

RESIDENCE SPEECH  
TO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS  
SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1995

WELCOME TO OUR NEWLY RESTORED RESIDENCE. BEFORE YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO LOOK AROUND FOR YOURSELF, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN A BRIEF HISTORY OF THIS BUILDING. WE DECIDED TO HAVE OUR AMERICAN JOURNALISTS GET A PEEK AT THIS PLACE BEFORE IT IS OFFICIALLY OPENED. <sup>thus</sup> HAVING YOU HERE <sup>TODAY</sup> IS SORT OF A COMPROMISE WITH WASHINGTON. THE FIRST AMBASSADOR TO RESIDE HERE, WHOM I'M SURE YOU WILL ALL REMEMBER, ~~AMBASSADOR~~ W. CAMERON FORBES, COMPLAINED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT REFUSED TO PERMIT HIM TO BRING HIS HORSE INTO THE RESIDENCE. <sup>By our horse</sup> SINCE THAT RULE IS STILL IN PLACE I ASKED WASHINGTON IF I COULD AT LEAST BRING THE AMERICAN PRESS IN TO SEE THE PLACE. IF YOU BEHAVE, MAYBE WE COULD DO IT AGAIN.

THIS IS THE FIRST U.S. AMBASSADORIAL RESIDENCE BUILT AND DESIGNED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. IT WAS TERMED HOOVER'S FOLLY, COSTING \$1.25 MILLION. THE FIRM HIRED TO DESIGN IT, VAN BURREN MAGONIGLE OF NEW YORK, HIRED AN AMERICAN ARCHITECT RESIDING IN TOKYO, MR. ANTONIN RAYMOND, TO HELP IN THE WORK. <sup>RAYMOND</sup> HE HAD

COME HERE TO HELP FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT DESIGN THE IMPERIAL HOTEL. WRIGHT, AFTER LOOKING AT HIS DRAWINGS OF THE PROPOSED HOTEL, PROMPTLY FIRED HIM. IN A LETTER TO RAYMOND, WRIGHT SAID " I FIND THIS - A GREASY PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT.... INTENDED TO RESEMBLE NOTHING SO MUCH AS A DUNG HILL IN A MUD PUDDLE." NATURALLY, WASHINGTON THOUGHT HE WOULD BE JUST RIGHT FOR THE JOB.

OCCUPIED IN NOVEMBER, 1931, ITS DESIGN HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS A BLEND OF MOORISH AND ORIENTAL, WITH COLONIAL OVERTONES. RAYMOND SAID THAT ITS DESIGN IS NOT MODERN " BUT NEITHER DO[ES IT] REFLECT ANY PERIOD" ... BECAUSE "WIVES OF TOP PEOPLE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD A LOT TO SAY ABOUT THE MATTER..."

AMBASSADOR FORBES WAS NONE TOO PLEASED. HE WROTE, "I WISH YOU WOULD HAVE A CAREFUL PHYSIOLOGIST MAKE A THOROUGH EXAMINATION AND FIND OUT WHETHER THE PERSON WHO DESIGNED THIS BUILDING WAS AN ARCHITECT OR A MOLE."

HE DIDN'T SUFFER LONG; HE WAS FIRED AND THE FAMOUS AMBASSADOR, JOSEPH GREW, <sup>soon replaced by</sup> SOON REPLACED HIM. <sup>GREW</sup> HE LOVED THE PLACE AND QUOTED HIS WIFE AS SAYING THAT SHE COULDN'T THINK OF A SINGLE "CON", "THEY ARE ALL PROS."

THIS RESIDENCE HAS BEEN THE CENTER OF MOST OF THE HISTORY OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS FOR THE LAST 65 YEARS. SOME OF THE FINEST GHOSTS IN U.S.-JAPAN HISTORY STILL GRACE THESE PREMISES.

IN HIS DIARY, GREW OFTEN WRITES ABOUT THE MANY EVENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN THIS RESIDENCE OVER THE TEN TUMULTUOUS YEARS HE SPENT HERE WITH HIS WIFE, ALICE, WHO WAS COMMODORE PERRY'S GRANDDAUGHTER. THEY STAYED HERE UNTIL 6 MONTHS AFTER THE WAR BEGAN.

ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS EVENTS TO OCCUR HERE WAS A DINNER GIVEN THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 26, 1936. AMONG THE GUESTS WERE LORD KEEPER OF THE PRIVY SEAL VISCOUNT SAITO ( A FORMER PRIME MINISTER) AND ADMIRAL KANTARO SUZUKI, GRAND CHAMBERLAIN OF THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD--TWO OF THE EMPEROR'S CLOSEST ADVISORS. AFTER DINNER, THEY SHOWED THE FILM, "NAUGHTY MARIETTA" FEATURING JEANETTE MACDONALD AND NELSON EDDY. THAT NIGHT, OF COURSE, WAS THE NIGHT OF THE FAMOUS COUP ATTEMPT LED BY OFFICERS OF THE "IMPERIAL WAY" SEEKING TO DESTROY RESTRAINTS ON THE MILITARY. WHEN THEY RETURNED HOME FROM THE PARTY, SAITO WAS

ASSASSINATED AND KANTARO SUZUKI WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED. (HE SURVIVED TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER IN 1945. IT WAS SUZUKI WHO SURRENDERED HIS COUNTRY TO THE ALLIES ON THE U.S. MISSOURI.) OTHER LEADERS WERE ALSO KILLED, BUT THE COUP LEADERS FAILED TO BREACH THE IMPERIAL COMPOUND. IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS EFFORT EFFECTIVELY UNDERCUT ANY RESISTANCE TO THE GROWING UNQUESTIONED STRENGTH OF THE MILITARY, PARTICULARLY THE ARMY.

IN THE EARLY FALL OF 1941, AS EVENTS WERE MOVING TOWARD WAR, A HERALD TRIBUNE REPORTER, JOSEPH NEWMAN, CAME HERE TO TRY TO SLIP INFORMATION TO US SHOWING THAT JAPAN INTENDED TO START THE WAR. NEWMAN HAD AN INFORMANT IN THE SORGE SPY RING AND HAD EARLIER PREDICTED THAT GERMANY WOULD INVADE RUSSIA. NOW HE HAD INFORMATION THAT JAPAN INTENDED TO "STRIKE SOUTH" AND SEIZE SINGAPORE. NEWMAN REFUSED TO TALK IN THE RESIDENCE WHICH HE BELIEVED TO BE COMPROMISED, SO HE AND A GREW AIDE WALKED AROUND THE RESIDENCE GARDEN, TO BE SEEN JUST OUTSIDE THIS HALL, FOR AN HOUR AS HE TRIED TO CONVINCE US OF THE CREDIBILITY OF HIS STORY. HE LATER FILED THE STORY, PUBLISHED THE DAY AFTER HE LEFT FOR HAWAII. THREE DAYS LATER THE SORGE CABAL WAS ARRESTED. NEWMAN HAD BARELY ESCAPED ARREST.

ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 8TH, GREW WAS SUMMONED TO THE GAIMUSHO BY FM TOGO TO BE WARNED OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE BREAKDOWN IN U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS. WHEN HE RETURNED, HE LEARNED OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR. IMMEDIATELY, THE GATES TO THE COMPOUND WERE SEALED AND ALL PERSONNEL WERE ORDERED TO REMAIN INSIDE. 63 AMERICANS WERE INTERNED ON THE COMPOUND. MANY OF THEM MOVED INTO THE RESIDENCE, THE OTHERS LIVING IN TWO APARTMENT BUILDINGS LOCATED IN BACK OF WHERE THE EMBASSY NOW SITS.

WITH TIME ON THEIR HANDS, THEY CONCENTRATED ON KEEPING THEMSELVES AMUSED. THE COMMUNITY ROOM, WHERE WE ARE NOW, BECAME KNOWN AS THE LIDO, WITH AN OPEN FIRE, COMFORTABLE CHAIRS, A PIANO AND A GRAMOPHONE. ~~TABLES WERE USED FOR~~

+ BRIDGE, POKER, AND CHESS. THEY LEARNED THAT THE <sup>THEIR</sup> JAPANESE <sup>COUNTERPARTS</sup> ~~HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO~~ <sup>IN CARCE KATED AT</sup> WHITE SULFUR SPRINGS AND WERE PLAYING GOLF. SO THEY SET UP A MINATURE <sup>9 - Hole</sup> GOLF COURSE <sup>HERE</sup> ~~WITH 9 HOLES~~ <sup>THEY</sup> WHICH WAS CALLED "THE GREATER EAST ASIA BLACK SULFUR SPRING<sup>s</sup> CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF COURSE." FUEL WAS SEVERELY RATIONED AND GREW SAID THEY "NEARLY FROZE." THEY DID THEIR OWN LAUNDRY AND CLOTHES WERE HUNG TO

DRY THROUGHOUT THE RESIDENCE. GREW SAID THE PLACE LOOKED LIKE A LAUNDROMAT.

