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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Tokyo, Japan)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF A TOAST BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED
AT THE IMPERIAL BANQUET

I am honored to be the guest of your Imperial Majesties. It is with a deep sense of this special moment that I speak.

This first state visit of an American President to Japan is an occasion of great importance to all Americans. Your gracious hospitality symbolically honors the 213 million people I represent.

I can reassure Japan that the United States is determined to perpetuate the unique ties that link our two nations for the common good.

Though separated by the broadest of oceans, we have achieved the closest of friendships. Our relationship transcends that of governments and heads of state. Each year the ties binding Americans with Japanese increase in trade, science, the arts, sports, and many other areas including cherished personal contacts between individuals.

Let us continue to seek higher understanding with each other and among all peoples. Let us trade and share to perpetuate the prosperity of both nations. Let us work together to solve common problems, recognizing the interdependence of the modern world. America is determined to do its part.

It is in a spirit of respect and admiration for the Japanese nation, in dedication to our continuing collaboration, and with sincere confidence in the future, that I offer a toast to the health and well-being of your Imperial Majesties.

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