Brief Remarks at Various Locations

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Remarks by Ambassador Mike Mansfield
July 4, 1982
Tokyo American Club

Maureen and I are delighted to be with you today to celebrate the anniversary of our country’s independence.

206 years ago today, with great vision and courage, our founding fathers charted a new course and established a new nation. They set forth principles which declared that government derives its authority from the consent of the governed, and that there exist certain inalienable rights of man, not to be abridged by government. A radical set of ideas at its time, the Declaration of Independence has proven to be both lasting and universal. It continues to be the standard to which peoples throughout the world strive in their pursuit of liberty and freedom, and our country remains the leading nation representing the ideals of a democratic state.

But we know quite well that these democratic institutions and liberties are not something either won or retained without sacrifice. We must guard our freedom -- and that of our friends -- through constant vigilance. Fortunately, we are not alone in this task. Nations such as Japan have stood with us--stood up when it
COUNTED AND WHEN IT HURT THEM ECONOMICALLY -- TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE FORCES OF OPPRESSION. WHATEVER DIFFERENCES MAY EXIST BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES ON A PARTICULAR ISSUE, OUR OVERALL COMMONALITY OF VIEWS JOINS US TOGETHER AS PARTNERS, FRIENDS, AND ALLIES. WE SHARE THIS COMMON APPROACH TO INTERNATIONAL ISSUES -- NOT BECAUSE ONE OF US LEADS AND THE OTHER Follows -- BUT BECAUSE WE SHARE THE SAME IDEALS: A COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM, AND A COMMON DEDICATION TO PEACE.

With these ideals guiding our nation's path, I am confident that the United States will carry out our responsibilities of today and successfully meet the challenges which the future will bring.

Let me conclude simply, by expressing on behalf of all of us, very best wishes in this, the 206th year of independence of the United States of America.
AMBASSADOR’S REMARKS AT
EMBASSY’S INDEPENDENCE DAY PARTY
JULY 4, 1982

Welcome everyone, to our Embassy’s Annual 4th of July party!

Today, we celebrate the anniversary of our country’s birth. 206 years ago, with great vision and courage, our founding fathers laid down principles for the establishment of a new kind of nation -- one based on the idea that the authority of government derives from the consent of the governed; and that there exist inalienable rights of man which can not be abridged by government.

Embodying these principles, our Declaration of Independence is the standard to which people throughout the world have striven in their yearning for freedom and democracy. It has been, and continues to be, the brightest beacon to those who struggle against the darkness of tyranny and the suppression of human dignity and worth. These noble principles have shown themselves to be lasting and universal.
The partnership between the United States and Japan is strong and enduring precisely because we share these most important and fundamental beliefs: A commitment to democracy and freedom, and a common dedication to peace. Whatever our differences may be, these principles will continue to bind us closely as partners, allies and friends.

Finally, let me take this moment to express my appreciation to all the members of our Mission -- Japanese and American alike. Your hard work and efforts have done so much to join our two countries, and I'd like to express my personal thanks to each and every one of you for a job well done.

Thank you all very much.
Mrs. Sulick, Friends,

In my years in public life, I've dedicated many things. I can't recall, however, being involved in the re-opening of a mini-supermarket.

I understand that the transfer of stock from the old Perry House to the new commissary quarters was ably engineered by a crew of EWA Movers. I also understand that quite a bit of beer was consumed in the process and that at the end of the first day our future sustenance was in the hands of a group of shakers and movers.

In any event, they got the job done. And that's why we are here -- to mark the official re-opening of our own commissary. I could say that under the general managership of Joanne Garrity, you won't find a better run food store. I could also say that with Yamamoto-san, Asaba-san, Yoshimoto-san and Sagawa-san, you couldn't find more pleasant and polite service.

Maureen and I are delighted to be here this morning, delighted to have been asked to share in the fun of formally dedicating our Commissary. Once Maureen cuts the ribbon, you're all welcome to inspect the new premises, to take advantage of the bargains and to get your ticket for the giant give-away -- which I am told offers enough prizes for everyone to be a winner.

