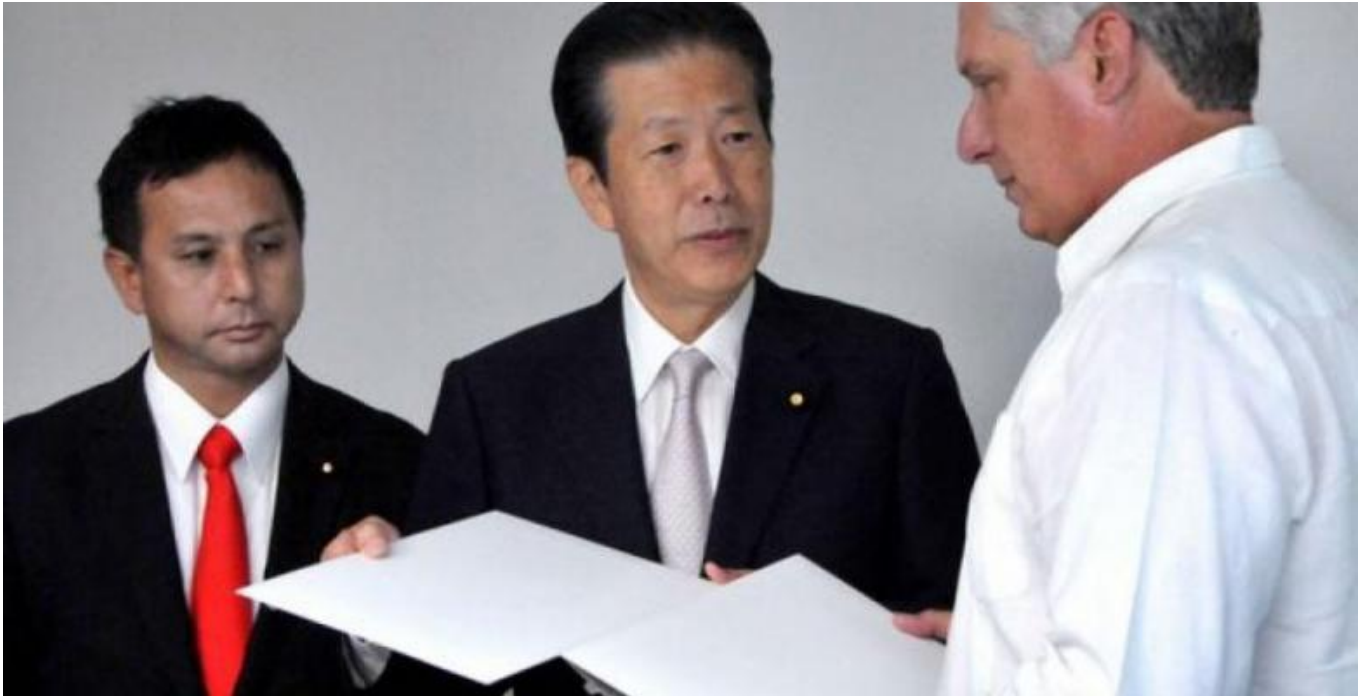

Japan PM sent messages to Fidel and Raul

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Japan PM, Shinzo Abe, sent reasoned messages to Cuban Revolution leaders Fidel Castro and Raul Castro with the leader of the Japanese political party *Komeito*, Natsuo Yamaguchi, who is paying official visit to Cuba.

The messages were delivered to Cuba's First Vice-president Miguel Diaz Canel, who welcomed Yamaguchi on Tuesday in Havana. Mr. Yamaguchi was invited by the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC).

During the meeting, Yamaguchi and Diaz Canel confirmed the bilateral interest in deepening the relations that link both people, as well as the purpose of developing the political, economic, and cooperation relation between both countries.

Cuban vice-president paid official visit to Japan last June to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation on the days where Japanese companies are returning to the Caribbean island.

Abe, according to some Japanese media, is scheduled to travel to Cuba by the end of September. This would be the first visit of a Japanese head of state to Cuba ever.

The leader of the *Komeiko* party, which is member of the governing coalition led by Abe, was welcomed by Cuba's FM Bruno Rodriguez and vice-president Ricardo Cabrisas.

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