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NATIONAL PRESS CLUB SPEECH

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AMERICA'S STAKE IN JAPAN AND ASIA
AND THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

THANKS FOR YOUR KIND INTRODUCTION, AND THANKS FOR HAVING ME HERE AGAIN TODAY.

JOAN AND I FIND OUR JOB IN JAPAN CHALLENGING AND EXCITING. IT HAS PROVEN TO BE THE PERFECT JOB FOR US AT THIS POINT IN OUR CAREERS. NEVER HAVING LIVED ABROAD BEFORE, AND BEING DROPPED INTO THE MIDDLE OF JAPAN'S VERY DIFFERENT CULTURE, AND LIVING AT THE CENTER OF THE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP, WE HAVE FOUND OURSELVES CONSTANTLY PRESSED TO UNDERSTAND AND RESPOND TO UNIQUE AND QUICK-PACED EXPERIENCES.

YOU WILL NOT BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT JOAN HAS MET, I BELIEVE, EVERY ARTIST AND POTTER IN JAPAN. I BELIEVE SHE IS NOW STARTING AROUND FOR THE SECOND TIME. FOR MY PART, ON A GOOD DAY I CAN REMEMBER THE NAMES OF ALL OF THE PRIME MINISTERS WHO HAVE HELD OFFICE DURING MY TENURE -- NOT AN EASY TASK WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE TURNOVER IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

(If Amb. Saito attends: TODAY I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO AMBASSADOR SAITO AND HIS WIFE, AKIKO. OVER THE YEARS, JAPAN HAS UNDERScoreD ITS STRONG COMMITMENT TO ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES BY SENDING ITS VERY BEST TO WASHINGTON AS AMBASSADORS. I WORKED CLOSELY WITH AMBASSADOR SAITO WHEN HE WAS VICE MINISTER -- THE HIGHEST CAREER POST IN JAPAN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE IS A GOOD FRIEND, A SUPERB PUBLIC OFFICIAL, A SOLID SUPPORTER OF THE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP, AND A VERY NICE PERSON. I HOPE YOU HAVE MADE THE SAITO'S FEEL WELCOME DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR HERE).

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I'D LIKE TO MAKE A FEW POINTS ABOUT THE U.S. AND JAPAN, AND THEN RESPOND TO YOUR QUESTIONS:

FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICANS, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE TO LIVE OUT OUR LIVES WITHOUT SPEAKING ANOTHER LANGUAGE AND WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND CULTURES. AMERICANS ARE NOT NATURALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THE STATE OF THE WORLD OR OUR PLACE IN IT. OUR ATTENTION STRAYS ACROSS THE OCEANS ONLY WHEN THERE IS A DRAMATIC EVENT THAT IS CAPTURED BY CNN'S CAMERAS.

ASIA IS EVEN MORE AT THE PERIPHERY OF OUR VISION. AMERICANS ON THE WEST COAST ARE SOMEWHAT ATTUNED TO THE STAKE WE HAVE IN ASIA BECAUSE THEIR LIVELIHOODS ARE MORE DIRECTLY TIED TO THE REGION. BUT IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY, EVEN THE MOST SOPHISTICATED WITHIN THE BELTWAY OFTEN OVERLOOK U.S. TIES WITH "FAR AWAY" ASIA. OUR TREMENDOUS TRANS-PACIFIC INTERESTS WARRANT A HIGHER PROFILE, AND IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL, WE WILL MISS THE INCREDIBLE CHANGES OCCURRING THERE AND MISS THE OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED THEREBY.

LET'S LOOK AT THE BASICS: ECONOMICALLY, ASIA IS THE FASTEST GROWING AREA IN THE WORLD. FOR SOME TIME WE HAVE ENJOYED MORE TRADE WITH THAT REGION THAN WITH EUROPE, AND IN A FEW YEARS OUR TRANS-PACIFIC TRADE WILL BE DOUBLE THAT WITH EUROPE. JAPAN IS AT THE CENTER OF OUR INTEREST IN ASIA. OUR TWO COUNTRIES REPRESENT THE LARGEST AND MOST TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED ECONOMIES IN THE WORLD; AND TOGETHER WE CONSTITUTE 40% OF THE WORLD ECONOMY. JAPAN BOUGHT MORE THAN 60 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF AMERICAN GOODS LAST YEAR, MAKING IT SECOND ONLY TO CANADA AS A TRADING PARTNER. JAPAN IS AMERICA'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL MARKET AND THAT MARKET WILL CONTINUE TO GROW.