Come join Maureen and me for the ribbon cutting.
Wakako, and friends, Maureen, Anne and I are delighted to be included tonight in the small group of associates called together to wish you a happy birthday. We are delighted, too, to be with you to help celebrate the continued success of your well-received book.

Wakako Ohara is well-known and respected for her efforts to popularize and internationalize the exquisite art of Ikebana. Her role in the Ohara School and her recent inspired columns in the Mainichi Daily Newspaper have helped to raise the level of appreciation for flower arranging among both the experienced practitioner and the previously uninitiated Westerner such as myself. Wakako’s period of education in America combined with the artistic and managerial talent synonymous with the Ohara name make her a bridge of cultural interchange between the East and West. Through Wakako we have truly seen into the heart of Ikebana. Now, through her new book, we are able to see into the heart of Wakako. We, and our respective cultures, are richer for her contributions.

Again may I say, happy birthday and many happy returns!
AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD'S WELCOMING REMARKS
KNOW YOUR EMBASSY BETTER DAY
OCTOBER 6, 1982  2 P.M.

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow Americans in Japan, it is my
pleasure to welcome you to the Embassy on this, our annual day
to help you get to know us. Actually, because many of you
already are acquainted with the Embassy, today is officially
designated as "Know your Embassy Better Day". I hope that
through today's program you will leave with a clearer idea of
the Embassy's role -- how we are here to serve you, to serve the
interests of the United States as a whole, and, as an indispen-
sable requisite of the latter, to serve in maintaining the
U. S.-Japan friendship, which I consider to be the single most
important bilateral relationship in the world.

To carry out these tasks we have here in Japan one of the
largest U. S. embassies in the world, with nearly 600 Embassy
employees, American and Japanese, representing over 20 U. S.
government agencies and offices. But we are not in this job alone.
In our promotion of U. S. exports to Japan, which are expected to
total some $21 billion this year, it is you, the American
businessmen and women in Japan who serve in the front lines and
make the sales. In our promotion of culture and informational
exchange, it is you American men and women who by your presence
and actions in Japan serve as the example of our nation. It is
AN EXAMPLE WE CAN ALL TAKE PRIDE IN, FOR THE JOB, LIVING AND WORKING IN THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL CONTEXT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY, IS NOT EASY.

We in the Embassy hope we can make it easier. To explain some of the services we can offer, I turn the program over now to the senior members of the Embassy staff. First, to present an overview, I present able Deputy Chief of Mission, Bill Clark.
AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD'S OPENING REMARKS
FOR EMBASSY ORIENTATION PROGRAM
OCTOBER 7, 1982  9:15 A.M.

It is my pleasure at this annual Embassy Orientation Program to warmly welcome the new members of the extended Embassy family. Welcome, too, to the older members who came by today to refresh their memories and to pick up a free cup of coffee. This is a good time for both new arrivals and old-timers to meet one another and to acquire an understanding of the many different kinds of work that go on in our Embassy, and how each of us fits into the larger picture of the U. S. Mission in Japan.

The scope of our operation is a huge one. Even I, though here longer than nearly any other American -- here at this Embassy I mean; not here on this earth, though that may be true, too -- even I have trouble remembering all the parts of the whole. The chancery building, opened six years ago this fall, is the largest single structure U. S. chancery in the world. The nearly 600 Embassy employees, American and Japanese, represent over 20 U. S. government agencies and offices, making this one of the largest U. S. missions.
The constituent parts of the Embassy are in themselves superlative. In the consular section, for example, we issue over half a million visitor visas a year, second in the world. Our agricultural office helps sell over $6.5 billion dollars of American farm products, almost twice the amount we sell to any other country. Our economic and commercial offices help foster two-way trade that in 1981 was over 60 billion dollars, the largest overseas trading partnership in the history of the world. And in all sections of the Embassy we are deeply engaged in managing what I believe to be the single most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none.

This, the U.S.-Japan relationship is one that each member of this extended Embassy family can take pride in. For each and every one of us, through our official and unofficial duties, our public and private actions, is responsible for maintaining and furthering this special friendship between America and Japan. And in so doing we are serving both our country and the cause of global harmony.

