

Date: Sat, 9 Nov 1996 13:09:35 -0500

From: ross corson <corson@pioneerplanet.infi.net>

To: Lynda Pederson <lpederso@snap.org>

Subject: Local Reaction

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Lynda,

I don't know if anyone is faxing you guys the press clips from the local media. In case not, here's copies of articles that appeared Friday and Saturday in the Strib and Pioneer Press, starting with a flattering editorial from today's Strib. All of the coverage has been very positive, of course.

Ross

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[Star Tribune Online Opinion]

Published Saturday, November 9, 1996

Editorial: Fritz Mondale won't be idle long

It was a big story on the networks Friday. Walter Mondale, former senator, former vice president, former Democratic presidential candidate, is resigning his post as ambassador to Japan.

The word spread differently in Minnesota Thursday night: Fritz is coming home. (Minnesota news organizations got the scoop because the ambassador himself called them first.)

No one who knows Walter F. Mondale was surprised by either the news or how it was variously told. This genuine VIP, this significant personage in the life and policy of the nation and the world for a quarter-century, is still Fritz from Elmore and south Minneapolis, well known and much admired in his home state.

On Thursday, Mondale didn't describe himself as "from" Minnesota. He never has. He said, "I am a Minnesotan, from the bottom to the top, or is it the top to the bottom? . . . We can't wait to get home."

Home he and wife Joan will come next month, amid deserved accolades for their

handling of America's interests in Japan for more than three years. Their record includes more than 20 U.S.-Japan trade accords, a greater number than in any comparable span in the post-war era, and stronger commercial ties generally between the two industrial powers.

Mondale will also be remembered in Japan for his compassionate response to the 1995 Kobe earthquake, and personal apologies in the face of Japanese outrage when U.S. servicemen raped an Okinawa girl. Joan Mondale's leadership in restoring the historic U.S. ambassador's residence and her encouragement of Japanese artists have left a lasting mark.

National pundits ask how Mondale could voluntarily leave such an important diplomatic post. Minnesotans understand. They know Mondale is talking about what really matters when he says he wants to play with the grandchildren, cut down the Christmas tree as a family, go fishing. Son Ted wants to run for governor in 1998; Dad wants to be nearby to help.

But Minnesotans also doubt that Mondale, a vigorous 68-year-old, is ready to settle into a placid retirement. The work ethic runs too strong in the Minnesota breed, and this man's talents are too large to fit comfortably on any shelf for long.

Those talents are likely to be in big demand soon by presidents, premiers and potentates -- and, if he's smart, a governor in St. Paul. Minnesota can expect Mondale to soon mix some world diplomacy and presidential advising with his fishing and baby-sitting. Here's hoping it's a mix that keeps him challenged and happily productive for years to come.

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[Star Tribune Online Nation/World]

Published Friday, November 8, 1996

[Return to Nation/World section]

Mondale quits post in Japan, says it's time to come home

[Related Item]

Carol Byrne / Star Tribune

- \* For the Mondales, life in Japan continues to surprise
- \* Mondale expected to leave his post in Japan

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- After three years in one of the nation's most delicate diplomatic assignments, Walter Mondale is resigning as ambassador to Japan and coming home to Minnesota in time for Christmas with the grandchildren.

"The first thing we'll do when we get back home Dec. 15 is take the kids out to get a tree," he said Thursday from Tokyo, just after he got back from informing Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of his decision. "Japan relations are in very good shape, although there'll always be problems. . . . We will have a new secretary of state and a new secretary of defense. So this just seemed to be the time go."

Mondale said he had talked to Secretary of State Warren Christopher about his departure two days ago, but had not discussed it yet with President Clinton.

Christopher, too, has announced his decision to retire from the administration before the president is sworn in for a second term. He and Mondale are old friends who have known each other since the '60s and share a Midwestern, Norwegian heritage.

In the past there have been rumors that Mondale might be interested in the State Department job himself, but Thursday he just laughed at the suggestion. "You didn't hear that from me," he said.

Mondale said he would be talking to Dorsey & Whitney about rejoining the Minneapolis law firm.

It would mean a return to private life after a long and distinguished public career -- going from Minnesota attorney general to senator to Jimmy Carter's vice president to the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for president in 1984.

"You know, I've been in politics since I worked in the Truman campaign," he said. "It's not as if this is an abrupt end."

Mondale took over the Japan assignment in August 1993, setting off a frenzy in the Japanese press. Its reporters descended on Minneapolis and camped outside the Mondales' home in Kenwood, looking for insights into the new ambassador.