ON THE SECURITY FRONT, I DON'T THINK I NEED TO DESCRIBE IN DETAIL OUR ENORMOUS STAKE IN THE STABILITY OF ASIA -- AN HISTORICALLY UNSTABLE PART OF THE WORLD IN WHICH WE HAVE FOUGHT THREE COSTLY WARS IN MY LIFETIME. WHILE THE COLD WAR IS OVER IN EUROPE, VESTIGES OF IT ARE STILL IN EVIDENCE IN ASIA. THE LARGEST MASSING OF HOSTILE FORCES IN THE WORLD IS FOUND ON THE BORDER BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA; RUSSIA CONTINUES TO OCCUPY JAPAN'S NORTHERN TERRITORIES; AND TENSIONS LINGER IN THE TAIWAN STRAITS.

IN ADDITION TO THESE UNRESOLVED HISTORICAL ISSUES, THERE ARE SOME POTENTIALLY DISTURBING TRENDS FOR THE FUTURE. RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS

LED TO GROWING ARMS EXPENDITURES, WHICH COULD IN TURN LEAD TO AN ARMS RACE. INCREASED CONFIDENCE (AND THOUGHTLESS NATIONALISM) CAN SHARPEN COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL RIVALRIES, AND EXACERBATE LINGERING TERRITORIAL DISPUTES. A GROWING DEPENDENCY ON IMPORTED ENERGY, DRIVEN BY SOARING CONSUMPTION, INTENSIFIES COMPETING CLAIMS OVER AREAS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF THOUGHT TO BE RICH IN ENERGY RESOURCES.

THE TASK OF ENCOURAGING ASIAN COUNTRIES TO PEACEFULLY SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS MUST CONTINUE TO BE A MAJOR GOAL OF OUR NATIONAL POLICY. LACKING A REGIONAL PEACEKEEPING STRUCTURE LIKE NATO, THE REGION DEPENDS HEAVILY ON THE U.S. PRESENCE TO SUSTAIN THE PEACE, AND OUR SIGNIFICANT MILITARY PRESENCE IN JAPAN AND KOREA REMAINS ESSENTIAL TO STABILITY.

THERE IS ALSO A POLITICAL IMPERATIVE TO OUR INVOLVEMENT IN ASIA. JAPAN, CHINA, KOREA, AND THE ASEAN COUNTRIES WILL BE INCREASINGLY INFLUENTIAL IN THE WORLD. THEY WILL BE HEARD ON MATTERS OF ECONOMICS, SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, SCIENCE, AND GENERAL POLITICAL ISSUES. WE MUST MAKE ROOM FOR THEM AND BE PREPARED TO LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT THEY ARE SAYING.

AS A PACIFIC POWER, AMERICA CANNOT ESCAPE INVOLVEMENT IN THE REGION OR ISOLATE ITSELF FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF DEVELOPMENTS THERE. AMERICA ENJOYS AN ENVIABLE POSITION IN ASIA THAT WE SHOULD NOT SQUANDER. IT IS NOT ONLY OUR CLOSEST ALLIES (INCLUDING JAPAN AND THE ROK) WHICH APPRECIATE THE BENEFITS OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE REGION. THE ASEAN NATIONS, CHINA, AND RUSSIA ALSO RECOGNIZE, IF NOT ALWAYS PUBLICLY, THE CONTRIBUTION WE MAKE TO REGIONAL SECURITY AND PROSPERITY.

COOPERATION WITH ASIA IS IMPORTANT TO AMERICAN INTERESTS. WITH THE SUPPORT OF ASIAN COUNTRIES -- PARTICULARLY JAPAN -- OUR ABILITY TO SHAPE THE COURSE OF WORLD EVENTS IS GREATLY ENHANCED. WITHOUT IT, WE WILL HAVE TREMENDOUS DIFFICULTY DEALING WITH THE AWESOME CHALLENGES AND BURDENS OF THE 21ST CENTURY. AMERICAN POLICY MUST EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE ASIAN LEADERS ACROSS THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED IN BUILDING THE KIND OF WORLD WE WISH TO SEE.

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SO, WHERE DO WE STAND NOW IN OUR RELATIONS WITH OUR KEY ASIAN PARTNER, JAPAN? OVER THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS, WE HAVE WORKED HARD TO BUILD OUR BILATERAL TIES IN FOUR KEY AREAS: 1) STRENGTHENING OUR CRITICAL SECURITY ALLIANCE; 2) CORRECTING IMBALANCES IN OUR TRADING RELATIONSHIP; 3) ENHANCING OUR COOPERATION ON REGIONAL ISSUES; AND 4) PUTTING TOGETHER A COMMON AGENDA TO ADDRESS GLOBAL ISSUES. IN ALL OF THESE AREAS WE HAVE MADE GREAT PROGRESS.