For my part, I am proud to be chief of this great mission. Now I would like to introduce my deputy chief, Bill Clark, who is responsible for remembering everything about the Embassy that I
FORGET. I WILL ASK BILL TO SAY A FEW WORDS AND TO INTRODUCE THE SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICERS. THEY WILL EXPLAIN MORE FULLY THE BREADTH OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND THE ROLE THAT THE EMBASSY -- ALL OF US -- PLAY IN IT.

ONCE AGAIN, WELCOME TO OUR ORIENTATION PROGRAM.
I am privileged to have the opportunity to introduce the two distinguished guests of honor at this seminar, former President Gerald R. Ford and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Both are men of drive and vision, who have well served the cause of world peace.

My friendship with President Ford goes back more than thirty years when we served together in the U. S. House of Representatives, in the U. S. Senate over which he presided, and while he was in the White House. From the beginning, I have admired President Ford for his outstanding political leadership and personal integrity. We Americans were indeed fortunate that in a time of constitutional crisis such a man was available to assume the presidency.
I have long known and admired Dr. Kissinger. His books and articles on foreign policy and security affairs are indispensible to the study of postwar international relations. He made the transition from scholar of diplomacy to practicing diplomat, and did so with distinction. Both as scholar and statesman, he has made his mark on our times.

President Ford and Dr. Kissinger are well known to us for their understanding of the unequaled importance of the U.S. - Japan bilateral relationship and of the security challenges we face.

It is a high honor and a great privilege to welcome two distinguished Americans and two long-time personal friends, President Ford and Dr. Kissinger.
Admiral Long, Gentlemen: Welcome once again to Tokyo. Your visit comes at a time of unexpected changes in the Cabinet. I don't think anyone really knows why Suzuki quit, but his dramatic gesture was surely prompted by factional fighting within the LDP rather than any fundamental differences over policy questions. We don't expect any changes which will alter the form or substance of our bilateral relations. However, the current reshuffle does create a hiatus in forward movement on outstanding bilateral issues, until a new Cabinet is in place. For example, in the defense field, Ministers Sakurauchi, Abe and Ito all returned earlier this month from visits to Washington with a much greater sense of the seriousness and urgency with which we viewed the need for greater Japanese defense efforts and a truly reciprocal defense technology transfer policy. We, and our colleagues in MOFA and JDA, were optimistic that their new attitudes would prompt significant movement in these areas. But with Suzuki's resignation, the political world here has become somewhat less predictable than it would have been with a second Suzuki Cabinet. The leadership is currently trying to resolve the succession question through internal party negotiations. If these succeed--and we should know by Friday--less time will be lost. If they don't, the LDP will have to hold a party primary, and that will postpone the inauguration of a new Cabinet at least until next month. There is, of course, little we can do in the interim to advance issues of concern to us
beyond keeping them before the bureaucracy, and we will do this. When the new leadership is in place we will need to use every opportunity here, in Washington, and at CINCPAC, to impress them anew with our concerns. Unfortunately, we are likely to be operating in a highly-charged political atmosphere as the new Cabinet wrestles with the final budget compilation at the end of the year. Both the defense budget and the technology transfer issue are likely to be objects of considerable political controversy. Under the circumstances, it is even more important than usual that we continue to express our concerns on these sensitive matters privately and not give the appearance of dictating to the GOJ.

Therefore, your visit is particularly timely, because it provides an opportunity to reiterate our concerns through high-level, but still private, channels.

Because our time is limited today, I will stop here and, instead of calling on members of the Country Team for their individual comments, open the meeting to discuss whatever topics you might propose.
REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR MIKE MANSFIELD
KIBO - KAI RECEPTION, OCTOBER 20

Mr. Suzuki, Reverend Ohtani, Mr. Inayama, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Year of the Rabbit, 1903:

All members of the Kibo-Kai were born in the 36th year of the Meiji, lived through Taisho and now Showa. We have lived through the years of three of your Emperors and I have lived through the era of fifteen presidents of the United States, nine of whom I have had the privilege and responsibility of serving with.

During the period of our lives, there have been too many wars and not enough peace; too many economic crises and not enough stability; too much isolation for both our countries. Now the United States and Japan are becoming more dependent on each other and more interdependent with the rest of the world as it shrinks in size due to more rapid transportation and instant communications. We are neighbors, one with another, and the Pacific Ocean no longer separates us but connects our two countries.