It was a time when the two economic powers were beginning a new round of difficult negotiations over trade. And it was trade that dominated his watch, as the United States tried to pressure Japan into opening up more to foreign products. The two nations have signed more than 20 trade accords during his tenure.

Mondale's other major challenge was finding the proper response to what he called "that horrible rape on Okinawa," when three U.S. servicemen were found guilty of attacking a Japanese girl. Mondale won respect from the Japanese by apologizing in person both to the prime minister and to the family.

He also has found it painful dealing with Japanese families whose children have been killed in the United States. "Failure to deal with violence in America . . . is costing us terribly as world leader," he told the National Press Club in September.

Mondale said that what he'll miss most when he leaves Japan is "the challenge of trying to understand this very different nation. It is a nation that has a much different history and culture than ours and a much different way of making decisions. Often they even have a different perception of what the problem itself is. Trying to understand this and deal with it . . . has been the most fascinating part of the job."

Fascinating as Japan may be, it was

no secret that Mondale had begun to think about resigning and turn his considerable energies to something other than the slow and hemmed-in rounds of diplomatic life.

At Dorsey & Whitney, Tom Moe said that the firm would be "just delighted" to welcome him back. Before going to Tokyo, Mondale spent six years there, from the fall of 1987 to the summer of 1993.

The firm has 380 lawyers (250 of them in Minneapolis) and a strong international business component, with offices in Hong Kong, London and Brussels.

"If Fritz were to rejoin us, I expect that he would have a significant role in our international business focus," Moe said. "That would be a natural."

Mondale said that he and his wife, Joan, decided together that it was time to get back to Minneapolis and their house by Lake of the Isles.

"We've been planning this sequence for some time," he said. "This just works out fine. You know, I'm a Minnesotan from the bottom to the top, or is it the top to the bottom? We just love the state. We can't wait to get back."

The White House issued its benediction: "Vice President Mondale is held in very high regard by President Clinton," said spokesman Mary Ellen Glynn. "His service has been deeply valued and the president feels he has been an especially important asset" in foreign policy.

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Published  
Friday,  
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Mondale resigns post as diplomat in Japan

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LISA GRACE LEDNICER STAFF WRITER  
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Former vice president Walter Mondale resigned his ambassadorship to Japan on Thursday, saying he wanted to move back to Minnesota and spend time with his grandchildren.

Mondale said he hopes to return to practicing law at Dorsey & Whitney, the Minneapolis firm he has been associated with since 1987.

``This is a time of change,'' he said. ``There's a new government in Washington and Tokyo, the security relationship is more solid, we've made progress on trade.'' And, he added, ``I miss Minnesota.''

Japan's Parliament re-elected Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Thursday, capping the comeback of Hashimoto's conservative party after it lost power three years ago over corruption scandals.

Mondale, who was vice president under President Jimmy Carter and represented Minnesota in the U.S. Senate, served for 3 1/2 years in Japan. He ran unsuccessfully as the Democratic candidate for president in 1984.

His announcement comes one day after his son Ted Mondale filed papers with the Minnesota Ethical Practices Board establishing a committee to raise and spend money to promote his Democratic-Farmer-Labor gubernatorial candidacy.

Ted Mondale faces a group of gubernatorial hopefuls that includes Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman, Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson and state Sen. Roy Terwilliger, R-Edina. Others considering running include state Attorney General Hubert Humphrey III, former State Auditor Mark Dayton, St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman and state Senate Minority Leader Dean Johnson.

Mondale said he'll advise his son, if asked, but won't run the campaign.

``Ted knows a lot more about state government than I do,'' he said. ``If I can help from time to time, I'll do it.''

Father-son campaigning

Mondale, 68, is the second father to return to Minnesota and help a son's political career. Early this year, former governor Orville Freeman moved back to Minneapolis from Washington, D.C., and is campaigning for his son, Mike Freeman.

The fathers bring deep pockets, great political

stories and an enduring sense of Minnesota's history that their sons will no doubt appreciate.

But most importantly, they bring years of political savvy and Rolodexes overflowing with contacts. They can become their sons' most trusted advisers in the sort of unpaid role that professional consultants cannot equal.

While they're eager to help the next generation take over, they'll probably keep to the shadows, says political analyst D.J. Leary.

``When you've got a famous father, they always want to stay in the background,'' he said. ``I've never heard of Fritz calling and trying to sell tickets'' for a fund-raising event.

