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Brief Remarks at Various Locations

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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I would like to welcome you this morning to the annual Embassy Orientation Program. During the next two days, I'm sure that all of you, newcomers and old hands alike, will come to have a greater understanding of the scope of our operation, the many different kinds of work which go on in our Embassy, and how each of you fits into the larger picture of the U.S. Mission in Japan.

Our speakers will be talking about a very large-scale operation indeed. This chancery building itself, opened five years ago, is the largest U.S. chancery in the world. Our Embassy staff of almost 600 employees, representing over 20 government agencies comprises one of our largest embassies.

I have said this many times before, but it bears repeating, particularly now, right at the start of this program: The U.S. - Japan relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none! All of you here, as members of the Embassy family, have an important role to play in this vital relationship.
The next two days will give you a better feeling for just how many-faceted the U.S. - Japan relationship is. At this time, let me offer just a few examples:

-- Last year our consular section downstairs issued over half a million visas to Japanese traveling to the U.S.;

-- Frequent cultural, scientific and technological exchanges comprise a highly important part of the continuing dialogue between our two countries;

-- The United States and Japan maintain the largest overseas trading relationship in the history of the world -- two way trade is over $51 billion and growing rapidly; and,

-- Japan is by far our best customer of American agricultural products - $6 billion in 1980 - and here too, the trend is up.

But Japan is much more to the United States than our major overseas trading partner. Japan is our close friend and staunch ally. We have an extremely close political relationship testified to by frequent consultations between us on all major international issues.
I am happy and proud to be a part of this U.S. - Japan relationship, and I hope that all of you share this feeling with me. As this orientation progresses, I'm sure you will come to appreciate more fully the breadth of this vitally important relationship and the role that the Embassy -- all of us -- play in it.

Now I'd like to introduce Bill Clark, our DCM, and ask him to say a few words and introduce the senior Embassy officers.

Once again, welcome to our orientation program.
Nov. 5 - In response to press inquiries

The American people have spoken in a free, democratic election and have chosen Ronald Reagan as the 40th President of the United States. As far as Japan is concerned, our policy will be unchanged, and we will continue to do everything we can to make stronger the most important bilateral relationship in the free world -- that is between Japan and the United States -- and to do so on the basis of equality, mutual trust, mutual confidence and greater understanding. Our relationship is too important to do otherwise. And I am confident that that is the view of President-elect Reagan.
Mr. Mori, Mr. Kraemer, and Delegates to the Fourth Joint Meeting of the Mining and Metallurgic Institute of Japan and the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers. It is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to speak to you today.

As you already know, the results of the U.S. Presidential election are in and this coming January Ronald Reagan will be sworn in as our new President. Under the Carter Administration great progress has been made in strengthening the bonds between the U.S. and Japan and I am proud to have been able to play a part in that process. I firmly believe under the new administration U.S.-Japanese relations will continue to develop in a positive manner for the benefit of both countries.

I was not surprised at the outcome of the election; I was surprised by the size of the vote in favor of Governor Reagan, which I would term a landslide, and the loss of the Senate by the Democrats to the Republicans. The people have spoken in no uncertain terms. Their choices have been made and the transition from the Carter to the Reagan Administration will be a smooth one.

As far as our relationship with Japan is concerned, it will continue on the same basis in the next Administration and the ties which bind our two nations together will become stronger in the years ahead. I am confident that this is the view of President-elect Ronald Reagan.
Since they represent the world's two leading industrial economies, both the United States and Japan have a strong interest in securing stable and economically priced supplies of mineral resources. In recent years we have been continually reminded of the constraints on economic growth that shortages of vital minerals can pose for our manufacturing economies. The key to overcoming these difficulties is the development and application of new technologies for finding and exploiting the world's mineral resources. Meetings such as these between engineers and scientists representing the world's two most technologically advanced nations will unquestionably play an important role in raising the technological level of the search for minerals and also in improving the productivity of our mining industries. This is but one more example of the increasingly close cooperation between our two countries.