ON JUNE 11, 1941, THE AMERICANS BOARDED A JAPANESE SHIP FOR MAPUTO, MOGADISHU, WHERE THEY WERE SWAPPED FOR THE RETURNING JAPANESE, MAKING THE REST OF THE TRIP TO THE U.S. ABOARD THE SWEDISH SHIP THE GRIPSHOLM. BEFORE LEAVING, ALICE GREW PLANTED A CHERRY TREE, TO BE FOUND ON THE GROUNDS TODAY. TEN YEARS LATER, 1952, WHEN OUR FIRST POST-WAR AMBASSADOR ENTERED THE GROUNDS, IT IS SAID THAT THE TREE WAS IN ITS FIRST BLOOM. (Blenny today)

ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1945, GENERAL MACARTHUR MOVED INTO THIS RESIDENCE WITH HIS WIFE, JEAN, AND THEIR SON, ARTHUR, WHERE THEY LIVED FOR THE NEXT 5 AND A HALF YEARS. THE PLACE WAS A MESS. MACARTHUR TOLD HIS WIFE TO "DO WHAT YOU CAN WITH THE PLACE." THEIR SON ASKED, "DO WE HAVE TO LIVE IN THIS PLACE?" WHEN MACARTHUR SAW THE PORTRAIT OF WASHINGTON, WHICH YOU WILL SEE UPSTAIRS, HE SALUTED WASHINGTON AND SAID, "GENERAL, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, BUT WE MADE IT." WHEN I SAW HIS PORTRAIT I TOO SALUTED AND SAID, "GENERAL, THIS IS CORPORAL MONDALE REPORTING."



MACARTHUR LOVED TO WATCH MOVIES AND DID PRACTICALLY EVERY EVENING. WHEN THE GUESTS HAD LEFT, HE WOULD STRIDE BACK AND FORTH FROM THE BASE OF THE STEPS LEADING UPSTAIRS TO THE END OF THIS ROOM GIVING COMMENTS AND SPEECHES OUT LOUD TO HIMSELF AND TO HIS WIFE WHO WOULD SIT FOR HOURS LISTENING TO HIM. I AM PLANNING TO REINSTITUTE THIS VALUABLE PRACTICE. THE FACT NO ONE WILL BE LISTENING TO ME, INCLUDING JOAN, WILL NOT BOTHER ME; I'M USED TO IT.

UNDOUBTEDLY, THE MOST HISTORIC MEETING TO OCCUR HERE WAS WHEN EMPEROR HIROHITO VISITED GENERAL MACARTHUR ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1945. THEY MET AND HAD THEIR FAMOUS PICTURE TAKEN JUST ABOUT WHERE I AM STANDING NOW. THE EMPEROR CAME, IN MORNING SUIT. WHAT WAS SAID IN THE PRIVATE CONVERSATION IS NOT CLEAR EVEN TODAY, (MOFA IS BELIEVED TO HAVE A SECRET TRANSCRIPT OF THE CONVERSATION, WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN RELEASED) BUT THIS MEETING BEGAN THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE EMPEROR WAS RETAINED IN HIS POSITION NOW REDEFINED AS A LIMITED CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY WITHOUT DIVINE AUTHORITY.

THAT PHOTOGRAPH, ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS IN JAPANESE HISTORY, A COPY OF WHICH WILL BE

*IS ATTACHED  
to A Document*

GIVEN TO YOU, TAKEN BY AN ARMY PHOTOGRAPHER, WAS RELEASED THE NEXT DAY AND APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGES OF PRACTICALLY EVERY NEWSPAPER IN THE WORLD.

FROM HERE, AND FROM HIS OFFICE IN THE DAI ICHI BUILDING, MACARTHUR GOVERNED OCCUPIED JAPAN. <sup>MANCHESTER</sup> <sup>FRANCHISED W & W EN</sup> SHAPED THE CURRENT CONSTITUTION, ADOPTED LAND REFORM, AND TOOK MANY OTHER STEPS THAT HELPED LEAD JAPAN TOWARD ITS PRESENT DEMOCRATIC STATUS. MANCHESTER DESCRIBED MACARTHUR AS AN AMERICAN CEASAR.

