Statement of Mike Mansfield

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001
Statement of Senator Mike Mansfield (D., Montana)
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The United States is looking forward with anticipation and
pleasure to the coming visit of His Excellency Nobosuke Kishi, the Prime
Minister of Japan. We know that as a result of his great knowledge, fine
understanding, and firsthand personal observation of affairs in the Far
East and Southeast Asia, he will have well developed ideas for considera-
tion between the representatives of our two great countries.

The question of Japan's significant position, both economically
and politically, will, I am sure, be reviewed with sympathetic considera-
tion and understanding.

The question of Japan's economic position is, of course, the
ever-pressing problem for the Japanese government. With its huge and
increasing population, with its relatively small amount of cultivatable
land, the Empire of Japan is of course faced with the need for expanding
and increasing its trade opportunities with the rest of the world. It is to
be hoped that some steps toward this ever-pressing problem can be taken,
and I know that the Administration in Washington will give every considera-
tion to the question of future policy in this respect.

Japan has made a significant and tremendous recovery in the
relatively few short years since 1945. This is all the more remarkable
in view of the fact that the Japanese have had no overseas areas to furnish
them with the needed ingredients to maintain a strong, growing industrial economy. What Japan has done has in reality been to start from the very beginning with dependence to a large extent on what resources she had on the home islands, and on this basis generate an economy which has won respect and admiration of the world. This has been done in spite of the fact, to repeat, that she has been deprived of her overseas sources of raw materials, has had to struggle hard to find new markets, has had to manufacture new products to remain in competition, and has lost her old markets on the Chinese mainland, in Manchuria and Northeast Asia certain generally. In addition, deep sea fishing areas have been proscribed making it that much more difficult to maintain Japan's ever growing population. In spite of these hindrances and drawbacks, the Japanese Empire has made remarkable progress over the past 12 years. Japan is the only country in the Far East with anything like the military and industrial potential needed to stand up against the advance of communism. It is to be hoped that the bonds of friendship and mutual respect which have been forged anew between the United States and Japan will not only endure but will grow in strength in the years, the decades and the centuries ahead. The continued partnership of our two great countries will enable us to maintain the peace in the Pacific. It is to be hoped that mutual understanding, mutual tolerance and mutual consideration will govern the relations between our two countries in the difficult and dangerous years which will undoubtedly confront both of us.
We look forward to Prime Minister Kishi's visit with anticipation, with hope and with pleasure.