

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT COMPOUND

JUNE 30, 1996

I CAN SEE THAT SUMMER IS HERE AGAIN, AND IT IS TIME FOR ANOTHER NATIONAL BIRTHDAY BASH. THE UNITED STATES LIKES TO DO THESE THINGS UP WORLD CLASS, SO WE ARE GLAD THAT MANY OF OUR JAPANESE FRIENDS HAVE JOINED US FOR THIS AFTERNOON OF GOOD OLD HOMETOWN FUN.

I SEE THAT YOU HAVE EVEN PROVIDED DRY SKIES FOR THE AFTERNOON -- IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO RAIN ON OUR PARADE.

WE MEET TO CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA. AS A NATION, AMERICA IS 220 YEARS OLD THIS WEEK. WE HAVE BEEN COUNTING SINCE OUR FOREFATHERS GATHERED IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1776 TO ENDORSE A NEW EXPERIMENT IN DEMOCRACY -- ARTICULATED IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

OVER THESE MANY YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN AMERICA ADAPT TO CHANGING TIMES -- ALWAYS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CITIZEN'S DESIRES. WE FEEL THAT PEOPLE COME FIRST.

IT IS OUR PEOPLE, INCLUDING THOSE OF YOU HERE, WHO HAVE BUILT THE VIBRANT SOCIETY WE CALL HOME. IT IS YOUR CREATIVE IDEAS, HARD WORK, AND TIRELESS ENDURANCE WHICH HAVE MADE THE NAME "AMERICA" A FOCUS OF PRIDE AROUND THE GLOBE.

AMERICA IS A UNIQUE COUNTRY, BUT WE HAVE NO MONOPOLY ON THE BASIC PRECEPTS THAT MAKE US STRONG -- LIBERTY, DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE. WE SHARE THESE WITH FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD.

I HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO REPRESENT OUR NATION IN JAPAN -- WHERE WE WORK TOGETHER WITH SOME OF THE BEST PARTNERS WE COULD HAVE AS WE PURSUE THE GOALS OF A MORE HUMANE WORLD.

SO FOR A FEW HOURS THIS AFTERNOON, LET'S STOP AND ENJOY THE FRIENDSHIP WE SHARE. HERE ON THE EMBASSY HOUSING COMPOUND -- WHICH HAS BEEN

TRANSFORMED INTO A SMALL AMERICAN TOWN FOR THIS OCCASION. WELCOME TO
"AMERICAN TOKYO." THANK YOU.



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