Much history has been made during our lifetimes -- some good, some not so good, but we have all survived and each in our own way has tried to make the world a little better place in which to live.

To use a baseball metaphor, we have in our generation made our share of hits, runs and errors. I hope and pray that our descendents may learn from our mistakes and do their share as we have tried to do to make this a better world for all people regardless of race or religion and recognize that
FUNDAMENTALLY WE ARE ALL THE SAME.

I LOOK FORWARD TO A WORLD BASED ON EQUALITY, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, LESS WAR AND MORE PEACE.

IT IS A PRIVILEGE FOR MAUREEN AND ME TO BE MEMBERS OF THE KIBO-KAI; TO HAVE BEEN ASKED BY YOU TO JOIN THIS PARTICULAR GROUP, TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING AND TO HOPE THAT IN THIS MANNER, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES -- THE MOST IMPORTANT BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IN THE WORLD.
Thank you Mr. Yokoi. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to be here today with Minister ABE, Chief Cabinet Secretary Miyazawa and many other distinguished guests to celebrate the opening of Autorama, the new distribution network for Ford products.

Ford Motor Company has a long and distinguished history in Japan: the first Ford vehicle went on sale here in 1907. Ford Japan was established in 1925 and participated actively in the Japanese market through 1937. Ford Japan reopened in 1974, and since that time has made great efforts in the Japanese market.

Autorama, this new concept in marketing and distribution to be launched today, is a further step by Ford into this challenging but potentially rewarding market.
I am occasionally told by my Japanese friends that U.S. exports to Japan are not successful because American business has not committed the time and effort needed to penetrate the Japanese market. Ford/Autorama will demonstrate how hollow that argument is -- here is a company committed to the Japanese market.

Ford Motor Company is making parallel efforts in the United States to improve quality and productivity. Despite a serious and continuing depression in auto sales, Ford is committed to major capital investments, improvement of design and technology, and a cooperative relationship between management and labor. These improvements should have a significant effect on the competitiveness of Ford products in the U.S. domestic market and overseas.

As we are all aware, the U.S.-Japan trading relationship has been characterized by trade frictions for the past few years, and automotive trade is a prominent problem. It is my opinion that the solution to such problems does not lie in protectionist legislation such as Local Content requirements, but in improved competitiveness of U.S. products, coupled with the ability of U.S. products to compete freely and fairly in the markets of its trading partners. At the same time, I believe it is vital that the Government of Japan intensify its
EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE PRESENT BARRIERS TO U.S. AUTO IMPORTS, SO THAT U.S. FIRMS MAY COMPETE ON AN EQUAL BASIS IN JAPAN.

Today, Ford is showing its determination to compete, and I would like to offer my congratulations and best wishes for success.
I am pleased to welcome you here for this meeting of the Asia-Pacific Council of the American Chambers of Commerce. After a four year absence I am delighted to have the APCAC back in Tokyo.

The issues this council will discuss over the next several days are vital. How the business community and the Government deal with the issues that face us will have widespread ramifications, not only for the Pacific Basin, but for the future of global trade and prosperity. The importance of the Pacific region, both economically and strategically, cannot be overestimated. I am convinced that the twenty-first century will be the Age of the Pacific.

Largely as a result of the efforts of the people in this room, U.S. trade with the Pacific Rim nations has been growing at a remarkable rate. So much so that trade between the United States and the Pacific Rim countries now exceeds trade between the U.S. and Western Europe.

The potential for continued rapid expansion of trade between the countries of the Pacific and the United States is great. But there are also dangers, both regional and global, which threaten this growth. With the continuation of the worldwide recession the principle of global free trade is in danger. As countries seek to
Deal individually with the effects of the worldwide economic slowdown, there is the ever increasing danger that they will resort to steps that will contribute to a spiralling global protectionism. The inevitable result would be a slowdown in worldwide economic activity, damaging all countries. The effect on you, as exporters and investors, would be severe.

