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# Mansfield Library

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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Mansfield Oral History Collection  
Amb. Mansfield at FAC Discussion with Media  
OH #22-282

[Side A]

- 000-096 MJM arrived in Japan in June and he has not met with the press people many times since he arrived in Japan. They have not have opportunities to hear from him directly. On the 14th of last month, MJM gave a talk at the Japan Youth Society in Tokyo and the interviewer has a copy of the digest from that presentation. The interviewer agrees with MJM that in Japan there is a flood of information about the U.S.. It is difficult to screen the information and to grasp an accurate image of the U.S.. He states that there is both good things and bad things about the U.S. but on the other hand, the information that the Americans gets about Japan is very out of date. This creates an information gap. He asks MJM if he has any ideas or suggestions as to what can be done to achieve a better understanding between the Americans and the Japanese.
- 097-118 MJM states that he has only made 2 speeches since he has been in Japan. He has had 1 press conference in which Japanese and American journalists were present and he has had 1 meeting with the American press. This is his first all Japanese press conference and he couldn't think of a better place to have such a meeting than in this particular part of the nation.
- 119-144 It's true that there is a lack of real knowledge and real understanding between our 2 countries. Unfortunately, MJM thinks that the U.S. is more to blame for that lack of knowledge than Japan. Japan give the U.S. a good deal more publicity than the U.S. gives Japan.
- 145-182 When Carter announced that MJM was filling the position of Ambassador to Japan he was immediately deluged at this home with all kinds of Japanese reporters. He had never known there were so many Japanese reporters in Washington. His feeling is that next to the American press, that is its home base. This indicates to MJM an interest. In contrast, there are about 40 American correspondents in Tokyo. They try to report Japan as they see it but unfortunately, what they write is subject to editing.
- 183-271 As far as bettering relations between the 2 countries, MJM would say that in addition to exchanges, we ought to try to develop a type of understanding based on a true equality. We differ in respect to our homogeneity. What applies to people of different racial origins applied in the U.S. to people of

European origins also. MJM would like to see more departments of Japanese history, literature, and culture, in the U.S.. We have not done enough in those respects.

- 272-317 Most Americans come from across the Atlantic but ever since our country was founded the push has been towards the west. That trend has continued down through the present day. In MJM's opinion, while the pull has been back across the Atlantic, the push has been toward the Pacific and East Asia. He thinks that the future of the U.S. lies in that part of the world. The most important treaty today is the Mutual Security Treaty between our 2 countries. On that treaty lies the stability and the peace of the Pacific and East Asia. He would hope that the Japanese would understand that the U.S. believes in that treaty without any doubts.
- 318-422 MJM notes that the US is not pulling out of Asia but that the US is taking a more realistic view of this area of the world. MJM states that the US will not become the policemen of the world but will assume its responsibilities. MJM comments on the relations that the Japanese have been having, diplomatically, with the other Asian countries. MJM mentions the diplomatic ties that Japan is building with China in the last year. MJM says that the Japanese will realize that they are an economic superpower and will assume more responsibilities for the development of Asia in the future.
- 422-775 Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese.
- 776-800 MJM says that if the questions are brief the answers will be short and to the point.
- 801-830 Someone is asking a question in Japanese. [Translation] He says that since the US has appointed MJM as the Ambassador, the US is serious about Asian relations. MJM says that no matter who President Carter had appointed, the interest in Asia would still be there and very strong.
- 831-910 Someone is asking a question in Japanese. [Translation] He wants to ask a question about the US-Japanese relationship and the dumping of Japanese products in the US. He says that when he met with a steel manufacturing man 15 years ago in the US, the man said that the US steel industry was outdated and couldn't keep up with everybody else. He doesn't believe that the Japanese steel products are being dumped on the US market. Therefore, he sees the need for better cooperation on the part of the US and Japan. He invites MJM's further comment on this.

911-1050 MJM says that companies can file charges against other countries about dumping products, after the companies do this the President can't do anything but follow the law. MJM was worried initially that the charges were filed against Japanese companies only and not on the other countries such as Europe. MJM states that the steel problems is not just a concern of the US and Japan but of the world. He mentions that the steel plants in the world are running at about 70% capacity. MJM notes that Japanese efforts this last year to understand the US policy on steel. The Japanese didn't find out anything, however, because the US has no steel policy.

