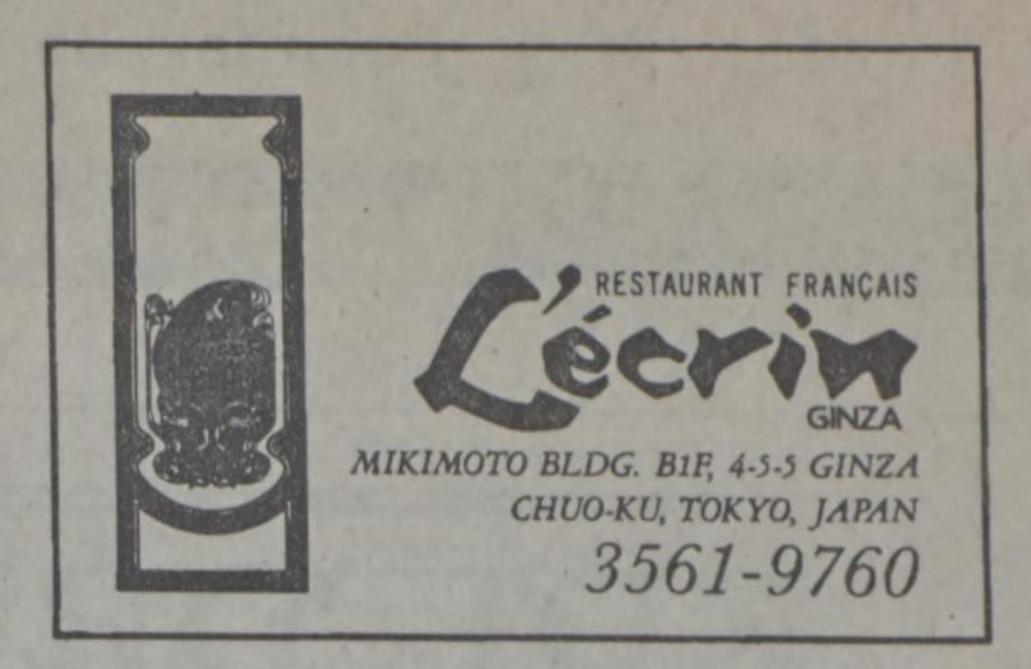


Dedicated To International Understanding

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Miyazawa supports inter-Korea summit

SEOUL (AP, AFP-Jiji) -Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday Japan would promote summit talks between rivals North and South Korea and said the North must abandon nuclear arms development.

The prime minister stressed at a joint news conference following summit talks with President Roh Tae-woo that eased tensions between the Koreas and an end to the nuclear arms race were the keys to peace and security in Northeast Asia.

"Because of the geographical proximity, North Korea's nuclear weapons programs is a major concern for Japan," Miyazawa said. "We have told them that there will be no normalization of rela-

ROK history should be

more positive, says Japan

Japan would prefer that South Korea teach a more positive version

Kato, government's chief spokesman, was responding to an obser-

vation, made at a press conference Friday morning, that the anti-

Japanese demonstrations sparked by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyaza-

wa's visit to Seoul can be traced to the history lessons taught in South

"There is a need for us to convey our regrets regarding World War

Kato believes that both Japan and South Korea have to make great-

Another high-ranking Japanese government official Friday also pinned

South Koreans "are taught from an early age to hate Japan. They

blame for the anti-Japanese demonstrations on South Korea's

will have to refrain from teaching people to continue to hate Japanese.

It's the same as Japan's education during the war, when Anglo-

II to posterity. We would prefer that the South Koreans also convey

er efforts to improve the way history is taught in their schools.

a more forward-looking version of the past," said Kato.

Americans were considered beasts," said the official.

of the past to its citizens, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said in

tions until the nuclear dispute has been fully solved."

The prime minister will return home Saturday after a tense threeday visit highlighted by concerns over trade friction between the two nations and a new dispute over Japanese wartime atrocities.

"Japan will emphasize the need for a summit (between South and North Korea) at the upcoming sixth round of normalization of talks with North Korea," Miyazawa told the nationally televised news conference.