But when Ted Mondale began campaigning for the state Senate seat he won in 1990, his father introduced him to people throughout the nation who could advise him on fund-raising, advertising and campaign strategy, Leary said. At one early fund-raising event at the Minneapolis Club, he noted, the crowd included a former governor, a Minnesota Viking and well-heeled businessmen.

Ted Mondale stressed his independence Thursday night and said that when he would ask his father for advice while in the state Legislature, he would answer, ``Don't you know? Tell the truth, do what's right.''

``I don't see him coming back and all of a sudden, Ted Mondale's better off than before,'' Ted Mondale said. ``We were taught to be very independent, to do what we thought best. That's how I've served in the Legislature. If I were any other way, it would go against the values that made me successful.''

#### Promoting trade in Japan

Walter Mondale, who arrived in Tokyo in August 1993, helped the Clinton administration push for aggressive new trade agreements with Japan, especially in the fields of automobiles and semiconductors.

In the last year of his tenure, however, he became more involved with stabilizing the bilateral security relationship and heading off a crisis in Okinawa after three U.S. servicemen were charged with, and later convicted of, raping a 12-year-old girl.

By helping to push for an agreement in principle for the United States to give up one of its airbases on Okinawa, he was able to win assurances from Hashimoto that close cooperation between the Pentagon and

Japanese Self Defense Forces would continue. The prime minister, in exchange, agreed to strengthen agreements permitting cooperation between Japanese and U.S. forces.

During Mondale's ambassadorship, the United States also agreed with Japan about opening markets for construction, mobile telephones and intellectual property rights.

But in a news conference two months ago at the National Press Club, Mondale warned that the United States could lose its dominant role in the global economy if federal policy makers run up huge deficits and make the United States even more of a debtor nation.

Mondale said Thursday he was proud he helped bring more high school and college students -- including nine this summer from Minnesota -- to study in Japan.

Minnesota companies such as Northwest Airlines, 3M, Medtronic and Cargill are turning good profits in Japan, he said. But problems remain trying to open up transportation, retailing and construction markets.

''This very different culture has to be understood by us,'' he said. ''It's the second-largest economy in the world.''

Nevertheless, he added: ''I am encouraged by the strength and vitality of the U.S.-Japan relationship -- the most important on Earth. The relationship is solid and productive. The world could not have better news.''

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The San Jose Mercury News and the Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Minnesota firms will miss Ambassador Mondale

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LEE EGERSTROM STAFF WRITER  
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As former Vice President Walter Mondale prepares to return from his ambassadorial post in Japan, Minnesota business and trade would like to see someone from the Upper Midwest named to succeed him.

Minnesota is one of the few states that has a favorable balance of trade with Japan, with exports from the state soaring 41 percent in the first half of this year. Japan ranks behind Canada as

wire service.

Minnesota's second largest trading partner.

PioneerPlanet is a service of the Pioneer Press.

Mondale, who has been ambassador in Tokyo for 3 1/2 years, succeeded Michael A. Armacost, a Carleton College graduate with relatives in Minnesota and South Dakota. Armacost was ambassador to Japan for former President George Bush.

For more information, write to: feedback@pioneerplanet.infi.net

''It's probably safe to assume we won't get a third,'' said John Sullivan, general council at Cray Research in Eagan.

A United States ambassador can help open doors for home-state businesses and foster good relations between countries and companies, which Mondale has done.

Sullivan said it's helpful for a company to have someone in the ambassador's post who knows your company, your industry and your trade challenges.

Cray is among the companies that have challenges in Japan. It has filed an anti-dumping trade complaint against Japanese competitors and the Japanese government even though ''we're doing reasonably well with the Japanese private sector,'' Sullivan said.

Most Minnesota-based companies and the Upper Midwest agriculture industry are doing well in the Japanese market, says George Crolick, director of the Minnesota Trade Office.

''Our biggest (U.S.) trade problem with Japan has been the automobile industry. If you take automobiles out of the trade picture, all other industries are pretty much in balance,'' Crolick said.

Import data from Japan to the United States isn't broken down to individual states, so exact trade deficits or surpluses can't be measure for states. But U.S. trade deficits have been about \$60 billion in recent years.

Meanwhile, exports of Minnesota manufactured or agricultural products are well on their way to exceeding \$1 billion this year, according to trade statistics prepared by the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research program. Trade officials expect that far exceeds the number of automobiles and other products imported into the state.

