

REMARKS FOR PRESS CONFERENCE ON  
JAPAN'S BID FOR A UNSC SEAT  
(SEPTEMBER 28, 1994)

THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME HERE TODAY. I APPRECIATE YOU ALL COMING IN ON A RAINY DAY. I'M SURE YOU ALL EXPECT ME TO FOCUS ON OUR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE NOW TAKING PLACE AT VARIOUS LEVELS IN WASHINGTON. I PREDICT YOU WILL HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS ON THESE ISSUES. BUT THE REASON I ASKED YOU TO COME IN TODAY IS TO MAKE CLEAR MY GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON JAPAN'S BID FOR A PERMANENT SEAT ON THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL. WE SOMETIMES FORGET THAT THERE IS MUCH MORE THAN TRADE TO OUR RELATIONSHIP. WE ARE, ABOVE ALL, ALLIES AND FRIENDS, AND IT IS FROM THIS PERSPECTIVE THAT I MAKE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

WE APPLAUD FOREIGN MINISTER KONO'S SPEECH BEFORE THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY INDICATING THAT JAPAN WILL EXPAND ITS ROLE IN U.N. ACTIVITIES, AND WE AGREE THAT JAPAN COULD BEST DO SO THROUGH A PERMANENT SEAT ON THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL.

SUPPORT FOR JAPAN'S U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN THE POLICY OF SUCCESSIVE U.S. ADMINISTRATIONS FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES. PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS PERSONALLY UNDERSCORED HIS BACKING FOR JAPAN'S MEMBERSHIP AND MY GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT IS ROCK SOLID.

WE APPRECIATE THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS JAPAN HAS MADE TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY UP TO NOW AND WE WOULD WELCOME AN EXPANDED GLOBAL ROLE FOR JAPAN. WE APPLAUD JAPAN'S DEPLOYMENT OF SELF-DEFENSE FORCES AND CIVILIAN ELEMENTS TO U.N. MISSIONS IN CAMBODIA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND NOW CENTRAL AFRICA.

I WANT TO BE CLEAR THAT MY GOVERNMENT SEES NO REQUIREMENT IN THE U.N. CHARTER OR ELSEWHERE THAT PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL PARTICIPATE IN U.N. PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES. THE UNITED STATES -- AND OTHER NATIONS -- COMMEND JAPAN'S ENGAGEMENT IN HUMANITARIAN AND PEACEKEEPING

OPERATIONS. JAPAN'S ACTIONS PROMOTE THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

WE HOPE THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WILL BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM ACHIEVED FROM ITS SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN U.N. DEPLOYMENTS TO DATE AND WE ENCOURAGE JAPAN TO ACTIVELY SEEK OUT NEW AREAS FOR PARTICIPATION. A MORE PROMINENT ROLE FOR JAPAN WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT JAPAN IS SHOULDERING RESPONSIBILITIES COMMENSURATE WITH ITS INTERNATIONAL STATURE.

THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR JAPAN TO PARTICIPATE IN U.N. PEACEKEEPING AND HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS. HOW JAPAN CHOOSES TO PLAY A BROADER ROLE IS, OF COURSE, FOR THE JAPANESE TO DECIDE.

I WILL NOW BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.

THANK YOU.



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