

REMARKS  
AMERICA-JAPAN SOCIETY  
NOVEMBER 30, 1993

[INTRODUCED BY JAMES ADACHI, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICA-JAPAN SOCIETY.]

THANK YOU, MR. ADACHI, FOR THAT KIND INTRODUCTION.

PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. FUKUDA . . . AMBASSADOR AND MRS. YASUKAWA . . . MR. AND MRS. WATANABE . . . LADIES AND GENTLEMEN . . . JOAN AND I ARE VERY HONORED TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING FOR SUCH A WONDERFUL EVENT.

I AM ALSO HONORED AND DELIGHTED TO ACCEPT PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S KIND INVITATION TO SERVE AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICA-JAPAN SOCIETY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE SOCIETY IN HELPING TO PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF OUR TWO NATIONS. YOU HAVE A WIDE RANGE OF EXCELLENT ACTIVITIES. I ESPECIALLY TAKE NOTE OF YOUR SPEAKERS PROGRAM. I WAS VERY IMPRESSED TO SEE THAT, IN TWO WEEKS, SOMEONE NAMED JOAN MONDALE WILL BE YOUR LUNCHEON SPEAKER!

I ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE FULBRIGHT ALUMNI PROGRAM IN JAPAN.

I WAS VERY IMPRESSED TO LEARN THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND JAPANESE ALUMNI OF THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN HELPING TO BRING MORE AMERICAN FULBRIGHTERS TO JAPAN. YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT IN THESE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES (WITH THE HIGH YEN) IS ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED.

I BELIEVE THAT THE ENDURING STRENGTH AND QUALITY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS IS DUE -- IN NO SMALL PART -- TO THE EFFORTS OF ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE AMERICA-JAPAN SOCIETY AND THE FULBRIGHT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

IN 1917, WHEN THE AMERICA-JAPAN SOCIETY WAS FOUNDED -- OR EVEN IN 1951, WHEN THE FULBRIGHT COMMISSION BEGAN ITS WORK -- WHO COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT ONE DAY, AMERICAN "RIKISHI" ["RICK - SHE"] WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SUMO WORLD, OR THAT A JAPANESE COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSICIAN WOULD BE PLAYING NIGHTLY AT THE NEW HOME OF COUNTRY MUSIC IN BRANFORD, MISSOURI?

THE FACT IS THAT, IN ALMOST EVERY RESPECT, OUR RELATIONSHIP IS ONE OF THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS STORIES OF THE PAST HALF CENTURY. IN A SHORT TIME, ONCE BITTER ENEMIES HAVE BECOME ALLIES, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS. OUR DESTINIES HAVE BECOME INSEPARABLE.

IN RECENT YEARS, OF COURSE, OUR ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES HAVE DRAWN THE MOST ATTENTION.

THIS EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC TENSIONS HAS OFTEN OVERSHADOWED HOW SOLID AND POSITIVE OUR RELATIONSHIP REALLY IS.

- WE HAVE A VERY SUCCESSFUL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP, WHICH IS THE FOUNDATION FOR STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION.

- WE HAVE A VERY POSITIVE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP -- IN WHICH WE COOPERATE ON A FULL RANGE OF BILATERAL, REGIONAL, AND GLOBAL ISSUES.

- AND WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER THROUGH A VARIETY OF MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS -- INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS, THE G-7, THE IMF AND WORLD BANK.

AS AMBASSADOR, IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP CONTINUE OUR SUCCESS IN THESE CRUCIAL AREAS.

ONE OF MY MOST IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES IS ALSO TO HELP BUILD GREATER HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO SOCIETIES.

IN THE PAST HALF CENTURY, THE BONDS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE EXPANDED SUBSTANTIALLY. AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL, AMERICANS AND JAPANESE

NOW HAVE A BROAD BASE OF SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS — NOT ONLY ACADEMIC AND CULTURAL, BUT SCIENTIFIC, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC.

NONETHELESS, THE REALITY OF OUR INTERDEPENDENCE HAS OUTPACED OUR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AS PEOPLE. LANGUAGE, DISTANCE, CULTURAL DIFFERENCES, AND SOME INSULARITY IN EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES INTERFERE WITH COMMUNICATION.

THUS, WE NEED TO CONTINUE WORKING ON THIS ASPECT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. I KNOW THAT I CANNOT DO IT ALONE. (FORTUNATELY, I DO HAVE JOAN'S HELP. IN MANY WAYS, SHE WILL BE AN AMBASSADOR IN HER OWN RIGHT IN PROMOTING CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC UNDERSTANDING.)

ULTIMATELY, BOTH THE GOVERNMENTS OF JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES MUST DEPEND ON OUR OWN CITIZENS TO PROVIDE THE SUPPORT AND ENERGY THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO MOVE FORWARD.

DURING MY TIME AS AMBASSADOR, I WANT TO HELP MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR MORE OF OUR CITIZENS TO LEARN AND BECOME INVOLVED WITH THIS IMPORTANT COUNTRY. I WANT TO OPEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE AMERICANS TO COME TO JAPAN FOR STUDY, RESEARCH, BUSINESS AND TRAVEL.