OUR SECURITY ALLIANCE IS SOLID. THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL VISIT PRODUCED A VERY FORWARD LOOKING DECLARATION THAT REAFFIRMED OUR SECURITY TIES, ARTICULATED OUR COMMON DEFENSE INTERESTS, CALLED FOR ENHANCED DEFENSE COOPERATION, AND ANNOUNCED SIGNIFICANT STEPS TO CONSOLIDATE OUR MILITARY PRESENCE IN OKINAWA. BOTH GOVERNMENTS ARE NOW WORKING HARD TO IMPLEMENT THESE AGREEMENTS.

OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS HAVE GREATLY IMPROVED. JAPAN'S CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM OVER 3% OF GDP TO LESS THAN 2%, AND JAPAN'S SURPLUS WITH THE UNITED STATES HAS FALLEN IN TANDEM. WE HAVE NEGOTIATED ALMOST TWO DOZEN MARKET ACCESS AGREEMENTS, AND AMERICAN EXPORTS IN THESE AREAS HAVE GROWN OVER 80% SINCE 1993.

SOME OF THE AGREEMENTS, SUCH AS THOSE ON AUTOS AND SEMI-CONDUCTORS, WERE ONLY REACHED AFTER VERY CONTENTIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, THANKS TO STRONG LEADERSHIP AND CREATIVITY ON BOTH SIDES, WE WERE ABLE TO BRIDGE WHAT WERE INITIALLY ENORMOUS GAPS. PROBLEMS REMAIN, AND JAPAN NEEDS TO DO MORE TO OPEN ITS ECONOMY TO FOREIGN GOODS, SERVICES, AND INVESTMENT, BUT I THINK WE CAN TAKE SATISFACTION IN WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

ON REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES AS WELL, OUR COOPERATION WITH JAPAN HAS ADVANCED MARKEDLY. OUR TWO COUNTRIES, TOGETHER WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (AND OTHERS), CREATED THE KOREAN PENINSULA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, KNOWN AS KEDO, THAT HAS FROZEN THE NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND AVERTED A CRISIS ON THE PENINSULA. WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER IN THE MIDDLE EAST, ASSISTING RUSSIA, AND COLLABORATING IN APEC AND IN THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM.

AND NOWHERE IS OUR COOPERATION MORE IMPORTANT -- BUT GETTING LESS ATTENTION -- THAN ON THE SO-CALLED COMMON AGENDA WHERE WE ARE ENGAGED IN A WIDE RANGE OF JOINT EFFORTS TO FIGHT AIDS AND OTHER EMERGING DISEASES, SAFEGUARD THE ENVIRONMENT, AND ADVANCE THE FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE. THESE JOINT INITIATIVES HAVE TRULY ENRICHED THE WORLD AND STRENGTHENED U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS SINCE THE COMMON AGENDA WAS INITIATED IN 1993.

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I HOPE I HAVE MADE THE CASE FOR OUR STAKE IN ASIA AND JAPAN. I WOULD NOW LIKE TO TURN BRIEFLY TO THE CHALLENGES WE FACE IN MAINTAINING AND ADVANCING OUR INTERESTS IN THIS CRITICAL REGION. WHEN I AM IN JAPAN, I AM NOT SHY ABOUT TELLING JAPANESE AUDIENCES WHAT I THINK JAPAN NEEDS TO DO IN ORDER TO SOLIDIFY AND STRENGTHEN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. TODAY, BEFORE AN AMERICAN AUDIENCE, I THINK IT IS ONLY FAIR TO PRESENT WHAT I SEE AS KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR AGENDA.

ENGAGING ASIA INVOLVES THE COMMITMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL TIME, ENERGY, AND RESOURCES. IT'S EXPENSIVE. WE NEED MORE PEOPLE WHO SPEAK THE DIFFICULT LANGUAGES OF THE REGION. WE MUST MAKE THE EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND, RESPECT, AND LEARN TO OPERATE IN AN ENVIRONMENT SHAPED BY VERY DIFFERENT HISTORIES AND CULTURES. THE JAPANESE AND OTHERS HAVE WORKED HARD TO UNDERSTAND OUR SOCIETY AND BUSINESS PRACTICES, AND PROSPERED AS A RESULT. WE MUST REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS TO ENSURE SIMILAR SUCCESSES IN THEIR MARKETS.

ASIA IS NOT A MONOLITHIC ENTITY. WE NEED TO HAVE CLEAR-HEADED VIEW OF AMERICAN STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL INTERESTS VIS-A-VIS EACH COUNTRY AND THE REGION AS A WHOLE, AND WE MUST BE ABLE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT VIGOROUS AND THOUGHTFUL POLICIES TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES.

