THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION
CENTER FOR NORTHEAST ASIAN POLICY STUDIES

in cooperation with

THE U.S-JAPAN COUNCIL

THE STATE OF U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS

Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki
and
Senator Daniel K. Inouye

The Brookings Institution
Washington, DC
November 20, 2009

P R O C E E D I N G S

RICHARD BUSH: Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you enjoyed your meal. I think we should get going. To introduce our featured speaker today, Ambassador Fujisaki, I would like to invite Irene Hirano, the president of the U.S.-Japan Council with whom we are very pleased to be co-sponsoring this event. Irene?

IRENE HIRANO: I want to thank Richard and the Brookings Institution for co-sponsoring this event with the U.S.-Japan Council, and it's a pleasure to see so many friends here. Before I introduce the Ambassador, I'd like to take a few moments to introduce you to the new U.S.-Japan Council. You received our new brochures and it really is a pleasure to have this. This is one of the first policy-related programs that we are sponsoring.

The mission of the Council is to build a strong people-to-people relationship as part of the U.S.-Japan relationship, and we do believe that within the building of the people-to-people relationship, that Japanese-Americans can and should play an important role, and so our organization is dedicated to encouraging and bringing in more Japanese-Americans as a part of that.

We're a national organization and we have opened up an office here in Washington, DC and we have one in Los Angeles. Among the programs that we will be administering, one program that has actually been in existence for nine years and that is a program called the Japanese-American Leadership Delegation. It's sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership. Each year we take a group of Japanese-American leaders to Japan. I've had the pleasure of accompanying nine of those groups and it's an opportunity to introduce them to leaders in Japan and to create a strong relationship, but more importantly, when they come back they work within their own local region and on national levels. We have 110 that have traveled as part of this program; the tenth group I will take next March. They've formed an important network of individuals who believe that part of their responsibility is to come back and get involved in the U.S.-Japan relationship.

One of our members, Ann Murakawa, came down from New York to be part of this program and we're very pleased that we have a very active group. We also have regional networks of Japanese-Americans that work alongside and that get to know leaders from the Japanese corporate community here in Washington, DC. There is a group called the JA-Net. John Tobe who is here is one of the co-chairs of that, and along with JCAW they sponsor many programs and events. Ohde-san, who is the chair of JCAW as you know, has been an active supporter along with many of those that are here from JCAW.

As I said, this is the first of regional policy events that we are going to be doing and we're taping this program because we will put it up on our website. We have a national constituency and so we want to be able to share policy programs with those in other parts of the U.S. that, as I said, are interested in becoming more involved and

engaged in these issues. We believe that it's important to bring new people into the conversation so we're very pleased that the Ambassador and the Senator agreed to allow us to film this conference.

We will be doing our first annual conference on September 20th of next year and so we look forward to inviting you to join that. I want to thank Sharon Yanagi who is our Executive Director, who was formally with Brookings, who helped put this program in place.

(Applause)

It is really my pleasure to introduce the first of our two speakers, who needs no introduction to this group. As you know, Ambassador Fujisaki spent time when he was a young boy in middle school in the state of Washington, then studied at Brown and Stanford and really has a good background in the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship. He served as a diplomat in Paris, London, Jakarta, and was also the Ambassador to the United Nations and the WTO.

From our perspective, he has been a strong advocate of forging the relationship with all Americans and Japan, but certainly forging a relationship with Japanese-Americans. He and his wife recently hosted a reception at the embassy along with the Council to invite Japanese-Americans. It was a first time that a gathering like that had occurred, a few weeks ago. We had over 300 who attended and it was really quite remarkable to know that there was that many in Washington, but more importantly, they really appreciated the fact that the Ambassador had welcomed them and we believe that they will become an important base of support in the future.

I want to take a few moments to thank Mrs. Fujisaki. We have some flowers for her that we wish to present to her. Sharon will do that. She's a great partner of ours, along with the Ambassador.

(Applause)

So at this time, it gives me great pleasure to bring up the first of our two Speakers, Ambassador Fujisaki.

AMBASSADOR FUJISAKI: I would like to talk about three things. One, current U.S.-Japan relations; second, President Obama's visit; third, where we are going from here.

