deadline.

"I hope we can make progress, but I wouldn't expect any dramatic an-

nouncements or breakthroughs in the near term," Kantor told reporters.

After his meeting with Brown, Hashimoto joked that "there was no fatal attack" but he refused to provide any details of how the discussions went.

In addition to Hashimoto, Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono was scheduled to meet with Kantor on Thursday.

On Tuesday, Walter Mondale, America's ambassador to Japan, told a Washington audience that the United States hopes to resolve the current disputes without resorting to trade sanctions.

Kantor refused to speculate about what the United States might do if there is no agreement in the government purchases area by a Sept. 30 deadline.

American companies are pushing for the Japanese government to open up its bid procedures specifically in the areas of medical equipment and telecommunications products.

Government purchases, autos and auto parts and insurance were the top priority areas designated more than a year ago when both countries launched what was known as the "framework"

talks. While initial deals were supposed to have been reached last February, the talks instead broke down over Japan's refusal to accept numerical benchmarks for measuring progress.

The fight over this issue remains at the center of the negotiations with the search continuing for ways to measure market-opening progress that would be acceptable to both sides.

Kantor was scheduled to continue his talks with the Japanese on Thursday in Los Angeles in advance of weekend meetings with the world's top trading countries.

Those discussions will involve the trade ministers from Japan, Canada and the European Union.

Kantor told reporters that one of the issues on the agenda will be ways to revive a U.S. proposal to launch a new round of talks aimed at lowering global trade barriers.

While Canada and Japan generally support this proposal, it has met opposition from the EU.

# Joint effort endorsed

TOTSK, Russia (AP)—Slamming nationalists who have decried joint peacekeeping exercises as a violation of sovereignty, Russia's top general gave a resounding endorsement to training with the U.S. military.

Defense Minister Pavel Grachev pledged Wednesday to double Russia's contingent next year, and criticized opponents of the joint exercises as short-sighted.

"Those who are today against this peacekeeping exercise, let them re-

member 1954," said Grachev, recalling barbaric nuclear testing that took place 40 years ago on the plains of Totsk, 700 miles southeast of Moscow.

"I believe that the very effect of the joint American-Russian peacekeeping exercise has global significance. Those who misunderstand are only those who are short-sighted or the forces who play a political part during the exercises," he told a group of mostly Russian soldiers at the base auditorium.

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Editor Jeff Zeleny 472-1766

Night News Editors Chris Hain Doug Kouma

FAX NUMBER 472-1761

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