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May 12, 1986

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Congressman Richard A. Gephardt (D-MO) today issued the following announcement relating to Japanese-American trade relations:

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a joint Japanese-American steering committee to oversee the creation of a Trade Expansion Center in Tokyo. This Center and related facilties will assist Americans interested in trading with Japan through a variety of services, including advice on strategy and communications, provision of meeting rooms, office space, and display areas, and instruction in Japanese language and cultural customs.

The steering committee will define the goals and objectives of the Center, working with Japanese sponsors and the American private sector to ensure that it meets the needs of the U.S. business community. It should help reduce the trade imbalance which continues to grow between the United States and Japan.

The Center will be of benefit to the Japanese as the Americans who utilize it exchange ideas and information with the Japanese and as goodwill and understanding is developed between businessmen and women in both countries.

It is hoped that these facilities will benefit other important nations by promoting healthy and lasting worldwide trade relations.

The Japanese Steering Committee members will be announced in Tokyo. The American members are:

Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) Sen. Wendell Ford (D-KY) Sen. Al Gore (D-TN) Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) Sen. George Mitchell (D-ME)

Rep. Les AuCoin (D-OR) Rep. Don Bonker (D-WA) Rep. Julian Dixon (D-CA) Rep. Dick Durbin (D-IL) Rep. John Duncan (R-TN) Rep. Tom Foley (D-WA) Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-MN) Rep. Dick Gephardt (D-MO) Rep. Sam Gibbons (D-FL) Rep. Barbara Kennelly (D-CT) Rep. Mickey Leland (D-TX) Rep. Trent Lott (R-MS) Rep. Stan Lundine (D-NY) Rep. Mary Rose Oakar (D-OH) Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-IL) Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO) Rep. Jim Wright (D-TX)

Contact: Don Foley or Sheila Austrian (202) 225-2671

Trade & consul * ble depleation U.S. State bep. offices (about 27 offices) U.S. Dept. of Commercial Forcer Commercial Serve) U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (Forcer agricultural Servic) JETRO (min. of Int. Trade & Industry) \$ of separtments lenters at all major buto w/fenctions \$ at all maps securities con R