MACARTHUR ALSO COMMANDED THE U.S. FORCES IN KOREA FROM HERE. ON APRIL 11, 1951 HE WAS COMPLETING LUNCH IN THE DINING ROOM, WHEN AN AIDE CALLED MRS MACARTHUR INFORMING HER THAT TRUMAN HAD FIRED HER HUSBAND. FIVE DAYS LATER, WHEN HE LEFT FOR HOME, OVER 250,000 JAPANESE LINED THE ROADS TO ATSUGI AIRPORT TO SHOW THEIR RESPECTS TO THE DEPARTING GENERAL.

IN 1952, OUR FIRST POST WAR AMBASSADOR, ROBERT MURPHY, ENTERED THE PREMISES. HE WAS FOLLOWED BY JOHN ALLISON, AND THEN BY DOUGLAS MACARTHUR II, THE GENERAL'S NEPHEW. IN 1961, AMBASSADOR REISCHAUER, AND HIS WIFE, HARU, ARRIVED HERE AS KENNEDY'S NEW APPOINTEE. JOAN, AS YOU MAY



KNOW, WAS RELATED TO REISCHAUER AND KNEW HIM  
WELL. HARU NOW LIVES IN SAN DIEGO. <sup>ED</sup>THE RESICHAUERS'  
<sup>ROBERT</sup>SON, UNTIL RECENTLY WAS DIRECTOR OF THE  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.

THERE WERE SEVERAL AMBASSADORS ~~THAT~~ WHO  
FOLLOWED, INCLUDING U, ALEXIS JOHNSON, ARMIN  
MEYER, JIM HODGSON AND MY OLD FRIEND MIKE  
MANSFIELD, WHO HELD THE POST LONGER THAN ANY IN  
HISTORY -- ~~11~~ YEARS, FOLLOWED BY MY PREDECESSOR,  
MIKE ARMACOST, WHO WISELY ATTENDED CARLETON  
COLLEGE IN MINNESOTA AND MARRIED HIS MINNESOTA  
WIFE, BONNIE, NONE OF WHICH DO I HOLD AGAINST  
THEM.

DURING ALL OF THIS TIME, THIS OLD RESIDENCE  
WAS RUNNING DOWN. MANSFIELD TOLD ME HE  
THOUGHT THE PLACE WOULD BURN DOWN. THE OBAYASHI  
FIRM, WHICH BUILT THE RESIDENCE, WON THE BID TO  
REFURBISH IT, AT A COST OF \$8 MILLION, THE PLACE WAS  
STRIPPED DOWN AND MODERNIZED.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WOULD LIKE TO DO SO,  
JOAN IS PREPARED TO GIVE YOU A GUIDED TOUR OF THE  
ART WORKS ON DISPLAY. YOU CAN DO AS YOU WISH WITH  
THAT INVITATION. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DECIDE NOT  
TO TAKE HER TOUR, YOUR BANISHMENT FROM ANY

FURTHER ASSOCIATION WITH THE EMBASSY SHOULD NOT  
BE TAKEN PERSONALLY. THE DOWNSTAIRS WAS  
DECORATED BY DIRECTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. THE  
UPSTAIRS WAS DECORATED BY ONE OF JOAN'S FRIENDS,  
CARLTON VARNEY. ~~YOU MAY SEE A DIFFERENCE~~

WE WILL NOW END THIS HISTORY LESSON,  
EXCEPT TO SAY THAT WE HAVE PREPARED A MORE  
DETAILED HISTORY, ABLY PREPARED BY JONATHAN  
MCHALE, FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MIGHT WANT IT.

*Be at your place on time  
take us lunch*

I JUST REMEMBERED THAT JOAN TOLD ME SHOULD  
WOULD NOT CONDUCT A TOUR, SO YOU CAN RELAX. ~~AS A~~  
~~SUBSTITUTE~~ I'VE ASKED JOAN TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT  
THE ART TO BE FOUND IN THE RESIDENCE. FOLLOWING  
HER REMARKS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ROAM AROUND  
HERE AND UPSTAIRS AS YOU PLEASE, AND THEN WE WILL  
HAVE LUNCH. *at about 12:00 o'clock*

WELCOME AND THANKS FOR COMING.

*MacArthur Bedroom*  
*Arthur Court -*



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