

MR. TAKANO
Deputy DG, North American
Affairs Bureau
MOFA

ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR WALTER F. MONDALE
AT THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF
THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA
MARCH 14, 1995

I AM GRATEFUL TO BE WITH YOU TODAY TO
HONOR THOSE WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES ON THIS
ISLAND AND TO THANK THE VETERANS FROM BOTH
SIDES WHO HAVE COME FROM SO FAR TO BE ~~HERE~~ WITH
US ON THIS HISTORIC DAY.

IT MAY BE THAT THE BLOODIEST FIGHTING IN THE
HISTORY OF WAR TOOK PLACE ON THIS BLEAK AND
ISOLATED ISLAND. ALTHOUGH IT WAS FIFTY LONG
YEARS AGO WHEN THE CARNAGE ENDED, I AM SURE
THAT FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO SURVIVED, THE
MEMORIES OF THOSE DREADFUL DAYS, AND OF YOUR
COMRADES AND FRIENDS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES, ARE
AS FRESH TO YOU TODAY AS ON THE DAY YOU LEFT
HERE. IT IS A REMARKABLE IRONY OF THE WORLD'S
GREATEST WAR--A STRUGGLE THAT SPANNED THE
GLOBE--THAT FOR THE CITIZENS OF MY NATION, IT IS
THE PICTURE OF THE AMERICAN FLAG BEING RAISED
ON MT. SURABACHI, ON THIS MINUSCULE AND TRAGIC
SPIT OF LAND, THAT REMAINS ABOVE ALL IN OUR
NATIONS MEMORY.

BUT THE OTHER STORY THAT WE MUST
COMMEMORATE TODAY IS THE PARTNERSHIP AND
FRIENDSHIP THAT THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN
HAVE BUILT OUT OF THE TRAGEDY OF THE ^{THAT} ~~SECOND~~
~~WORLD~~ WAR. I AM SURE THAT THOSE OF YOU WHO
STOOD ON THIS SPOT FIFTY YEARS AGO COULD NOT
HAVE IMAGINED THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES WOULD
BUILD THE KIND OF PARTNERSHIP THAT EXISTS
BETWEEN US. IT IS ONE OF THE GREAT SUCCESS
STORIES OF THE 20TH CENTURY, OR FOR THAT
MATTER, OF ANY CENTURY.

THE FACT THAT WE STAND HERE TOGETHER TODAY
IS TESTIMONY TO OUR SUCCESS. THE OCEAN WE SEE
^{EXPANSION} AROUND US HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED FROM A VAST
OCEAN OF BLOOD AND CARNAGE TO THE WORLD'S
MOST IMPORTANT AVENUE OF COMMERCE. ~~BY~~ ^{TOGETHER WE}
~~WORKING TOGETHER, OUR TWO NATIONS~~ HAVE MADE
THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION THE MOST PROSPEROUS
AND ONE OF THE MOST STABLE AREAS ON EARTH.

WE MOVED FROM CONFLICT TO COOPERATION
BECAUSE THE LEADERS AND CITIZENS OF BOTH OUR
COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE SURVIVORS WITH US HERE
TODAY, ^{WE} ~~OVERCAME~~ OUR RANCOR AND FOCUSED ON
THE FUTURE, NOT THE PAST. IN LINCOLN'S

MAGNIFICENT GETTYSBURG ADDRESS HE STOOD ON SOIL FRESHLY SOAKED IN BLOOD AND PRAYED THAT THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION SHOULD NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN. ALTHOUGH HE SPOKE OF A DIFFERENT WAR AT A DIFFERENT TIME, THANK GOD THAT WE CAN MEET TODAY AND SAY THAT FROM THIS TRAGEDY OUR TWO NATIONS HAVE FOUND COMMON GROUND AND WE ARE NOW JOINED TOGETHER TO BUILD A PROSPEROUS, PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC WORLD.

INDEED, OUR ALLIANCE CONTRIBUTED IMPORTANTLY TO THE SUCCESSFUL END OF YET ANOTHER GREAT STRUGGLE -- THE COLD WAR -- IN WHICH, AGAIN, LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY PREVAILED. OUR UNSHAKABLE ALLIANCE, OUR ECONOMIC SUCCESS TOGETHER, AND OUR SECURITY TREATY THAT DETERRED AGGRESSION HELPED BRING ABOUT THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM AND AN END TO THE THREAT OF GLOBAL NUCLEAR WAR.

AS WE COMMEMORATE THE EVENTS OF A HALF CENTURY AGO TODAY, WE MUST ALSO REMEMBER THAT THE SUCCESS OF OUR ALLIANCE OVER THESE YEARS HAS NOT MADE IT ANY LESS NECESSARY FOR THE FUTURE. THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF OUR TWO

NATIONS AND OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION
CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON COOPERATION BETWEEN US.

WE MUST NOT LET THE OCCASIONAL DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN US OBSCURE THE FACT THAT THE UNITED
STATES AND JAPAN ARE COMMITTED TO AN ENDURING
ALLIANCE. THE LEGACY OF FRIENDSHIP, COMMON
INTERESTS, AND MUTUAL BENEFIT ^{WHICH YOU, THE}
^{SURVIVORS,} ~~HAVE CREATED~~ FORMS THE FOUNDATION
OF OUR UNSHAKABLE CROSS-PACIFIC RELATIONSHIP.

THE VETERANS HERE TODAY, AND THOSE OF MY
GENERATION, KNOW THAT TIME MOVES ON. WE KNOW
THAT WHEN WE LEAVE ^{HERE} ~~THIS ISLAND~~ TODAY, MOST OF
US WILL NEVER SEE THIS ISLAND AGAIN. BUT I AM
CONFIDENT THAT FIFTY YEARS FROM NOW, WHEN OUR
AMERICAN AND JAPANESE DESCENDANTS AGAIN VISIT
IWO JIMA TO COMMEMORATE THE HUNDREDTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE SACRIFICES MADE HERE, THEY
WILL BE ABLE TO LOOK BACK ON YET ANOTHER FIFTY
YEARS OF WORLD PEACE. ^{I AM RIGHT} ~~IF I SEE THE FUTURE~~
~~ACCURATELY,~~ IT WILL BE BECAUSE ~~TOGETHER~~ WE HAD
THE VISION AND COURAGE TO CONVERT THE TRAGEDY
WE REMEMBER TODAY INTO THE REMARKABLE
HARMONY THAT WE ALSO CELEBRATE TODAY.



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