Roh said he believed his talks with Miyazawa laid a new foundation for a "future-oriented partnership."

Roh characterized the day's talks as "very successful," noting

that "substantive results" had emerged, unlike in previous summit meetings with Japan which he said had only reached agreements in principle.

Roh said he had urged Miyazawa to launch an investigation and "take proper steps" to compensate the victims of Japan's 1910-1945 colonial and World War II rule of Korea.

Miyazawa said Japan would help persuade North Korea to agree to an inter-Korean summit on easing tensions. The highestlevel contact between the hostile Koreas has been between their prime ministers.

Japan normalized ties with pro-Western South Korea in 1965 but it has refused to establish formal ties with North Korea until the North halts nuclear weapons development.

Japan and North Korea are to resume talks on normalizing relations in Beijing in late January.

In a major policy change, North Korea has recently agreed to sign a nuclear safeguards agreement with the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency and open its facilities to outside inspections.

Meanwhile, Roh invited the Emperor to visit South Korea during the meeting with Miyazawa Friday and Miyazawa responded that the Japanese government will study possibilities of the Emperor's visit to Seoul.

Text of Miyazawa's address before South Korea's National Assembly on Page



SEOUL (AP) - Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa speaks to reporters as South Korean President Roh Tae-woo, right, looks on during a joint press conference Friday.

Agree to tackle trade deficit

SEOUL (AP, AFP-Jiji) — Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and South Korean President Roh Taewoo agreed the trade deficit "is the most serious issue pending" between the two countries, Miyazawa said in a joint press conference Friday.

Roh said the two nations agreed to work out an action plan by June to rectify Korea's perennial trade deficit with Japan.

Japan last year accounted for 90 percent of South Korea's 9.6 billion dollar trade deficit, an issue viewed with growing concern in South Korea, whose economy has emerged on the strength of its exports.

Both leaders said a bilateral industrial cooperation committee would be formed to discuss ways of reducing the deficit and would present a concrete plan by the end of June.

But Miyazawa said he had rejected South Korea's proposal to form a 200 million dollar foundation to promote technology transfers because of institutional constraints.

On Thursday, South Korea called on Japan to contribute 150 million dollars to set up a bilateral

foundation for industry, science and technology cooperation.

Finance Minister Rhee Yong-man proposed to his Japanese counterpart, Tsutomu Hata, that the two countries invest a total of 200 million dollars to set up the foundation and asked Japan to contribute 150 million dollars.

Rhee repeated South Korea's calls for Japan to lower tariff rates on Korean imports, which he said would be a visible way the Japanese government could cut South Korea's trade deficit with Japan.

In particular, Rhee asked Japan to reduce tariff rates from the current 10 to 25 percent to five to 10 percent for South Korea's 16 major export items to Japan, including footwear and garments.

Rhee also called on Japan to expand General System of Preferences (GSP) benefits for South Korean exports and to ease quota restrictions on silk products.

Japanese officials have said it would be difficult for Japan to settle its trade dispute with South Korea through bilateral talks before the multinational Uruguay Round trade talks have concluded.

PM apologizes for conscription of 'comfort women'

SEOUL (Kyodo) - Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized in an address before South Korea's National Assembly on Friday over tens of thousands of Korean women dragooned into Japanese Imperial Army brothels a half century ago and said the history must be taught to future generations.

"Never should we allow ourselves to forget the fact that, at certain moments in the history of our relations with your country for the past couple of millennia, Japan was the assailant and Korea was the victim," Miyazawa said in the first address to South Korea's Parliament by a Japanese leader.

"Recently, the issue of 'comfort women' in the service of the Imperial Japanese Army has come to light. I cannot help feeling acutely distressed over this and I express my sincerest apology," he said.

"Japan has been working to disseminate correct understanding about the relationship between our two countries and we intend to continue to work hard to that end," Miyazawa said.

Demonstrator dies

SEOUL (AFP-Jiji) — An elderly demonstrator died Friday after being kicked by riot police outside the National Assembly as Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa apologized inside to lawmakers for Tokyo's wartime conscription of Korean women as sex slaves, witnesses said.

