

REMARKS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION  
TOKYO AMERICAN CLUB  
JULY 4, 1994

ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CLINTON, I AM DELIGHTED TO JOIN OUR AMERICAN AND JAPANESE FRIENDS FOR THIS SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF OUR INDEPENDENCE DAY.

ON THE 4TH OF JULY EACH YEAR, WE COMMEMORATE THE FORMAL ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1776. THIS EVENT MARKED THE BIRTH OF A NEW DEMOCRATIC NATION WITH A PROFOUND STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. (CONTRARY TO RUMORS, HOWEVER, I WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE CREATION.)

ON THIS OCCASION, WE SHOULD RECALL THE BOLD WORDS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON:

"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.

SO, 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.



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