WHILE BEING SENSITIVE TO THE ASIAN PERSPECTIVE, WE MUST ALSO CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR CASE FOR OUR VALUES AND INTERESTS. OUR ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY ARE NOT SIMPLY MORAL ISSUES THAT MAKE US FEEL GOOD ABOUT OURSELVES. THESE PRINCIPLES ARE THE FUTURE IN ASIA AS THEY ARE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AND IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR LONG TERM INTERESTS THAT WE BE IDENTIFIED WITH AND SUPPORTIVE OF THESE CAUSES. AT THE SAME TIME, WE

NEED TO LIVE WITH SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OURSELVES AND OUR ASIAN FRIENDS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES AS WE PURSUE A BROAD RANGE OF SHARED INTERESTS.

OUR ABILITY TO LEAD WILL BE LARGELY COLORED BY WHAT WE DO AT HOME. I BELIEVE THAT OUR GREATEST GIFT TO THE WORLD IS AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN LIBERTY AND TO THE INDIVIDUAL. OUR SOCIETY HAS FLOURISHED BECAUSE WE CHERISH THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS OR HER CAPACITY TO GROW, TO CREATE, TO LEARN, AND TO BE HEARD IN OUR POLITICS AND ACROSS OUR SOCIETY. IT IS THE ESSENCE OF AMERICA. THE STRENGTH OF OUR MORAL AUTHORITY ABROAD WILL FLOW NOT FROM OUR SERMONS BUT FROM THE EXAMPLE WE SET BY OUR OWN BEHAVIOR AT HOME.

THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN ASIA. AS EAST ASIAN SOCIETIES STRUGGLE TO REDEFINE THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE STATE, THEY ARE ALWAYS WEIGHING THE BENEFITS OF OUR INDIVIDUALISM AGAINST THEIR TRADITIONALLY GROUP-ORIENTED SYSTEMS. MANY LOOK AT VIOLENCE IN AMERICA -- ESPECIALLY AT THE WANTON USE OF GUNS HERE -- AND ARGUE THAT OUR EMPHASIS ON THE INDIVIDUAL REALLY MEANS PERSONAL LICENSE AT THE EXPENSE OF SOCIAL STABILITY.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN BROUGHT HOME TO ME BY THE NUMBER OF JAPANESE CITIZENS THAT HAVE BEEN KILLED IN AMERICA DURING MY TENURE AS AMBASSADOR. I HAVE MET LOVING PARENTS WHO SENT YOUNG, ENERGETIC AND INNOCENT STUDENTS TO THE U.S., ONLY TO HAVE THEM LOSE THEIR LIVES. FAILURE TO DEAL WITH VIOLENCE IN AMERICA, FAILURE TO RESTRICT THE USE OF GUNS AS WEAPONS OF WANTON BLOODSHED, IS NO LONGER JUST A DOMESTIC ISSUE. IT IS COSTING US TERRIBLY AS A WORLD LEADER. IT SHATTERS OUR MORAL AUTHORITY, AND IT ARMS THE ADVOCATES OF AUTHORITARIANISM WITH THEIR STRONGEST CASE FOR OPPRESSION AT HOME. WE MUST STOP THIS VIOLENCE.

ANOTHER FUNDAMENTAL CHALLENGE AS WE FACE THE 21ST CENTURY IN ASIA IS TO OVERCOME THE INCREASINGLY PREVALENT BELIEF (IN THE CONGRESS AND IN THE PUBLIC AT LARGE) THAT EXPENDITURES IN FOREIGN AID, IN SUPPORT OF OUR DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, AND FOR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT AMERICAN BUSINESS ABROAD, CAN BE FORGONE WITH NO LOSS TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST. A SHARP EYE FOR EFFICIENCY IS ESSENTIAL, AND BUDGET PRESSURE HAS RESULTED IN SENSIBLE SAVINGS. BUT WE ARE NOW CUTTING MUSCLE AND BONE. THIS IS

DEMORALIZING OUR SUPERB FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS, WEAKENING OUR INFLUENCE ABROAD AND CRIPPLING OUR GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO REPRESENT AMERICAN INTERESTS AROUND THE WORLD.

