

CONGRATULATORY GREETINGS
SHIMODA BLACK SHIP FESTIVAL
MAY 16-18, 1994

GOVERNOR ISHIKAWA . . . MAYOR IKETANI . . . MR. YAMAZAKI (FOREIGN
MINISTRY) . . . ADMIRAL TOBIN . . .
MAYOR RODERICK (NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND) . . . PRESIDENT CONNELL (JAPAN-
AMERICA SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND) . . .

I AM HONORED TO JOIN YOU FOR THE 55TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE
SHIMODA BLACK SHIP FESTIVAL.

IT IS MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY AS AMBASSADOR TO ATTEND THIS SPECIAL EVENT.
I AM DELIGHTED TO CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC
PARTICIPATION INAUGURATED BY AMBASSADOR JOSEPH GREW, WHO ATTENDED THE
VERY FIRST FESTIVAL IN 1934.

COMMODORE MATTHEW PERRY AND HIS SQUADRON OF FOUR SHIPS ARRIVED
HERE 140 YEARS AGO TO BEGIN OFFICIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED
STATES.

IT WAS A MODEST, TENTATIVE START TO THE DEEP AND ENDURING
RELATIONSHIP WHICH OUR TWO GREAT NATIONS ENJOY TODAY.

IN 1854, JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES WERE AS DIFFERENT AS TWO NATIONS
COULD POSSIBLY BE:

JAPAN WAS AN ANCIENT CULTURE WITH A RICH AND DISTINGUISHED HISTORY.
AN ISLAND NATION, YOU WERE OPENING UP TO THE MODERN WORLD AFTER MORE THAN
TWO CENTURIES OF OFFICIAL SECLUSION.

BY CONTRAST, THE UNITED STATES WAS A YOUNG NATION, RUGGED AND
ENERGETIC. WE WERE A NEW EXPERIMENT IN DEMOCRACY WITH A VAST CONTINENT ON
WHICH TO BUILD AND GROW.

YET BOTH OF OUR NATIONS WERE CHANGING — AND WE CONTINUE TO CHANGE TODAY. WE ALSO CONTINUE TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER — DRAWING STRENGTH AND VITALITY FROM OUR DIFFERENCES WHILE APPRECIATING THE COMMON HUMANITY WHICH ULTIMATELY UNITES US.

SHIMODA IS TRULY AN APPROPRIATE SYMBOL FOR THIS MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP ON EARTH. THIS ANNUAL EVENT IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM THE MANY BENEFITS THAT WE GAIN FROM:

- THE PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS,
- THE TRADE AND COMMERCE BETWEEN OUR BUSINESSES, AND
- THE FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE.

ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I AM PLEASED TO CELEBRATE THE CONTINUING SUCCESS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

I OFFER MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SHIMODA ON THE OCCASION OF THIS YEAR'S BLACK SHIP FESTIVAL.



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