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**JAPAN, US AGREE TO DEEPEN SECURITY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

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Berk Kutay Gokmen

The top diplomats of Japan and the US agreed Saturday to advance concrete security cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening economic security initiatives, Japans Foreign Ministry said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio held what the ministry described as a candid exchange of views on diplomacy, security and the economy on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in Germany.

The two concurred on advancing concrete security cooperation to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-US alliance, the ministry said in a statement.

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