AS OUR AID BUDGET SHRINKS, WE LOSE INFLUENCE. WE SPEND OUR TIME -- HAT IN HAND -- BEGGING JAPAN AND OTHERS TO FILL THE GAP IN AREAS OF VITAL INTEREST TO THE U.S. NO CASE IS MORE BLATANT THAN THE CONGRESS' FAILURE TO FULLY FUND OUR RELATIVELY SMALL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO THE CRUCIAL KEDO PROJECT TO MOVE NORTH KOREA AWAY FROM BUILDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WHILE JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO FUND THE LIGHT WATER REACTOR PROJECT AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF BETWEEN \$4 AND \$5 BILLION, THE CONGRESS INITIALLY CUT OUR COMMITMENT TO PAY FOR HEAVY FUEL OIL ALMOST IN HALF -- FROM \$25 MILLION THIS YEAR TO \$13 MILLION -- BREAKING OUR WORD TO THESE CRUCIAL ALLIES. THE ADMINISTRATION IS SEEKING TO RESTORE THESE CUTS AND I BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE DO SO. WE ARE THE WORLD'S MAJOR POWER, BUT THESE SENSELESS CUTS DEMEAN OUR NATION AND THREATEN OUR EFFORTS TO TURN A VERY DANGEROUS NATION AWAY FROM ACQUIRING ITS OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

ANOTHER AREA CRUCIAL TO OUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS IN ASIA AND THE WORLD THAT REQUIRES GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN THIS FIELD IS ONE OF OUR MOST PRECIOUS ASSETS. WE ARE THE ENVY OF THE WORLD. HOWEVER, WE MUST STAY VIGILANT AND WORK HARD TO MAINTAIN OUR ADVANTAGE. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, NOW SPENDS MORE IN SUPPORT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PER CAPITA THAN WE DO, AND JAPAN WILL SOON BE OUTSPENDING THE UNITED STATES IN ABSOLUTE TERMS. WE WELCOME THIS INCREASE IN JAPANESE FUNDING FOR BASIC RESEARCH. BUT IT SHOULD ALSO CAUTION US AGAINST CUTTING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR SIMILAR WORK AT OUR SUPERB NATIONAL INSTITUTES AND OUR GREAT RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES. SUCH CUTS WOULD NOT BE SAVINGS; THEY ARE SERIOUS ASSAULTS ON THE AMERICAN ADVANTAGE IN SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROWESS -- WHERE MUCH OF OUR FUTURE LIES.

LET ME CLOSE WITH A NOTE ABOUT EDUCATION. I AM A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE IMPORTANCE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. KNOWING MORE ABOUT JAPAN AND ASIA WON'T SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS; IT MAY EVEN EXACERBATE SOME. BUT IT WILL HELP US FOCUS ON MORE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACHES TO THE ISSUES WE FACE. WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, WE ALLOW EMOTION AND STEREOTYPICAL IMAGES TO DOMINATE OUR

POLICIES, AT GREAT RISK TO OUR INTERESTS. YET, OFFERINGS IN JAPANESE AND ASIAN STUDIES STILL FALL FAR SHORT OF WHAT IS NEEDED FOR THE TRAINING OF YOUNG AMERICANS. WE NEED TO INCREASE JAPANESE COURSES IN OUR SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES.

JAPAN UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUNG AMERICANS BECOMING KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT JAPAN. ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT DEVELOPED A PROGRAM -- KNOWN AS "JET" -- TO BRING RECENT COLLEGE GRADUATES, PRIMARILY FROM THE UNITED STATES, TO JAPAN TO TEACH IN JAPANESE SCHOOLS AND WORK IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES. THOUSANDS OF YOUNG AMERICANS HAVE NOW SPENT FROM ONE TO THREE YEARS IN JAPAN UNDER THIS PROGRAM. THIS YEAR THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, UNDER ANOTHER IMPRESSIVE NEW INITIATIVE THAT INCLUDES THE FULBRIGHT MEMORIAL FUND AND THE JAPAN-AMERICA FRIENDSHIP SCHOLARS PROGRAM, HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO BRINGING HUNDREDS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS, HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND RESEARCHERS TO JAPAN. THESE PROGRAMS ARE HELPING CREATE A LARGER GROUP OF AMERICANS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH JAPAN. THEY ARE A TREMENDOUS ASSET FOR OUR COUNTRY.

AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE MORE THAN 40,000 JAPANESE STUDENTS IN AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, MORE THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY SENDS TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS IS ALSO VERY GOOD NEWS. IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT WE DO MORE ON OUR SIDE OF THE PACIFIC TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN A NEW GENERATION OF AMERICANS AND JAPANESE. THE NEW MIKE MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IS A KEY STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. NEXT WEEK, SEVEN MID-LEVEL U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL BEGIN A YEAR-LONG EXPERIENCE AT JAPANESE MINISTRIES UNDER THIS PROGRAM.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION. I WILL BE HAPPY TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE.



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