

WELCOME SPEECH BY CONGRESSMAN TOKUSABURO KOSAKA:

PRESIDENT OF THE

JAPAN-U.S. PARLIAMENTARIANS' LEAGUE

Welcome from my whole heart to all of the attendants here today. First of all I want to say thank you very much to Mr. Kimura, the Chairman of the House of Councillors, who allowed us to use his official residence. I also would like to express my cordial thanks to the U.S. Ambassador to Japan, the Honorable Mike Mansfield, Minister of Foreign Affairs Abe, and Minister of International Trade and Industry Murata for their attendance at this party and recognizing the importance of this gathering although they are very busy with their official schedules.

When we visited the U.S. Government, including both the House and the Senate, last February, the feelings that were felt in Washington were much more severe than we had expected before our departure. To create a more stable Japan-U.S. relationship, we must overcome this difficult situation. Considering this, we decided to hold this gathering to promote friendship between the U.S. State Trade Offices in Japan and the Japanese Parliamentarians.

I expect all of the attendants will understand the meaning of today's party as I have mentioned. I hope that you will engage in free conversation, which is a step forward towards better mutual understanding.

Thank you.