A witness said the man, 69year-old Chu Ki-sung, died after police kicked him while he was on the ground. Others said he was seen scuffling with police.

Inside

problematic education system.

International

Tokyo Friday.

Korean schools.

New Algerian head of state warns against politicizing Is-Page 3

Former Greek premier acquitted over slush-fund scandal. Page 4

Business

U.S., China reach accord on copyright, patent protection. Page 6

Sports

Musashimaru defeats Ozeki Page 10 Kirishima.

Domestic

Professor arrested for leaking Page 12 exam answers.

CIS draws up mil. oath, decides to study Black Sea issue LONDON (AFP-Jiji) — Leaders of nine former Soviet republics met in Moscow Thursday to

discuss military and economic issues and seven agreed on a common oath for members of a combined force, Tass news agency said.

The agency, monitored in London by the BBC, also said the meeting, presided by President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, agreed to set up a commission to study a conflict between Russia and Ukraine over sharing out the former Soviet Union's Black Sea

Yeltsin's press secretary, Pavel Voschanov, said an oath for servicemen in the strategic forces of the 11-republic Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) which are to remain under centralized command — had been approved.

He added that seven states which had adopted a decision on creating a single armed force had adopted a common oath for that

However, an in-depth discussion of military issues was put off until early next month, according to a brief statement to journalists by Yeltsin, Tass said. This was because the leaders had not had

time to acquaint themselves with documents relating to the issues.

The meeting started with the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tadzhikistan, and Turkmenistan in attendance. They were joined later by those of Ukraine and Kirghizstan. The leaders of Moldova and Uzbekistan did not attend

Voschanov said the leaders signed a total of seven agreements at the talks, which he described as "on the whole, successful."

He said the Black Sea commission comprised officials from Russia, Ukraine and the military command.

A similar decision had been adopted on the Caspian Sea fleet, comprising representatives from Russia and Azerbaijan as well as the armed forces, Voshchanov

On non-military issues, an economic agreement had been signed setting a limit of 50 percent on profit margins, in order to "restrain the unwarranted growth in prices in conditions of producer monopoly," the Russian spokesman said.

It was also decided "to instruct heads of government to prepare to look at the question of free transit and abolishing quotas and limits for certain types of

products," he added. Tass said the participants had decided against holding a news conference after the talks, although Yeltsin told reporters: "Today we agreed calmly and with mutual understanding on all those issues which we intended to resolve."

Yeltsin had proposed an agenda of 10 points, five of them

The crucial question for the summit was control of the warmwater fleet in the Black Sea - the Ukraine or a central CIS authority.

The question will also arise when several thousand officers meet with the presidents Friday at the Kremlin.

Emergency in Estonia

Meanwhile, in Estonia the Parliament declared a threemonth state of emergency Thursday to combat food and energy shortages, and appointed a committee to assume sweeping powers over production and distri-

Lawmakers voted 53-37, with four abstentions, to declare the emergency and set up a joint com-



MOSCOW (AP) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin gestures with his hand, inviting Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk (seated) toward a table for a portrait session.

mission of representatives of the government and Parliament to deal with the economic crisis plaguing this newly independent Baltic nation.

The measures had provoked deep controversy in the country of 1.6 million people and two of

Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar's Cabinet members resigned in protest after they were accepted by parliament.

Several Estonians interviewed after the vote said they were willing to endure whatever is necessary.

Kajiyama to chair Diet affairs panel

Former Cabinet Minister Seiroku Kajiyama agreed Takeshita, had been trying to persuade Kajiyama to Friday to become chairman of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party's Diet Affairs Committee following the resignation of Hiroyuki Masuoka last week, party officials said.

Masuoka resigned the post amid criticism of the LDP's handling of proceedings in a special Diet panel on a bill to allow Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

The bill was railroaded at the Lower House special panel amid strong protests from opposition members last November. The Lower House then passed the bill, but the House of Councillors voted to carry over the bill to the next Diet session last December.

