

**The original documents are located in Box 17, “10/2/75 - Toast for the White House Dinner for the Emperor and Empress of Japan” of the President’s Speeches and Statements:  
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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

TOAST FOR THE WHITE HOUSE DINNER

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN

OCTOBER 2, 1975

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YOUR MAJESTIES, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FROM JAPAN,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THIS FIRST STATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY AN  
EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN IS AN OCCASION OF GREAT  
IMPORTANCE TO US ALL. IT SYMBOLIZES THE UNIQUE AND VERY  
CLOSE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

MY NATION HAS LONG LOOKED FORWARD TO THIS HAPPY  
OCCASION. FOUR YEARS AGO, IT WAS A GREAT HONOR FOR  
AMERICANS THAT YOUR MAJESTIES STOPPED IN ALASKA AT THE  
BEGINNING OF YOUR FIRST FOREIGN TRAVEL AS EMPEROR AND EMPRESS.  
BUT YOUR STAY WAS TOO BRIEF.

LAST YEAR, I HAD THE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST  
INCUMBENT AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT JAPAN.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE WARM AND IMPRESSIVE RECEPTION  
I RECEIVED.

THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BY A  
JAPANESE EMPEROR, OCCURRING AS IT DOES DURING MY ADMINISTRATION,  
IS ANOTHER SOURCE OF GREAT PERSONAL SATISFACTION. IT WAS  
MY PROFOUND PLEASURE EARLIER TODAY TO WELCOME YOU OFFICIALLY TO  
THE UNITED STATES ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS.

WHILE THE CULTURAL HERITAGES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES  
DIFFER, OUR PEOPLES TODAY SHARE COMMON ASPIRATIONS AND A  
SIMILAR COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS AND INSTITUTIONS.

YOUR MAJESTIES, WE CONFRONT TOGETHER, THE CHALLENGES OF  
ADVANCED INDUSTRIALIZED SOCIETIES AND SEEK A PEACEFUL WORLD  
IN WHICH ALL NATIONS MAY PROSPER AND ALL PEOPLE PURSUE  
FULFILLING LIVES.

BECAUSE AMERICANS AND JAPANESE HAVE PATIENTLY NURTURED  
THESE FUNDAMENTAL BONDS, OUR CULTURAL DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN  
A SOURCE OF MUTUAL ENRICHMENT RATHER THAN A BARRIER TO  
FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING.

THROUGH THE INTERACTION OF OUR PEOPLES, JAPAN HAS  
PROFOUNDLY INFLUENCED AMERICA. JAPANESE CHERRY TREES ARE  
WELL KNOWN TO AMERICANS BECAUSE OF THEIR PROMINENT PLACE IN  
THE HEART OF OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL.

THE BEAUTIFUL CHERRY BLOSSOMS SYMBOLIZE THE PROFOUND CULTURAL

INFLUENCE OF JAPAN ON MODERN AMERICA. JAPAN'S ART AND

ARCHITECTURE, ITS POTTERY, AND ITS PRINTS, ITS GARDENS AND

ITS GRACIOUSNESS -- ALL HAVE ENRICHED AMERICAN LIFE AND THOUGHT.

THE JAPANESE EMPHASIS ON CONSENSUS AND HARMONY IN HUMAN

RELATIONS ALSO INFLUENCES THE LIFE AND WORK OF AMERICAN PEOPLE.

BECAUSE JAPAN'S INFLUENCE UPON AMERICA HAS BEEN SUBTLE, IT IS

NOT ALWAYS EASILY RECOGNIZED. THEREFORE, YOUR MAJESTIES'

VISIT PROVIDES AMERICANS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PAUSE AND

ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR COUNTRY'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR

NATIONAL CULTURE.

YOUR MAJESTIES, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT AMERICA  
PLACES THE HIGHEST VALUE UPON OUR DISTINCTIVE AND MUTUALLY  
BENEFICIAL RELATIONS WITH YOUR NATION. AMERICANS ARE  
DETERMINED TO PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN OUR TIES OF FRIENDSHIP  
AND COOPERATION WITH JAPAN.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IN THAT SPIRIT I ASK ALL TO  
JOIN IN A TOAST TO THEIR MAJESTIES' CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH AND TO  
THE PERPETUATION OF THE SINCERE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN  
AND JAPANESE PEOPLES WHICH THIS HISTORIC VISIT SYMBOLIZES.

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