

AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO KEIO UNIVERSITY
TALKING POINTS
JULY 13, 1995

-- Thank you so much for inviting me here today. I understand that you will be having exams soon, so I am doubly appreciative of your presence. I don't know how it is in Japan, but I remember exam time well from my college days. The week before exams usually was a time when I would be desperately cramming a whole term's worth of learning that I had neglected, into the space of a few days and a few very long nights.

-- Let me begin by saying that I am delighted to be here. There is a reason why I came to Keio University this morning. I wanted to come here and meet with you because I believe that the key to the U.S.-Japan relationship is in the hands of your generation and of students like you. Where our two nations go from here, whether we can carry this great post-war partnership -- one of the most remarkable partnerships in the history of nations -- into the 21st century or not depends largely on you and on young people very much like you on campuses like this one across America.

-- I wanted to come to Keio University in particular because I am a history buff and before coming to Japan I read the autobiography of Keio's founder, Fukuzawa Yukichi. I am a great admirer of his internationalist philosophy and I believe that the ideals that led Fukuzawa Yukichi to found this University more than a century ago are as relevant to us today as ever.

-- Fukuzawa understood that exposing Japan to the outside world would not rob her of her unique culture, but rather would enrich Japan and the world. His ambition was "to bring in more of Western civilization" and "revolutionize our people's ideas from the roots." He thought that by doing this, Japan would become "a great nation in this far Orient," one that would "take an active part in the progress of the whole world." And he was right.

-- Like so many of the world's great leaders, Fukuzawa held fast to his beliefs even when those around him ridiculed his views. At times, this came at great personal risk. He talked of opening Japan to the West at a time when others spoke of "expelling the foreigner." The more widespread the anti-foreign sentiments, the more determined Fukuzawa was that Japan should both learn from and contribute to the community of nations. He was convinced that "the more this movement of expel the foreigners increased, the more we would lose our national power, to say nothing of prestige."

-- Fukuzawa's internationalist philosophy continues to have great meaning to those of us who are committed to a sound U.S.-Japan partnership. And while you may not see this now, the education that you are getting at this University will allow each of you to contribute to Japan's leadership in the world in ways that you cannot now imagine.

-- Similar to the times of Fukuzawa Yukichi, there are those today who are saying that Japan will be better off by saying "no" to the U.S. and to other foreign nations. I believe that we must not be misled by this vocal minority. Both in Japan and America, a more open market is going to lead to a more vibrant economy. The influence of U.S. industry in Japan will fuel economic growth, create new business opportunities and jobs for young people like you.

-- The U.S.-Japan relationship is vital not only for the prosperity of our two nations, but also for global prosperity and regional security. Since the end of the cold war, cooperation between the U.S. and Japan, if anything, has intensified. Our bilateral security alliance is at the heart of U.S. policy toward Asia. Our coordinated diplomatic response, along with South Korea, to the North Korean nuclear threat is unprecedented. Our cooperation in meeting global challenges is greater than ever before. And on regional and global economic issues, we are working together to achieve our common objectives through a host of economic fora including APEC and the G-7.

-- Yet despite this strong, active partnership that we share, recent surveys in America and Japan suggest a deterioration of the perceived state of the relationship by our public in both countries. We cannot allow the extensive coverage given to our trade differences to erode the public goodwill that we have built up toward each other for the last fifty years.

-- The answer is not that we should avoid addressing our trade differences for the sake of the overall relationship, but rather that we must do a better job of explaining to both our people that open markets and the free exchange of people and ideas will only make Japan, and America, stronger.

-- As we go forward in resolving our trade differences, I am determined that we not neglect the important human underpinnings of the U.S. - Japan relationship. We must work to understand each other's societies and we must work to better inform our own societies.

-- I believe that this is where each of you can play a tremendous role. You are smarter than my generation was at your age. You are better traveled, you speak foreign languages more easily, you are more experienced in the ways of the world. I am convinced that what you have learned here from this great institution will allow you to play a major, positive role in shaping our bilateral relationship going into the 21st century. I urge you to join in shaping our shared future.

-- But I didn't come here to talk, but rather to listen and to answer your questions. So, I think I will stop here and open the discussion. Thank you.



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