

AOI-KAI RECEPTION -- DECEMBER 8, 1993
(JAPANESE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION AT EMBASSY TOKYO)

- JOAN AND I ARE HONORED TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING TO CELEBRATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AOI-KAI ["AH-OY KA-EE"].

- WE ARE THRILLED TO BE IN JAPAN AND WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH ALL OF YOU IN ADVANCING THE WELL-BEING OF THE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP -- THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP FOR EITHER OF OUR COUNTRIES.

- TO DO MY JOB WELL, I KNOW THAT I DEPEND ON EACH OF YOU. MY PREDECESSORS, MIKE MANSFIELD AND MIKE ARMACOST, TOLD ME THAT ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE ASSETS THIS EMBASSY HAS IS THE TALENT, KNOWLEDGE AND HARD WORK OF OUR JAPANESE STAFF. IN MY SHORT TIME HERE, I HAVE ALREADY FOUND THAT ADVICE TO BE ABSOLUTELY TRUE.

- WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE. I KNOW THAT SOME OF YOU HAVE BEEN WITH US FOR TWENTY, THIRTY OR MORE YEARS. BECAUSE THE AMERICANS COME AND GO, YOU PROVIDE THE ESSENTIAL CONTINUITY -- THE INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY -- THAT IS NECESSARY FOR THIS EMBASSY TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT.

- I WANT YOUR WORK TO BE BOTH PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY REWARDING FOR EACH OF YOU. THIS EMBASSY SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO YOUR CONCERNS. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE "AOI-KAI" ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN THIS REGARD, AND I WISH TO THANK MATSUMOTO-SAN AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP.

- IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US TO WORK TOGETHER AS A TEAM, AS COLLEAGUES. MY HOPE IS THAT OUR EMBASSY WILL EXEMPLIFY THE VERY BEST ABOUT BOTH AMERICA AND JAPAN -- AND THAT, IN OUR OWN PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, WE CAN BE A MODEL FOR HOW THE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP ITSELF SHOULD BE CONDUCTED.

- THE TRUTH IS THAT I AM NOT THE ONLY AMBASSADOR AT THIS EMBASSY. EACH OF YOU IS ALSO AN AMBASSADOR IN YOUR RIGHT. IN OUR OWN WORK AND IN OUR OWN LIVES, EACH OF US CAN MAKE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO A SOLID, SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN.

- WE COULD NOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU, AND WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THAT YOU DO.



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