Since Masuoka stepped down, LDP's Vice President Shin Kanemaru, also president of the LDP's largest faction, founded by former Prime Minister Noboru

take over the post prior to the start of the ordinary Diet session slated for next week.

Kajiyama, a strong member of the Takeshita faction, indicated his agreement to take over the job in a meeting with Kanemaru and Secretary-General Tamisuke Watanuki at the party headquarters, the officials said.

They quoted Kajiyama, 65, who has twice previously served as chairman of the LDP committee, as saying he felt an obligation to assist Kanemaru.

Under the Cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Kajiyama played a major role as chairman of the committee in establishing a coalition among the LDP, Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party.

Kajiyama has also served as minister for home affairs, justice, and international trade and industry.

Weather

Tokyo: Mostly fair (NW) Today's sunset: 4:53 p.m. Tomorrow's sunrise: 6:49 a.m. High tide: 4:46 a.m., 3:16 p.m. Low tide: 9:50 a.m., 10:13 p.m. Today's temperature: H-8° (46°) L-2° (36°)

Yesterday's temperature: H-13.8° (56.8°) L-3.4° (38.1°) Osaka: Mostly cloudy, scattered snow or showers (NW)

Today's sunset: 5:12 p.m. Tomorrow's sunrise: 7:04 a.m. Today's temperature: .H-7° (45°) L-2° (36°) Yesterday's temperature: H-10.9° (51.6°) L-2.0° (36°) Sapporo: Snow (SE to NE)

Sendai: Mostly cloudy, scattered snow

Nagoya: Cloudy, scattered snow (NW) Kyoto: Mostly cloudy, scattered snow

Kobe: Mostly cloudy, scattered snow or

Hiroshima: Cloudy, scattered snow (NW)

Fukuoka: Cloudy, occasional snow in the

showers (NW)

morning (NW) Tokyo: Mostly fair (N)

Osaka: Mostly fair, scattered snow or showers (NW) Sapporo: Snow (NW) Sendai: Mostly cloudy, scattered snow

Nagoya: Mostly fair, scattered snow (NW) Kyoto: Mostly fair, scattered snow or

Kobe: Mostly fair, scattered snow or showers (NW) Hiroshima: Mostly cloudy, scattered snow

(NW) Fukuoka: Mostly cloudy (NW)

Salvadorans gathered in a plaza of the national cathedral wave during celebrations Thursday marking the signing of a peace treaty by the Salvadoran government and guerrillas in Mexico City. (AP) (Story on Page 3)

SALVADORANS CELEBRATE PEACE - Thousands of

Opinion/Analysis

EDITORIAL

Gulf war anniversary

It was one year ago Friday, early in the morning local time, that the U.S.-led coalition forces started massive air attacks on Iraqi targets in Baghdad and elsewhere. The allies launched land operations on Feb. 24, and about 100 hours thereafter, on Feb. 28, the war ended with Iraq's full acceptance of the U.N. resolutions. The 43-day war resulted in a complete victory for the allies and a complete defeat for Iraq.

But looking back, we realize that our perception of the Gulf war has greatly changed over the past year. One big difference concerns the role of the United States in the international community. It was President George Bush that led the joint international action against Iraq, from economic sanctions to military operations. He ordered air raids to begin by declaring, "We cannot wait any longer," and called a cease-fire by proclaiming, "Kuwait is liberated, and our objectives are met."

Most striking was the fact that the Soviet Union, Washington's longtime antagonist in the Middle East, ultimately chose to side with the U.S. and approved the coalition military action. The beginning of the air raids seemed to symbolize the beginning of a unipolar world gyrating around the U.S., taking the place of the bipolar world that had continued under East-West rivalry.

What happened to that unipolarity? To be sure, the Middle East peace conference was convened thanks largely to efforts led by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, in which Israel and Arabs came to the negotiating table. While this in itself is a feat, the gap between them remains as wide as ever, with Jerusalem continuing to push its settlement programs in the occupied territories, while Islamic fundamentalism is on the rise in Arab countries — reflecting expanding economic differences among nations as well as social groups. In the meantime, Saddam Hussein still stays in power in Baghdad.