Japan-U.S. relations, we are entering a new age. Right after the August election, and I see some Americans journalists and scholars here and so I hesitate to say this, but I'm going to go ahead and say it. Right after the election, I thought the reaction was "Japan is finally a democracy, they can change the government." Second, "we know what transition is, we are experts of that." Third, "Japan changed the government because of economic performance of the last government; they're not happy so there will not be any change in foreign policy." I must say, those were a little bit underestimating the

change, and if what they were saying in the campaign manifesto was closely followed, that kind of estimate could not have occurred.

I'll give you two or three reasons. One is that the change in administration occurs every four to eight years here. In Japan, this was virtually the first in fifty years. Second, this election is August was not about individuals, but it was about manifestos of parties. So they were voting for what the new government would be doing. Also, the new government was forming a coalition with two other parties. The government is composed of three parties and they have to abide by that as well.

The third point is that in the United States, for example, the midterm election comes two years after the presidential election. In Japan, we had an election on August 31st and the next election will be in July already. That's the upper house election. That means that the constituency and people will be looking very carefully at what the government will be implementing to what they committed. That is something that this new government always has to keep in mind.

These are the reasons why the change occurred a little bit more than what people had expected and now some media, if I may say, are a little too concerned about the situation. The first focus was on the stopping of the U.S.'s refueling of its naval ships with Operation Enduring Freedom activities in the Indian Ocean. Japanese leaders said that we will not automatically continue that from January of next year. There were some views, not only from this government, but from the other governments as well, that it should be continued. I thought that was what the Japanese government should decide; I think that was well understood by the U.S. government. I don't know about other governments, but it was well understood.

A second issue that got little attention was the U.S. forces' realignment. We'll talk more about that a little later. Because of that, there were some articles and columns saying that at long last the alliance is drifting a bit, which I think is a vast exaggeration again, of what the situation is and an underestimation of the strength of the alliance.

My second theme is President Obama's visit. This was quite timely against that kind of background. It really was opportune to fortify our alliance and show to the rest of the world. You would think that diplomats are paid to say those things but I really feel that way.

I sat in the meeting in New York and I sat in the meetings and dinner in Tokyo. I felt that the two leaders were getting to understand each other better and the conversation was very substantive and to-the-point. It was like watching a good game of ping pong. It wasn't like one reader would go and read forty minutes of a statement and the other reader would read for forty minutes and we would say afterwards that it was a very good, frank, and cordial discussion. It was not like that. It was really a good conversation.

At the beginning of dinner, the Prime Minister gave a gift to the President.

This was well thought out by the Prime Minister himself. It was a blue rose. His thinking was that they talked a lot about change. Obama's change had crossed the Pacific and then made change possible in Japan. Now what he wanted to say was that President Obama was challenging something very difficult. Hatoyama-san, the Prime Minister, is doing likewise, and the blue rose which seemed to be impossible before is now possible. So he wanted to show that they too shared that view.

I'll just go briefly into what we discussed: Afghanistan. Right before the presidential visit, we announced a new package that is $5 billion in around five years. We were already a close number three next to the U.K., of course number one being the United States. With this, we will be number two in the world in Afghanistan reconstruction packages. It's composed of three things – reconciliation, security, and infrastructure education. The Prime Minister has pledged, in a way, to the President in New York that he will come up with a package that is most suitable for Japan and which is most appreciated by Afghan people. So he has implemented his recommendation and the President was very appreciative of that.

The U.S. forces realignment. The two leaders have agreed that the working groups set up should come up with at the ministerial level would come up expeditiously with a result. And they have already started working.

Two points regarding U.S. forces realignment. One, Japan very much appreciates and is gratified and committed to U.S. forces' presence as deterrence. We need that and it is very much necessary for the service of all U.S. forces. Second, the notion to liken U.S. forces' presence to oxygen is wrong. To compare the oxygen argument is saying that it is indispensable. Yes, it is indispensable but unlike oxygen any base will be accompanied by noise, environmental problems, sometimes accidents, so this is the essence of the problem. 75% of U.S. bases in Japan are concentrated on the island of Okinawa so we have to lessen the burden here. And in order to address that issue in 2006, the U.S. and Japan came up with a package deal called "The Roadmap." The U.S. thinks that this should be maintained. The new Japanese government is trying to verify this and is reviewing it. We hope that we will come up with an agreement as soon as possible, as I said.

