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Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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8/12 for 8/19?

AMBASSADORIAL GREETING TO PARTICIPANTS

1987 TOHOKU-HOKKAIDO U.S.-JAPAN JOURNALIST CONFERENCE

It has been my privilege in previous years to extend official greetings to this important annual meeting of Japanese and American journalists. This year, I see that journalists from Hokkaido will join their colleagues from Fukushima, Yamagata, Miyagi, Morioka, Akita and Aomori in meeting with United States journalists. I have always fostered efforts to promote cultural exchange between our two nations and I believe that the role played by Japanese newspapers and television stations in promoting international exchange should be commended.

I have served as Ambassador to Japan for more than ten years now. Since even before my arrival here, I have stressed that the U.S.-Japan relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world -- bar none. During this ten-year period the relationship has continued to grow in importance, and so has the need for greater mutual understanding.

We cannot overestimate the importance of newspapers and television in informing us about each other and hopefully, increasing that indispensable mutual understanding. During the next two days, you will examine how editorial decisions are reached in the U.S. and Japan. You will look at how cultural and social differences may affect the editorial decision-making in two nations with democratic political institutions. I trust that after your frank and open exchange of views the Japanese and American journalists will leave Sapporo better able to fully understand the news as reported in the other nation. Although this may appear a modest goal, it could well be a fundamental step toward greater understanding in a variety of areas.

Again, congratulations on your ninth meeting and my best wishes for your continued success.