

February 12, 2004

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The Embassy of Japan refers to the Department of State's note of February 12, 2004, regarding the wreck of a Japanese Type A mini-submarine recently discovered off Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and confirms the view of the Government of Japan that it does not object to the view of the United States that the wreck and its associated artifacts are now the property of the United States, that the wreck is a war grave, and the desire of the Japanese Government that the United States protect the interests of the Government of Japan and its citizens therein.



The Department of State refers the Embassy of Japan to recent discussions between the United States and Japanese Governments regarding the wreck of a Japanese Type A mini-submarine that was sunk in combat with United States naval forces near Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, and that was discovered on August 28, 2002, by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Hawaii. The mini-submarine lies within an area bounded by the coordinates 21.2702976N 157.9262621W, 21.2702976N 157.9083881W, 21.2536659N 157.9083881W, and 21.2536659N 157.9262621W that lies entirely within three nautical miles of the nearest land.

It is the view of the United States that the wreck and its associated artifacts are now the property of the United States. The United States desires to protect the wreck site and to establish definitively that the owner of the wreck does not wish it to be salvaged or disturbed in any manner without its express authorization. This is in accordance with international law, United States archaeological, historic preservation and salvage laws, and the United States Policy for the Protection of Sunken Warships (January 19, 2001).

**DIPLOMATIC NOTE**

To assist the United States in preserving the rights and interests of the United States and Japan in this regard, the Department would be grateful if the Government of Japan would confirm that it does not object to the view of the United States that the wreck and its associated artifacts are now the property of the United States, that the wreck is a war grave, and that it requests the United States to protect the interests of the Government of Japan and its citizens therein.

Department of State,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'mph', is written in black ink.

Washington, February 12, 2004.