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Fukuoka Junior Chamber of Commerce

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Ambassador’s Speech to the Fukuoka
Junior Chamber of Commerce
August 22, 1981

Governor Kamei, Mayor Shinto, Gentlemen of the Jaycee’s:

It’s always good to be back in Kyushu; it’s especially good this time to be back in Fukuoka. Coming here today I have what we Americans would call “a down home feeling.” That’s a special sense of being back among good friends. As you know, I come from the State of Montana -- back in the heartland of the American West -- and I can’t help but feel that despite all the differences in culture and society, there’s a lot that’s basically similar between my part of America and this part of Japan: beautiful countryside, a rich history, and perhaps best of all -- an energetic and hard-working people who are honest and direct, who’ve never lost sight of the importance of human ties and friendship.

The last time I was in Fukuoka was in 1977. That was shortly after I had arrived in Japan as Ambassador. I made a special point of making that visit one of my very first trips outside of Tokyo. That was because I have always believed that to begin to understand a country, you’ve got to get out of the capital and try to meet the people. And what better place
TO LEARN TO UNDERSTAND JAPAN THAN HERE IN KYUSHU WHERE IT ALL BEGAN, WHERE JAPAN'S "ROOTS" IN HISTORY, CULTURE AND SOCIETY REALLY LIE. I CAN SEE FROM THIS VISIT THAT AFTER FOUR YEARS, A LOT HAS CHANGED IN FUKUOKA. DURING THE LAST DAY OR SO, I HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY HOW THE FACE OF THE CITY HAS CHANGED. YOU HAVE A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, A NEW SUBWAY SYSTEM, AND A NUMBER OF IMPRESSIVE BRAND-NEW BUILDINGS -- INCLUDING THE FINE HALL WE'RE IN THIS MORNING. BUT THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN A NUMBER OF CHANGES IN FUKUOKA WHICH ARE MORE INTANGIBLE THAN NEW BUILDINGS, YET I SUSPECT THAT IN THE END THEY MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ONES. I AM SPEAKING OF THE DRAMATIC EXPANSION OF FUKUOKA'S INTERNATIONAL ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS. ON EVERY FRONT -- IN FOREIGN TRADE, TRAVEL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES -- THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE. I THINK THIS IS A MOST POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT, ONE WHICH I HEARTILY APPLAUD.

I WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT, IN PARALLEL WITH FUKUOKA CITY'S LONG-STANDING SISTER-CITY TIES WITH OAKLAND, THE PREFECTURE OF FUKUOKA IS ABOUT TO ESTABLISH FORMAL SISTER-STATE RELATIONS WITH HAWAII. I KNOW THAT MY GOOD FRIEND GOVERNOR GEORGE ARIYOSHI OF HAWAII, Whose FAMILY I UNDERSTAND ORIGINALLY CAME FROM FUKUOKA, MUST BE DELIGHTED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT. I FULLY SHARE HIS PLEASURE IN THIS. AND I WAS ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED TO LEARN OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT THE FUKUOKA JAYCEE'S HAVE PLAYED IN HELPING TO BRING THIS SISTER-STATE
RELATIONSHIP TO SUCCESSFUL REALIZATION. I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ALL ON YOUR HARD WORK OF WELL OVER A YEAR TOWARDS THIS GOAL. YOUR EFFORTS AT PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL ARE THE SORT OF SIGN WHICH CONFIRMS MY BASIC CONFIDENCE IN THE STRENGTH AND RESILIENCY OF THE US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP. I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR FINE WORK THUS FAR IN THIS REGARD; I HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUCCESS.

It is indeed fitting for me to speak today of foreign policy matters in a city which has had many centuries of close relations with the outside world. Fukuoka is well-known to students of Japanese history as one of Japan's first major trading ports and as a gateway to culture from the Asian continent since ancient times. I recollect reading that Zen teachings and tea seeds were first brought to Japanese shores at Fukuoka by the priest Eisai about eight centuries ago. And it was on these same shores in the 13th century that Japan twice repelled Mongol invasions after much fierce fighting. One can imagine how drastic the change in the course of Japanese history would have been were it not for the defense efforts of the citizens of this area so many centuries ago. In this setting, I am pleased to have the opportunity to talk about the relationship between the United States and Japan and some of the international issues of common concern we are facing together.
As I have stated on many occasions, there is no more important bilateral relationship in the world than that between the United States and Japan. It is based on an equal and productive partnership. The U.S. and Japan have developed the largest bilateral overseas trading relationship in the history of the world. The two-way trade between the two countries is now over $51 billion a year and growing rapidly. Our exports to Japan increased by 36 percent in 1979 and by 18 percent in 1980. We ship enormous amounts of agricultural products—$6 billion worth in 1980—and raw materials, but we also sell substantial amounts of high technology equipment, such as aircraft and computer equipment. As you know, Japan is much more to the United States than our major overseas trading partner. Japan is our close friend and staunch ally. Our close security relationship has never been better; we have embarked on joint scientific cooperative efforts, most recently in energy development, and cultural and education flows continue to enrich both our nations. Our relationship has been immensely beneficial to both sides throughout the post-war period and is indispensable for our two nations now as we face new external challenges to our commonly held democratic values and interests.

