

HARVARD CLUB RECEPTION

OCT. 5, 1995

REMARKS

GOOD EVENING, AND WELCOME.

IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO BE AMONG THIS STALWART GROUP OF CITIZENS OF TOKYO, MANY OF WHOM I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF KNOWING FOR SOME TIME.

((COMMENT FOR YUICHI AND AMY KATO OR OTHERS))

I SUPPOSE THE UNIFYING THEME THIS EVENING IS YOUR TIES TO HARVARD. FOR THE JAPANESE AMONG US, THAT EXPERIENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN AS A "FOREIGN" STUDENT IN AMERICA. FOR THE AMERICANS HERE, YOU MAY HAVE DONE IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND, GRADUATING IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY AND THEN VENTURING OUT LATER ON.

EITHER WAY, THIS IS A CROWD THAT RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING TO KNOW ANOTHER CULTURE, ITS PEOPLE, AND ITS LANGUAGE. YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PUT THAT UNDERSTANDING TO WORK, AND ARE FUNCTIONAL AMBASSADORS IN YOUR FIELDS.

THIS IS ALSO A GROUP THAT KNOWS FULL WELL THE IMPORTANCE OF THE U.S.-JAPAN PARTNERSHIP IN TODAY'S WORLD. AMONG FRIENDS HERE TONIGHT, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE SOME OF MY THOUGHTS ON HOW EXCHANGE PROGRAMS CONTRIBUTE TO THIS VITAL RELATIONSHIP.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES -- LIKE THOSE YOU WERE A PART OF AT HARVARD -- ARE A PRIMARY BUILDING BLOCK OF ANY STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONSHIP. I HAVE A DEEP INTEREST IN THESE PROGRAMS, WHICH FOSTER GREATER UNDERSTANDING AMONG AN ENTIRE NEW GENERATION.

THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM, WHICH IS LIKELY THE MOST WELL KNOWN, HAS OFFERED A GREAT NUMBER OF JAPANESE AND AMERICANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IN THE OTHERS' COUNTRY. THE IMPRESSIVE LINE-UP OF FORMER FULBRIGHTERS IS LIKE A WHO'S WHO OF U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS. IT IS EXCITING TO THINK HOW FAR THE NEXT GENERATION CAN GO WITH THIS TRULY INSPIRATIONAL CONCEPT.

ANOTHER VERY SATISFYING EFFORT -- THE JET PROGRAM -- IS GEARED TO COLLEGE GRADUATES BROUGHT OVER TO TEACH ENGLISH THROUGHOUT JAPAN. THESE YOUTHFUL AMERICANS ARE IMMERSED

IN THE PROFESSIONAL CULTURE HERE, AND MY EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT THEY COME AWAY WITH A DESIRE TO MAKE JAPAN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL FUTURE.

THESE AND OTHER PROGRAMS GIVE US A VERY PERSONAL OPPORTUNITY TO ABSORB NEW SURROUNDINGS IN A COMFORTABLE YET INITIALLY EXOTIC ENVIRONMENT. THEY REACH PERSONAL MILESTONES AS THE NEW ENVIRONMENT CEASES TO SEEM SO FOREIGN. YOUTH ARE PARTICULARLY ADAPTABLE -- A "FOREIGN" LANGUAGE BECOMES A PRACTICAL MODE OF COMMUNICATION, "EXOTIC" SOCIAL HABITS BECOME FAMILIAR, AND THE ABILITY TO APPRECIATE A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE ITSELF BECOMES SECOND NATURE.

AND A STUDENT COMES AWAY WITH A QUIVER OF PRACTICAL SKILLS THAT WILL COME IN HANDY IN FUTURE ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PURSUITS. FOREIGN LANGUAGE ABILITY IS ONE SUCH SKILL, BUT IT IS NO MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ACQUISITION OF CROSS-CULTURAL SOCIAL SKILLS -- THE ABILITY TO SIT DOWN TO DINNER WITH INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS AND FEEL TOTALLY AT HOME. THAT IS THE FEELING THAT I SO MUCH APPRECIATE IN MY HOME HERE TONIGHT.

WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE THE DIRECT BENEFICIARY OF AN ORGANIZED EXCHANGE PROGRAM, YOU UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF FEELING AT HOME IN ANOTHER NATION. I WOULD EXHORT ALL HERE TONIGHT TO KEEP THAT IN MIND WHEN YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

((AND I MIGHT PUT IN A PLUG FOR MORE AMERICAN STUDENTS IN JAPANESE SCHOOLS. THE IMBALANCE NOW IS OVER 20 TO 1, WITH ONLY ONE YOUNG AMERICAN LEARNING IN JAPAN FOR EVERY 20 JAPANESE STUDENTS IN THE U.S. I'D BE HAPPY TO SEE MORE OF BOTH.))

I FEEL THAT HIDEO NOMO, THE DODGERS' PITCHER, HAS DONE AS MUCH FOR U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS AS I HAVE IN OVER TWO YEARS AS AMBASSADOR. WE NEED MORE NOMOS IN EVERY FIELD OF ENDEAVOR. A STRONG COMMITMENT TO INCREASING STUDENT EXCHANGES WILL INCREASE OUR CHANCES OF SCOUTING THEM OUT AMONG THE NEW GENERATION.

THANK YOU, AND PLEASE ENJOY YOURSELVES HERE TONIGHT.



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