I feel a special affinity for your organization because, as some of you may be aware, I worked as a copper miner myself many years ago in Montana, and later as a mining engineer. I am doubly pleased to be involved in this gathering since it brings together Japanese and American specialists. It therefore represents one more facet in the ever increasing network of ties between the United States and Japan, ties that comprise the most important bilateral relationship in the world. I wish you success in your meeting.
President Otsuki, Minister Fujio and participants in this Seminar on American Labor-Management Relations Practices:

It is a pleasure for me to attend this opening meeting of scholars and practitioners of the ancient art of human relations, for that is really what labor-management relations are all about. Through discussion and consultation, people and organizations seek to adjust at the work site to complementary and often competing objectives. In this way each tries to receive a fair share of the human and material resources which he has invested. In this respect, the objectives of Japanese and American management and labor are identical.

Behind this truth there are, of course, many different forms of application. These have been shaped by historical, cultural and economic forces. Japan and the United States, two major economic powers, share many of the same problems which have come with industrialization. However, each has evolved patterns for handling the sensitive relationship between employer and employee in accordance with its own cultural and socio-economic history.
As we move into the nineteen eighties and beyond it is my firm conviction that similarities in dealing with the needs of workers and employers will grow and differences shrink. Even so, in view of the size and complexity of the relations between our two countries, mutual understanding of the differences that do exist is increasingly important.

In looking closely at how a society handles its work relationships, we also get a better idea of the society itself and how our own abilities and habits will fit into that society. As you hear how things are done in the United States, I would suggest that you consider not only how this differs from what is done in Japan, but more importantly, how your own practices can be adapted to the American environment. Within the United States, there is no one exclusive way of doing things but many variations within the overall framework. Certainly, many of the practices for which you are justly praised would fit into this framework.

When Secretary Marshall first broached the idea of a seminar on American labor-management relations practices it struck me that in this area what is perceived is often quite different from what actually takes place. This is true even within the United States where the media each year tend to focus more upon a few lengthy strikes than upon the majority of labor-management negotiations which
are resolved without conflict. Given the difficulties of distance and language, I can well understand how incomplete and sometimes not totally accurate impressions can be obtained. That is why I consider this seminar so important; it can provide you the facts upon which to make your decisions.

In looking back a bit, it might be well to recall the nineteen fifties and sixties when American business expanded worldwide -- a phenomenon that is still taking place, though perhaps not as dramatically. Although Japanese customs are seen as being very different from our own, many American companies have taken the plunge and invested in Japan. The very active and outstanding American Chamber of Commerce in Japan is visible proof of the American businessman's commitment to this market. Now the tide is also flowing in the other direction. I am confident that once in possession of the facts the Japanese investor will find conditions in the United States every bit as attractive as the American entrepreneur has found them in Japan. In my three and one-half years here I have seen nothing to suggest that the Japanese businessman is any the less capable than his American counterpart, or any the less able to compete on the same turf. I can only encourage you to study fully conditions in the United States. You will find them far more favorable than is generally portrayed in the media.

I am pleased that so many of my distinguished
COUNTRYMEN HAVE COME TO JAPAN FOR THIS SEMINAR, INCLUDING MY OLD FRIEND AND PREDECESSOR HERE IN TOKYO, THE ESTEEMED FORMER SECRETARY OF LABOR, JIM HODGSON. IT IS TYPICAL OF JIM TO ONCE AGAIN MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO JAPANESE-AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING.