The strength of our relationship has been visibly demonstrated twice already in recent months: in May by the visit of Prime Minister Suzuki to Washington, which marked the
MOST SUCCESSFUL MEETING EVER HELD BETWEEN A JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER AND AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT; AND AGAIN IN JULY AT THE OTTAWA MEETING OF THE LEADERS OF THE SEVEN MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES.

IN WASHINGTON, THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT REAGAN CONCURRED ON THE MOST IMPORTANT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMIC ISSUES. THEY SHARED A COMMON CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET BEHAVIOR; AGREED THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES SHOULD COOPERATE MORE IN DEFENSE, WORLD ECONOMIC AND THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT; AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF AN APPROPRIATE DIVISION OF DEFENSE ROLES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN; AND RESOLVED TO MAINTAIN A FREE TRADING SYSTEM.

THE OTTAWA SUMMIT, COMING TWO MONTHS LATER, WAS ALSO A GREAT SUCCESS. NOT ONLY DID BOTH PRESIDENT REAGAN AND PRIME MINISTER SUZUKI SCORE PERSONAL TRIUMPHS BUT THE LEADERS OF THE SEVEN MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES SHOWED A REMARKABLE UNANIMITY OF VIEWS ON THE MOST CRITICAL AND PRESSING INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY ISSUES OF OUR TIME. AS THE COMMUNIQUE INDICATES, THE SEVEN LEADERS ALL PLEDGED TO REDUCE INFLATION, MAINLY BY LIMITING THE GROWTH OF THE MONEY SUPPLY AND BY CONTROLLING BUDGET DEFICITS. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR EXPECTATION THAT CURRENT HIGH U.S. INTEREST RATES WILL DECLINE. THEY PLEDGED TO UPHOLD LIBERAL TRADE POLICIES AND TO AVOID PROTECTIONISM. FINALLY, THEY AGREED TO CONTINUE PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE DEVELOPING WORLD.
For the U.S. and Japan, the Ottawa Summit was another opportunity to enhance even further the close ties which bind our two countries and to deepen the warm, personal relationship which President Reagan and Prime Minister Suzuki first established in May. There are cynics who see summit communiques as simply words used to mask differences or to cover over the inability to act. But what would these cynics have our leaders do: make decisions in isolation, unrelated to the needs and interests of others? This, as you well know, would be a formula for chaos. There have been few periods in history when it was more in our common interest to stand together.

Summit meetings such as the one which just took place in Ottawa should serve to remind us of the enormous challenges our leaders -- and therefore we -- face. The economic and political aspects of these gatherings can not be neatly separated from each other. Of course, there were differences among the participants. Each of them is a sovereign nation with particular domestic needs. No one of the seven has all the answers. The economic problems facing the industrialized democracies do not lend themselves to quick and easy solutions. We can influence but we can not control political events in the world which touch on our basic interests. Whatever differences may exist among the industrialized democracies are insignificant when compared with their common interests. Indeed
WE CAN DRAW STRENGTH FROM THE FACT THAT THE DOMINANT CHARACTERISTIC SHARED BY THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THE SUMMIT IS A COMMITMENT TO A FREE, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY AND A MARKET ORIENTED ECONOMY.

I FOUND ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE OTTAWA SUMMIT PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY. JAPAN AND WESTERN EUROPE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OCCASION TO TIGHTEN THE FABRIC OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER. FOR HISTORICAL REASONS THIS RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN MORE LOOSELY WOVEN THAN THE TIES BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE NORTH AMERICAN DEMOCRACIES. THIS TRILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE ON JAPAN, NORTH AMERICA, AND EUROPE REST THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE POST-WAR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM. THE RESULTS OF THE OTTAWA SUMMIT DEMONSTRATED THAT THE SEVEN LEADERS RECOGNIZED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY IN THAT REGARD. THEY REAFFIRMED THEIR OBLIGATION TO KEEP THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM OPEN, TO PROMOTE FREE TRADE AND TO AVOID PROTECTIONISM WHICH CAN HARM BOTH INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