Regional policies as well as the policies of individual countries within the Pacific region will also affect your ability to do business in the region. Policies that restrict investment, require counter-trade, or limit market access, for example, artificially constrain foreign business activity. The degree to which a country chooses to live by GATT rules determines the conditions under which you as businessmen must operate. While trade decisions reached unilaterally tend to restrict, bilateral and regional agreements generally promote trade opportunities.

The ability of the U.S. Government and the American Chambers of Commerce to develop coordinated and mutually supportive responses to trade issues greatly enhances our ability to deal with them effectively. There is no substitute for cooperation between U.S. businessmen and the U.S. Government. I am confident that the discussions which take place at these APCAC meetings over the next few days will be of great benefit to our efforts to address these problems in the coming months and years.

Thank you.
Remarks by Ambassador Mansfield

U.S. Marine Corps Birthday Ball
Tokyo American Club, November 10, 1982

It is an honor for Mrs. Mansfield and me to be here tonight to join with all of you in celebrating the 207th anniversary of one of America’s proudest and finest traditions, the U.S. Marine Corps.

The tradition took on added luster 36 years ago when Marines became a permanent part of the Foreign Service. I am told that only the best of the select group of Americans who make up the Marine Corps are chosen to serve in this role of providing security for our Embassies around the world. In Tokyo, we have a further refinement still in the 19 Marines who stand here before us.

On behalf of the entire Mission, let me extend my best wishes for a “Happy Birthday” to all Marines. I close by joining Secretary of State George Shultz in saying we salute you for a job well done.
GOOD MORNING.

WELCOME TO TOKYO AND WELCOME TO THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY.

I AM ALWAYS GLAD TO SEE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN COMING HERE TO TOKYO TO PROMOTE THEIR COMPANIES AND THEIR PRODUCTS.

YOUR INDUSTRY, THE SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY, IS AN ESPECIALLY EXCITING AND IMPORTANT ONE. HIGH TECHNOLOGY HAS BECOME A KEY ISSUE, BOTH HERE AND IN WASHINGTON WHERE A NUMBER OF SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS ON TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE CURRENTLY BEING CARRIED ON.

AMERICANS HAVE BEEN USED TO BEING THE UNCHALLENGED LEADER IN THE FIELD OF MICROELECTRONICS. INTEGRATED CIRCUITS,
MICROPROCESSORS, MEMORY DEVICES ... AND THE MAGNIFICENT PRECISION MACHINES TO MAKE THOSE ADVANCED DEVICES .... THESE WERE ALL CLEARLY CREATIONS OF AMERICAN INGENUITY.

BUT TODAY, WE LOOK AROUND AND CAN SEE A LOT OF CHANGES. COMPETITION. PARTICULARLY COMPETITION FROM JAPAN. SUDDENLY, WE FIND JAPAN HAS COME OF AGE IN THE FIELD OF MICRO ELECTRONICS.

BUT COMPETITION NEED NOT SCARE US AWAY. BECAUSE ANOTHER GREAT AMERICAN VIRTURE IS OUR ABILITY TO FACE UP TO CHALLENGE.

OUTSIDE OF THE US, JAPAN USES MORE AND MAKES MORE OF THESE TINY ELECTRONIC DEVICES THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. JAPAN GIVES YOU OPPORTUNITY ALONG WITH ITS CHALLENGE.

THE QUALITY AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL FEATURES OF YOUR PRODUCTS SHOULD ENABLE YOU TO SELL THEM IN HIGHLY COMPETITIVE SITUATION.
TO HELP YOU, THE US GOVERNMENT AND THE EMBASSY IS DOING ITS SHARE TO SHAPE THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT TO ENABLE YOU TO PURSUE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AGRESSIVELY.

I HAVE JUST MET WITH PRIME MINISTER NAKASONE. I HAVE CALLED ON HIM TO ACCELERATE HIS NEW GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO OPEN JAPANESE MARKETS WIDER AND TO IMPLEMENT THE MARKET OPENING MEASURES TAKEN EARLIER THIS YEAR. JAPAN NEEDS TO DO ITS SHARE TOO.

