

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 peoples of the Democratic Republic of Korea acquire a nuclear weapon and also acquire 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. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this news conference.

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 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 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. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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 economics 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 cold-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 remains. The time has come for America to join with Japan and others in this region to create a new Pacific community. And this, to be sure, will require both of our nations to lead and both of our nations to change.

The new Pacific community will rest on a revived partnership between the United States and Japan, on progress toward more open economies and greater trade, and on support for democracy. Our community must also rest on the firm and continuing commitment of the United States to maintain its treaty alliances and its forward military presence in Japan and Korea and throughout this region.

Is it appropriate? I believe it is, to address these issues here in Japan. The post-cold-war relationship between our two nations is one of the great success stories of the latter half of the 20th century. We have built a vital friendship. We continue to anchor this region's security and to fuel its development. Japan is an increasingly important global partner in peacekeeping, in promoting democracy, in protecting the environment, in addressing major challenges in this region and throughout the world. Because our relationship has been built on enduring common interests and genuine friendship, it has transcended particular leaders in each country, and it will continue to do so.

History has decided the debate that raged here in 1962, a debate over whether communism works. It didn't. Its ruins litter the world stage. Our two nations have proved that capitalism works, that democracy works, that freedom works. Still, no system is perfect. New problems and challenges constantly arise. Old problems deeply rooted in cultures and prejudices remain. To make the most of this new world, we both must change. As Robert Kennedy once noted,