

OPENING OF THE AMERICAN FESTIVAL

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JULY 8, 1994

ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT CLINTON AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I AM HONORED TO JOIN YOU FOR THE OPENING OF THE AMERICAN FESTIVAL. I AM ESPECIALLY DELIGHTED TO BE HERE BECAUSE MY TWO FAVORITE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD — MY WIFE, JOAN, AND MY FRIEND, PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER — ARE THE HONORARY CO-CHAIRS OF THE FESTIVAL'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

I ALSO WISH TO CONGRATULATE NHK, THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN, THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND THE OTHER SUPPORTERS OF THE FESTIVAL FOR THEIR IMPRESSIVE LEADERSHIP AND GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS EFFORT. ABOVE ALL, THE AMERICAN FESTIVAL REMINDS US OF THE REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND OUR PEOPLE.

AS WE ALL KNOW, IT WAS ONLY ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY ONE YEARS AGO -- JUST A BLINK OF THE EYE -- THAT AN AMERICAN COMMODORE — ACTING THE PART OF AN ADMIRAL — DROPPED ANCHOR IN EDO BAY. THE NEXT YEAR, THE KANAGAWA TREATY WAS SIGNED AND THE JAPANESE SHOGUNATE, WITH SOME RELUCTANCE, OPENED THE PORTS OF SHIMODA AND HAKODATE TO AMERICAN SHIPS.

SURELY, DURING THESE EARLY MEETINGS, NEITHER THE JAPANESE OFFICIALS NOR THE AMERICAN SAILORS COULD HAVE IMAGINED THE RICH, COMPLEX AND MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL BONDS WHICH OUR TWO NATIONS ENJOY TODAY.

TOGETHER, OVER THE YEARS, WE HAVE CREATED A FRIENDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP UNPRECEDENTED IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS. THIS IS ONE OF THE GREAT INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS STORIES OF THE PAST HALF CENTURY.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE SO MUCH TO GAIN FROM EACH OTHER — NOT ONLY IN COMMERCE, BUT IN OUR MUTUAL CONCERNS FOR WORLD SECURITY, PEACE AND PROSPERITY. WE ALSO HAVE MUCH TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AS WELL — NOT ONLY IN THE VALUES AND ASPIRATIONS WE SHARE, BUT IN THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES WHICH ADD VITALITY TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN US.

THIS SPECTACULAR EXHIBITION IS AS CLEAR A STATEMENT AS THERE CAN BE OF THE CONTINUING STRENGTH AND SUCCESS OF OUR RELATIONS. I HOPE MANY CITIZENS OF JAPAN WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY AND LEARN FROM THIS UNIQUE DISPLAY OF AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY.



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