

**The original documents are located in Box 13, “8/5/75 - Toast At Working Dinner Honoring Prime Minister Takeo Miki” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

MR. PRIME MINISTER, IN THE LAST 40 YEARS,  
YOU HAVE VISITED THIS COUNTRY IN MANY CAPACITIES -- AS  
A STUDENT, AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF  
YOUR GOVERNMENT, AS A STATESMAN -- BUT ALWAYS AS A GOOD  
FRIEND.

SOME SEVEN YEARS AGO, YOU CAME AS FOREIGN MINISTER. WE  
MET A YEAR AND A HALF AGO WHEN YOU VISITED WASHINGTON AS DEPUTY  
PRIME MINISTER. TODAY, I AM HONORED TO GREET YOU AS THE  
PRIME MINISTER OF YOUR GREAT NATION.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, YOU AND I HAVE  
PARTICIPATED IN PUBLIC LIFE FOR MANY YEARS. WE  
APPRECIATE THE TRANSFORMATION IN JAPANESE - AMERICAN  
RELATIONS OF THE LAST THIRTY YEARS.

WE UNDERSTAND THE IMMENSE BENEFITS OUR TWO PEOPLES  
ENJOY BECAUSE OF THIS VERY CLOSE FRIENDSHIP. THE  
KEYSTONE OF THIS RELATIONSHIP IS A SOUND SECURITY  
ACCORD.

THE UNITED STATES REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE  
ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN -- AN UNDERTAKING WE COULD NOT  
VALUE MORE HIGHLY.

IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT YOUR FIRST TRIP  
ABROAD AS PRIME MINISTER IS TO THE UNITED STATES, JUST  
AS MY FIRST OVERSEAS VISIT AS PRESIDENT WAS TO JAPAN.  
THESE PRIORITIES REFLECT THE ORDER AND STANDING OF  
JAPANESE - AMERICAN RELATIONS.

THEY CONFIRM OUR GROWING COOPERATION, WHICH IS  
BASIC TO OUR RESPECTIVE FOREIGN POLICIES.

OUR VISITS ACCENTUATE THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF OUR  
COUNTRIES AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SECURITY AND  
PROSPERITY OF OUR TWO PEOPLES HAVE BECOME INTERWOVEN  
IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, YOUR VISIT

PROVIDES A TIMELY OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO REVIEW OUR

COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH VITAL MATTERS ---

FOOD AND ENERGY, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.

SUCH ISSUES WILL BE THE MAJOR FOCUS OF INTERNATIONAL

RELATIONS FOR MANY YEARS AND PERHAPS FOR THE

REMAINDER OF THIS CENTURY.

THE UNITED STATES HAS ADMIRATION AND RESPECT FOR  
JAPAN'S CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SEARCH  
FOR SOLUTIONS TO THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL  
PROBLEMS. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE CONTINUE WORKING  
TOGETHER.

WE CAN REPORT TO OUR PEOPLES THAT  
OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE RESPECTFULLY INTIMATE AND  
REMARKABLY FREE OF TROUBLE.

WE ARE APPROACHING NEW INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES  
WITH A GROWING KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNDERLYING ISSUES  
AND WITH CREATIVE AND RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS.

IN YOUR POLICY SPEECH TO THE DIET IN JANUARY, YOU  
SAID THE WHOLE OF MANKIND SHARES A COMMON FATE ABOARD  
THE SHIP CALLED "EARTH." I AGREE COMPLETELY. I  
WOULD LIKE JAPANESE - AMERICAN RELATIONS TO PROVIDE A  
PATTERN OF COOPERATION FOR ALL COUNTRIES.



MR. PRIME MINISTER, AMERICANS LOOK FORWARD WITH PLEASANT ANTICIPATION TO THE VISIT THIS FALL OF THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES, THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS. OUR CITIZENS WILL EXTEND A WARM WELCOME.

I AM CONVINCED THAT THE VISIT OF THEIR MAJESTIES WILL LEND A NEW DIMENSION TO OUR RELATIONS.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, I SINCERELY HOPE YOUR VISIT WITH US WILL BE AS PRODUCTIVE FOR YOU AS MY TRIP TO JAPAN LAST YEAR WAS FOR ME.

GENTLEMEN, WILL YOU JOIN ME IN A  
TOAST TO HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY, TO YOU, MR. PRIME  
MINISTER, TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN -- TO CONTINUED CLOSE  
COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GREAT COUNTRIES.

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