

The original documents are located in Box 35, “6/30/76 - Remarks During a Toast Honoring Prime Minister Miki of Japan at Luncheon” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

REMARKS AT LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF
PRIME MINISTER MIKI
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 1976

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MR. PRIME MINISTER, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE
TO WELCOME YOU ONCE AGAIN TO WASHINGTON. I AM PARTICULARLY
PLEASED THAT YOU, AS A LONG-STANDING FRIEND OF THIS COUNTRY,
CAN VISIT US DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

WHEN YOU WERE LAST HERE, SLIGHTLY LESS THAN A YEAR
AGO, OUR CONVERSATIONS REFLECTED AND STRENGTHENED THE
REMARKABLY CLOSE RELATIONS WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED BETWEEN
OUR TWO COUNTRIES●

IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR, WE WERE HONORED TO WELCOME
THEIR MAJESTIES, THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN, FOR A STATE
VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES● THAT VISIT SYMBOLIZED, IN A VERY
IMPORTANT SENSE, THE MATURING OF AMERICAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS
AND THE FULL FRUITION OF FRIENDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP WE HAVE
WORKED SO HARD TO ESTABLISH●

WHEN WE MET LAST AUGUST, MR. PRIME MINISTER,
WE PLEDGED TO WORK TO MAINTAIN OUR CLOSE TIES AND TO BROADEN
THEM, EXTENDING OUR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO THE SOLUTION OF
INTERNATIONAL, AS WELL AS BILATERAL, PROBLEMS●

THOSE PLEDGES HAVE BEEN HONORED●

IN THE PAST YEAR OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE WORKED VERY CLOSELY
TO THE GREAT MUTUAL BENEFIT OF OUR PEOPLE IN A BILATERAL
RELATIONSHIP THAT IS AS COMPREHENSIVE AND AS IMPORTANT AS
ANY IN THE WORLD●

WE HAVE ALSO CONSULTED FREQUENTLY, CANDIDLY
AND PRODUCTIVELY ON THE MANY PRESSING ISSUES THAT CONFRONT
THE WORLD AT LARGE. ONLY TWO DAYS AGO WE MET WITH OUR
EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN COLLEAGUES IN PUERTO RICO.

THERE, AS AT RAMBOUILLET LAST NOVEMBER, SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
WAS MADE TOWARD SECURING A MORE PROSPEROUS AND STABLE
ECONOMIC ORDER, BENEFITTING ALL NATIONS. AND THERE, AS AT
RAMBOUILLET, JAPAN'S PARTICIPATION WAS INDISPENSABLE.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF
THE UNITED STATES LET ME THANK YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN FOR
YOUR MOST THOUGHTFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS IN HONOR OF OUR
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION:

A BEAUTIFUL NEW THEATER AT THE KENNEDY CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS HERE IN WASHINGTON AND MORE THAN TWO
THOUSAND LOVELY CHERRY TREES TO BE PLANTED IN THE CITIES OF
SEATTLE, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES.

OUR RELATIONSHIP IS REMARKABLE FOR ITS ABILITY
NOT ONLY TO BRIDGE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR CULTURES,
BUT TO BE STRENGTHENED BY THOSE DIFFERENCES●

OUR TIES ARE BLESSED WITH A VITAL DIMENSION --
EACH COUNTRY'S INTEREST IN, AND WILLINGNESS TO LEARN FROM,
THE CULTURE OF THE OTHER● JAPAN'S CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW
THEATER IN THE KENNEDY CENTER EMPHASIZES THAT DYNAMIC CULTURAL
INTERCHANGE●

LAST DECEMBER, MR. PRIME MINISTER, YOU SAID IT WAS YOUR "HEARTFELT HOPE" THAT THE CHERRY TREES WOULD "BE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME A SYMBOL OF THE EVER-GROWING FRIENDSHIP, GOOD WILL AND MUTUAL CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLES OF AMERICA AND JAPAN." I SHARE THAT HOPE, AS DO ALL AMERICANS.

FINALLY, ON BEHALF OF MY FELLOW CITIZENS, I WISH TO THANK YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN FOR THE GRACIOUS MESSAGE WHICH YOU PRESENTED TO ME THIS MORNING, EXTENDING YOUR CONGRATULATIONS ON OUR 200th BIRTHDAY.

I KNOW THAT IN OUR THIRD CENTURY, JAPAN AND AMERICA WILL DRAW CLOSER TOGETHER, AND THAT OUR TWO NATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO EXERT A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE ON THE COURSE OF WORLD EVENTS●

IN A RECENT BICENTENNIAL TRIBUTE, YOU SAID AMERICA BECAME GREAT -- AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE GREAT -- NOT BECAUSE WE ARE MADE UP OF ONE RACE, ONE RELIGION OR ONE CULTURE, BUT BECAUSE A DIVERSITY OF PEOPLE CAME TO OUR SHORES TO FORGE A LASTING UNITY IN A SHARED COMMITMENT TO LIBERTY, JUSTICE AND EQUALITY●

"THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE," YOU SAID, "REINFORCES
MY FAITH IN DEMOCRACY."

FOR THAT EXPRESSION OF FAITH WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL,
AND BY YOUR VISIT HERE WE ARE DEEPLY HONORED.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ASK YOU TO RISE AND JOIN ME
IN A TOAST TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN, AND TO THE WARM
AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

END OF TEXT

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