1051-1160 MJM notes that the Solomon committee is supposed to file its report on the state of the US and world steel situation by today. The President will then look at this and come up with a US steel policy. MJM notes that Japanese steel imports into the US amount to less than one half of the total 19% needed steel imported into the US. The Japanese have advocated restraint on their part. They have asked the US many questions about the steel problems in the US and have not gotten any answer. MJM notes that the Japanese out produce the US in steel because they have better steel mills.

1161-1320 MJM says that the President will seriously consider the dumping charges issued by US Steel and others. MJM restates that it is the law and the Japanese are expected to provide its figures on the cost of making the steel. The Japanese are not willing to release the figures, however. MJM hopes that the President will be able to set a policy on steel after he reads the report of the Solomon committee and that this will lead to a worldwide policy on steel next fall at the meeting of GAT.

1320-1417 Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese.

[END OF SIDE A]

[SIDE B]

000-175 Continued translation of MJM's comments into Japanese.

176-230 Someone is asking a question in Japanese.

231-300 [Translation] He comments that the Japanese are very happy that MJM has been appointed as the Ambassador to Japan. He comments that President Carter is having a great deal of trouble with the Senate and that he would probably like it better if MJM were in the Senate helping him instead of over here. He notes that one of the problems that President Carter is having is with

the energy program. He says that no one is really in favor of it. He wants to know which way the Carter administration is really trying to go with their energy policy since no one seems to like it.

- 301-499 MJM says as far as economists are concerned, they never agree on anything anyway. MJM notes that the US imports \$45 billion dollars worth of petroleum per year. MJM notes that the US is still very fortunate in that it has many resources but Japan does not have any of these resources. MJM notes Carter's accomplishments in the energy program. Carter has created the Department of Energy, which is long overdue. MJM says that Carter's energy proposal would call for some sacrifices by the American people. MJM comments on the various bills that are going through Congress that resemble what Carter wants and now the bills are in conference between the House and the Senate. MJM notes that Carter felt the energy problem was so important, that this was the reason for cancelling his trip to Europe and the Middle East. MJM says that Carter didn't ask for anywhere near enough in his proposals, however. MJM feels that the President merely wants to get some legislation going to build an energy plan in the future. MJM notes that the US must face up to the energy problem now.
- 500-600 MJM comments on the diminishing resources of the US and the world in whole. He mentions the other possibilities for getting more energy which will be needed in the world. These include hydrothermal, solar, nuclear, and oil shale. MJM further comments on the need to find alternative energy sources.
- 601-940 Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese.
- 941-960 MJM says that our needs may vary but we are all in the same boat as far as the price factor is concerned.
- 961-1030 Someone is asking a question in Japanese.
- 1031-1140 [Translation] He comments that when he was in the US in the early 70's, they US-Japanese economic war had a great deal to do with the US' mounting protectionist views in politics. He notes that the relations got better for several years but now, with the Dollar going down in value relative to the Yen, he fears that the US will invoke protectionist measures again. He asks MJM how he views this protectionist trend in the US.
- 1141-1260 MJM says that protectionism is a form of nationalism and that it does provoke slogans like "buy American" etc. and this gets the politicians jumping. MJM says in regard to the 200 miles limit on fishing off of the US, that it will be considered null and void when it

expires this year. He notes the problems that this has caused with some Pacific countries.

1261-1417 MJM notes that the Congress has been trending toward protectionist measures recently and he cites the color TV problem where the Japanese color TV people are selling more color TVs in the US than US companies are. MJM comments on the problem with steel and textiles and the caucus that exist in the US Congress led by the Speaker of the House, "Tip" O'Neil. MJM notes that if you got all of these groups together, protectionism would surface and this is not good for any country, especially Japan, which has no natural resources. MJM continues to talk about the effect economic issues have with respect to politics when left to themselves. [The tape ends while he is talking.]

[END OF TAPE]