

BRIEF REMARKS

ACCJ CRYSTAL BALL

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. JOAN AND I ARE HONORED TO BE HERE WITH YOU TONIGHT.

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, I WAS IN JAPAN ONLY A FEW MONTHS WHEN I CAME TO LAST YEAR'S CRYSTAL BALL. AND WHAT I KNEW OF THE ACCJ THEN WAS LARGELY HEARSAY. YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT THIS ACCJ'S REPUTATION WAS AND STILL IS OUTSTANDING -- YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD. WELL, AT LEAST MOST OF THE MEMBERSHIP. . . .

BUT SERIOUSLY, IT IS A TRUE DELIGHT FOR ME TO BE HERE TONIGHT. THIS TIME, AFTER MORE THAN A YEAR IN JAPAN, WORKING WITH YOU AND GETTING TO KNOW MANY OF YOU, I CAN LOOK OUT AND SEE A LOT OF FRIENDS IN THE AUDIENCE.

NOW, IT'S NOT JUST BY REPUTATION, BUT IT'S MY OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT TELLS ME HOW GREAT YOU ARE. LET ME JUST SAY THIS: THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ACCJ ARE SOME OF THE MOST HARD WORKING, DEDICATED, TALENTED AND LOYAL AMERICANS I KNOW. I'M HONORED TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT.

WE HAVE WORKED ON A LOT OF ISSUES TOGETHER OVER THIS PAST YEAR. I THINK THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ACCJ AND OUR EMBASSY IS BETTER THAN EVER. ON A WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES, I THINK THAT WE HAVE FOUND WAYS TO ENHANCE OUR EFFECTIVENESS BY BOOSTING EACH OTHER'S EFFORTS. YOUR INPUT ON THE FRAMEWORK NEGOTIATIONS, ON APEC, ON DEREGULATION, JUST TO NAME A FEW, HAS BEEN OF TREMENDOUS VALUE NOT JUST TO ME BUT TO POLICY MAKERS THROUGHOUT OUR GOVERNMENT.

YOUR DOOR-KNOCKS, I THINK, ARE ALSO A SUCCESSFUL INNOVATION, AND I HOPE YOU WILL KEEP THEM UP.

ONE OF THE THINGS I LEARNED THIS YEAR IS HOW VERY TRICKY SOME OF THESE TRADE PROBLEMS ARE THAT WE HAVE WITH JAPAN. I GUESS ALL OF US COME TO JAPAN

WITH THE SAME IDEA -- THAT WE'LL GET HERE, WORK LIKE MAD, AND CRACK THAT NUT. WELL, WAS I EVER IN FOR A LESSON ABOUT HOW THINGS WORK IN THIS COUNTRY.

BUT I'M AN OPTIMIST, AND I KNOW THAT YOU ALL ARE TOO. YOU HAVE MANAGED TO SUCCEED UNDER SOME VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

IN FACT, WHAT I'VE FOUND IS THAT WHILE CHANGE DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT HERE, PROGRESS DEFINITELY CAN BE MADE. WE'VE MADE A LOT OF PROGRESS ON THE TRADE FRONT THIS YEAR AND WE HAVE A LOT OF SUCCESSES WE CAN BE PROUD OF -- WE'VE REACHED AGREEMENTS ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND INSURANCE; WE'VE OPENED UP THE CONSTRUCTION MARKET; CELLULAR PHONES; INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY; AND RICE. IN JANUARY, WE'VE GOT APPLES COMING IN FROM THE U.S. FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER. THAT TOOK 27 YEARS TO NEGOTIATE, BY THE WAY, AND I SURE HOPE THAT WE CAN SPEED UP THE PROCESS JUST A LITTLE BIT WHILE I'M AMBASSADOR HERE.

ENOUGH ABOUT BUSINESS. TONIGHT WE ARE HERE TO CELEBRATE AND HAVE SOME FUN.

I UNDERSTAND THAT ONE OF MY DUTIES IS TO WELCOME IN THE NEW ACCJ PRESIDENT AND BOARD. BEFORE I DO SO, I WANT TO THANK TOM JORDAN AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR THE TREMENDOUS SUPPORT YOU HAVE EXTENDED TO ME AND OTHERS IN THE EMBASSY OVER THE PAST YEAR. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT OUR EMBASSY IS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR WORK AND WE STAND READY TO ASSIST YOU AND RESPOND TO YOUR NEEDS.

IT IS NOW MY HONOR TO ANNOUNCE THE NEW PRESIDENT OF ACCJ -- WELL, SURPRISE, SURPRISE, IT'S TOM JORDAN AGAIN. I GUESS THIS SHOWS THAT WE ALL HAVE THE SAME EXCELLENT OPINION OF YOU TOM. . . .

[THE SPOTLIGHT WILL THEN FOCUS ON THE PRESIDENT'S TABLE AND TOM JORDAN WILL STAND FOR APPLAUSE. YOU WILL BE GIVEN A SCRIPT TO READ THE NAMES OF THE NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR 1995.]



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