

HARU REISCHAUER DINNER -- OCTOBER 27, 1993

- THANK YOU, HARU, FOR THOSE VERY KIND WORDS. JOAN AND I ARE DELIGHTED TO BE IN JAPAN -- AND WE ARE DELIGHTED TO BE HERE AT THIS WONDERFUL DINNER WITH SO MANY OF YOUR FRIENDS. WE ARE HONORED THAT YOU ASKED US TO JOIN YOU.
- WE SHARE IN HARU'S FEELINGS OF SADNESS THAT ED COULD NOT BE WITH US THIS EVENING. WHILE ED REMAINS VERY MUCH ALIVE IN OUR MEMORIES, WE ALL MISS HIM AND CONTINUE TO FEEL THE LOSS OF THIS GIFTED SCHOLAR AND STATESMAN. (AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, ED WAS A RELATIVE OF JOAN.)
- BOTH JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE A TRADITION OF SENDING THEIR FINEST PEOPLE (UNTIL NOW!) TO SERVE AS AMBASSADORS IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. YET, WHEN PRESIDENT KENNEDY FIRST SELECTED ED, THERE WERE SOME DOUBTS EXPRESSED IN THE U.S. ABOUT HOW A MERE "SCHOLAR" COULD EVEN HOPE TO FUNCTION IN THE EXALTED ROLE OF AMBASSADOR. WELL, ED MORE THAN PROVED HIMSELF. IN FACT, I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT HE SET THE STANDARD BY WHICH EVERY AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THIS COUNTRY MUST STILL BE MEASURED.
- THERE IS A CHAPTER IN ED REISCHAUER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY (MY LIFE BETWEEN JAPAN AND AMERICA) ENTITLED "AN AMBASSADOR'S JOB." I READ IT VERY CAREFULLY THIS SUMMER. IN IT, HE HIGHLIGHTS ONE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY OF AN AMBASSADOR WHICH IS OFTEN IGNORED -- AND THAT IS (I QUOTE) "THE BUILDING OF ATTITUDES OF FRIENDSHIP AND GOODWILL TOWARD THE UNITED STATES ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE OTHER COUNTRY AND THE DEEPENING OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO LANDS." ED AND HARU WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL IN FULFILLING THIS RESPONSIBILITY. JOAN AND I WILL FEEL VERY FORTUNATE TO ACCOMPLISH EVEN A FRACTION OF WHAT THEY DID.
- ED AND HARU FORMED A VERY SPECIAL BOND WITH THE JAPANESE PEOPLE. THEY ARRIVED HERE IN 1961 AT A TERRIBLY DIFFICULT TIME IN U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS (FOLLOWING THE BITTER CONTROVERSY AND PROTESTS SURROUNDING THE MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY OF 1960). BUT, BECAUSE OF THE TRUST AND RESPECT THEY EARNED THROUGH THEIR HARD WORK, THEY MANAGED TO RESTORE A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS WHICH STANDS FIRM TO THIS DAY.

- HARU, OF COURSE, HAS CONTINUED TO BE A VERY SPECIAL, UNOFFICIAL AMBASSADOR BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THROUGH HER WRITINGS, HER SPEECHES AND HER VAST NETWORK OF FRIENDS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PACIFIC, HARU HAS CONTRIBUTED SO MUCH TO THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND GOODWILL OF THE JAPANESE AND AMERICAN PEOPLE. IT HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE FOR US TO OBSERVE THE GREAT WARMTH AND AFFECTION, AND THE DEEP RESPECT, THAT SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE FOR HARU IN THIS COUNTRY.

- JOAN AND I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK HARU FOR HER SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE DURING THESE PAST FEW MONTHS AS WE PREPARED TO COME TO TOKYO. ONE OF THE VERY FIRST THINGS WE DID AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN JUNE WAS TO SEEK OUT HARU'S ADVICE. AND SHE GAVE VERY GENEROUSLY OF HER TIME AND WISDOM, EVEN FLYING TO MINNESOTA FROM HER HOME IN CALIFORNIA TO MINNESOTA TO MEET WITH US. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE KINDNESS YOU HAVE SHOWN THE MONDALE FAMILY.

- WHEN ED AND HARU CAME HERE IN 1961, IT WAS OFTEN REMARKED THAT JAPAN WAS GETTING "TWO AMBASSADORS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE." I AM VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE JOAN AS MY FELLOW AMBASSADOR HERE. WE ARE PARTNERS IN THIS EFFORT, AND I DEPEND ON HER. IN FACT, JOAN MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE MUCH BETTER AMBASSADOR IN THE FAMILY! WHILE I'M HIDDEN AWAY IN THE EMBASSY MOST OF THE DAY, SHE IS OUT MEETING ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, TRAVELLING AND SEEING THE SIGHTS OF THIS MAGNIFICENT COUNTRY. JAPAN WILL NEVER BE THE SAME!

- IN CLOSING, I MUST APOLOGIZE THAT JOAN AND I WILL BE UNABLE TO CARRY ON AN IMPORTANT TRADITION THAT WAS STARTED BY ED AND HARU. AS YOU KNOW, THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IS RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET. BUT IT IS BEING RENOVATED AND RESTORED OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. SO JOAN AND I ARE LIVING IN WHAT WAS THE DCM'S RESIDENCE, WHICH IS VERY NICE. NONETHELESS, I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY -- AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS -- TO PLAY BADMINTON IN THE RECEPTION HALL, AS I UNDERSTAND ED AND HARU SOMETIMES DID WITH THEIR AMBASSADORIAL COLLEAGUES. WE ARE HOPING THAT THIS VERY FINE DIPLOMATIC TRADITION MIGHT BE RESTORED ALONG WITH THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES!



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