On nuclear non-proliferation, the Prime Minister was very appreciative of the President's initiative and he mentioned how the Japanese people were impressed by the Prague speech. The President, in his speech, said that it is not an immediate program but that he would be honored, that it would be meaningful for him to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki one day.

On climate change, they agreed on further cooperation – an 80% cut by 2050, and as for smart grid and Next-Generation vehicles they will further their cooperation.

On regional issues, the President was very impressive in saying that the U.S. will remain an Asia-Pacific nation. He said Asian-Americans have helped build America. He said that Asian-Americans have enriched American life and that the Pacific

Rim has helped shape his global view. He said the U.S. will be involved in any discussion to shape this region and also participate in the appropriate organization. Prime Minister Hatoyama said that the East Asian community should not be exclusive.

Lastly, point three. Where are we going from here? I will just say two or three things again. The equal partnership issue. This was focused a bit in Japan because the new leaders said that we are seeking equal partnership. President Obama said that the Japan-U.S. relations have been equal and will stay equal. I think there's no clearer answer than that.

Second issue, Asia or the United States. Because the new government is saying that we are putting emphasis on improving our relations with Asia, there are some concerns that people will say that we are doing that at the expense of Japan-U.S. relations; I think this is nonsense. Three reasons. One, this is not a zero sum game. Two, Japan has been saying that Japan-U.S. relations is the core. There are three pillars. The next pillar is cooperation with the international community including the United Nations. Third pillar is improving relations with Asia. That principle has been there for years and so it's not coming out of the blue. Three, the Prime Minister has always been saying that the Japan-U.S. relations fortification is the basis for everything. So this is not an "either/or" issue.

Lastly, I am hopeful about our relations for several reasons. One, we have common values and that's the very basis – democracy, freedom of speech. For example, President Obama's speech on Asia was broadcasted and televised live in Japan, if I may say, without deleting any lines.

(Laughter)

It doesn't mean anything but I just wanted to underline that.

Point two. We are still the number one and number two economies and we have lots to do together. Three, we have common challenges that we have to cope with together. As I said, that's non-proliferation, the environment, and other issues. Lastly, the most important is that 70% of Americans, 70% of Japanese think that the other side – the U.S. or Japan is the most critical partner. People like each other. That's the most important part.

What we have to be keeping in mind is that there should be constant dialogue between the top leaders. Second, we have to have the spirit of *daido-shoi*. That means that if we have common objectives on the big things, don't put too much emphasis on smaller things. Third, remain optimistic. For instance, the economy. If you try to be optimistic, the economy will come back. If you remain pessimistic, the economy will be bad and that kind of psychology can exist in security as well.

2010 is a special year. We have lots of opportunities. It's the 50th commemoration of the security pact, the 150th-year commemoration of the first mission from Japan, and third we are hosting APEC. In 2011, the U.S. will be the host so we can collaborate together. Lastly, we are very happy that they have started this activity, it's

very encouraging. I hope that Japanese-Americans will continue to be the bridge between these two great countries. We'll count on you. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

RICHARD BUSH: Thank you very much. It is now my great honor to introduce Senator Daniel Inouye from the state of Hawaii. I could spend the rest of our time talking about all the wonderful things that Senator Inouye has done, but I won't do that because you want to hear him not me. I will say that he is the second most senior member of the Senate, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and an important pillar of U.S.-Japan relations. As evidence of that, he helped establish the Interparliamentary Exchange Program between the U.S. Senate and the Japanese Diet. In the year 2000, the government of Japan presented him with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun. Senator Inouye, pleased to have you.

(Applause)

SENATOR INOUYE: My only complaint is why didn't she introduce me?

(Laughter)

My claim to fame is that she's my wife.

In the United States Senate, when a statement is made by a distinguished colleague, and he says exactly what you want to say, "Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman." And that would simplify it and I could just sit down. But, I did spend some time preparing these remarks so Mr. Ambassador, if I may.