It is doubtful that Bush has made any significant progress in leading efforts for a new international order in the post-Cold War world which he calls for. For example, Bush is criticized, at least in his home country, that throughout the reorganization process of the former Soviet Union, he remained adhered to Mikhail Gorbachev and alienated from Boris Yeltsin to the last moment, and continued to oppose the dismantling of the union and independence of republics.

An abysmal gulf developed over the past year in public approval ratings in the U.S. of Bush's performance. One year ago, Bush was consistently leading public opinion, resolutely ordering massive forces to war, quickly bringing the war to a successful conclusion, and was demonstrating remarkable statesmanship in organizing the world toward a common objective. At a high point Americans gave him an approval rate of 90 percent.

But as euphoria over the Gulf victory faded, Americans grew increasingly concerned about the recession, more critical of a president who concentrated on foreign affairs at the expense of the domestic administration and economy, and are deserting the Bush camp in droves.

It also seems significant that criticism is being raised that Bush tends to belittle Congress in the execution of foreign policy. From the viewpoint that it is Congress that has the authority to declare war, Bush's decisiveness then may understandably loom as strong-arm tactics now. In this election year, Americans seem to be questioning anew the meaning of the Gulf war.

Have the objectives of the war been really met? In a narrow sense that the allies drove the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the answer is yes. It will be recalled, however, that Bush made a number of additional promises in his victory declaration. They are a settlement of the Palestine dispute, regional arms control and security in the Middle East. Bush and the parties concerned still have a long way to go to fulfill those promises.

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Miyazawa's address to the ROK National Assembly

SEOUL (Kyodo) — The following is the full text of Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's address before South Korea's National Assembly on Friday:

Honorable Park Jyun-kyu, respected speaker of the National Assembly and distinguished members of Parliament of the Republic of Korea:

It gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity today to speak to you who represent the Republic of Korea, and through you, to the people of the Republic of Korea. My sincere gratitude goes to the honorable speaker of the National Assembly and the leaders and members of the National Assembly of all the parties for giving me this opportunity in spite of the current recess

In the turbulent world of today, tides of major change are washing the shores of the Korea Peninsula as well. Your country realized the aspiration of 40-odd years last autumn — the accession to the United Nations.

Furthermore, the meeting between the prime ministers of the South and the North produced major progress in the relations between the South and the North with the signing of an epoch-making agreement. These are, indeed, felicitous events for which we could not be happier as your neighbor.

Long impressed by the vigorous growth of your country I had eagerly hoped to come here to have a candid exchange of views with His Excellency President Roh Tae-woo and other important figures. I feel truly excited at being able to make my first overseas trip as prime minister to your country, a country that finds itself in the middle of a historic moment, and bring to you my words of felicitation.

Ladies and gentlemen, the end of the Cold War was heartening news indeed for people around the world who aspire for peace. We humankind have, in fact, made a big stride into a new world. Yet, the post-Cold War world has been in an extreme state of flux from the Gulf crisis to the turmoil in the former Soviet Union and the civil war in Yugoslavia, only to prove that the building of a new order of peace is no easy task.

It behooves all countries on earth to actively join their forces together to build a new world order if we are to tide over these times. Today they must all rally around the United Nations, each contributing in accordance with its capability and circumstances to ensuring world peace and stability. Now is the time for the United Nations to strive hard for the attainment of the ideals it held when it was founded.

In this respect, I feel most encouraged that your country has formally joined the fold at the United Nations. With this new development it will be important for Japan and the Republic of Korea, both expected to play the role of the engine for Asian and global dynamism, to consult and collaborate with each other at the United Nations as well. The cooperative relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea will most likely hold a new significance for the international community.

In making its contribution to world peace and stability, Japan will firmly uphold its basic policy never again to become a military power that may threaten others by taking to heart the lessons of the past and by strictly adhering to a purely defensive posture under the peace Constitution. Under this guiding principle we shall step up our economic as well as political and personnel contribution for the maintenance of world peace and security.