AMERICANS NOW FULLY RECOGNIZE THAT OUR ABILITY TO CARRY OUT OUR GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES DEPENDS LARGELY ON OUR ABILITY TO RESTORE GROWTH AND VIGOR TO OUR DOMESTIC ECONOMY. THIS IS THE TOP PRIORITY OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION. MY CONFIDENCE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL WAS ENHANCED TWO WEEKS AGO WHEN BOTH HOUSES OF OUR CONGRESS
PASSED TWO OF THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM: BUDGET REDUCTIONS AND A THREE YEAR PROGRAM TO LOWER MARGINAL TAX RATES. THESE STEPS, TOGETHER WITH CONTINUING GOVERNMENTDEREGULATION AND WITH THE FIRM APPLICATION OF A MONETARY POLICY AIMED AT COMBATTING INFLATION SHOULD INCREASE SAVINGS, PRIVATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND ENHANCE U.S. PRODUCTIVITY. TO SUM UP, PRESIDENT REAGAN IS KEEPING HIS CAMPAIGN PLEDGES TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A STRENGTHENING OF OUR DOMESTIC ECONOMY. AND — ALL IN SIX MONTHS — A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT! THE REAGAN ECONOMIC REVOLUTION IS NOW A FACT IN AMERICAN LIFE!

We recognize that some of our partners are concerned over the high interest rates which have prevailed as the Administration moved to set these policies in place. High interest rates are of equally, if not of greater, concern to Americans. It is only by getting inflationary expectations under control -- as we will do -- that interest rates will decline. And with that we will also see the adjustments in exchange rates which will relieve pressures on other countries.

You can take pride in the fact that the Japanese economy is the envy of the industrial world. Of course, when viewed from a strictly domestic perspective, you are not without your difficulties. The Suzuki government is moving to reduce the large deficit in the national budget. Adjustments will need to
BE MADE IN SOME INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF YOUR ECONOMY. AND YOU WILL NEED TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE IMPACT OF JAPAN'S EXPORT STRENGTH ON WEAKER INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

You are becoming increasingly aware that success breeds responsibility. Just as the U.S. must restore its economic strength to be able to carry out its responsibilities, Japan can not escape the fact that its economic strength propels it -- in its own interest -- to assume greater global responsibility.

You have seen this clearly in the area of trade. Japan's success in world markets has led to increased expectations abroad with regard to the liberalization and opening of the Japanese market. You have responded by steadily removing both tariff and non-tariff barriers to imports. But I wish to remind you that our mutual commitment to free trade is a continuing process which must be evidenced in deeds -- not just words. It is important to Japan to understand how other trading nations perceive it. I would urge you to heed the words of the U.S.-Japan Wisemen's group when it said: "In its own national interest and in the interest of a more harmonious American-Japanese economic relationship, Japan should strive to substantially improve access to its market and society and publicize this."
In this regard, I welcome the recent statement by MITI Minister Tanaka that Japan will increase its imports of manufactured goods. And I would like to underline one further point made by the Wisemen: The need to improve access not only to your market but to your society. For it is only when understanding among peoples is broadened and deepened that many of the misperceptions will disappear.

We live in a world where new global challenges seem to arise every day, where the international situation grows increasingly complex and dangerous, where Soviet expansionism has become a real threat to the world balance of power, and where instability and conflict in the Middle East as well as growing uncertainty over future oil supplies have created great international tensions.

In such a world the foreign policies of the industrialized democracies must remain closely aligned, based on a solid framework of similar values, interests and objectives. We must stand together, for no one nation can meet these challenges alone. In our War of Independence, one of the colonies had a flag upon which was inscribed "United we stand, divided we fall". That would be a fitting motto for the industrial democracies today.
IN A SEPARATE POLITICAL STATEMENT AT THE OTTAWA SUMMIT, THE SEVEN LEADERS UNANIMOUSLY EXPRESSED THEIR COLLECTIVE CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGEROUS GROWTH OF SOVIET MILITARY MIGHT AND THE SOVIET UNION'S WILLINGNESS TO USE THAT POWER AGGRESSIVELY, AS SEEN MOST ALARMINGLY IN AFGHANISTAN.

