

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

ACTION  
October 22, 1974

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DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958 (as amended) SEC 3.3  
NSC Memo, 3/30/06, State Dept. Guidelines  
By hca NARA, Date 6/4/2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*  
SUBJECT: Your Visit to Japan



Your visit to Japan represents an historic occasion for both countries. It will be the first visit to Japan by an American President in office. It will also be a prelude to the return visit by Emperor Hirohito next year. In addition, it will be your first major trip abroad.

In recent days the Japanese Left has conducted a number of demonstrations provoked by stories that we are introducing nuclear weapons into Japan. We must recognize that an intensification of these demonstrations could force postponement of your visit. We will not be able to make a final decision until the end of October, by which time we hope the situation will have calmed down. The demonstrations do not, however, mean that we should stop planning.

Basic Purposes of your Visit

Your visit has both a symbolic and a substantive character.

-- It is symbolic because it is the first Presidential visit to Japan and because it will formally cement the friendly relationship that our two countries have established to succeed the earlier hostility between us during the 1930's and World War II.

-- It is substantive because Japan is one of our most important allies whose relationship with us covers almost the full range of foreign policy issues.

The main emphasis in our relations with Japan is now shifting toward global multilateral issues of common concern, away from the contentious bilateral problems on which we concentrated several years ago. The direct relations between our two countries are now good.

What we want to do is to consolidate a cooperative relationship in which we and Japan will work closely together to try to solve the many problems that beset all the countries of the world and that can easily drive us apart if we try to solve them separately.

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With this in mind, I would propose the following objectives for your visit:

-- To underline the commitment of the United States to our alliance with Japan as well as your personal commitment to that relationship.

-- To recognize Japan's emergence as a major power and to stress its new responsibilities.

-- To express the hope that Japan will continue to work with us in solving major world problems.

-- To assure Japan that the United States will be a dependable ally, and to show our belief that this should be mutual.

-- To express our respect for Japan's great contributions -- traditional and contemporary -- to world culture.

Means for Achieving these Purposes

We do not expect to conclude any new agreements with the Japanese. It is not necessary for you to spend most of your time in discussions. It would be good, however, to use your speeches and private statements during this visit to deepen Japanese understanding of our attitudes on world problems and Japanese appreciation of the cooperative spirit in which we believe they must be approached.

Your visit will also give you an opportunity to establish the personal relationships with Japanese leaders that they value so highly. This should create the kind of understanding that will be useful in cementing our cooperation.

The trip will also give you and Mrs. Ford an opportunity to visit a number of traditional and modern Japanese sites in order to show your understanding of the culture and to meet with the Japanese people.

Your Program: Substantive Meetings

The Japanese would like you to have two substantive meetings with Prime Minister Tanaka, lasting two and one-half hours each. We are doing a NSSM study to help prepare you.





A joint communique would be issued following the second meeting. We would intend the communique to serve as a succinct statement of the essential common purposes underlying our relationship in the late 1970's.

Your Program: Protocol

There are a number of protocol requirements that the Japanese regard as essential elements of all State visits to Japan. We have pared them down to the following minimum consistent with our obligations:

-- Arrival and departure ceremonies at Akasaka Palace, which will be your residence in Tokyo.

-- Call on the Emperor.

-- Brief courtesy call by the Prime Minister at Akasaka Palace during your first morning in Tokyo.

-- Luncheon by Prime Minister and Mrs. Tanaka at the Prime Minister's official residence.

-- Courtesy call by the governor of Tokyo at Akasaka Palace.

-- Imperial Banquet.

-- Return banquet hosted by yourself.

-- Travel to Kyoto, Japan's historic capital.

Your Program: Optional Social and Public Events

In Japan, what one does is more important than what one says. The symbolic act has great force and meaning, even if unaccompanied by words. That is why the visit to Kyoto is so important. It is also why you will wish to spend time away from protocol and substantive meanings in order to participate in activities where the Japanese can see you establishing contact with a wide spectrum of their society.

The following activities have been proposed. Your schedule will not permit you to do them all, but the program will be based on your wishes, on those of the Japanese Government, and on the other normal schedule considerations.

-- Attendance at a sports event. This could be a brief appearance at a baseball game between the touring New York Mets and a Japanese all-star team. Baseball has become a national pastime in Japan.

-- Attendance at a cultural event. This could be a brief stop at a Kabuki or Bunraku (puppet) performance.

-- Visit to a monument commemorating an important event in U.S. - Japanese relations. This could be either a visit to Shimoda, a small village about an hour from Tokyo where Townsend Harris established our first diplomatic presence in Japan, or it could be a visit to the monument to President Grant in Tokyo.

-- A golf game with the Prime Minister. Prime Minister Tanaka invited you while he was here.

-- Reception by non-governmental organizations. Any one of several American-Japanese groups would be delighted to have you visit them and make brief remarks. They represent an important segment of Japanese society and the pervasive economic ties between our two countries.

-- Televised luncheon speech at the Japan Press Club. This would enable you to speak directly to the Japanese people via television, and to answer written questions submitted in advance. It would reach virtually everybody in Japan.

We would appreciate guidance on those things which most, or least, appeal to you.

We are preparing a separate program for Mrs. Ford, though we expect that she will join you in many of your activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you authorize us to plan for your visit according to the objectives set forth above.

Approve MR7 Approve as Amended \_\_\_\_\_

