

ANNOUNCEMENT
NOVEMBER 8, 1996

WALTER F. MONDALE TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD BE RETIRING FROM HIS POSITION AS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

"WITH THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BEHIND US, I HAVE ADVISED THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT NOW SEEMS TO BE APPROPRIATE TIME TO END MY TOUR OF DUTY IN JAPAN.

"I HAVE GREATLY ENJOYED THE CHALLENGE OF BEING OUR NATION'S AMBASSADOR TO THIS REMARKABLE COUNTRY SINCE BEING NOMINATED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON IN 1993. I HOPE THAT THESE HAVE BEEN GOOD YEARS FOR THE CRUCIAL U.S./JAPAN RELATIONSHIP. I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT I HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND FROM OFFICIALS THROUGHOUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH THE MEMORY OF THE WONDERFUL COOPERATION I RECEIVED FROM JAPANESE OFFICIALS AND THE WARMTH SHOWN TO ME AND TO JOAN BY THE JAPANESE PEOPLE.

"AS I PREPARE TO DEPART JAPAN, I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE STRENGTH AND VITALITY OF THE U.S./JAPAN RELATIONSHIP -- THE MOST IMPORTANT ON EARTH. BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE GREATLY ENHANCE THE CHANCES FOR PROSPERITY, FREEDOM AND PEACE. THE RELATIONSHIP IS SOLID AND PRODUCTIVE. THE WORLD COULD NOT HAVE BETTER NEWS.

"IN THE WEEKS REMAINING, I WILL MEET WITH THE MANY JAPANESE LEADERS WITH WHOM I HAVE WORKED TO PERSONALLY THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND FOR ALL OF THEIR COURTESIES.

"OF COURSE, I WANT TO THANK PRESIDENT CLINTON FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE HIM AND OUR NATION. I WISH TO THANK THE REMARKABLY GIFTED AND COMMITTED AMERICANS ^{+ JAPANESE} WHO WORK FOR ME IN THIS EMBASSY AND IN OUR CONSULATES THROUGHOUT JAPAN AS WELL AS THE EQUALLY GIFTED LEADERSHIP OF OUR MILITARY FORCES IN JAPAN. AMERICANS SHOULD KNOW HOW SUPERBLY ^{THEY} ~~THESE~~ OFFICIALS ARE SERVING OUR NATION IN THIS MOST IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT. I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK OUR DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION, RUST DEMING, FOR HIS BRILLIANT AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO ME AND TO OUR COUNTRY."

THE MONDALES WILL BE RETURNING TO
MINNESOTA, THEIR NATIVE STATE, IN MID-DECEMBER.
HE PLANS TO RESUME THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN
MINNEAPOLIS.



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