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November 20, 1974

**POOL REPORT  
ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL RECEPTION  
IN HEIAN ROOM**

Several hundred Japanese and Americans, apparently members of the America - Japan Society, were present. The President entered the room shortly after 5:00 p. m., to a burst of applause. He walked to the front of the room, smiling and nodding his head in greeting.

During the preliminary chatting with leaders of the group, the President could be heard to say that he liked the athletic event very much. Then society official Shigeki Tashiro welcomed the President and proposed a toast to him.

The President, in his remarks, said that it was a "very high honor and very rare privilege" to meet with the group. He said that his visit to Japan has been a memorable one and he particularly mentioned the opportunity to meet with members of the Imperial Family, the discussions with high Japanese government officials, and the opportunity to meet with members of the Diet.

The President also praised the work that non-governmental organizations can do and specifically termed the work of the America-Japan Society in promoting greater unity between Japan and the U.S. a matter of "tremendous significance."

He also said that the Japanese and U.S. governments are embarking on a program of stronger unity aimed at maintaining peace and stimulating prosperity. And then he offered a toast "to the government of Japan and the millions and millions of Japanese."

The President's remarks were translated into Japanese for the group and the translation took so long that Mr. Ford finally turned to Mr. Kissinger and smilingly said, "That speech (referring to his own) was too long."

As he left the reception someone shouted "Banzai to the President of the U.S." and members of the group raised their glasses and gave three shouts of Banzai for the President.

Frank Kane, TOLEDO BLADE  
Steve Bell, ABC

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