

RECEPTION HOSTED BY GOVERNOR OTA  
REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR MONDALE  
(JUNE 22, 1995, 6:30 PM)

PRIME MINISTER MURAYAMA, SPEAKER DOI, SPEAKER HARA, CHIEF JUSTICE KUSABA, GOVERNOR OTA, MEMBERS OF THE FEDERATION OF BEREAVED FAMILIES, AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS. I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER A FEW REMARKS THIS EVENING.

TONIGHT AND IN THE COMING DAYS, WE WILL BE HONORING THOSE WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE FEROCIOUS BATTLE OF OKINAWA. TO MY GENERATION AND TO FUTURE GENERATIONS, THIS BATTLE WILL LONG REMAIN A TESTAMENT TO THE HEAVY PRICE OF WAR. SOME 250,000 PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THIS BATTLE, INCLUDING ONE THIRD OF THE POPULATION OF OKINAWA -- INNOCENT CIVILIANS TRAGICALLY CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE.

WE MUST NEVER FORGET THE SUFFERING THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA UNLEASHED. I HOPE THAT THESE CEREMONIES REMIND US ALL OF THE HORRIBLE COSTS OF WAR AND SPUR US TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE THAT SUCH CALAMITIES NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

THE OTHER STORY THAT WE MUST COMMEMORATE THIS EVENING IS THE PARTNERSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP THAT THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN HAVE BUILT OUT OF THE TRAGEDY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. I AM SURE THAT FIFTY YEARS AGO, NONE OF US HERE TODAY COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BUILD THE KIND OF PARTNERSHIP THAT NOW EXISTS BETWEEN US. IT IS ONE OF THE GREAT SUCCESS STORIES OF THE 20TH CENTURY, OR FOR THAT MATTER, OF ANY CENTURY. BY WORKING TOGETHER, OUR TWO NATIONS HAVE MADE THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION THE MOST PROSPEROUS AND ONE OF THE MOST STABLE AREAS ON EARTH.

THE SUCCESS OF OUR ALLIANCE OVER THESE YEARS HAS NOT MADE IT ANY LESS NECESSARY FOR THE FUTURE. THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF OUR TWO NATIONS AND OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON COOPERATION BETWEEN US. WE MUST NOT LET THE OCCASIONAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US OBSCURE THIS ESSENTIAL FACT.

IF OUR TWO NATIONS CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER, IN FRIENDSHIP AND  
HARMONY, I KNOW THAT THE PEACE THAT SO MANY FOUGHT AND DIED FOR ON THIS  
ISLAND A HALF A CENTURY AGO SURELY WILL LIVE ON FOR CENTURIES TO COME.

THANK YOU.



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