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Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "5th U.S. - Japan Ocean Forum" (1981). *Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews*. 1529.

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PRESS RELEASE



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ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR MIKE MANSFIELD
FIFTH U.S.-JAPAN OCEAN FORUM
TOKYO, AUGUST 31, 1981

Mr. Prime Minister, President Nadao, distinguished participants, it is an honor and a pleasure to speak to you briefly on this important occasion. I would like to congratulate you on the valuable work you have done in your four previous meetings and wish you a most productive fifth forum. As maritime members of the community of industrialized democracies, it is incumbent on Japan and the United States to play a vigorous role in the protection and development of ocean resources. Moreover, as the leading members of the Pacific community of nations, it is particularly important that our two countries devote their energies to the protection and development of the resources of the ocean that unites us. And it is through forums like this one, bringing together private sector as well as government participants, that these critical goals are best pursued.

While this forum will address ocean-related issues in general, it is the Pacific which is of most direct concern to us. In this regard, I would like to mention what I see as one objective of the forum and to expand on my earlier comment on the means.

The end I have in mind is fostering a sense of community among the Pacific nations. The concept of a Pacific community is not new, nor is it merely a concept. Given the high level of economic interdependence among the nations of Asia and the Pacific, one could say that the Pacific community is already an economic reality. Most of the nations of the Pacific depend on regional markets for more than 50 percent of their exports, and the development strategies of many of the East and Southeast Asian countries concentrate on trade. Japan's share of regional trade has been growing consistently, and recent developments in Japan's commercial relations with Mexico may well lead to greater involvement by that Pacific nation in the East Asian economy.

Although we all too often direct our attention toward Europe, the United States is a Pacific nation--and the future of world development will be in the Pacific. Beginning in the 70's, American trade across the Pacific surpassed our trade with Europe. Japan is now our largest overseas trading partner, and five other Asian and Pacific nations are in the top twenty. U.S. trade with the European Common Market nations totaled \$89.7 billion in 1980, but the figure for East Asian trade was \$113.9 billion. That does not include trade with Canada and Mexico, nor with the Central and South American and other countries which are also Pacific nations. American investment in East Asia has also been growing consistently, and

the returns on those investments have been more profitable than the worldwide average. Over the years 1976-79, the aggregate rate of return for U.S. investments in East Asia was 19.1 percent. That compares favorably with 17.1 percent in Japan and 16.3 percent for investments outside East Asia. With such a level of economic activity, interest in establishing an institutional framework to promote and regulate it for the common advantage is only natural.

However, a fundamental prerequisite to the creating of such an institutional framework is the establishment of a consensus among participating nations, or, as I have chosen to put it, the building of a sense of community among those nations. Without that sense of community, without the perception of mutual benefit to all participating nations, the institutional framework would be built on sand.

That leads me to my second point: How do we best build such a sense of community? How do we involve the community of Pacific nations in this joint enterprise and give each a sense of emotional as well as economic investment? I believe the answer lies in the initiative and across-the-board involvement of the private sector. I am happy to see that this forum, which is bilateral in nature but which nonetheless can be considered within the Pacific community framework, includes leaders from the private sector as well as from government.

Four of the five areas to be considered here--energy, seabed resources, fisheries and sea transport--clearly require the lead and driving force of the private sector. Of course, we who are in the service of our governments must pursue and promote policies which will lead to greater international stability and create an environment conducive to the responsible development and use of ocean resources. But the locomotive power for that development must come from private enterprise.

The fifth topic--maritime security--is properly the responsibility of government, and I would like to say a few words with regard to the security of the Pacific. Following the Vietnam experience, many thought the U.S. would reduce its presence in and its commitment to the security of the Pacific. Let me say clearly that the U.S., as a Pacific nation, is in the Pacific to stay. The Reagan administration has committed itself to maintaining and increasing our military strength in the Pacific, even as we have found it necessary to shift some of our might to the Indian Ocean to protect the oil lifeline from the Middle East to our Asian allies. Even so, our commitment to defend Japan remains in effect and will be fulfilled under the terms of the Mutual Security Treaty. At the same time, the Soviet Union has embarked on a massive buildup in sea power in the western Pacific, and we have had no

choice except to respond. Japan, in recognition of the changes in the balance of sea power and its own dependence on the oil lifeline from the Middle East, understands the importance of patrolling the waters 1,000 nautical miles beyond its shores. Thus, both the U.S. and Japan, aware of the necessity of keeping the sea lanes open and protected, have demonstrated the resolve to do just that.

I am particularly pleased to note the participation in this forum of parliamentarians, many of whom on the U.S. side are my former colleagues, many of whom on the Japanese side are my close friends. I have long emphasized the need for a greater exchange among the parliamentarians of our two nations, for it is they, as elected representatives of their peoples, who must play an important role in fostering the consciousness of the values and interests which our two countries share. As I have said many, many times before but cannot repeat enough, the U.S.-Japan relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world. That relationship must be nourished at all levels, and I call on you not only to bear that in mind here, but to carry that message home to your constituencies.

I have stressed here the need to build a sense of community among the nations of the Pacific Basin. I have done so because I believe the 21st century will be the century of

the Pacific and because we should now be laying the groundwork for that period. It is also evident to me that the U.S. and Japan will be the pillars of the Pacific community, and we will need to work closely together to ensure its health and prosperity. This forum is an excellent example of the kind of cooperation that is required, and I congratulate you once again on your dedication to this task, and wish you a most productive session.

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