

APPRECIATION DINNER
IN HONOUR OF
GOVERNOR & MRS. VICTOR ATIYEH

REMARKS BY
CONSUL-GENERAL SHOSAKU TANAKA

ALEXIS HOTEL
PORTLAND, OREGON
NOVEMBER 24, 1986

WE FEEL IT A GREAT HONOUR TO HAVE YOUR PRESENCE HERE
THIS EVENING.

FIRST OF ALL, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY HERE IN OREGON, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT APPRECIATION FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP AND THE STRENGTHENING OF ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND OREGON.

I ONCE HEARD THAT A DIPLOMAT IS OPTIMISTIC IN NATURE, WHILE A STATESMAN SHOULD BE PESSIMISTIC. IN DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS, IF A STATESMAN CAN SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATE WITH HIS COUNTERPART, IT IS CERTAINLY FORTUNATE, THOUGH IF HE CAN'T SUCCEED, THE SITUATION WILL BE NONE THE WORSE OFF. BUT IF A STATESMAN WERE TO BE REALLY OPTIMISTIC, HE MIGHT OFTEN LOSE HIS NEXT ELECTION. IRONICALLY, DIPLOMATS OFTEN EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS IN AN UNDERSTATED, ALMOST GLOOMY TONE, WHILE A STATESMAN ALWAYS PRESENTS HIMSELF IN A BRIGHT, CHEERFUL AND HOPEFUL MANNER.

SUCH BEING THE CASE, I THINK A STATESMAN HAS A DIFFICULT AND STRESSFUL PROFESSION.

GOVERNOR ATIYEH, TOO, AS OREGON'S HEAD OF STATE, HAS HAD TO CONTINUE HIS WORK UNDER SUCH STRESS FROM EARLY IN THE MORNING TIL LATE AT NIGHT, THOUGH HE HAS NEVER FAILED TO MEET WITH US WITHOUT HIS MOST ATTRACTIVE SMILE. I HAVE NOTICED THAT, WHEN A PHOTOGRAPH IS ABOUT TO BE TAKEN, IF YOU SAY "ATYEH" INSTEAD OF "CHEESE", THAT YOUR PHOTOGRAPH WILL SURELY HAVE A MORE ATTRACTIVE, SMILING APPEARANCE.

EVERYONE IN THE JAPANESE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED WITH GOVERNOR ATIYEH'S WARM PERSONALITY AND RESPECTS HIM AS A MAN OF SINCERE, MODERATE AND BROAD-MINDED VIEWS. HIS ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE LAST EIGHT YEARS ARE INNUMERABLE. WITH RESPECT TO JAPAN, THE GOVERNOR HAS MANY NOTED ACHIEVEMENTS: THE REPEAL OF THE STATE'S UNITARY TAX, THE INVITATION OF KEIDANREN'S INVESTMENT MISSION TO OREGON, THE STUNNING SUCCESS OF THE RENOWNED TV FILM "FROM OREGON WITH LOVE" AND, MOST RECENTLY,

THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE MEETINGS BETWEEN U.S. STATE GOVERNORS AND JAPANESE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERS, TO ILLUSTRATE JUST A FEW.

GOVERNOR ATIYEH'S BROAD PERSPECTIVE, FORESIGHT AND HIS WARM HONESTY AND FRIENDLY MANNER HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ESTABLISHING FIRM CREDIBILITY AND A DEEP FEELING OF TRUST ON THE PART OF JAPANESE BUSINESS LEADERS. TODAY, THERE IS NOT ONE JAPANESE BUSINESS EXECUTIVE WHO DOESN'T KNOW OF THE STATE OF OREGON AS ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING SITES FOR THEIR NEW INVESTMENTS.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEC, FUJITSU AND EPSON IN THIS STATE AND THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY MITSUBISHI METAL INDUSTRIES ARE NOT MERE FLUKES OF FATE. WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO KNOW THAT ALL OF THESE JAPANESE MANUFACTURING CORPORATIONS ARE SATISFIED TO HAVE SELECTED THEIR FACTORY SITES IN THE STATE OF OREGON AND HAVE BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR BUSINESSES.

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GOVERNOR AND MRS. ATIYEH, I INDEED THANK YOU AGAIN FOR
YOUR TREMENDOUS EFFORTS DURING YOUR EIGHT YEARS' TENURE AND
YOUR ATTENTIVE AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF MY COUNTRY,
OUR PEOPLE AND THE JAPANESE COMMUNITY HERE DURING THAT TIME.

I SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU WILL KINDLY REMAIN AS A MOST
PRECIOUS FRIEND OF JAPAN AND GIVE US YOUR ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE
FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.