And Minnesota's trade surplus may be growing. In the first six months of this year, Minnesota companies shipped \$591.9 million to Japan, up from \$419.1 million in the same period a year ago.

Industrial machinery and computer equipment, such as Cray Research supercomputers, are the largest category. Second largest are scientific instruments and related products, followed by agricultural crops and food products.

Minnetonka-based Cargill is among the largest exporters of agricultural and related food products to Japan, but Harvest States in Falcon Heights is a major exporter as well. ``Japan is our leading customer in the Pacific Rim, and the Pacific Rim is our largest export market,`` said Jim Erickson, Harvest States spokesman.

``Northwest Airlines, our service companies, the Mall of America...we have a lot of businesses tied in with the Japan market,`` said trade director Crolick. For instance, the Trade Office has studies that showed 40,000 Japanese tourists visiting the huge Bloomington mall in 1992, its first year. And Northwest flights keep business travelers and tourists en route between Minnesota and Japan.

With an ambassador from your home area, Crolick added, ``You get the benefit of having someone's interest. I think Ambassador Mondale met with lots of Minnesotans these last few years.``

Minnesota Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson led a delegation to meetings with Mondale in Tokyo in mid-September, Crolick noted. ``Having a Minnesotan such as Ambassador Mondale there reaffirmed the need for government relations between states and countries to support business.``

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Ross and Yukiko Corson  
2912 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406  
USA  
Phone/Fax: 612/729-0806  
E-mail: corson@pioneerplanet.infi.net

FYI

"Asahi Evening News" Saturday, December 21, 1996

## THE IDEAL ENVOY

By Glen S. Fukushima

Walter Mondale's return to the United States last Saturday has led many in Japan to speculate who President Bill Clinton is likely to nominate as his successor to become the 25th U.S. ambassador to Japan.

Without engaging in a fruitless guessing game about specific individuals who may or may not be selected for the post, it may be useful to step back for a minute to reflect on what generic qualities are most crucial to effectively oversee "the most important bilateral relationship, bar none."

The following comments are based on my observations of U.S. ambassadors to Japan since the early 1960s when, as an "Army brat" living and attending school at Camp Zama, I followed closely the activities of Edwin Reischauer, U.S. envoy from 1961 to 1966, who a decade later was to become one of my professors at Harvard University.

These comments are also based on conversations over the past 20 years with numerous American and Japanese government and non-government people who closely monitor U.S.-Japan relations. Based on these observations and discussions, what follows is a "wish list" of 13 qualities to hope for in the next occupant of the U.S. Embassy residence in Japan.

The "ideal" U.S. ambassador to Japan should have:

1. A long-term strategic vision of what is desirable, feasible, and attainable with respect to U.S. economic, political, and security interests in Japan and in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. Sufficient stature and direct channels of communication to the president, key Cabinet officers, and influential members of Congress to be able to help shape Washington's policy toward Japan.
3. Some U.S. government experience, preferably both as a civil servant and as a political appointee, to be able fully to understand and appreciate the operations of the U.S. government and policy-making process in Washington.
4. Leadership qualities that will allow him or her to take principled positions on issues even if they may not necessarily be popular in the United States or Japan.

5. Management ability to mobilize, motivate, and utilize the considerable talent and resources of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and U.S. consulates throughout Japan.

6. A solid knowledge of Japan--its history, politics, economy, business, bureaucracy, mass media, society, culture, and psychology--preferably based on first-hand experience living and working in the country.

7. The ability to speak, read, and understand the Japanese language at a professional level.

8. Institutional memory about recent events in the relationship between the United States and Japan--e.g., familiarity with MOSS, SII, Section 301, Super 301, Framework Talks, Mutual Security Treaty, SOFA, ACSA, etc., and what meaning they have for the interaction between the two countries.

9. An appreciation of the economic as well as political-security dimensions of the relationship and the realization that the two should be integrated into a coherent, consistent, and comprehensive U.S. policy toward Japan.

10. Energy, stamina, curiosity, patience, and persistence in pursuing U.S. policy objectives toward Japan.

11. The ability to view the bilateral relationship in its proper regional, multilateral, and global context.

12. The people skills necessary both to establish strong personal relationships and to communicate effectively with the leaders and publics of both nations.

13. An abiding personal interest in and commitment to maintaining, developing, and improving the relationship between the two countries.

No one individual, of course, is likely to combine all these attributes. And it is not necessary that an ambassador have all of them to be successful.

Mondale, for instance, was a superb envoy--one of the most effective in recent memory--despite his lack of familiarity with Japan before arriving as ambassador in September 1993.

