

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOVEMBER 19, 1974

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY  
(Tokyo, Japan)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

A TOAST BY THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE IMPERIAL BANQUET

IMPERIAL PALACE

8:56 P.M. JAPAN TIME

Your Majesty, I am honored to be the guest of your Imperial Majesties, and it is with a very deep sense of this special moment that I speak this evening.

The first state visit of an American President to Japan is an occasion of very great importance to all of us. Your gracious hospitality symbolically honors the 213 million Americans that I have the honor to represent. I can reassure Japan that the United States is determined to perpetuate the unique ties that link our two nations for the common good.

Though separated by the broadest of oceans, Your Majesty, we have achieved between our two nations the closest of friendships. Our relationship transcends that of governments and heads of states. Each year the ties binding Americans with Japanese increase trade, science, culture, sports, and many other areas, including cherished personal contact between individuals.

We share a common devotion to moral and to spiritual strength. Our paths are not always identical, but they all lead in the same direction -- that of world peace and harmonious relations among mankind.

Let us continue to seek understanding with each other and among all peoples, Your Majesty. Let us trade, let us share and perpetuate the prosperity of both nations. Let us work together to solve common problems, recognizing the interdependence of the modern world in which we all live.

America, I can assure you, Your Majesty, is determined to do its part. It is a spirit of respect, the spirit of admiration for the Japanese nation in dedication of our continuing collaboration, and with sincere and deep-felt confidence in the future, that I offer a toast to the health and to the well-being of your Imperial Majesties.

END

(8:59 P.M. JAPAN TIME)