THEY ALSO RENEWED THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF THE FREE WORLD. NOT SINCE THE IMMEDIATE POST WORLD WAR II PERIOD HAS IT BEEN AS IMPORTANT AS IT IS NOW FOR THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES TO COOPERATE WITH EACH OTHER IN COPING WITH THE COMMON THREAT PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE SOVIET UNION. IN RECENT YEARS THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN INCREASING ITS GROUND, AIR AND NAVAL FORCES FAR BEYOND LEVELS NECESSARY FOR SELF DEFENSE. THE SOVIET UNION INTERVENED IN AFGHANISTAN AND ASSERTS THE RIGHT TO DO SO IN POLAND. THE SOVIET UNION SUPPORTS THE VIETNAMESE OCCUPATION OF KAMPUCHEA BY SUPPLYING VIETNAM WITH SIGNIFICANT MILITARY AID. THE SOVIET PACIFIC FLEET NOW CONTAINS 78 PRINCIPAL SERVICE COMBATANTS AND OVER 100 SUBMARINES IN EAST ASIAN WATERS, AND ITS INCREASED LEVEL OF ACTIVITY AS WELL AS IMPROVED QUALITY HAVE AMPLIFIED ITS MENACE. WE WOULD WELCOME SOME EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION, INSTEAD OF SINGLE-MINDEDLY PURSUING A MILITARY BUILDUP, WAS DEVOTING SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES TO SEARCH FOR RESPONSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE THIRD WORLD.
JAPAN HAS ALSO SHOWN INCREASING AWARENESS OF ITS INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES THROUGH FOREIGN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY EFFORTS. WE AMERICANS APPLAUD JAPAN'S REMARKABLE AND OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THE MORE THAN DOUBLING OF AID TO THE DEVELOPING WORLD OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS AND THE COMMITMENT TO A NEW DOUBLING PLAN OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WILL FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE THIRD WORLD AND THUS CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO WORLD SECURITY.

WE ALSO RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE THE PROGRESS THAT JAPAN HAS MADE IN ASSUMING A GREATER ROLE IN ITS OWN DEFENSE AND HOPE THAT EVEN GREATER EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ACCELERATE DEFENSE SPENDING IN THE FUTURE. AT THE SAME TIME, WE RECOGNIZE THE CONSTRAINTS THAT OPERATE ON JAPAN AS IT MAKES SUCH DECISIONS: THE ONGOING DEBATE OVER ADDITIONAL DEFENSE SPENDING; THE CURRENT LOPSIDED STATE OF NATIONAL PUBLIC FINANCES; AND CURRENT ATTEMPTS TO RESTRUCTURE FINANCES AND TO TRIM GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS UNDER AN ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM PACKAGE. WE AMERICANS KNOW THAT OUR OWN PERIOD OF ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND RESTRUCTURING, WHICH WE HAVE JUST EMBARKED ON, WILL NOT BE WITHOUT PAIN. HOWEVER, WHILE GRAPPLING WITH DOMESTIC FISCAL DIFFICULTIES, NEITHER COUNTRY CAN AFFORD TO LOSE SIGHT OF ITS INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH INCLUDE THE DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRIES AND THE PROMOTION, BY MEANS OF TRADE AND ASSISTANCE,
OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER COUNTRIES. STRATEGIC MILITARY
BALANCE, COUPLED WITH INCREASED PROSPERITY IN THE THIRD WORLD,
PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL STABILITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL OUR
CITIZENS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES WILL
CONTINUE THE CLOSE COLLABORATION NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL
HARMONY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE WORLD.

As I mentioned in July at Fuji Yoshida, in its first six
months of office, the Reagan Administration has concentrated on
the domestic issue of reconstructing the American economy.
Although this is essentially a domestic goal, it will have an
exceedingly important impact on the success of our foreign
policy. A strong U.S. economy is an essential basis for
exercising the kind of leadership in world affairs that our
friends and allies, Japan included, expect. A strong U.S.
economy is the dynamo that has generated those outstanding
American social, cultural and scientific developments so well
known around the world. Indeed, without a strong U.S. domestic
economy, we limit the means for working together with our
friends toward greater prosperity throughout East Asia and the
Pacific and toward the maintenance of political freedom and
military stability.

Now that the Reagan economic program has been passed
overwhelmingly by both Houses of Congress and is in the process
of being put into effect, the Administration's attention will
TURN MORE OBVIOUSLY TO TRADITIONAL FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. However, the broad outline of this policy has already become clear. Secretary of State Haig recently described the four basic elements of this policy as follows:

1 -- A new approach to East-West relations whereby we will insist on reciprocity and restraint on the part of the East.

2 -- A strengthening of our own defenses.

3 -- A commitment to rejuvenate our alliances and revitalize our relations with those with whom we share values.

4 -- The establishment of a just and responsible relationship with the developing world.

I hope that we can count on Japan for general support for these goals, and I believe that that will be the case. Obviously, the U.S. recognizes that Japan will have to make its own judgments on foreign policy issues, and that these may not always agree with specific U.S. positions. However, I believe
VERY STRONGLY THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE U.S. AND JAPAN DISCUSS THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES FULLY AND FRANKLY, FOR BY WORKING TOGETHER WE WILL ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE WORLD TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL MANKIND.