

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
 UNTIL 12:05 P. M. LOCAL TIME
 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1974
 (10:15 P. M. EST, NOVEMBER 19)

NOVEMBER 20, 1974

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
 TO BE DELIVERED TO THE JAPAN PRESS CLUB
 AT THE IMPERIAL HOTEL

Ladies and Gentlemen: As the first American President to visit Japan while in office, I greet you on this unprecedented occasion. I thank the Japan Press Club for inviting me and the National Television Network of Japan for the opportunity to speak directly to the people of Japan.

I deeply appreciate the excellent coverage of my visit by the exceptional news media of Japan. I have always felt a good working relationship with American journalists and have the same feeling toward their Japanese colleagues. It has been my objective to treat all journalists -- and all other people -- in the same manner that I would like to be treated.

I bring the warmest greetings of the American people. Our bi-partisan leadership in the American Congress sends its best wishes. The distinguished leaders of both of America's national parties have asked me to tell you of the high value that all Americans attach to our partnership with Japan.

It is the American custom for the President to make a report every year to the Congress on the state of the union. In the same spirit, I thought the people of Japan might welcome a report on the state of another union -- the unity of American and Japanese mutual aspirations for friendship -- as Americans see that relationship.

In my home town of Grand Rapids, Michigan, a Japanese company is now assembling musical instruments. Not only are the instruments harmonious in the melodies they produce but the labor-management relations followed by the Japanese created a model of harmony between workers and business.

In a nearby community, Edmore, another Japanese firm is manufacturing small electrical motors. This is yet another Japanese enterprise that has injected new energy and goodwill into our industrial life. There are similar examples throughout America. We welcome them.

The time is long past when Americans speak only of what we have contributed to your society. Today, traffic flows in two directions. We are both learning from each other.

To signify the value the United States attaches to partnership with Japan, I chose to make this my first overseas trip. I also met with your Ambassador to the United States on the first day that I assumed office. I have long admired the richness and diversity of Japan's culture, the products of your industry, the ingenuity, creativity, and energy of your people, your courage as a fountain of resourcefulness in a troubled world.

My only regret is that Mrs. Ford could not join me on this visit in response to your kind invitation. We both hope that she can come later.

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Americans are proud of the way that we and the Japanese have worked together during the post-war period. We have had some disagreements. But we have remained friends and partners.

Together, we created conditions under which both nations could prosper. Together, we expanded our relations in trade and in travel. The reality of America's economic, political, and strategic interdependence with Japan is obvious. America is Japan's greatest customer and supplier. Japan is America's greatest overseas trading partner. Japan is the best foreign customer for American agricultural products.

The total trade between our two nations has doubled since 1970. It will surpass 20 billion dollars in 1974. American investments in Japan are the largest of any foreign state. Japan's investment in America is growing rapidly and accounts for one fifth of all Japanese investment abroad.

The flow of Japanese visitors to the United States has grown from 50,000 in 1966 to over 700,000 in 1974. This is also a two-way street: over 350,000 Americans visited Japan last year, accounting for nearly one half of all foreign visitors.

Together, we removed the legacies of World War Two. The reversion of Okinawa eliminated the last vestige of that war from our agenda. We have made independent but mutually compatible efforts to improve our relations with the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. We have devised better channels for open consultation. I particularly want you to know that I understand the dangers of taking each other for granted.

As we talk to each other, we must ask each other what we regard as the central needs of our times.

First, of course, is peace. Americans and Japanese know the value of peace. We want to devote our resources and ourselves to building things, not to tearing them down. We do not want to send our sons into battle again.

The alliance between Japan and the United States has helped to secure peace and can continue to help secure it. That alliance is not directed against any other country. It does not prevent us from improving our relations with other countries.

Our alliance does not signify that both nations subscribe to fully identical attitudes or styles. It does signify, however, that we clearly share a common resolve to maintain stability in East Asia, to help in the development of other countries that need our help, and to work together to encourage diplomatic and political rather than military solutions to world problems.

Our alliance was forged by peoples who saw their national interest in friendship and cooperation. I am confident that our relations will remain solid and substantial. I pledge that we shall work to make it so.

Peace, however, cannot be our sole concern. We have learned that there are many international threats and dangers that can affect the lives of our citizens. We face dwindling supplies of raw materials and food. We face international economic problems of great complexity. We must be more stringent in conservation than ever before.

We worked together to solve the problems of the cold war. We succeeded because we worked together. Now we confront these new and even more complicated problems.