FOR EXAMPLE, I WAS SHOCKED WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT THE IMBALANCE IN THE NUMBER OF EXCHANGE STUDENTS. THERE ARE MORE THAN FORTY THOUSAND JAPANESE IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES -- AND WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE EACH ONE. THE PROBLEM IS THERE ARE FEWER THAN THIRTEEN HUNDRED AMERICANS STUDYING IN JAPAN.

THAT MEANS THERE ARE THIRTY-TWO JAPANESE STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR EVERY ONE AMERICAN STUDENT HERE.

IF THIS IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP, WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF YOUNG AMERICANS WHO COME HERE, WHO LEARN THE LANGUAGE, WHO SEE THE JAPANESE PERSON-TO-PERSON RATHER THAN THROUGH CARICATURE.

AS AMBASSADOR, I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE MORE STUDENT EXCHANGES WITH JAPAN. I AM NOT YET SURE EXACTLY HOW WE SHOULD GO ABOUT DOING THIS --

AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS AND PROPOSALS -- BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT BOTH OF OUR NATIONS SHARE AN INTEREST IN THIS GOAL.

I AGREE WITH SENATOR FULBRIGHT, WHO HAS SAID: "EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE CAN TURN NATIONS INTO PEOPLE, CONTRIBUTING AS NO OTHER FORM OF COMMUNICATION CAN TO THE HUMANIZING OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS."

OF COURSE, THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN ARE TWO VERY DIFFERENT SOCIETIES --WITH DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIES, LANGUAGES, AND HISTORIES. BUT LET THERE BE NO DOUBT: THOSE THINGS WHICH UNITE OUR TWO NATIONS FAR OUTWEIGH ANYTHING THAT MIGHT DIVIDE US.

NONETHELESS, UNDERSTANDING ONE ANOTHER ON A HUMAN LEVEL DOES NOT COME AUTOMATICALLY. IT IS SO EASY TO DEAL WITH OTHER PEOPLE THROUGH CARICATURE. IT'S EITHER "US" OR "THEM."

THAT IS WHY WE MUST MAKE THE EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER. THERE IS A COMMON HUMANITY IN ALL OF US. THE TRICK IS TO REACH OUT TO THAT WHICH WE HOLD IN COMMON. OTHERWISE -- TO USE AN AMERICAN EXPRESSION -- WE JUST CIRCLE THE WAGONS, HUNKER DOWN AND GET READY FOR A FIGHT.

AS WE UNDERSTAND OUR COMMON HUMANITY, WE SHOULD ALSO RESPECT OUR DIFFERENCES. EVEN MORE THAN THAT, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ENJOY OUR DIFFERENCES -- TO APPRECIATE THESE DIFFERENCES AND TO BE WILLING TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER.

BY MY OWN EXAMPLE, I HOPE TO SHOW THAT OUR TWO NATIONS CAN DISCUSS OUR DIFFERENCES WITH CIVILITY AND WITHOUT MUTUAL "BASHING" OF EACH OTHER.

INEVITABLY, OUR TWO NATIONS WILL HAVE SOME DIFFERENCES. WE ARE SOVEREIGN NATIONS; EACH OF US HAS OUR OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS. THAT MEANS WE WILL SOMETIMES HAVE DISAGREEMENTS. WE DO NO GOOD BY IGNORING THEM. BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO ALLOW OUR RELATIONSHIP TO DRIFT TOWARD ALIENATION AND ANTAGONISM.

WE MUST BE CIVILIZED, DIGNIFIED AND WORK TOGETHER IN THE SPIRIT OF STATESMANSHIP TO MANAGE OUR CONFLICTS — AND TO RISE ABOVE THEM WHEN OUR COMMON INTERESTS TAKE PRIORITY, AS THEY MOST OFTEN WILL.

THERE ARE ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN TO WORK TOGETHER:

EACH OF US HAS A VITAL STAKE IN THE HEALTH OF THE OTHER'S ECONOMY. AND, TOGETHER, WE CAN WORK TO ENSURE THE STRENGTH OF BOTH OUR ECONOMIES.

EACH OF US HAS A STAKE IN A FREE AND OPEN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM. AND, TOGETHER, WE CAN WORK TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS SYSTEM.

EACH OF US HAS A STAKE IN AN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION THAT IS SECURE AND PROSPEROUS. AND, TOGETHER, WE CAN WORK TO ENSURE THE STABILITY AND WEALTH OF THIS REGION.

FINALLY, EACH OF US HAS A STAKE IN A WORLD THAT IS A SAFER, FREER, HEALTHIER PLACE FOR THE PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS.

IF THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN CAN WORK TOGETHER, THEN PRACTICALLY EVERY PROBLEM IN THE WORLD WILL GET BETTER OR, AT LEAST, BECOME MUCH EASIER TO HANDLE. BUT IF OUR RELATIONSHIP DETERIORATES, THEN EVERY ONE OF THESE PROBLEMS WILL GET WORSE OR BECOME THAT MUCH HARDER, EVEN IMPOSSIBLE, TO SOLVE.

THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY NOT ONLY TO OURSELVES, BUT TO THE WORLD, TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP CONTINUES TO THRIVE.

I AM OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE HAVE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH THROUGH OUR ACTIVE COOPERATION. IF WE CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER, WE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH EVEN MORE.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF OUR TWO GREAT NATIONS.



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