

Apr. 17 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1996

source of our renewal and our unity as we move forward into the 21st century. The White House,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON April 17, 1996.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Alaska's Mineral Resources

April 17, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the 1995 Annual Report on Alaska's Mineral Resources, as required by section 1011 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (Public Law 96-487; 16 U.S.C. 3151). This report contains pertinent public information relating to minerals in Alaska

gathered by the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Bureau of Mines, and other Federal agencies.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
April 17, 1996.

Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by Emperor Akihito in Tokyo, Japan

April 17, 1996

Your Imperial Majesties, Prime Minister and Mrs. Hashimoto, distinguished guests. I want to thank you for your extraordinary hospitality to Hillary and to me and to all of our delegation.

Your Majesties, when we met 2 years ago, you visited our Nation and charmed all of America. As you crossed the United States you reminded all Americans of the character and dignity that distinguished the Japanese people and their rich culture. Tonight you have honored us again with your hospitality, much as you honored our Nation with your presence. You have received us with the exceptional grace and elegance for which Japan is renowned throughout the world.

More than 1,200 years ago, one of your great poets, Ootomo No Yakamochi, wrote of an "imperial setting wonderful, in its spaciousness so superb, so vast. Seeing it, I know why the rulers have dwelt here since the age of the gods." We, too, have been greeted in a setting that is so superb and that speaks of a tradition of graciousness toward friends that reaches back to antiquity.

Let me also thank the Japanese people. The welcome we have received in Tokyo, for the second time in my Presidency, speaks eloquently

about the friendship between our peoples. You have made us all feel very much at home.

In a relationship as vast and complex as ours, one that has been analyzed by so many in so many different ways, no number or statistic can begin to capture the value of this friendship to both our nations. History is filled with changing alliances between states. But history offers very few examples of two peoples who have forged such a powerful relationship in the short period of half a century. We have indeed traveled far together. We have been able to cover such distance because we are joined by universal values and seek the same ends: freedom for all our citizens, the blessings of peace and prosperity that enables Japanese and Americans to make the most of their own lives.

Working side by side, we have created in modern times a great democratic tradition, one of unity and cooperation in the service of our people's highest aspirations. In only these five decades, we have reaped enormous benefits, building the two largest economies in the world and creating a tremendous force for security and stability during an era of constant change and frequent upheaval. Today we carried forward that tradition. We revitalized the alliance

that has provided such crucial stability in Asia. We continue the hard work on economic issues that will open opportunities for the future, and we've moved ahead with our common efforts to address the new problems we face around the world.

We have achieved much. For the new century that lies before us, if we maintain our resolve, we can accomplish much more.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us raise a glass to the health of the Majesties and the friendship

between the peoples of the United States and Japan, which has become such an extraordinary force for progress and hope at the dawn of this new age of possibility.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 p.m. in the Imperial Palace. In his remarks, he referred to Empress Michiko and Kumiko Hashimoto, wife of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Diet in Tokyo

April 18, 1996

Madam Speaker, Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen: Here in this great hall of democracy, on behalf of all of our American delegation, including my wife, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and all other Americans here, let me begin by thanking the people of Japan, the Government of Japan, and of course, the Emperor and Empress for the remarkable hospitality we have been accorded in our visit here. And let me thank you for giving me a chance to address the representatives of the people of Japan and, through you, all the Japanese people, perhaps especially your young people.

I'd also like to thank Madam Speaker for mentioning the distinguished Americans who were also born in my home State, General MacArthur and Senator Fulbright. I thank you for applauding the mention of Senator Fulbright's name. He not only helped many Japanese to get an education, but he also gave me a job so that I could complete my university education. So therefore, in a very real sense, I would not be here today if it were not for him.

One hundred and thirty-six years ago, Japan sent its very first diplomatic delegation to the United States of America. It was a remarkable year for our country. Abraham Lincoln was nominated by his party to become President, and he subsequently became the first President of his party and, many of us believe, the greatest American President.

It was a long time ago, 8 years before the beginning of your Meiji Restoration. But some things don't change very much. In his diary of

that experience, one of your envoys to the United States described his visit to our Congress, and here's what he said: "We were shown to a large hall where affairs of state were being discussed. One of the Members was on his feet, screaming at the top of his voice and gesticulating wildly like a madman. When he sat down, his example was followed by another and yet another. Upon our inquiring what this was all about, we were informed that all the affairs of state were publicly discussed in this way." Well, today I hope I can show you at least that we Americans have made some improvement in the way we discuss affairs of state. [*Laughter*]

It seems impossible to believe that it was just 50 years ago that the United States and Japan began to forge what is perhaps the modern world's most remarkable partnership for peace, prosperity, and progress. Today, we celebrate the results. Japan has built one of the greatest success stories the world has ever known. You turned a closed society into an open, thriving democracy. You transformed economic devastation into powerful growth and opportunity for your people. You enriched the lives of millions by harnessing technology for positive change. You have set an example for all of Asia and, indeed, for all the world.

After World War II, a wise generation of Americans reached out a hand of reconciliation to support your extraordinary evolution, first with a security guarantee that allowed you to focus on rebuilding and with aid that helped to lay the foundation of economic growth. Now Japan and the United States are full partners,