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The Japanese reformer, Sakuma Shozan, wrote some lines in 1854 that provide insight for 1974. Sakuma said that:

"When I was twenty I knew that men were linked together in one province;

"When I was thirty I knew that they were linked together in one nation;

"When I was forty I knew that they were linked together in one world of five continents."

Now, 120 years later, the links between nations are closer than ever. Modern technology has made the world one. What each man or nation does or fails to do affects every other.

Some Americans wondered why I decided to accept your invitation to come to Japan at a time when we have unsolved problems at home.

I replied to those Americans that many of the problems we have at home are not just American problems but the problems of the world as a whole. Like others, we suffer from inflation. Like others, we face recession. Like others, we have to deal with rising prices and potential shortages of fuels and raw materials. America cannot solve those problems alone. Nations can only solve them by working together.

Just as we work together to maintain today's peace, we can work together to solve tomorrow's problems.

Our two nations provide the world with a model of what can be achieved by international cooperation. We can also provide a model for dealing with the new difficulties. We both have great technological skills and human resources, great energy and imagination. We both acknowledge our responsibility to developing states. We envision the orderly and peaceful sharing of essential natural resources.

We can work together to meet the global economic issues. I believe that we are not just temporary allies. We are permanent friends.

We share the same goals -- peace, development, stability and prosperity. These are not only praiseworthy and essential goals, but common goals.

The problems of peace and economic well-being are inextricably linked. We believe peace cannot exist without prosperity, prosperity cannot exist without peace, and neither can exist if the great states of the world do not work together to achieve them. We owe this to ourselves, to each other, and to all the Japanese and American peoples.

America and Japan share the same national pastime -- baseball. In the game of baseball, two teams compete. But neither can play without the other, nor without common respect for each other and for the rules of the game.

I have taken the liberty of giving you my views on the world we live in. Now let me tell you, the Japanese people, a little bit about the American people.

The American people have faced some difficult times in their history. They know that they will face others. Their burdens are enormous, at home and abroad. Some observers -- including American observers -- say that the Americans have lost their confidence, their sense of responsibility, and their creativity. It is not true.

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I have traveled over much of my country during the past year. Each time I return to Washington refreshed. Our people are determined and realistic. Our people are vigorous. They are solving their problems in countless towns and cities across the country. They continue to understand that history has placed great responsibilities on American shoulders. Americans are ready and willing to play their part with the same strength and same will that they have always shown in the past.

Americans also know that no nation, however strong, can hope to dictate the course of history by itself. But the ability to understand the basic issues to define our national interest, and to make common cause with others to achieve common purposes makes it possible to influence events. And Americans are determined to do that for constructive purposes and in the true spirit of interdependence.

In that spirit, let me make a pledge to you today. As we face the problems of the future, the United States will remain faithful in our commitments and firm in the pursuit of our common goals.

We intend not only to remain a trustworthy ally, but a reliable trading partner. We will continue to be suppliers of the goods you need. If shortages occur, we will take special account of the needs of our traditional trading partners. We will not compete with our friends for their markets or for their resources. We want to work with them.

The basic concepts of our foreign policy remain unchanged. Those concepts have solid bi-partisan and popular support. The American people remain strong, confident and faithful. We may sometimes falter, but we will not fail.

I would like to end on a personal note.

It is a privilege to be the first American President to visit Japan while in office. It is also a great pleasure. I look forward to seeing Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. Japan has preserved her cultural integrity in the face of rapid modernization. I have never believed that all change is necessarily good. We must try to apply the enduring values of the past to the challenges and the pressures of our times. Americans can learn from Japan to respect traditions even as we -- like you -- plunge ahead into the last quarter of the twentieth century.

I also look forward to another deep privilege. Yesterday, during my call upon His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Japan, I renewed our invitation for the Emperor to visit the United States. It would be a great pleasure to be the first American President to welcome the Emperor of Japan to Washington and to show His Imperial Majesty our national shrines and treasures, including the graceful Japanese cherry trees whose blossoms provide a setting for the monuments to the great heroes of our own past.

I hope that my visit shall be the first of many by American Presidents.

I hope that the leaders of our two countries will follow the example that our peoples have already set, to visit each other frequently and freely as our nations move together to deal with the many common concerns that will affect the lives of all our citizens and all humanity.

I said in my first Presidential address to Congress that my administration was based upon communication, conciliation, compromise and cooperation. This concept also guides my view of American policy toward Japan. We both have much work to do. Let us do it together. Let us also continue the quest for peace. I would rather walk a thousand miles for peace than take a single step toward war.

I thank you.

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