

July 6 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993

wealthy countries, even when they have economic growth, are not now creating new jobs.

There is a global feeling among all the democracies of the world that there ought to be more political reform. There is a thirst for political reform in my country, in Japan, in South Korea, in virtually every major democracy in the world. So you see these trends developing around the world.

The point I wanted to make is that, no matter whether the LDP wins the election or there is some different or modified result—however it comes out, this is already a period of change in Japan, and I would hope that that would be viewed with hope and not with fear by the Japanese people. That is a part of the process of democracy, and we can make it a good thing in your country as we are attempting to make it a good thing in ours.

North Korea

Q. Mr. President, last week in an interview with columnists in Washington, you expressed your worst nightmare in Asian security questions would be a North Korea that would have the bomb and be willing to use it. And your second worst nightmare was a Pacific arms race that could lead to—you used the example of development of a nuclear capability by Japan. Could you explain how you feel that might be brought about? And, Prime Minister Miyazawa, would you explain whether you believe that's ever possible under any circumstances, please?

The President. Well, the two were related. I don't think it would ever happen in the absence of the development of nuclear capacity

by North Korea and some retrenchment by the United States.

I want to say again, the United States has no intention at this moment or in the future of weakening its security ties in the Pacific, not to Japan, not to South Korea. We intend to stay engaged, and the security commitments we have given with regard to nuclear and defense issues to Japan are as strong today as they have ever been. And they will so remain.

I very much want North Korea to stay in the NPT and to fully comply with all the requirements of doing so. I think it is in the interest of North Korea to do so. I just simply was recognizing the fact that if North Korea did not do that, that would create a lot of difficulty and concern here in Japan. Whatever North Korea does, the United States will honor its commitments to our allies and friends in this region on the nuclear issue and on security issues generally.

Prime Minister Miyazawa. For Japan, if the people's Democratic Republic of Korea acquire nuclear weapons and also acquires launch capability, that in itself would be a direct threat. It will be a direct threat for Japan. I'm sure you will understand that. We have, obviously, no intention of producing nuclear weapons, and therefore, we will—and definitely we'd be very concerned if we are to be exposed to that sort of threat.

Thank you very much for the press conference.

NOTE: The President's 19th news conference began at 6:04 p.m. at the Iikura House.

Remarks at a Reception for Japanese Leaders in Tokyo July 6, 1993

Thank you very much. On behalf of Hillary and myself, I want to say how glad we are to be in Japan and how much we appreciate Ambassador and Mrs. Armacost inviting all of you to come here and to meet us.

I want to keep my remarks brief because I hope we can have more time for personal visiting. I do want you to know that I just had a very good meeting with Prime Minister Miyazawa, and we discussed a whole range of

issues. I would say, the most important are that I was able to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to the security relationship that exists between our two nations and the continuing involvement of the United States in a security relationship in Japan and Korea and across a whole broad range of issues that face us as a people.

Secondly, we had a good discussion about our efforts at the upcoming G-7 summit to promote

a higher rate of economic growth throughout the globe, to open more markets to trade through the Uruguay round, and finally, to try to secure a democracy and market reforms in Russia, something that Japan has been very helpful to the United States on and for which we are very grateful.

And lastly, we discussed negotiations which are still ongoing in our attempt to establish a framework of basic principles for a new agreement about our trading relationships. Perhaps we can have more to say about that in our personal conversations.

The United States thinks it is absolutely critical for the imbalances to be reduced. We think it is in the interest of both countries for that to happen. We have worked very hard in our Nation on increasing our productivity and our ability to compete in the last several years. And now, as you know, we are taking very, very strong steps to do what our Japanese friends have asked us for years to do, which is to bring down our Government's deficit.

So we come here with an outstretched hand and the hope that all of the ferment and change

and political debate going on in Japan will be a very positive thing for your people and for our relationship. Many of the issues you're debating from political reform to economic issues are also being debated in our country and, frankly, in most other advanced democracies. I think this period of change should be viewed by all of us with hope, with the view that we're going to make something very good come out of it, not only in the election process but in the aftermath.

And there is no more important relationship to the United States than our relationship with Japan. And I intend to keep it on a firm footing, and I hope that our relationship with all of you will contribute to that and, most importantly, to the welfare of the people of Japan and the people of the United States.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:42 p.m. at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Michael H. Armacost.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at Waseda University in Tokyo July 7, 1993

The President. Thank you very much. Mr. President, thank you for that introduction, I foolishly came out here without my earphones, so I don't know what he said to make you laugh—[laughter]—or what he said about Robert Kennedy. So I should give a speech about how we need to train more Americans to speak good Japanese. Perhaps someday an American President will come here and give a speech to you in your native language. Then I will know we are really making progress in reaching across the barriers that divide us.

It is a great pleasure for me and for the First Lady to be here at this distinguished university today. Waseda is a center of true academic excellence and a training ground for many of Japan's most distinguished leaders. I am proud to be the first American President to visit here.

But as has already been said, 31 years ago another American, whom I admired very much,

Robert Kennedy, spoke in this hall. It was a very different time. The modern economies of Japan and Asia were just emerging. It was the middle of the cold war. Fierce arguments raged here, as in other nations, about where the future lay, with communism or democracy, with socialism or capitalism. On that evening in 1962, those arguments spilled onto this stage. When members of the student Communist movement heckled Robert Kennedy, he challenged their leader to come up and join him. In his characteristic way, Kennedy transformed a diatribe into a dialog and close-mindedness into an open debate.

That is what I hope we will have here today. The exchange that followed was heated, but it demonstrated the best of the values of freedom and democracy that our two nations share. Three decades later, on this day, in this place, the times are very different, but no less challenging. The need for vigorous and open dialog