

EMBASSY GREETING / PRESIDENT CARTER
MAY 23, 1996

MR. PRESIDENT. WE ARE GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US AGAIN TODAY.

YOU ARE PART OF A GREAT TRADITION. SOME MONTHS AGO PRESIDENT BUSH WAS HERE AND A FEW WEEKS AGO PRESIDENT FORD WAS HERE. NOW YOU ARE HERE. WE ARE GLAD THAT AMERICA'S PRESIDENTS REALIZE THAT THERE IS NO MORE IMPORTANT FORUM THAN THIS MEETING OF OUR EMBASSY'S LEADERS.

THE EARLIER MEETINGS, OF COURSE, WERE JUST PRACTICE TO PREPARE US FOR THE REAL THING--YOUR PRESENCE HERE.

AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE TOKYO EMBASSY IS THE BEST WE HAVE IN THE WORLD. THIS MAY SEEM LIKE BRAGGING TO YOU, BUT I MAKE THIS STATEMENT BASED ON A WORLDWIDE EVALUATION OF ALL OF OUR EMBASSIES -- I KNOW IT IS A GOOD STUDY BECAUSE I HANDLED IT MYSELF. THIS STUDY ALSO CONCLUDED THAT WE HAVE A VERY GOOD AMBASSADOR HERE.

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER. HE WAS NOT ONLY A GREAT PRESIDENT BUT HE HAS BEEN A GREAT FORMER PRESIDENT. HIS CARTER CENTER IS THE BEST OF ALL PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES AND HIS PERSONAL LEADERSHIP ON A BROAD RANGE OF WORLD ISSUES CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR FORCE FOR DECENCY IN THE WORLD.

AS THE NEW YORK TIMES SAID, " PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SEEN HIS ROLE AS A FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT AS A NATIONAL TRUST TO BE TREATED WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF TRUST AND RESPONSIBILITY." THAT IS INDEED WHAT YOU HAVE STOOD FOR AND I AM PROUD TO BE WITH YOU AGAIN TODAY.

PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SHOWN A LIFETIME INTEREST IN U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS, FIRST AS PRESIDENT AND THEN AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. HE HAS BEEN HERE OFTEN AND KNOWS THIS COUNTRY AND ITS LEADERS WELL. HE HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT ASSET FOR OUR NATION AS WE SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THIS MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE ALL A VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY.

I'LL NOW ASK THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE A FEW OPENING REMARKS, AND THEN, TO THE EXTENT THAT HIS SCHEDULE PERMITS, TO TAKE A FEW QUESTIONS.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING ONE OF AMERICAS FINEST CITIZENS.



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