

REMARKS  
TREE-PLANTING CEREMONY  
FOR SECRETARY OF STATE CHRISTOPHER

MR. SECRETARY, MRS. CHRISTOPHER ...,  
WE ARE HONORED TO WELCOME YOU BACK TO TOKYO.

GREETING YOU HERE TODAY ARE THE AMERICAN AND JAPANESE STAFF OF WHAT I  
TRULY BELIEVE IS OUR FINEST EMBASSY IN THE WORLD.

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND I HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR MANY YEARS —  
EVER SINCE I WAS A YOUNG U.S. SENATOR AND HE WAS A YOUNG DEPUTY ATTORNEY  
GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, PRESIDENT JOHNSON APPOINTED HIM TO THAT KEY  
POSITION IN 1967 — TO SERVE AS A MEDIATOR AND PEACE-MAKER AT A TIME OF  
UPHEAVAL IN AMERICAN SOCIETY.

A DECADE LATER, PRESIDENT CARTER ASKED HIM TO BE OUR DEPUTY  
SECRETARY OF STATE. HE SERVED WITH GREAT DISTINCTION:

- SHEPHERDING THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES THROUGH CONGRESS,
- SERVING AS OUR CHIEF SPOKESMAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABROAD, AND
- NEGOTIATING THE RELEASE OF OUR HOSTAGES IN IRAN.

FOR THIS, HE RECEIVED OUR NATION'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD, THE  
PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

NOW, AS SECRETARY OF STATE, HE HOLDS WHAT IS PROBABLY THE MOST  
CHALLENGING AND DEMANDING OF ALL CABINET ASSIGNMENTS — AND AT A CRITICAL  
TIME IN AMERICA'S RELATIONS WITH THE WORLD.

THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO TOKYO AT THIS TIME HIGHLIGHTS THE CONTINUING  
STRENGTH AND IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP — NOT ONLY FOR OUR  
TWO NATIONS, BUT FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD.

FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY, OUR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN JAPAN HAVE BEEN  
DIRECTED FROM THESE GROUNDS.

AND TODAY, MR. SECRETARY, WE WISH TO HONOR YOU WITH AN EMBASSY  
TRADITION THAT GOES BACK TO 1953, IN WHICH WE PLANT A TREE ON EMBASSY  
GROUNDS TO HONOR VERY SPECIAL VISITORS.

THIS TRADITION EMBRACES SOME OF OUR NATION'S FINEST LEADERS,  
INCLUDING:

- PRESIDENTS CARTER, REAGAN, AND BUSH;
- SECRETARIES OF STATE CYRUS VANCE, EDMUND MUSKIE, AND GEORGE  
SHULTZ; AND

- AMBASSADORS ROBERT MURPHY, DOUGLAS MACARTHUR II, MIKE MANSFIELD,  
AND MICHAEL ARMACOST;

I WISH TO POINT OUT ONE VERY INTERESTING VARIATION ON THIS TRADITION.

ABOVE US, ON THE HILL BY THE RESIDENCE, THERE IS A BRONZE PLAQUE THAT  
READS:

"THE DOGWOOD TREES IN THE EMBASSY GARDEN ARE FROM THE TREES  
PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, DC, TO THE CITY OF TOKYO ON APRIL 10,  
1958, AS A LIVING MEMORIAL TO MR. YUKIO OZAKI WHO PRESENTED THE FAMOUS  
CHERRY TREES TO THE CITY OF WASHINGTON IN 1912. PLANTED BY DOUGLAS  
MACARTHUR II, APRIL 10, 1958."

MR. SECRETARY, I AM HONORED TO INVITE YOU TO JOIN ME IN PLANTING A  
SOMEIYOSHINO ["SO-MAY-YO-SHE-NO"]. (FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT AS  
FLUENT IN JAPANESE AS I AM, THIS MEANS CHERRY TREE.)

MR. SECRETARY, THIS EVENT IS A GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE FOR ME. YOU ARE  
ONE THE MOST GIFTED AND PRINCIPLED PUBLIC SERVANTS I HAVE EVER KNOWN.

WE ARE HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE AND WE FEEL PROUD TO SERVE HERE  
UNDER YOUR SUPERB LEADERSHIP.

THE COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE READS, "PLANTED BY AMBASSADOR WALTER F.  
MONDALE TO COMMEMORATE THE VISIT OF SECRETARY OF STATE WARREN CHRISTOPHER  
TO JAPAN, MARCH 9-11, 1994."

MR. SECRETARY . . . .



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