Especially in relation to the U.N. Peacekeeping Operations which are contributing very significantly to this end, we are now in the process of preparing the domestic arrangements which will enable Japan to provide further personnel cooperation, including Japanese participation in U.N. Peacekeeping Forces. We are determined to respond thus to the expectations of the world community.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Paris Conference held last October produced an agreement on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian problem. As a member of the Asian community and as a country that had worked hard to organize the Tokyo Conference on Cambodia, we are truly gratified by the arrival of peace in that country. Having put a period to the long and torturous warfare with the agreement, Cambodia will now tackle the task of national reconstruction.

This means that all of Indochina, the most unstable area thus far in Southeast Asia, will participate in the dynamic economic development of the Asia-Pacific. This development casts bright hopes for something we are all deeply concerned for — the peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific region

The region's remarkable growth in recent years has greatly attracted the world's attention to the Asia-Pacific region. Some claim that this region

will lead the world into the 21st century. I believe that the dynamism of this region derives from its rich diversity — ethnic, religious, cultural — as well as from multifarious traditions, values and modes of economic development that exist therein.

In the past it was argued that the diversity and the concomitant complexity of the region shackled its development. However, amid today's sea change, the diverse elements of the region are complementing and at the same time stimulating each other, thus generating robust energy.

As we try to promote the development of this region we, therefore, must intensify regional cooperation and dialogue in a manner that is open and suitable to this region while respecting its diversity. In this connection, we feel most encouraged by your country's participation since last year in the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference — a forum for regional cooperation and dialogue.

It was most significant that the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, process was launched at its first ministerial meeting in 1989. I regard especially highly the participation of the People's Republic of China, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong and the adoption of a declaration that spelled out the APEC philosophy and guiding principles at the third APEC ministerial meeting held here in Seoul last autumn. There is no doubt that cooperation between my country and yours in APEC will grow ever more important.

I should also like to take note of the significant growth potential of Northeast Asia which encompasses the Korean Peninsula, China, Russia, and Japan. This region as a whole is endowed with ample labor and natural resources, complemented by the economic and technological capabilities of our two countries.

End of Cold War

In a region where interchange and cooperation were hindered to a large measure by political barriers, the end of the Cold War has opened the way toward an improved climate where synergy can be achieved out of the strengths and weaknesses of the economies. It is within the realm of possibilities for Japan and the Republic of Korea to play a central role, in cooperation with the United States and other countries concerned, in transforming this region from that of tension to that of cooperation and create a prosperous and open Northeast Asia.

In fact, it is a dream well within our reach if we work for it. It is no exaggeration to say that whether this dream will come true or not hinges on the future cooperation between our two countries.

The Japanese people are earnestly praying for the day when a peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula will be achieved. This is because a peaceful and stable Korean Peninsula is the cornerstone for a peaceful and stable East Asia. And as a neighbor with many friends in this country we empathize with your national aspiration in a tireless pursuit of your peaceful reunification. We also understand your pain.

My heart aches every time I hear stories of families torn asunder and doomed to live scattered on the peninsula. There are some Japanese who moved to North Korea with their spouses, and although their parents and relatives are looking forward to a reunion, it has remained elusive. The letters sent tous from these people, many of them advancing in age, are filled with their earnest plea that they be allowed to have a glimpse of their daughters or sisters who have moved to North Korea.

The tragedy of the divided Korea must be laid to rest as soon as possible. It goes without saying that the peaceful reunification of the Korean

Peninsula must be realized through the dialogue between the South and the North.

What especially caught my attention in the agreement signed at the meeting of the prime ministers of the South and the North last year was the reference made to South-North interchange and cooperation at the insistence of your country. As in Aesop's Fables, it is not the cold wind but the warm sun that makes the man take off the cape. I was struck by the warmth of your heart in extending the love for compatriots to people who have lived almost half a century under a different political, economic, and social regime.

I also found myself very much in agreement wit your thinking that it is better to accept North Korea into the outside world rather than to force it into isolation if we are to encourage its reform and change, especially to help it open itself which would be conducive to the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula. I believe that your support for North Korea's membership in the United Nations stemmed from the same thinking. I strongly hope that North Korea will appreciate your true intent and act as a responsible member of the international community.

