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P 221020Z  
FROM CABINET OFFICE  
TO WHITEHOUSE

BT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON.

I PROMISED TO SEND TO YOU MY IMPRESSIONS OF JAPAN, WHERE I SPENT THREE DAYS EARLIER THIS WEEK.

I HAD NEVER VISITED JAPAN BEFORE AND WHAT I SAW AND HEARD MADE A STRONG IMPACT. THIS REINFORCED THE CONCLUSIONS WHICH EMERGED FROM OUR CONVERSATION AT BERMUDA LAST DECEMBER. I AM MORE THAN EVER CONVINCED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE OTHER INDUSTRIALISED FREE NATIONS IS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE PROSPERITY AND STABILITY OF US ALL. THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SEEMED TO ME TO SHARE THIS BASIC VIEW, AND I WILL CERTAINLY TRY TO GIVE HIM ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT AS OCCASION ARISES. THERE MAY WELL BE SOME DIFFICULTIES AHEAD, FOR EXAMPLE IN OUR BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, SINCE INSTINCTIVE CAUTION AND DOMESTIC PRESSURES MAY COMBINE TO PREVENT THE JAPANESE FROM MOVING AHEAD TO RELAX THEIR EXISTING RESTRICTIONS SUFFICIENTLY FAST TO MEET OUR REAL NEEDS. SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES MAY OF COURSE ARISE IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADING AND ECONOMIC SPHERES.

THE JAPANESE MINISTERS REFERRED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS TO THEIR TALKS WITH YOU AT HONOLULU, AND IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THEY INTEND TO ABIDE BY JAPANS EXISTING SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THIS WAS REASSURING AND I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT BOTH MR. TANAKA AND MR. OHIRA ARE UNLIKELY TO WANT TO CHANGE THESE LONGSTANDING ARRANGEMENTS. THE FUTURE EXTERNAL POLICIES OF JAPAN ARE NEVERTHELESS AT AN INTERESTING MOMENT, AND I DOUBT IF WE SHALL BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THEIR LIKELY COURSE UNTIL WE SEE THE OUTCOME OF THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION.

ONE OTHER SUBJECT OF INTEREST TO US BOTH, AND WHICH WAS RAISED BY MR. TANAKA, WAS THE POSSIBILITY THAT JAPAN MIGHT OBTAIN A PERMANENT SEAT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. I TOLD HIM FRANKLY OF THE MANY DIFFICULTIES WHICH THIS IDEA IS BOUND TO BRING IN ITS TRAIN. BUT I ALSO SAID THAT I WAS NOT OPPOSED TO IT IN PRINCIPLE, AND THAT I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT IT AT OUR NEXT MEETING.

TANAKA HIMSELF STRUCK ME AS A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT LEADER, ONE LIKELY TO BE FORCEFUL IN HIS DEFENCE OF JAPANESE INTERESTS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME BEGINNING TO REALISE THE NATURE OF JAPANS INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND THE NEED TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION TO DEAL WITH THEM.

I WAS GLAD TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT THESE AND OTHER MATTERS WITH HENRY KISSINGER AT CHEQUERS LAST WEEK. THIS WAS VERY HELPFUL BEFORE MY OWN VISIT TO JAPAN.

BT

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E.O. 13526, Section 3.5

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By AM NARA, Date 4/10/2012

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