

REMARKS ON THE OFFICIAL OPENING  
OF THE TOKYO ACQUISITIONS FACILITY OF THE U.S. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS JAPAN  
DOCUMENTATION CENTER  
(SEPTEMBER 28, 1994)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD AFTERNOON. I AM DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TOKYO ACQUISITIONS FACILITY OF THE U.S. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS -- JAPAN DOCUMENTATION CENTER.

FOR NEARLY 200 YEARS, THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS HAS BEEN DEDICATED TO COLLECTING AND DISSEMINATING INFORMATION TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. IT IS AN ESSENTIAL ORGAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC BODY POLITIC. DURING MY YEARS IN THE SENATE, SOME OF THE MOST UP-TO-DATE REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS ON JAPAN THAT I AND MY COLLEAGUES RELIED ON WERE THOSE OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND ITS CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE.

THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP IS A NEW INSTITUTION, COMMITTED TO THE EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES. THE LIBRARY AND THE CENTER HAVE COME TO THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION THAT FOR OUR TWO NATIONS TO SUCCESSFULLY WORK TOGETHER ON MATTERS OF BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CONCERN, "THE MORE INFORMATION WE SHARE, THE BETTER. " FOR THIS REASON, THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND THE JAPAN FOUNDATION'S CENTER FOR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP HAVE JOINED IN ESTABLISHING THIS ACQUISITIONS FACILITY IN TOKYO.

AMERICAN INTEREST IN JAPAN IS RIVALED PERHAPS ONLY BY THE INTEREST OF THE JAPANESE PUBLIC IN THE U.S. IN 1990 ALONE, THE ASAHI SHIMBUN RAN 8,700 ARTICLES ABOUT THE U.S. -- THAT COMES TO MORE THAN 24 ARTICLES A DAY. THE NEW YORK TIMES RAN 2000 ARTICLES ABOUT JAPAN THAT SAME YEAR. AND AMERICAN INTEREST IN AND EXPERTISE ABOUT JAPAN CONTINUES TO GROW. SINCE 1970, THE NUMBER OF JAPAN SPECIALISTS AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES HAS RISEN BY 300 PERCENT TO OVER 1300 ACADEMICS. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 21 AMERICAN LIBRARIES WITH COLLECTIONS OF OVER 40,000 VOLUMES IN JAPANESE. ALTHOUGH JAPANESE STUDYING AT AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS FAR OUTNUMBER OUR STUDENTS HERE, THE

PERCENTAGE OF AMERICAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS CHOOSING TO COME TO JAPAN HAS GROWN NEARLY 50 PERCENT IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.

THE TOKYO ACQUISITIONS FACILITY WILL FILL AN IMPORTANT GAP IN THE FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES. IT WILL PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF THE GROWING DESIRE OF AMERICANS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT JAPAN. DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS OF JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND MINISTRIES, ADVISORY COUNCILS AND THINK TANKS ARE LARGELY UNAVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES AND IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN COMMERCIALY. THE COLLECTION OF THIS FACILITY WILL INCLUDE SUCH DOCUMENTS, FORMING AN IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION RESOURCE, NOT ONLY FOR CONGRESS, THE LIBRARY'S FOREMOST CUSTOMER, BUT FOR AMERICAN SCHOLARS, BUSINESSMEN, AND PRIVATE CITIZENS AS WELL.

LET ME EXPRESS MY GREAT APPRECIATION TO THE APTLY NAMED CENTER FOR GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR ITS GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT. I WISH THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS - JAPAN DOCUMENTATION CENTER THE GREATEST SUCCESS IN IMPLEMENTING THIS SERVICE. IT IS BOUND TO MAKE A NOTABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE HEALTH AND STRENGTH OF OUR DYNAMIC BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

I UNDERSTAND THAT LIBRARIANS LIKE THE APHORISM, "MOST OF KNOWLEDGE IS KNOWING WHERE TO FIND IT." BY MAKING IT READILY AVAILABLE, THIS JOINT PROJECT WILL AUGMENT THE KNOWLEDGE OF JAPAN IN THE UNITED STATES, AND IT WILL SURELY HELP BRING OUR TWO COUNTRIES CLOSER TOGETHER.



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