I AM DOUBLY PLEASED THAT THIS GATHERING BRINGS TOGETHER THESE AMERICAN SPECIALISTS AND AN OUTSTANDING GROUP OF INTERNATIONALLY-MINDED JAPANESE BUSINESS EXECUTIVES. THIS SEMINAR REPRESENTS ONE MORE LINK IN THE EVER-INCREASING NETWORK OF TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN, TIES THAT COM普RISE THE MOST IMPORTANT BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IN THE WORLD. I WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS AND HOPE THAT AT THE END OF THESE NEXT FEW DAYS THE PERCEPTIONS YOU HOLD OF AMERICAN LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS MAY INDEED HAVE MOVED CLOSER TOGETHER TO THE ACTUAL PRACTICES.
I am pleased to have the opportunity again to join you in celebrating the end of another year and to thank you for the job you have been and are doing.

Much has been accomplished in the past year - there have been continuing and important developments in all aspects of the US-Japan relations. As we approach the end of 1980 we can say that the relationship is stronger and healthier than ever.

The list of activities in which your efforts, ideas and assistance have been invaluable is too long to review completely.

Some highlights which come to mind are:
- the negotiations on U.S. tobacco imports and the NTT procurement negotiations,
- the service provided to American businessmen seeking commercial information about Japan,
- the increased cooperation in defense, of which this week's visit by Secretary of Defense Brown is a part,
- the efforts to expose more Japanese to the many facets of American culture,
- the continuing efforts of the provision of numerous services to Japanese and Americans in the areas of visas, passports, notarial services and others,
- the marvelous part that all of you have played in dealing with a continuous flow of official visitors, which for the second year in a row has included the President of the United States.
No one knows better than you and I that it has not all been easy. Most of you at one time or another have been called on to spend long hours of hard work in dealing with difficult and sometimes very frustrating situations; the demands placed on you must at times seem to be extraordinary. I know your immediate supervisors have expressed their appreciation for your work but I want you to know that I personally am very appreciative of the support of the FSN staff.

Working together, Japanese and Americans, we have come through this year with colors still flying. I am proud of the team spirit which this Mission exudes. I have said before that good team work depends on a high degree of mutual respect, individual dedication, and personal satisfaction with high standards of performance, all of which aptly describe the members of this team. With this outlook, we can confidently approach any challenges we may face in the New Year.

Before closing, I'd like us to reflect for a moment on the less happy situations elsewhere in the world where some of our colleagues (Americans and Foreign Service Nationals) are facing undue hardships and threats to their own safety in the performance of their jobs. All of us hope and pray for the early and safe return of the hostages from Iran and also for the safety and well being of those in other areas where the local atmosphere is hostile, unfriendly and threatening to personal safety and well being.

Mrs. Mansfield joins me once again in wishing each and every one of you and your families good health and great happiness over this holiday season and throughout the coming year.
As you all know, the "Yellow Ribbon" has come to symbolize the fact that we in the Foreign Service have not forgotten for a moment the plight of our colleagues who are held hostage by the Iranians.

As we enter the holiday season, a time of happiness for us and our families, we remember that the families of the hostages face quite a different kind of holiday.

There is now a glimmer of hope in the situation, the hope that the Iranians are finally moving toward releasing the hostages, but it is as yet no more than a hope. We all have faith, however, that our colleagues will be back with us soon. And, while we are distressed at their captivity, we never cease to admire them for their fortitude under extraordinarily trying conditions.

I will now attach this yellow ribbon to the Embassy's Christmas tree, as a symbol of both concern and hope, and in solidarity with the hostages' families.

I also invite those of you who wish, to participate with me by hanging a yellow ribbon on this smaller tree as well.

Thank you
We have saved a special surprise for the last. Lee, it gives me -- and all the others who have had the privilege of working with you -- great pleasure in presenting a Superior Honor Award to you. The words on the citation speak for themselves and us.

The Department of State presents Leona M. Anderson with a Superior Honor Award "for outstanding service in the performance of her duties as Counselor for Administration of the American Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, combining administrative ability of exceptional quality with creativity, generosity and impartiality, during the years 1975 - 1980."

