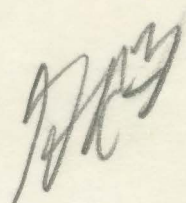


THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

December 16, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*
SUBJECT: A Confidential Assessment of
Your Visit to Japan



I have been given an extremely positive assessment of your Japan visit by a Japanese friend of mine, an intellectual with excellent contacts throughout Japanese government, who is a sophisticated observer of the Japanese political scene.

- He reports that 90% of the adult population of Japan watched you and the Emperor on television. He points out that the Emperor is the embodiment of Japanese national continuity; your appearance with him on four consecutive occasions had a symbolic significance which easily made irrelevant the shaky status of Tanaka.
- The informality of your own style had a positive effect on Japanese, even among students, who remarked that they were impressed that the American President had none of the arrogance of the stereotyped politician.
- On the political plane, the main achievement was to elevate our relationship with Japan from a security arrangement alone to one embracing joint approaches to energy, food, and other common problems. Given the traditional antipathy of Japan's opposition parties to the military relationship, this will be an increasingly important achievement.
- The opposition parties were put on the defensive and forced to emphasize that they did not reject the visit. The country's leading newspaper criticized the Socialists for refusing to meet with you.



-- (As a footnote:) Le Monde noted that American correspondents accompanying you were disappointed when no widespread rioting occurred!

