

WELCOME
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEFENSE STUDIES
MAY 30, 1996

GOOD MORNING. THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I HAVE ADDRESSED A GROUP FROM THIS INSTITUTE, WHICH INCLUDES THE RISING YOUNG TALENT OF JAPANESE DEFENSE EXPERTS. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THREE GUESTS HERE ARE FROM THE U.S., TWO FROM KOREA, AND ONE EACH FROM THAILAND AND GERMANY. THIS IS THEREFORE AN INTERNATIONAL BODY.

WE MEET JUST OVER A MONTH AFTER THE SUMMIT BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO AND PRESIDENT CLINTON. AS YOU ARE AWARE, SECURITY WAS AN IMPORTANT FOCUS OF THAT MEETING.

THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN SHARE A VITAL INTEREST IN A PEACEFUL, STABLE, AND PROSPEROUS ASIA-PACIFIC REGION. THE THREATS TO THESE SHARED INTERESTS HAVE EVOLVED OVER TIME, BUT CONTINUE TO REQUIRE OUR CLOSE ATTENTION.

ALTHOUGH ASIA IS NOW A STABLE AND PROSPEROUS REGION, AND THE FUTURE LOOKS VERY BRIGHT, WE CANNOT TAKE STABILITY FOR GRANTED. THE FACT IS THAT MANY UNCERTAINTIES REMAIN. THE KOREAN PENINSULA REMAINS DIVIDED AND DANGEROUS. THERE ARE A RANGE OF UNRESOLVED TERRITORIAL ISSUES. FURTHERMORE, WE SEE INCREASING MILITARY SPENDING BY MANY COUNTRIES. IN THIS ENVIRONMENT, WE NEED TO ENSURE THAT WE MAINTAIN A SECURITY STRUCTURE IN EAST ASIA THAT PRESERVES PEACE AND STABILITY.

THIS IS WHY SECURITY WAS HIGH ON THE AGENDA WHEN PRESIDENT CLINTON CAME TO TOKYO. AT THE SUMMIT, PRIME MINISTER HASHIMOTO AND THE PRESIDENT SIGNED A JOINT DECLARATION WHICH REAFFIRMED AND REINVIGORATED OUR MUTUAL COMMITMENT TO SECURITY COOPERATION, AND UNDERScoreD OUR COMMON INTEREST IN REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY. THEY ALSO AGREED TO REVIEW THE SECURITY GUIDELINES UPON WHICH U.S. - JAPAN DEFENSE COOPERATION IS BASED. DISCUSSIONS COMMENCED IN HAWAII THIS PAST WEEKEND.

THIS NEW INITIATIVE TO REVIEW THE GUIDELINES HAS RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION IN BOTH JAPAN AND THE REGION. THE CURRENT GUIDELINES WERE PUT TOGETHER IN 1978, AND IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT WE NOW REVIEW THEM, BASED UPON THE FOUNDATION LAID BY JAPAN'S NEW NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAM OUTLINE, RELEASED LAST NOVEMBER.

I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS WILL BE A MUTUAL EFFORT, CONDUCTED AT A PACE COMFORTABLE FOR BOTH SIDES. IT IS NOT AIMED AT ANY COUNTRY, AND WE ARE NOT PRESSING JAPAN IN ANY WAY. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT WITHIN JAPAN'S EXISTING CONSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS, WE WILL FIND IMPORTANT WAYS TO STREAMLINE AND ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR JOINT SECURITY EFFORTS.

THE U.S. AND JAPAN ARE ALSO ENGAGED IN A SIGNIFICANT EFFORT TO REDUCE THE INTRUSION OF U.S. MILITARY BASES IN JAPAN. GIVEN THE REQUIREMENT THAT WE MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT FORCE STRENGTH, THIS WILL BE NO EASY TASK. HOWEVER, THROUGH VERY CLOSE COOPERATION, WE HAVE ALREADY PASSED SOME SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES INVOLVING NOISE ABATEMENT, BASE CONSOLIDATIONS, AND LIMITING INTRUSIVE MILITARY DRILLS. MOST OF THIS IS DIRECTED TOWARDS OKINAWA.

LET ME QUICKLY COMMENT ON TWO OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS WHICH SYMBOLIZE THE PRIORITY THAT THE U.S. AND JAPAN PLACE ON SECURITY COOPERATION. ONE IS THE GENEROUS HOST NATION SUPPORT THAT JAPAN SUPPLIES TO U.S. FORCES, RENEWED (AGAIN) IN THE SPECIAL MEASURES AGREEMENT REACHED LAST YEAR.

THE OTHER IS THE ACQUISITION AND CROSS SERVICING AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND MYSELF JUST BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL IN JAPAN. THIS AGREEMENT WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR FURTHER OPERATIONAL COOPERATION DURING JOINT PEACEKEEPING AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS, AS WELL AS DURING PEACETIME TRAINING MISSIONS.

WHILE I HAVE DISCUSSED SECURITY COOPERATION PRIMARILY IN A BILATERAL CONTEXT, REGIONAL COOPERATIVE EFFORTS SUCH AS THOSE OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF) ARE ALSO IMPORTANT. THE RECENT ARF MEETINGS ARE AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF HOW THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SHARED STABILITY.

WE ALSO, AS YOU KNOW, ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP AN EAST ASIAN FORUM LIKE ARF. THIS INITIATIVE NEEDS WORK, BUT THE NECESSITY FOR SUCH A DIALOGUE IS CLEAR.

BUT WE CAN EFFECTIVELY PURSUE A MULTILATERAL DIALOGUE ONLY WITHIN A STABLE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT, AND WE MUST RELY ON BILATERAL SECURITY COMMITMENTS, SUCH AS THOSE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN, TO UNDERWRITE THIS STABILITY. OUR ENGAGEMENT IN REGIONAL DIALOGUE THEREFORE COMPLEMENTS -- IT IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR -- OUR STRONG BILATERAL TIES.

THIS IS A CHALLENGING TIME. THERE ARE MANY ISSUES WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION, AND FORTUNATELY, THE SECURITY DEBATE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY OPEN AND PUBLIC. I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT THE MANY IDEAS GENERATED BY THIS DEBATE WILL MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND STABILITY FOR YOUR COUNTRY AND MINE.

THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY ALLIANCE MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP IN THE WORLD. IT CONTRIBUTES TO GLOBAL STABILITY. IT IS NON-THREATENING. IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE GREAT ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THIS REGION, AND IS A MAJOR SOURCE OF STRENGTH.

THE U.S. IS THANKFUL TO JAPAN FOR ITS TREMENDOUS COOPERATION ON SECURITY. WE WORK TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF RESPECT TO REACH COMMON AIMS. AS IS NECESSARY IN SUCH A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP, WE GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER SO THAT WE CAN WORK AS FRIENDS, PARTNERS, AND ALLIES. IF WE CONTINUE TO WORK AT IT IN THAT SPIRIT, EVERYBODY WILL BE BETTER OFF.

THANK YOU.



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