Japan has so far had five rounds of normalization talks with North Korea. One important consideration of ours in pursuing this negotiation is to rectify the abnormal relations between Japan and North Korea. But it is not simply that. Another important consideration is that the normalization of relations between Japan and North Korea should contribute to the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula.

This is in line with your thinking that it is better to accept North Koreá into the world community as a responsible member. I wish to stress on this occasion that, in the spirit I have just described, my government has, in the talks to date, called constantly for the promotion of the dialogue between the South and the North which is of particular importance for realizing a peaceful and stable Korean Peninsula.

I should add, though, that while there now is better understanding on each other's position as a result of fairly intensive discussions, the gulf of difference in the basic positions of Japan and North Korea has not narrowed much. Of particular gravity to the security of this region, I believe, is the issue of North Korean nuclear development, and it is imperative that this issue be resolved by the time relations between Japan and North Korea are normalized.

The people of Japan, the only country that was exposed to nuclear attacks, earnestly pray that nuclear weapons will never be developed in the Korean Peninsula. It is for this reason that Japan has been calling on North Korea not to own a nuclear spent-fuel reprocessing facility in addition to urging their acceptance of inspections by the International Atomic

Japan highly appreciates the series of measures that your country has adopted in an effort to resolve this problem: the non-nuclear declaration, the proposal for simultaneous inspection of the South and the North, and the declaration of non-existence of nuclear weapons among others.

Japan also warmly welcomes the provisional signing late last year of the draft Joint Declaration on Denuclearization between the South and the North as a major step toward the resolution of this issue. We hope that this declaration will be implemented at an early date, and will continue to urge strongly that North Korea, in keeping with its own announcement, sign and faithfully implement the IAEA safeguards agreement as soon as possible to dispel the international concern over North Korean nuclear development.

Hoping that in the near future a peaceful reunification that assures happiness for everyone in the Korean Peninsula will become a reality, Japan will continue to pursue negotiations with North Korea tenaciously, at the same time continuing to keep in close touch with you.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Japanese people are aware that your country has been striving for peace, freedom, and prosperity of the world. The 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, the cooperation you extended to the multinational forces during the Gulf crisis and your recent hosting of the APEC ministerial meeting were but only a few examples of such effort. The Japanese people highly appreciate these efforts of yours and heartily congratulate you on your successes.

Growing role

The Republic of Korea is, today, a major country in the world, and global expectations for your international role will only grow. As we set sail for a difficult voyage to a new world I am truly heartened that my country is fortunate to find a neighbor in you with much history and culture to share. This unshakable relationship between your country and mine will benefit not only ourselves but Asia and the world as a whole. I should like to define this partnership as "Japan-ROK relationship in the Asian and global context."

It now behooves us to cement our mutual trust more than anything as the foundation for this important partnership. Never should we allow ourselves to forget the fact that, at certain moments in the history of our relations with your country for the past couple of millennia, Japan was the assailant and Korea was the victim.

Allow me to take this opportunity to express our sincere remorse and apology for Japanese past actions which inflicted unbearable suffering and sorrow on the people of the Korean Peninsula. Recently, the issue of "comfort women" in the service of the Imperial Japanese Army has come into light. I cannot help feeling acutely distressed over this, and I express my sincerest apology.

As one who lived through the last world war I believe that history must be taught correctly to the future generations who will be responsible for the 21st century by teaching them our faults as faults so that they will never again be repeated. That is the responsibility of our generation, myself included.

While Japan has been working to disseminate correct understanding about the relationship between our two countries, we intend to continue to work hard to that end. I am determined to nurture in the Japanese people, especially our youth, the courage to face squarely the past facts, understanding for the feelings of the victims, and a sense of admonition that these misdeeds should never be repeated.