We all, fellow workers and friends, congratulate you on your fine achievements and wish you the best of luck after your retirement from the Foreign Service and in your new life.
The next award is a Cash Award for a Special Act. Mr. Yoshio KITANAKA, International Communication Agency, in recognition of your fine work on the production system of Trends Magazine, which contributed to a large monetary savings for this post, I would like to present you with this check as a token of our appreciation. Congratulations on your fine accomplishment.

The next Cash Award, for Superior Performance by Kazuo HATTORI, Budget and Management Office, is being presented for superior performance in funds control and budget estimating during a period of unusual fiscal activity and increased workload. Congratulations for a job well done.
This is the time of the year to honor a special group -- our Mission Chauffeurs. Those Chauffeurs we are honoring today have been driving us safely around Tokyo and Japan for a total of 410 years. As a three and a half year veteran observer of traffic in Japan, that is a very impressive score. The Safe Driving Award program provides not only for official recognition of the employee's achievement but also authorizes a cash payment as incentive to continue a safe driving record for year after year. I'm happy to see so many of our drivers back here today.

We move now to Length of Service Awards. The twenty-two employees we are recognizing today for length of service totaling 485 years are fine representatives of the Foreign Service. We will start with those who have served 10 years:
This is one of the more pleasant duties of my job as Ambassador.

On Friday evening I talked to many of you about the excellent job being done by the members of the American and Japanese staff in furtherance of the objectives of this Mission. It is fitting that we are here this afternoon to recognize a number of you for extraordinary performance and others for lengthy, dedicated and loyal service.

The first award is a Meritorious Honor Award. Ms. Teruko Sakane, Budget and Management Office, is being given the award for superior performance in voucher auditing, especially during a period of several months when vacancies in the office and a high volume of work combined to create extra pressures on the voucher unit. As a recipient of the results of your hard work, it gives me great pleasure to present you with this award.
We also wish to extend congratulations to those employees of the Embassy and constituent posts who have received awards since our last Mission awards ceremony.

Again, congratulations to each and every person who received an award today. I'm sure there are others on the staff equally deserving and I hope that supervisors in the Mission will be encouraged by today's ceremony and will take positive action to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of employees under their supervision.

Will awards recipients come forward now for a group photo.
DRAFT REMARKS FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 24

I want to welcome you all to our annual Embassy Christmas party. Once again, we gather at the close of a year, and I am again reminded of how large our Embassy family is. I am genuinely pleased to have an occasion such as this which brings so many of us together especially in such a relaxed and congenial atmosphere.

Once again, we have had a year highlighted by a Presidential visit. Once again, you all performed superbly, and showed just how professionally this Embassy's staff can operate under very demanding conditions.

In addition to the President, we have hosted visiting members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries and others in great numbers all through the year. I know that all of them left Tokyo deeply impressed with your ability to plan and coordinate smoothly, and with a feeling of appreciation for your contribution to the success of their respective missions.

Though it may have seemed so at times, we have not spent all of 1980 dealing with visitors. Our basic purpose has always been to strengthen and improve Japanese-American relations, and I can safely say we have succeeded admirably in this. Many problems in our relations have been solved through our efforts in concert with others, and we have made great progress this year in deepening this most important bilateral relationship. We have achieved agreement on NRT procurement and on tobacco marketing, have successfully employed the 1978 extradition treaty, and have impressed upon the Japanese our views of the increasing dangers of the world we live in, in the hope that they will see the need to
improve their defense capability on their own responsibility.

A few days ago, we tied yellow ribbons on a tree to remind ourselves of our colleagues in Tehran and of the ordeal they continue to endure. We will all be thinking of them during this holiday season, and will continue to hope that efforts for their safe return will soon be successful.

I welcome you to this Embassy Christmas party, and I wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Drafted by Al O'Neill
AMBASSADOR’S REMARKS
EMBASSY CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 24, 1980

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I welcome you to this Embassy Christmas party, and I wish all of you and your families a good Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.