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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *As.*

I AM HONORED TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF WELCOMING

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES TO THIS DINNER. IT PERMITS ME,

IN A SMALL BUT SYMBOLIC GESTURE, TO RECIPROCATE THE

HOSPITALITY SO GRACIOUSLY EXTENDED THIS WEEK.

THIS HAS BEEN A PERIOD OF ENLIGHTMENT FOR ME.

I WILL TAKE HOME AN INSPIRING IMPRESSION OF THE POSSIBILITIES

AVAILABLE FOR EVEN GREATER FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND

INTERDEPENDENCE OF OUR TWO NATIONS.

AMERICA IS NOW APPROACHING ITS NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL.

TONIGHT I WANT TO RECALL ANOTHER MEANINGFUL EVENT THAT TOOK PLACE

114 YEARS AGO, ON MAY 14, 1860. THAT WAS THE DAY WHEN THE FIRST

DIPLOMATIC MISSION EVER SENT BY JAPAN TO ANOTHER NATION ARRIVED IN

WASHINGTON.

I AM PLEASED THIS EVENING TO PRESENT TO ALL OF OUR

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS A TOKEN OF THE DURABILITY OF AMERICAN-

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP. IT IS A MEDAL BEARING THE LIKENESS OF

PRESIDENT BUCHANAN WHO HAD THE HONOR OF WELCOMING THE JAPANESE

DELEGATION TO THE HISTORIC EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE. SINCE

THAT OCCASION, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER CEASED TO LOOK TO

THE EAST AS WELL AS TO THE WEST.

OUR VISITORS THEN REGARDED US AS STRANGE CREATURES
AND OBSERVED US IN EVERY DETAIL. IT WAS WITH EQUAL FASCINATION
THAT WE VIEWED THE JAPANESE VISITORS. WE LEARNED FROM EACH
OTHER THEN. AND I AM CONTINUING TO LEARN TODAY. THE MOST
IMPORTANT LESSON THAT I HAVE LEARNED DURING THIS VISIT CORRESPONDS
WITH THE BRILLIANT INSIGHT OF ONE OF THE JAPANESE ENVOYS ON THE
FIRST MISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE OCCASION WAS A VISIT TO THE NEW YORK HOME OF THE
WIDOW OF COMMODORE PERRY. THE JAPANESE ENVOY EXPRESSED DEEP
EMOTION AT THE REALIZATION THAT HE WAS IN THE HOME OF
COMMODORE PERRY, AND SAID, 'THE TIME HAS COME WHEN NO NATION
MAY REMAIN ISOLATED AND REFUSE TO TAKE PART IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE
REST OF THE WORLD.'"

THAT CONCEPT IS EVEN MORE COMPELLING TODAY.

THE LINKS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS CAN SERVE AS A MODEL FOR A
WORLD INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE NEED FOR GREATER INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION.

ACCORDINGLY, IN RECALLING THAT FIRST JAPANESE
DELEGATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON, I PLEDGE THAT MY GOVERNMENT
WILL NOT ISOLATE ITSELF FROM THE WORLD -- OR FROM JAPAN.

ON BEHALF OF THE NATION THAT I AM PRIVILEGED TO
LEAD AND REPRESENT, I REAFFIRM THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP THAT
ENDURES BETWEEN US. I REAFFIRM MY DETERMINATION TO SEE THAT
THIS WARM RELATIONSHIP CONTINUES.

IN THAT SPIRIT, AND WITH A HEART FILLED WITH FAITH
IN THE FUTURE AND APPRECIATION FOR OUR GUESTS, I OFFER A TOAST
TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES.

END OF TOAST