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BLINKEN AND AUSTIN WILL TRAVEL TO JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA LATER THIS MONTH

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Kylie Atwood

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin will travel to Japan and South Korea later this month, marking the first international trip by Biden Cabinet officials since President Joe Biden's inauguration, according to a State Department official and a diplomat from the region.

The trip, which will take place from March 14-18, could determine if further overseas travel is deemed safe for Biden officials, explained the State Department official.

The Covid-19 pandemic has complicated the Biden administration's goal of putting diplomacy first and reengaging with allies. Both Blinken and Austin have had made an extensive number of phone calls with their counterparts overseas, but they have not been able to conduct in-person meetings.

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