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17.541 / 17.543 Japanese Politics and Society Fall 2008

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## Discussion questions

- 1. Despite Japan's protest from Asia and from many Japanese constituents, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi pronounced to the Japanese people that he would make an official visit to Yasukuni shrine on August 15. Shinzo Abe a strong contender for the Prime Minister's office claims that he will continue this tradition. Why is Koizumi determined to make this official visit?
- Advise Chris on what he should do in this situation. Take into consideration Japanese culture and traditions as well as Chris' background.