

# U.S., Japan Seek Same Economic Rules

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A group of Japanese and American business leaders, stressing the similarities rather than differences between Japan's economic institutions and those of the West, yesterday called for one set of international rules to apply to all industrial countries.

A 34-page policy statement, issued here and in Japan by the Committee for Economic Development and its Japanese counterpart, Keizai Doyukai, called for a three-way partnership among U.S., Japan and Europe.

The CED is an independent research organization of about 200 business executives and educators. It has been working with Keizai Doyukai on the policy statement for nearly three years.

The basic thrust of the document is that there have been marked changes in Japanese economic behavior and policies since an earlier study in 1973, which emphasized that Japan "in many ways represented an excep-

tion to the international rules of the game among the nations of the Free World."

Now, says the CED, Japan has become increasingly more liberal, both in respect to imports and to foreign investment within the country.

Although there are many differences compared with the West in terms of business-government and labor-management relations, "the Japanese variant of a market economy bears important resemblances . . . to the economies of some Western countries, particularly France, with its indicative . . . planning and the close collaboration between government and business."

The image commonly held of Japan Incorporated "is oversimplified," the CED said.

The joint statement put forward four basic principles for an international economic system:

1. "Non-discrimination and maximum freedom for international transactions on a long-term basis."
2. A closing of the gap between the rich and poor countries.
3. Maintenance of the trend toward trade liberali-

zation and investment, and avoidance of "solving domestic problems primarily at the expense of other countries."

4. A broadening of the goal of economic growth to accommodate "non-market" objectives such as resolution of social conflict, environmental improvement, higher living standards and efficient use of scarce resources.