In 1977, an extraordinary person respected by all who knew him and worked with him, became the United States Ambassador to Japan. He was a good friend and the Majority Leader of the United States Senate – Mike Mansfield of Montana. It's noteworthy that in his first speech as Ambassador, he made a very interesting observation. That observation is now known as the Mansfield Declaration. He said, and I quote, "The U.S.-Japan relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, bar none." And over the years, this declaration has become the cornerstone of diplomatic relationships throughout the world, and it's still recognized and it's still followed. As the Ambassador pointed out, for example, the first nation that our Secretary of State Hillary Clinton officially visited was Japan. She could have gone to England but no, she went to Japan. The first head-of-state invited by the new President was Prime Minister Aso of Japan. These events may seem simple to some but it sent a very strong diplomatic message throughout the world.

As some of you are aware, Ambassador Mansfield was the longest serving Ambassador, from 1977 to 1988. His tenure marked a time of maturity in the U.S.-Japan relationship. It was during the 70's that the security treaty was entered into, which expanded our military presence in Japan. Yokosuka became a major naval base; Okinawa

became the home of a large contingent of Marines. Bases like Misawa and Zama, Yokota were further developed.

This arrangement also allowed for the cooperation of our two nations in a very dynamic relationship. This may come as a surprise to some, but in order to help the Japanese revive its economy, and needless to say the Great War did much damage there, the United States unofficially adopted a weakness in our diplomatic eyesight and opened our trading doors a bit wider to allow Japanese goods into our market. And so cars and electronics and other goods began entering the American marketplace, competing against American industries. They were able to flood our markets and in essence, challenge our goods by cutting prices. We did all of this deliberately. It may appear strange, but it was necessary, at least we felt so.

The decision on the part of the United States to adopt a policy of diplomatic blindness came at a cost to some of our industries. But that was to be understood. Nevertheless, we felt that it was in the national interest of the United States and the national interest of Japan that we carry out this friendly policy. The stability of our relationship allowed for both nations to develop closer ties, diplomatically and economically. The poll that the Ambassador referred to is a real poll and no other country can come close to that. Americans love the Japanese and the Japanese love the Americans. I'm about the oldest person in this room so I come from a generation that looked upon the Japanese as the most hated enemy we've ever had in our history. Today, our best friend.

As the Ambassador pointed out, in the past year there have been extraordinary changes in the political and industrial makeup of our nations. This presents new challenges, real challenges to this long-standing friendship that we have. In Japan, for the first time, as all of us are aware, a new political party is in control of the Lower House. In the United States, in both houses we have large majorities, and we have a new president, also of the same party. The thrust of the voters in the U.S. and Japan reflected a desire for new direction, new ideas, and changes.

The second development also frames the current situation we face in both countries, and that is the economic crisis. A few weeks ago a very dangerous high in unemployment was reached in the United States, the highest in 26 years, 10.2%. I think we should note that each day, every 24 hours, 14,000 American men, women, and children are finding themselves losing health coverage as a result of the firing of their parents. This statistical high, while staggering and dangerous, is just a numeric explanation, so I decided to see what this economy is doing. As part of that, I have taken short trips to different places. About two weeks ago, I went to the city of Detroit to see for myself what has happened to that city. That city was the center of American industry not too long ago. Chrysler, Ford, General Motors – they were all there. Today, the population of Detroit is less than one-half of what it was five years ago. People have just moved out because of unemployment. It's one of the highest in our nation if not the highest – 27%. Nationally, we're 10.2.

During this short visit to the city, I asked for a tour, so I was just driven

around. And it was startling and in sense frightening to see a large number – I'm not talking about two or three but a dozen huge business buildings empty. I know this is an extreme example but it demonstrates the extent of the pain that some of my fellow Americans are experiencing at this moment. We know that in Japan there are certain areas there are experiencing similar statistics. History has shown us that if we are not careful during these difficult times, our leaders – political, industrial, diplomatic – will make bombastic statements, veiled threats proposed, ill-conceived ideas, that can have grave repercussions that makes these statements in election time, election time is next year for us and election time is next year for the Japanese.

The first two events, the election and the economy which have occurred in the U.S. and Japan, influenced our bilateral relations and statements have been made that can be easily misunderstood during these troubling times. Futenma is an important part of the discussions we've had so far. Much time and discussions have been spent, months and years, on the matter of relocating the Futenma airbase. As the Ambassador pointed out, and let me say the same, no matter how good Americans may be, how polite and well-behaved, after a while after 60 years, no matter how friendly you get tired of it. And as I've pointed out to my colleagues, imagine across the Potomac the finest group of Japanese soldiers, polite in every sense of the word, passionate, understanding, going out of their way to be nice to us, would we go for them to be there for 60 years? I can tell you the answer is "hell no." Now if we feel that way, I think we should understand why the Japanese feel the same way.

