

TORII STATION COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY
REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR MONDALE
(JUNE 22, 1995, 6:00 PM)

GENERAL LINSEY, GENERAL SCOTT, GENERAL FREEMAN, COLONEL MANDEVILLE, ARMY VETERANS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS. I AM HONORED TO HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SPEAK BEFORE THIS COURAGEOUS GROUP OF U.S. ARMY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN. IN THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA, ARMY UNITS FORMED THE BULK OF THE GROUND FIGHTING FORCES. YOU FOUGHT A VERY TOUGH CAMPAIGN – PERHAPS THE TOUGHEST OF THE PACIFIC WAR – AND YOUR COURAGE AND DEDICATION WERE DECISIVE IN THE OUTCOME.

TODAY, I AM HERE ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO EXPRESS MY DEEP ADMIRATION AND THANKS FOR YOUR SACRIFICES AND THOSE OF YOUR BUDDIES WHO ARE HERE WITH US ONLY IN MEMORY.

WE WOULD NOT BE STANDING HERE THIS EVENING IN A CLIMATE OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY WERE IT NOT FOR THE BRAVERY OF THE U.S. ARMY SO MANY YEARS AGO. LET THERE BE NO DOUBT: THE PEACE THAT WE ENJOY IN THIS REGION TODAY BEGAN ON OKINAWA, WITH THE U.S. ARMY UNITS WHO FOUGHT WITH SUCH COURAGE A HALF A CENTURY AGO. YOUR BUDDIES DID NOT DIE IN VAIN. THOUGH THEY ARE NOT HERE WITH US TO WITNESS THE TRANSFORMATION, THANKS TO THEIR BRAVE SACRIFICE, LIBERTY AND FREEDOM HAVE PREVAILED IN THIS REGION.

TODAY, THE ROLE OF THE U.S. ARMY IN MAINTAINING THE PEACE IN THIS REGION IS AS IMPORTANT TO US AS EVER. U.S. ARMY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN REMAIN DEPLOYED ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA DEFENDING OUR INTERESTS AND THOSE OF OUR ALLIES AGAINST THE NORTH KOREAN MILITARY THREAT. THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY ALLIANCE, IN WHICH U.S. ARMY JAPAN PLAYS A VITAL ROLE, CONTINUES TO BE THE CORNERSTONE OF PEACE IN THE ASIAN-PACIFIC REGION.

THE SUCCESS OF OUR ALLIANCE THESE PAST FIFTY YEARS HAS NOT DIMINISHED ITS IMPORTANCE. THE U.S. AND JAPAN MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN THE STABLE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT SO NECESSARY FOR AMERICAN PROSPERITY AND WORLD GROWTH.

AS WE COMMEMORATE THE EVENTS OF A HALF CENTURY AGO, I BELIEVE THAT WE ALSO MUST HONOR THE REMARKABLE AMERICANS IN UNIFORM ON OKINAWA TODAY. THEIR PRESENCE HERE AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DEFEND OUR INTERESTS IN THIS REGION ENSURES THAT THE PEACE YOU FOUGHT FOR SO HARD, SO MANY YEARS AGO, IS A LASTING PEACE.

THANK YOU.



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