

**JAPAN SOCIETY RECEPTION  
FOR BILL CLARK  
APRIL 3, INTERNATIONAL HOUSE**

**IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE AGAIN AMONG THE FOLKS  
THAT DO SO MUCH FOR U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS. I  
WISH TO ADD MY CONGRATULATIONS TO BILL CLARK  
FOR HIS SELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN  
SOCIETY, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH IS WELL-  
POSITIONED TO CONTRIBUTE TO STRONGER TIES  
BETWEEN TWO IMPORTANT NATIONS.**

**BECAUSE EVERYONE HERE DOES SO MUCH TO KEEP  
THIS RELATIONSHIP STRONG, I REALLY DON'T NEED TO  
PREACH TO THE CHOIR. HOWEVER, WE HAVE PLENTY  
YET TO DO.**

**I HAVE FOUND IN MY FEW YEARS IN TOKYO THAT  
MAINTAINING HEALTHY U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS TAKES  
A LOT OF WORK. MUCH OF THE WORK IS HEAVY  
LIFTING -- SWEATING IN THE TRENCHES -- WHILE  
SOME IS LIKE A DELICATE BALANCING ACT WHICH  
MUST BE SUSTAINED OVER TIME. THE MYRIAD TASKS  
CALL FOR YOUR STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE.**

PART OF THE WORK OF SUSTAINING HEALTHY RELATIONS IS LIKE PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON A 2,000-PIECE PUZZLE. SOMETIMES IT SEEMS LIKE WE SPEND MOST OF OUR TIME LOOKING FOR LOST PIECES -- AND WE END UP ASSUMING THAT SOMEONE IS HIDING THEM.

THE PUZZLE IS NEVER QUITE FINISHED, OF COURSE. ADDING TO THE CHALLENGE, SOME OF THE KEY PIECES KEEP MOVING AROUND. (I HAVE FOUND AT THE EMBASSY THAT PERSONNEL CHANGES ARE A TACTIC TO CONFUSE OTHERWISE SURE-FOOTED AMBASSADORS. JUST WHEN THINGS GET STARTED, PEOPLE ARE TRANSFERRED ELSEWHERE.)

IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THIS CRUCIAL RELATIONSHIP, I AM SURE THAT BILL CLARK WILL PULL A NUMBER OF PIECES INTO PLACE AND HOLD THEM THERE, SO IT IS GOOD TO HAVE HIM AT THE HELM OF THE JAPAN SOCIETY.

IT DOES INDEED TAKE A LOT OF PEOPLE TO PLAY THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THIS SYMPHONY. I COMMEND YOU ALL FOR YOUR ROLE, AND WE LOOK TO MAESTRO CLARK TO ENSURE CONTINUED HARMONY.

THANK YOU.



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