Well, since the decision to minimize our military footprint in Okinawa we have begun to pursue and implement provisions in that agreement to prepare Guam for the relocation of a large number of Marines from Okinawa. As these discussions continue to go on, I think it should be noted because I'm Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and also Chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense Appropriations, the cost of this relocation has increased 50%. And if we follow some of the suggestions made by responsible leaders, it could more than double. It started off at about $6.5 billion, it became $10 billion, $20 billion, and I can tell you that our taxpayers are getting a little tired.

As I pointed out, I believe this is one of our most challenging times in the past 65 years. The solution to the economic crisis worldwide – and I'm not proposing that I could provide you with the solution, nor am I a member of the Executive Branch, charged with the responsibility of maintaining diplomatic relations with Japan – but I've been involved in the Legislative Branch now for over 50 years and I've had the opportunity of watching and experiencing the aftereffect of diplomatic actions during periods of crisis. The consequences I've witnessed in some cases came at a very high cost of precious lives and nation's treasures, and in other occasions we've been rewarded with peace and economic stability. And so I just hope and pray that the leaders of both our nations – political, industrial, and domestic – will maintain their calm and exercise patience because this is not a time for irresponsible, bombastic, and threatening statements.

I'm pleased to see the press reports of recent days where statements are now being made that suggest that I have every reason to be very optimistic. I think that our leaders are not only doing their best, we both realize that we have no other choice but to stick together. This is a time for level-headed, reasoned dialogue and we should avoid the fiery rhetoric that can irritate the diplomatic relations. We must keep in mind that the supreme goal is to strengthen our relationship, and in the process bring about stability and the absence of violence in the Asia Pacific area. It's not only in our interest, and I firmly believe it's in the interest of the world community. The U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship remains the cornerstone of the foundation for harmony in the Asia Pacific region.

Having expressed these concerns, I am pleased as I noted, with the early analyses that are now coming forth from the recent meeting of Prime Minister Hatoyama and President Obama. It seemed rather clear that they were able to establish a friendly relationship and they were calling each other by their first names. I find it very difficult to call the Ambassador by his first name but he's my buddy. I'm old-fashioned.

(Laughter)

Well, I'm assured and reassured by Prime Minister Hatoyama's statement, and he said and I quote, "The U.S.-Japan alliance is the cornerstone." That says a lot. He went on to further state that, "But as time changes and as the international environment changes there's a need for us to further develop and deepen the U.S.-Japan alliance to make it an even more constructive and future-oriented alliance." Yes, as noted by both, the issues are not simple. It will require much thought and consideration and I'm hoping that the meetings on the disposition of Futenma will be resolved.

I was officially pleased to note that President Obama had a few things to say. For example, he said, "I began my trip here in Tokyo because the alliance between the United States and Japan is the foundation for security and prosperity, not just for our two countries but for the Asia Pacific region. He went further to say and I quote, "As we move our nations in a new direction, our alliance will endure and our efforts will be focused on revitalizing that friendship so that it is even stronger and more successful in meeting the challenges of the 21st century. It's essential for the United States, it's essential for Japan, it's essential for the Asia Pacific region."

It was noteworthy that President Obama said the following. "Throughout my presidency, I intend to make clear that the United States is a Pacific nation and we will be deepening our engagement in this part of the world." I think we should note that this is the first President of the United States to declare that the United States is a Pacific nation. We've always been an Atlantic nation. This statement should be noted and it should serve as a message to all concerned with Japan-U.S. relations. But I think all of us realize that the relationship is not static; it's dynamic and it continues to grow and change, meeting new challenges we face. And we can do no less than to work towards maintaining this peace and stability in this essential and most important bilateral relation, bar none.

