

The original documents are located in Box 17, “10/3/75 - Toast: The Return Banquet Visit of Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

TOAST: THE RETURN BANQUET

VISIT OF THEIR MAJESTIES,

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1975

- 1 -

MRS. FORD AND I ARE HONORED TO BE YOUR MAJESTIES
GUESTS THIS EVENING. JAPANESE HOSPITALITY IS ALWAYS WARM
AND GRACIOUS, AS I CAN TESTIFY TO FROM MY VISITS TO TOKYO
AND KYOTO LAST YEAR.

YOUR KIND AND THOUGHTFUL WORDS HAVE MADE A
DEEP IMPRESSION UPON US HERE. IT IS MY HONOR TO HAVE
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND TO THEM.

YOUR MAJESTIES' VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAS BEEN
A PLEASANT BUT ALL TOO BRIEF OCCASION FOR US. TOMORROW,
YOU LEAVE FOR A JOURNEY ACROSS AMERICA. MANY OF THE
AMERICANS YOU WILL MEET AND THE PLACES YOU WILL VISIT HAVE
LONG-STANDING AND IMPORTANT CONNECTIONS WITH JAPAN.

I AM PLEASED THAT YOUR MAJESTIES' WILL SEE OUR SMALL TOWNS
AS WELL AS OUR GREAT CITIES. THE FARM YOU WILL VISIT
IN ILLINOIS IS SYMBOLIC OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE
AND TRADE IN JAPANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

I AM PARTICULARLY HAPPY THAT YOUR MAJESTIES WILL
VISIT THE OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CENTERS IN WOODS HOLE,
MASSACHUSETTS, AND LA JOLLA (LA-HOYA), CALIFORNIA, WHERE
SOME OF AMERICA'S LEADING MARINE BIOLOGISTS WILL HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MUTUAL INTERESTS.

YOUR MAJESTY'S PERSONAL ROLE IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SYMBOLIZES
THE CONTRIBUTION THAT INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES
HAVE MADE TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE TO OUR TWO NATIONS'
MUTUAL BENEFIT.

MRS. FORD AND I ARE PLEASED THAT TIME HAS BEEN FOUND
FOR HER MAJESTY, THE EMPRESS, TO MEET AMERICANS WHO SHARE
HER ARTISTIC INTERESTS AND HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS.
WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU WILL ALSO HAVE TIME TO RELAX AND ENJOY
OTHER ASPECTS OF AMERICAN LIFE, SUCH AS FOOTBALL, DISNEYLAND
AND THE TROPICAL BEAUTY OF HAWAII.

YOUR VISIT DRAWS ATTENTION AS WELL TO THE PLACE

AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY OCCUPY IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

WHILE THEIR NUMBERS ARE NOT LARGE, THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

TO AMERICAN LIFE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT.

THROUGH QUIET AND DILIGENT ENDEAVOR, JAPANESE-AMERICANS

HAVE ATTAINED RESPECTED PLACES IN THE HIGHEST RANKS OF EVERY

PROFESSION, IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES AND IN THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

OF THIS COUNTRY. THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE HAS ENRICHED

AMERICAN LIFE. THEY ARE A LIVING BOND BETWEEN OUR TWO

GREAT COUNTRIES.

YOUR MAJESTY, WHEN YOU ASSUMED THE THRONE IN 1926,

YOU CHOSE THE JAPANESE WORDS "SHOWA" (SHOW-WAH), MEANING

"ENLIGHTENED PEACE," AS THE NAME OF YOUR REIGN. THOSE WORDS

EXPRESSED AN EXALTED IDEAL AND NOW, IN THE UNPRECEDENTED

50TH YEAR OF YOUR REIGN, THE JAPANESE PEOPLES' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AND THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD HAVE FULFILLED YOUR EARLY HOPES.

YOUR MAJESTIES' HISTORIC VISIT HAS ENHANCED

JAPANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH A NEW DIGNITY. IT HAS MADE

US ALL EVEN MORE AWARE OF THE BENEFITS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP

BETWEEN US. IT HAS ALSO REINVIGORATED OUR SHARED

DETERMINATION TO ENCOURAGE EVEN CLOSER TIES AND GREATER

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE JAPANESE AND AMERICAN PEOPLE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ASK THAT YOU JOIN ME
IN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THEIR MAJESTIES' HOSPITALITY
THIS EVENING AS I PROPOSE A TOAST TO THEIR MAJESTIES,
THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN.

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