CURRENTLY IN TOKYO, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCES TACKLING THE PROBLEMS OF TRADE AND HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

IN OCTOBER THE U.S.-JAPAN WORKING GROUP ON HIGH TECHNOLOGY
MEETING HERE IN TOKYO, HAMMERED OUT A SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL GREATLY IMPACT YOUR INDUSTRY—WHEN THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE RATIFIED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

HERE AT THE EMBASSY, MY STAFF WILL ALSO ASSIST YOUR COMPANY'S BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS AS APPROPRIATE. MR. WONG WILL HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THESE SERVICES AND INTRODUCE OTHERS OF MY STAFF.

DRAFT: T.WONG

APPROVALS: G. MU W. PIEZ
AMBASSADOR’S REMARKS

LIGHTING OF EMBASSY CHRISTMAS TREE
(In Front of Embassy Auditorium)
December 6, 3:10 p.m.

Fellow Embassy employees and guests, it is my pleasure to join you today at this occasion to kick off the holiday season. I am especially pleased that we have as our guests today the 40-strong Apple Valley-Rosemount Chamber Ensemble, direct from Minnesota where I am sure the weather is already much more Christmas-like. We read about these high school students recently in the Tokyo Weekender and looked forward to their arrival.

Early December begins a joyous and festive time of the year, although it also brings some anxieties, for about now, many of us are thinking of the Christmas shopping that remains to be done and the Christmas and New Years cards that remain to be written. For the time being however, put these worries out of your mind and join with me in welcoming the Christmas season as I light this stately tree. (Ambassador throws switch lighting tree.)

Now I again welcome the Apple Valley-Rosemount Chamber Ensemble and invite you all to join them in the auditorium for a half-hour performance followed by refreshments.

A/EX:M Fitzpatrick:gh: 
Mr. Matsuyama, members and guests of the AOI-KAI. It is a pleasure for Mrs. Mansfield and me to join you this evening for your year-end get together. At an Embassy the size of ours we have too few occasions to gather socially and to meet the fellow members of our extended Embassy family. In this regard, the AOI-KAI plays an important role, not only in providing services and discounts, but in acting as a bond between employees who work at different jobs on different floors for different agencies.

In fact, as members of the U.S. Embassy we are all working for Uncle Sam with the goal of promoting Japan-American relations. As we work on the different issues that confronted us in 1982 and will continue to confront us in 1983, Foreign Service Nationals have a unique and indispensable function. During the nearly six years I have served in Tokyo, watching personnel from Washington come and go, I have keenly realized that it is largely the Japanese staff who provide the necessary continuity. It is also the Japanese staff who often make the contacts, obtain the information, and get the job done, but the same people are not always the ones honored when it comes time for recognition.
Tonight is a get together, not an awards ceremony. But I would like to take the opportunity to thank each one of you for your contributions to the smooth functioning of the Embassy this past year and to ask for your continued excellent service in 1983. Thank you.
December 14, 1982
Franklyn E. Stevens, CONS

Your message at dedication of Yokohama Port Memorial Plaza

DCM - Minister Clark

The Ambassador

I have drafted the attached congratulatory remarks as a suggested message for me to deliver on your behalf at the Yokohama Port Memorial Plaza dedication December 18. If they meet with your approval as your statement, please so indicate on the text.

Amb - I wonder if it would be better to delete the word "first" in the last sentence of the second paragraph.

Mark

I agree.

M.M.

Ext. 7020
Your Honor, Mayor Saigo; Members of the City Council; Distinguished Officials and Guests:

It gives me great pleasure to extend my very hearty congratulations to the City of Yokohama on this occasion of the opening of the Yokohama Port Memorial Plaza.

I am impressed with the significance of the fact that identification of the historic site of the signing of a first Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Japan and the United States in 1854 and its commemoration in the form of this Plaza have occurred now, when Japan is facing decisions strikingly similar to those of the Nineteenth Century. In those times, Japan had to make the hard decision to preserve the nation by opening its doors to the outside world; now Japan is taking the difficult steps toward assuming its place as a leader in the world economic order by opening Japanese markets to other nations on an equitable, competitive basis.

Yokohama has a proud history of international relations and international trade, the lifeblood of peaceful, friendly co-existence among nations. I know that this great port city's devoted interest in the past events that we are commemorating today is a sign of Yokohama's continuing commitment to a Japan that confidently takes its place as a world leader.