My remarks this afternoon were primarily on two areas, military and trade. However, there is another element that we consider in all productive, friendly, and sovereign relationships, and that's people-to-people relationships. Therefore, I'm pleased that this gathering is hosted by the U.S.-Japan Council and by the Brookings Institution; it speaks well. And I'm happy that the president and senior members of the Council, Ms. Hirano – her last name is "Inouye" now – and members of the U.S.-Japan Council leadership are with us. But I'm very pleased an honored to be on the same platform as the distinguished Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Ichiro Fujisaki. Ichiro, I'm with you. Thank you very much.

(Laughter)

RICHARD BUSH: We have a little time for one or two questions. Ambassador Fujisaki, if I could invite you to come up here. Senator Inouye, you've been standing for a long time so you can stay in your chair. Once you're recognized, please wait for the mic and identify yourself. Who'd like to ask a question?

QUESTION: Good afternoon. My name is Ado Machida. Ambassador Fujisaki, Senator Inouye, thank you very much for spending time with us from your busy schedules. My question deals with the potential for an F-22 export variant. Especially as we go into 2010 where we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, and both of you have been critical players on this issue. I just wanted to get your thoughts on whether or not the potential for an export variant is a dead issue and if it is not, what the next steps and what the next hurdles and obstacles might be. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR FUJISAKI: Thank you very much, Mr. Machida. I would just like to make two points. One, the Japanese government has maintained the positioned that in order to choose the right plane which would succeed in force, we would like to have as many alternatives as possible. It could be the F-22, the F-35, the Eurofighter, whatever those possibilities. Some people would even say F-15s. Now, we have not made any decision, we just were seeking information so that we could make the right judgment. That was the position. Now, as we have been speaking, we have a new government and the government is reviewing its policies so we have not come up with a fixed position on this issue. Thank you very much.

SENATOR INOUYE: On the matter of the F-22, in a sense it's rather personal with me because I follow the development of this aircraft. It is without question the most devastating aircraft we have in our inventory; no one can match it. Among other things, not just speed and maneuverability, it's stealthy. But the political leaders of the United States decided that we don't need any more because no one can match our air force at this time. My position is that if we're that good we should maintain this position of supremacy in the air. And frankly, some of us are trying to keep it alive. The leadership of the militaries are for it, if you speak to them privately. They know what the F-22 can do; they know what the F-35 can do. And although there is a new change in the government I happen to know that the Japanese military is gung-ho for it. So they're still discussing this. But as to where we are going to go from here, I don't know. But I just

hope that the production line of the F-22 is kept alive because I think we're doing the wrong thing.

RICHARD BUSH: Thank you very much. One more question. Anybody? Dr. Park?

QUESTION: My name is Sun-won Park, from the Brookings Institution. I'd like a comment from Ambassador Fujisaki on the new Japanese policy towards China. During the period of Bush and Koizumi, the relationship between China, Japan, and the United States as a group was very bad. But now things have changed and northeast Asia may have a new chapter in its own recent history about the big power consolation. I'd like to hear your comment on that.

AMBASSADOR FUJISAKI: Thank you very much. I think that there are several reasons that Japan-China relations have deteriorated some time ago. One reason was the famous story about the Prime Minister going to the Yasukuni Shrine. The others were the importations from China, for example food or whatever, had been poisoned and a lot of Japanese felt anger. All these things happened almost at the same time. Now, when Prime Minister Koizumi stepped down, the new prime minister went to China very soon and I think the relations have ameliorated a lot between the two countries. Not since this September when the new government came in, but right after. That's already three years ago. Prime Ministers Abe, Fukuda, and Aso all kept very good relations and I think Hatoyama-san now is trying to further improve relations.

Japan and China are interdependent on the economy. China is a business trading partner and they need Japanese machinery and we need to export to China and importation from China. At the same time, it doesn't mean we don't have any problems at all. We are concerned about the military buildup, this is true, and also there are some historical issues that still remain, so we have to be very careful in managing relations.

All in all, I am quite hopeful about our relations and much of it remains in psychological fields so it has to be managed carefully, but if managed carefully I think we would have a very good future for bilateral relations. Thank you very much.

RICHARD BUSH: We've gone over our time. I would like to thank you all for coming and I would like to thank Irene and Sharon for their collaboration. I hope this won't be the last. But, especially I would like to thank Ambassador Fujisaki and Senator Inouye. Please join me in giving them a round of applause.

(Applause)

* * * * * * *