

THE SPEECH OF THE MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INDUSTRY
AT A JAPAN-U.S. FRIENDSHIP PROMOTION LUNCHEON PARTY

[At the Official Residence of the Chairman of
the House of Councillors on Wednesday, May 15]

It is indeed an honor and a pleasure to have an opportunity to welcome the representatives of 26 American states present here today.

In the past forty years, Japan and the United States have forged a remarkable cooperative relationship. Bilateral economic exchange has flourished, whether in the sphere of trade, investment, or technology.

Our ties are both strong and far-reaching, making each an indispensable partner to the other. Our trust in each other is great, and so are our expectations. That is why it is so essential that we have occasions such as this, where we can share our views frankly and honestly.

In some respects, bilateral dialogues like these can be severe and even grueling. But I prefer to think of the grueling aspects as "labor pains" that we must go through to produce new growth in our relationship. I hope, then, that we will always bring an honest and enthusiastic attitude to these dialogues.

As I'm sure you already know, both Japan and the United States set out forward-looking policies in the economic declaration of the recent Bonn Summit. To achieve sustained economic growth without inflation, Japan placed priority tasks including opening its markets and promoting imports, while the United States included reducing its budget deficit and reforming tax systems among its top priorities. All participants agreed to cooperate in working for world economic development. In regard to the new round, both the Prime Minister and I joined the United States in strongly calling for negotiations to begin in early 1986. Most countries were in agreement on starting the negotiations in 1986.

Meanwhile, at the Japan-U.S. summit meeting, both sides confirmed that significant progress had been made on the MOSS negotiations on four sectors and that they would continue their efforts for the negotiations' success.

On the basis of these encouraging developments, we in Japan are determined to keep on improving access to our markets under a policy of keeping restrictions to an absolute minimum. You may also have heard of how our government has called upon industrial circles and the general public to join the drive to expand Japan's imports. We fully intend to persevere in these efforts as well.

Under these circumstances, this meeting is such a valuable one to me personally, for it allows me to have an open exchange of views with those who are most deeply concerned with the economic activities of a variety of regions across the United States.

Lastly, I would like to pay my regards to the members of the Japan-U.S. Parliamentarians' League and everyone else who had a hand in realizing this wonderful gathering.

May this meeting be a fruitful one, and may our continuing friendship serve as a basis for mutual prosperity in the years to come.

Thank you.

May 15, 1985

Keijiro Murata

Minister of International
Trade & Industry