But an envoy who combines all or most of these 13 qualities will almost certainly have a much better chance of succeeding in his or her mission in Tokyo than one who comes unequipped.

Some may argue that with rapid developments in international telecommunications and transportation, the role of U.S. ambassador and of the Embassy in Tokyo will vastly diminish. Nothing could be further from the truth.

With little expertise and attention on Japan expected out of Washington from the second Clinton Administration, the U.S. envoy to Tokyo will be crucial in forging the substantive policy, focusing the necessary attention, and setting the overall tone for the U.S.-Japan relationship over the next four years.

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The author is vice president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan. From 1985 to 1990, he directed Japanese affairs at the Office of the United States Trade Representative."

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# Post-election

## comings and goings

### **Mondale:** *It's time to come home, he says as he resigns post in Japan*



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**By Carol Byrne**  
*Star Tribune Washington  
Bureau Correspondent*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After three years in one of the nation's most delicate diplomatic assignments, Walter Mondale is resigning as ambassador to Japan and coming home to Minnesota in time for Christmas with the grandchildren.

"The first thing we'll do when we get back home December 15th is take the kids out to get a tree," he said Thursday from Tokyo, just after he got back from informing Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of his decision. "Japan relations are in very good shape, although there'll always be problems. . . . We will have a new secretary of state and a new secretary of defense. So this just seemed to be the time to go."

**Turn to MONDALE on A24**  
**Also on A11:**

— *Ryutaro Hashimoto was elected to a second term as Japan's prime minister.*

## *He and Joan love Minnesota: 'We can't wait to get back'*

Mondale, 68, said he had talked about his departure with Secretary of State Warren Christopher two days ago, but had not discussed it yet with President Clinton.

Christopher also is leaving the administration. He and Mondale are old friends who have known each other since the '60s and share a Midwestern, Norwegian heritage.

In the past there have been rumors that Mondale might be interested in the State Department job himself, but Thursday he just laughed at the suggestion. "You didn't hear that from me," he said.

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It would mean a return to private life after a long and distinguished public career — going from Minnesota attorney general to senator to Jimmy Carter's vice president to the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for president in 1984.

"You know, I've been in politics since I worked in the Truman campaign," he said. "It's not as if this is an abrupt end."

Mondale took over the Japan assignment in August 1993, setting off a frenzy in the Japanese press. Its reporters descended on Minneapolis and camped outside the Mondales' home in Kenwood, looking for insights into the new ambassador.

It was a time when the two economic powers were beginning a new round of difficult negotiations over trade. And it was trade that dominated his watch, as the United States tried to pressure Japan into opening up more to foreign products. The two nations have signed more than 20 trade accords during his tenure.

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# Mondale resigns post as diplomat in Japan

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It was a time when the two economic powers were beginning a new round of difficult negotiations over trade. And it was trade that dominated his watch, as the United States tried to pressure Japan into opening up more to foreign products. The two nations have signed more than 20 trade accords during his tenure.

Mondale's other major challenge was finding the proper response to what he called "that horrible rape on Okinawa," when three U.S. servicemen were found guilty of attacking a Japanese girl. Mondale won respect from the Japanese by apologizing in person both to the prime minister and to the family.

He also has found it painful dealing with Japanese families whose children have been killed in the United States. "Failure to deal with violence in America . . . is costing us terribly as world leader," he told the National Press Club in September.

Mondale said that what he'll miss most when he leaves Japan is "the challenge of trying to understand this very different nation. It is a nation that has a much different history and culture than ours and a much different way of making decisions. Often they even have a different perception of what the problem itself is. Trying to understand this and deal with it . . . has been the most fascinating part of the job."

Fascinating as Japan may be, it was no secret that Mondale had begun to think about resigning and turn his considerable energies to something other than the slow and hemmed-in rounds of diplomatic life.

At Dorsey & Whitney, Tom Moe said that the firm would be "just delighted" to welcome him back. Before going to Tokyo, Mondale worked for the firm from 1987 to 1993.

The firm has 380 lawyers, 250 of them in Minneapolis.

"If Fritz were to rejoin us, I expect that he would have a significant role in our international business focus," Moe said. "That would be a natural."

Mondale said that he and his wife, Joan, decided together that it was time to get back to Minneapolis and their house by Lake of the Isles.

"We've been planning this sequence for some time," he said. "This just works out fine. You know, I'm a Minnesotan from the bottom to the top, or is it the top to the bottom? We just love the state. We can't wait to get back."

