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US, JAPAN PLEDGE TO DETER CHINESE ACTIONS IF NECESSARY

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17.03.2021

Anadolu Agency (16 March 2021)

Michael Hernandez

The US and Japan on Tuesday vowed to hold the line against Chinese actions they say are threats to regional peace and security, warning they are poised to push back if needed.

The vow came as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met in Japan with their Japanese counterparts in what is known as a "2+2" gathering.

The trip is the first foreign visit by Austin and Blinken since they took office, largely because the coronavirus pandemic has stunted what would have otherwise been a busy travel schedule.

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