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Mansfield Oral History Collection  
Ambassador with Fukuoka-sh Asmblman Hirotatsu Tamazaki  
(POL-Foster)  
OH #22-428

[SIDE A]

- 000-050 Background noise as MJM serves coffee to the people.
- 051-100 The Fukuoka city assemblyman thanks MJM for seeing him even though he is very busy with the many Congressional delegations that are visiting Tokyo at the present time. The people from Fukuoka city are speaking through an interpreter. Opening comments from the Japanese people are given by the interpreter. The assemblymen comment that Fukuoka has over the centuries been the site of relations between Asia and Japan. They wonder how Fukuoka can become more involved in this role once again since they are very concerned that most of Japan's foreign affairs are being handled in Tokyo.
- 101-150 They feel that if the relations between Asia and Japan continue to be handled in Tokyo then the political side of relations will be emphasized and the cultural side of relations will be overlooked. And so the city of Fukuoka is putting on an exposition connected with their idea of Fukuoka being a relations capitol between Japan and Asia. Since they aren't familiar with carrying out these kinds of relations they are here to talk to MJM and hear his views on the future of the Asia-Pacific basin. They would also like to know how small areas can become involved in these people to people relationships that they would like to develop with other nations.
- 151-200 One of the assemblymen asks MJM what role he sees Japan playing in the future of the Pacific basin and what role Japan will play specifically among the Asian countries in the Pacific development. MJM says that Japan will certainly play one of the more important roles in the Pacific basin especially because of the high tech developments that Japanese possesses. MJM says that in the development of the Asian mainland Japan would be the #1 power and the US the #2 power.
- 201-250 [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese]. MJM says that Japan would be #1 because of geographical closeness and cultural affinity. [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese and the assemblyman asking another question of MJM].
- 251-300 [The assemblyman continues to talk]. The comment by the assemblyman is that he agrees with MJM that Japan will play a very important role in the development of

- Asia but he feels that Europe and the US think that Japan is a part of Asia and he doesn't think that there is that close of a relationship between Japan and Asia.
- 301-350 The assemblyman hopes that other cities in Japan will be able to play a role in world relations as does Tokyo. MJM says that other cities will play a role in Japan's relations with the rest of the world. [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese and comments by the assemblymen in Japanese].
- 351-400 The assemblymen believe that in the US universities and other institutions research of Asia is quite advanced but in Japan it may not be so advanced. They ask MJM for his view on whether Japan is making progress in this area. MJM says that Japan is certainly making progress. But up until recently, MJM thinks that Japan has been too satisfied with itself. MJM says that Japan does need to learn more about Asia but he also states that the US needs to learn more about Asia than Japan does.
- 401-465 [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese].
- 466-515 [The assemblymen talk to the interpreter in Japanese]. The assemblyman agrees with MJM. He feels that Japan needs to develop better relations with Asia and that Tokyo has got to stop being the center for all relations between Japan and Asia. He feels that there is a need for more local involvement.
- 516-665 The assemblyman asks the next question in Japanese. [Translation] The people in Fukuoka have wondered how you get started with an idea of involving their city in relations with other Asian nations. One idea that they have is for a research center to be stationed in Fukuoka to make studies for Japan on all of the Asian countries. They want to start up something like the East-West Center. They want to kick off their bid to get Fukuoka in the relationship business by having the exposition they talked about in 1989. They ask MJM to comment on how they could start the procedure.
- 666-700 MJM says that the bid to make the center in Fukuoka like the East-West Center is a good idea. MJM says that for the exposition they could build buildings that, after the exposition is over, could be used as a center for Japanese-Asian relations.
- 701-750 [Translation of MJM's comments into Japanese].
- 751-800 MJM says that if they follow that proposal and the system works out then they may consider a sister institute for the Japan-Asian center. [Translation of

MJM's comments into Japanese and the assemblyman speaks in Japanese].

801-850 The assemblyman says that they are now at the point where they have to decide what buildings to leave etc.. They really have to start planning for the thing. They also want to know how they could take up the issue with the national government. MJM says that that is an issue that would have to be taken up with someone in the Japanese government.

851-930 [The assemblyman asks one last question in Japanese]. The assemblyman says that the city of Fukuoka has sister ties with Oakland and other US cities and they would like to get these US cities to help put the exposition together. They hope that the US embassy will be able to help them to develop the right type of ties between the cities so that the US cities could help them out in the preparations for the exposition.

931-950 MJM says that they have a good idea and they will be of any assistance that they can be. [Translation of MJM's comment into Japanese].

[END OF SIDE A]

[SIDE B]

000-050 The assemblyman is speaking in Japanese. The assemblyman thanks MJM for seeing him. MJM talks to one of the other Japanese people in the room about his good service they have gotten from him in Fukuoka.

051-100 The other Japanese gentleman talks about the exposition and the hope that it will solve Japan's problem of thinking of itself as a separate entity from the rest of Asia. MJM says that he hopes that the exposition will help because countries can no longer think of themselves as separate countries.

101-119 They end the interview and MJM shows them out.

[END OF TAPE]