

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “11/19/74 - Toast at the Imperial Banquet. Imperial Palace, Tokyo” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *8.6.*

PRESIDENTIAL TOAST
IMPERIAL BANQUET

- | -

I AM HONORED TO BE THE GUEST OF YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES.

IT IS WITH A DEEP SENSE OF THIS SPECIAL MOMENT THAT I SPEAK.

THIS FIRST STATE VISIT OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO JAPAN

IS AN OCCASION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL AMERICANS. YOUR

GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY SYMBOLICALLY HONORS THE 213 MILLION PEOPLE

I REPRESENT.

I CAN REASSURE JAPAN THAT THE UNITED STATES
IS DETERMINED TO PERPETUATE THE UNIQUE TIES THAT LINK OUR
TWO NATIONS FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

THOUGH SEPARATED BY THE BROADEST OF OCEANS, WE HAVE
ACHIEVED THE CLOSEST OF FRIENDSHIPS. OUR RELATIONSHIP TRANSCENDS
THAT OF GOVERNMENTS AND HEADS OF STATE. EACH YEAR THE TIES
BINDING AMERICANS WITH JAPANESE INCREASE IN TRADE, SCIENCE, THE
ARTS, SPORTS, AND MANY OTHER AREAS INCLUDING CHERISHED PERSONAL
CONTACTS BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS.

WE SHARE A COMMON DEVOTION TO MORAL AND SPIRITUAL STRENGTH. OUR PATHS ARE NOT ALWAYS IDENTICAL BUT LEAD IN THE SAME DIRECTION, THAT OF WORLD PEACE AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS AMONG MANKIND.

LET US CONTINUE TO SEEK HIGHER UNDERSTANDING WITH EACH OTHER AND AMONG ALL PEOPLES. LET US TRADE AND SHARE TO PERPETUATE THE PROSPERITY OF BOTH NATIONS. LET US WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE COMMON PROBLEMS, RECOGNIZING THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE MODERN WORLD. AMERICA IS DETERMINED TO DO ITS PART.

IT IS IN A SPIRIT OF RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE
JAPANESE NATION, IN DEDICATION TO OUR CONTINUING COLLABORATION,
AND WITH SINCERE CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE, THAT I OFFER A TOAST
TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES.

END OF TOAST