Today, the relationship of mutual exchange and interdependence between Japan and the Republic of Korea is growing by leaps and bounds, and with it, undeniably, new frictions and issues are arising. Yet, it should be possible through candid dialogue to seek out solutions to these problems based on understanding and collaboration. The trade imbalance, I am convinced, will be resolved by way of expanding the two-way trade toward a better balance as a result of mutual cooperation.

To that end I have proposed to President Roh Tae-woo the establishment of a forum comprising mainly businessmen of both countries. Placing this forum under my direct concern, I should like it to discuss most candidly the causes of and measures to redress the trade imbalance. The government of Japan shall take up the recommendations of the forum in a positive manner.

It is incumbent upon us to do our

best to achieve harmony and cooperation between our two countries with our sight constantly set on the world of tomorrow. It is vitally important that we build a new world through the deepening of Japan-ROK relations oriented to the future.

The foundation of any bilateral cooperation is mutual understanding. To promote that, each side must become well versed with the history, culture and society and other attributes of the other side. Following President Roh Tae-woo's visit to Japan the year before last, interest has been rising afresh in Japan about the exchanges between our two countries since ancient times and about the history and culture of your country.

I intend to adopt the following measures to make the best of this rise in interest. One is to promote further education research at Japanese universities on the culture, language, etc., of the Korean Peninsula as well as joint research by Japanese and Korean universities. Through such endeavors, academic and intellectual interchange between our countries can be expected to grow. Another measure is to translate into Japanese outstanding books on your history, culture, thoughts, biographies, etc., and publish them in Japan to spread understanding about your country among a broad strata of Japanese

As to youth exchange, an area of activity in which various measures have been taken to date, I should like to invite 500 additional Korean youths to Japan over a five-year period starting next fiscal year. Further, I feel that not only these bilateral exchanges but also broader-based exchanges including our neighboring countries may be useful. To this end, I am now considering a multilateral exchange program which will involve the young people of Japan, the Republic of Korea, China, the former Soviet Union, etc.

At the same time I very much hope that understanding of Japanese history, culture, society, and so on, will be furthered in your country as well. Should the efforts on both sides make progress, human and cultural interchange should reach new heights, and will, no doubt, put our bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation on an ever more solid ground.

Hand in hand

Ladies and gentlemen, your economic growth called the "Miracle of the Han River" is already well known to the world. The days when Japan was the only industrialized country in Asia are fast fading into the past. There now is a widening expanse of areas in Asia and the world community where our two countries must work together hand in hand.

First, I wish to act in concert with your country which has now become a donor country to promote economic contribution. Would it not be wonderful to promote together economic cooperation for the developing world by taking advantage of the rich experience both of us have?

I also wish to cooperate with the Republic of Korea for the successful outcome of the Uruguay Round, since Japan and the Republic of Korea, as beneficiaries of the free trading system, need to strive to preserve and strengthen that system.

Let me also cite bilateral cooperation on environment as a new area for cooperation. Let us together address this area as a transborder challenge in order to leave for posterity a shining 21st century with a beautiful natural heritage.

Ladies and gentlemen, in my hometown of Fukuyama City in Hiroshima Prefecture there is a port town by the name of Tomonoura that has thrived from olden times as a hub for maritime transport. A port of call for the envoys from your country during the Edo Period, I often went there to play as a small child. There still remains the lodging for the envoy's delegation at the Fukuzenji Temple there, wherein hangs "Taichourou," the name of the lodging, in a wooden

This wooden frame is said to have been made by using the three Chinese characters that the envoy, Hong Kayhui, who named the lodging, had his son, Hong Kyun-hae, write and gave to the chief priest of the temple. The sea at Tomonoura, studded with islands, is one of the scenic masterpieces of the Seto Inland Sea. I very much hope that you will visit these relics of Japan-Korea contacts in the days of yore when you find yourself in Japan.

I most earnestly hope that we shall be able to build on this history of contacts bestowed on us by our ancestors and forge "Japan-ROK relations in the Asian and global context" which will ensure friendship and cooperation for hundreds and thousands of years. I wish to conclude my speech by saying I hope this visit of mine to your country will contribute, even if in a small way, to realizing such progress in our bilateral relations.

Thank you.

