

REMARKS
AMERICA-JAPAN SOCIETY
JANUARY 22, 1996

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE AMERICA-JAPAN SOCIETY, GOOD EVENING AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

WE BEGIN THIS NEW YEAR WITH A FULL SCHEDULE FOR EACH OF OUR NATIONS. AND IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THAT OUR SCHEDULES OVERLAP IN A NUMBER OF AREAS -- WHICH MEANS THAT WE, AS FRIENDS, ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE WORLD WE SHARE.

FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE ENGAGED POLITICALLY IN A "COMMON AGENDA" TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE ACROSS THE GLOBE. ECONOMICALLY, WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE PROSPERITY NOT ONLY OF OUR OWN PEOPLE, BUT OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION AND THE WORLD. ON THE SECURITY FRONT, WE ARE MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF REGIONAL STABILITY BECAUSE WE ARE ABLE TO WORK SO CLOSELY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH EACH OTHER.

AND, MAYBE MOST IMPORTANTLY, INDIVIDUALS FROM OUR TWO NATIONS ARE WORKING HAND-IN-HAND EVERY DAY IN A BROAD RANGE OF BUSINESS, CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, ATHLETIC, AND PERSONAL ENDEAVORS. THE RECENTLY COMPLETED MISSION OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOR -- WITH MR. WAKATA AS MISSION SPECIALIST -- IS CHARACTERISTIC OF HOW WELL OUR PEOPLE WORK IN TANDEM. WE ARE PURSUING COMMON GOALS, LEARNING MORE ABOUT EACH OTHER, AND MAKING THE EFFORT NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE BROADER U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP STAYS ON TRACK.

LOOKING BACK TO 1995, WE WORKED WITH EACH OTHER TO STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP AS WE PASSED THE HALF-CENTURY MARK SINCE A WAR THAT HAD US BITTERLY DIVIDED. AS WE REMEMBERED THE SACRIFICES OF THE PAST AND HONORED THOSE WHO DIED, OUR CITIZENS JOINED IN A FORWARD-LOOKING SPIRIT OF HARMONY AND COOPERATION.

THIS WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE, IN ONE OF THE GREAT DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS STORIES IN MODERN HISTORY, JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE OVERCOME WAR

AND HOSTILITY TO FORGE A SOLID ALLIANCE -- A PARTNERSHIP OF PEOPLE WORKING WITH PEOPLE.

MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED HARDEST TO DEEPEN THIS PARTNERSHIP ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMERICA-JAPAN SOCIETY, AND MANY ARE HERE TONIGHT. MY GOOD FRIEND YOSHIO OKAWARA IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF THIS. I HAVE NOTICED OVER THE YEARS THAT WHEN GOOD THINGS WERE HAPPENING, AMBASSADOR OKAWARA HAS BEEN THERE. I KNOW THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN AS THE AMERICA-JAPAN SOCIETY CONTINUES ITS LONG HISTORY OF FOSTERING SOLIDARITY AMONG OUR PEOPLE.

IN THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP THAT BINDS TOGETHER OUR TWO COUNTRIES -- AND WE AS PEOPLE INDIVIDUALLY -- I AGAIN WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND FULFILLING NEW YEAR.

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(AFTER AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM, OKAWARA TOAST TO U.S. PRESIDENT, AND JAPANESE NATIONAL ANTHEM, YOU WILL TOAST THE EMPEROR.)

IN HONOR OF THE FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO NATIONS, I ASK YOU TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO HIS MAJESTY, THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

(TOAST)

I PRAY THAT 1996 WILL BE A YEAR OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FOR US ALL.



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