

## Independence Day Message

On behalf of President Clinton, I wish to offer greetings to my fellow Americans in Japan on our 218th Independence Day. On this national holiday, we celebrate the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. The event marked the birth of a new democratic nation with a profound statement of fundamental human rights.

On this occasion, we should recall those bold words of Thomas Jefferson which are now so famous: "We hold these truths to be self-evident — that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed."

These principles of liberty and self-government are as compelling today as they have ever been. The words of the Declaration and the example of United States have been an inspiration to many people around the world in their struggles for freedom. Most recently, we have seen the rewards of this struggle in South Africa. Less than five years ago, Nelson Mandela was in prison — and had been there for almost three decades. Today, he is the democratically-elected president of his country. His leadership renews our hope about the prospects for freedom and democracy in the world.

As the United States Ambassador, it is my hope that our country's relationship with Japan can demonstrate the very best about America — our concern for freedom and democracy; our devotion to human dignity and justice, both at home and abroad; our respect and appreciation for human diversity; and our striving for a world in which all people can enjoy peace and prosperity.

Therefore, as we commemorate the past, let us also look to the future. Let us be faithful to the ideals that have made our nation so great. Let us work together to continue making these ideals a reality — in America and

worldwide. And, in the best of American traditions, let us enjoy this special day with family and friends.

Ambassador Walter F. Mondale



# MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Copyright in the Walter F. Mondale Papers belongs to the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, link to, or email content, however, for individual use.

To request permission for commercial or educational use, please contact the Minnesota Historical Society.



[www.mnhs.org](http://www.mnhs.org)