The White House issued its benediction: "Vice President Mondale is held in very high regard by President Clinton," said spokesman Mary Ellen Glynn. "His service has been deeply valued and the president feels he has been an especially important asset" in foreign policy.

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"There's a new government in Washington and Tokyo, the security relationship is more solid, we've made progress on trade."

## Mondale resigns post as diplomat in Japan

LISA GRACE LEDNICER STAFF WRITER

**F**ormer Vice President Walter Mondale resigned his ambassadorship to Japan on Thursday, saying he wanted to move back to Minnesota and spend time with his grandchildren.

Mondale said he hopes to return to practicing law at Dorsey & Whitney, the Minneapolis firm he has been associated with since 1987.

"This is a time of change," he said. "There's a new government in Washington and Tokyo, the security relationship is more solid, we've made progress on trade." And, he added, "I miss Minnesota."

Japan's Parliament re-elected Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Thursday,

capping the comeback of Hashimoto's conservative party after it lost power three years ago over corruption scandals.

Mondale, who was vice president under President Jimmy Carter and represented Minnesota in the U.S. Senate, served for 3½ years in Japan. He ran unsuccessfully as the Democratic candidate for president in 1984.

His announcement comes one day after his son Ted Mondale filed papers with the Minnesota Ethical Practices Board establishing a committee to raise and spend money to promote his Democratic-Farmer-Labor gubernatorial candidacy.

Ted Mondale faces a group of gubernatorial hopefuls that includes Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman, Lt. Gov. Joanne Benson and state Sen. Roy Terwilliger, R-Edina. Others considering running include state Attorney General Hubert Humphrey III, former State Auditor Mark Dayton, St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman and state Senate Minority Leader Dean Johnson.

Mondale said he'll advise his son, if asked, but won't run the campaign.

"Ted knows a lot more about state government than I do," he said. "If I can help from time to time, I'll do it."

### Father-son campaigning

Mondale, 68, is the second father to return to Minnesota and help a son's political career. Months ago, former governor Orville Freeman moved back to Minneapolis from Washington, D.C., and is campaigning for his son, Mike Freeman.

The fathers bring deep pockets, great political stories and an enduring sense of Minnesota's history that their sons will no doubt appreciate.

But most importantly, they bring years of political savvy and Rolodexes overflowing with contacts. They can become their sons' most trusted advisers in the sort of unpaid role that professional consultants cannot equal.

While they're eager to help the next generation take over, they'll probably keep to the shadows, says political analyst D.J. Leary.

"When you've got a famous father, they always want to stay in the background," he said. "I've never heard of Fritz calling and trying to sell tickets" for a fund-raising event.

But when Ted Mondale began campaigning for the state Senate seat he won in 1990, his father introduced him to people throughout the nation who could advise him on fund-raising, advertising and campaign strategy, Leary said. At one early fund-raising event at the Minneapolis Club, he noted, the crowd included a former governor, a Minnesota Viking and well-heeled businessmen.

Ted Mondale stressed his independence Thursday night and said that when he would ask his father for advice while in the state Legislature, he would answer, "Don't you know? Tell the truth, do what's right."

"I don't see him coming back and all of a sudden, Ted Mondale's better off than before," Ted Mondale said. "We were taught to be very independent, to do what we thought best. That's how I've served in the Legislature. If I were any other way, it would go against the values that made me successful."

### **Promoting trade**

Walter Mondale, who arrived in Tokyo in August 1993, helped the Clinton administration push for aggressive new trade agreements with Japan, especially in the fields of automobiles and semiconductors.

In the last year of his tenure, however, he became more involved with stabilizing the bilateral security relationship and heading off a crisis in Okinawa after three U.S. servicemen were charged with, and later convicted of, raping a 12-year-old girl.

During Mondale's ambassadorship, the United States also agreed with Japan about opening markets for construction, mobile telephones and intellectual property rights.

But in a news conference two months ago at the National Press Club, Mondale warned that the United States could lose its dominant role in the global economy if federal policy makers run up huge deficits and make the United States even more of a debtor nation.

Mondale said Thursday he was proud he helped bring more high school and college students — including nine last summer from Minnesota — to study in Japan.

Minnesota companies such as Northwest Airlines, 3M, Medtronic and Cargill are turning good profits in Japan, he said. But problems remain trying to open up transportation and retailing markets.

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The San Jose Mercury News and the Associated Press contributed to this report.



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