

Remarks by His Excellency Shintaro Abe,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
on the occasion of the Reception hosted
by the Japan-U.S. Parliamentarians League

May 15, 1985,

Official Residence of
the President of the House of Councilors

Ambassador Mansfield, Mr. President, President Kosaka,
distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I should like to congratulate President Kosaka and members of the Japan-U.S. Parliamentarians League for their successful efforts to hold today's meeting with the representatives of State Governments of the United States in Japan. I should also like to express my deepfelt gratitude for being invited to this very worthwhile meeting.

Today, the relationship between our two countries cover many levels and areas, and the active work done by representatives of State Governments present here today contribute in no small way to enhancing an important part of that overall relationship. I express my deepest respect to representatives of the State Governments for their dedicated efforts. Yet, their work has just

begun. The fifty States that constitute the United States each have their own traits and uniqueness, and, therefore, the majority of the people in Japan do not necessarily follow all the details of the different conditions in different States. Under these circumstances, presentation by representatives of the State Governments on such aspects as nature, culture, and industries of their respective States continues to be of significant importance. I sincerely hope that the understanding of the United States by the Japanese people will further deepen, and moreover, the foundation of the Japan-U.S. relationship will be further solidified through such efforts.

Recently, Japanese companies are increasing investments into the United States, while State Governments are showing increased interest in inviting Japanese companies to invest in their States. The accumulated investments into the United States by Japanese companies reached \$11.1 billion last year, and it provided 90 thousand jobs in the United States. This is just one example of Japan's positive contribution to the U.S. economy. In addition, Japan and the United States have many areas to positively cooperate for peace and prosperity of the world. In this sense, I think it is most worthwhile that the Diet members who have deep interest in Japan-U.S. relations have the chance to exchange views in a frank manner with representatives of State Governments of the United States on such occasions as today's meeting. I sincerely hope that

the Japan-U.S. Parliamentarians League will continue to contribute to furthering the very important bilateral relationship that exists between our two countries. I am also confident that Ambassador Mansfield will continue to provide us with his wisdom and insight on the management of Japan-U.S. relationship. And, I am confident that representatives of State Governments here in Tokyo will continue their excellent work for a better mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

Thank you.