

I am further struck by the tolerance and understanding of Canadians toward multiculturalism, and their compassion and support for the handicapped. Many refugees who have unfortunately been driven out of their homelands in various parts of the world are choosing Canada as their final place to settle, and Canada is accepting them. This is testimony that the peoples of the world view Canada with respect, affection, and gratitude, as a nation with a warm heart and humanitarian spirit, which does not discriminate among human beings.

On this valued occasion of addressing the representatives of the Canadian people, I should like to speak on Japan's position and the basic elements of its policies towards the world. I should further like to state my views on how Japan and Canada can co-operate for their own progress and that of the world, as we move on to the 21st century, now only 15 years away.

The basis of Japan's world policy is to seek its peace and prosperity in the attainment of world peace and prosperity. As we put this into practice, we attach the highest importance to strengthening solidarity among the free nations of the world with whom we share common values.

After the end of World War II, the Japanese people, with deep remorse for the past, vowed to pursue peace as their national objective, and set about rebuilding their homeland, guided by the stars of freedom and democracy.

Forty years later, Japan has arrived where it is today, exceeding our expectations of ourselves. In the meantime, there have been major changes in the situation both home and abroad. The international community is asking Japan to make a contribution commensurate with the expanded influence it now exercises. For Japan which has for long enjoyed the benefits of world peace and prosperity, and of freedom and democracy, it has now become a national mission to respond positively to the call of the international community and to exert its energies toward the happiness of mankind. Japan's aspiration to work toward world peace and prosperity, on the basis of enhanced solidarity with the free nations of the world, is thus rooted in the very heart of the Japanese people.

With these thoughts in mind, let me enumerate what I consider to be the main points of Japan's world policy.

The first is the promotion of peace and disarmament. Since mankind first appeared on this earth several million years ago, history has been a constant struggle—a struggle to secure untroubled survival for mankind. It remains a fact, however, that in this age of highly developed human wisdom, the world is still torn by elements of unreason which threaten billions of lives. We owe it to our posterity to strive to eliminate these elements.

The largest single element of unreason is nuclear weapons. Except at the time of the Flood and Noah's Ark, mankind has never before been faced with such a threat of being totally and instantaneously wiped out. Whether mankind has the wisdom to eliminate by its own hand what is of its own making—this is

the unprecedented test to which Clio, the Muse of History, is subjecting mankind.

As the only nation ever to have experienced the devastation of nuclear weapons, Japan has steadfastly maintained its three non-nuclear principles, and has been calling at every opportunity for the elimination of nuclear weapons. As a means of achieving this, we have advocated that the superpowers reduce these weapons drastically while maintaining a proper balance. We have also made proposals for arms control and disarmament, including a step-by-step formula for steadily reducing the size of nuclear weapons with a view to achieving a comprehensive test ban.

I have felt it essential that the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union meet and talk in order to promote peace and disarmament, and have been calling upon President Reagan, General Secretary Gorbachev and others concerned to do so. Fortunately, the two leaders met last autumn in the first U.S.-Soviet Summit to take place in six and a half years. This meeting is only the start of a process and does not in itself warrant undue optimism. But it is true that we have seen the first ray of hope shine on these daunting problems. For my own part, I strongly hope that the two leaders respond to the ardent wishes of the peoples of the world, and continue to negotiate with sincerity and patience until they can achieve the desired results.

The regional conflicts raging in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Central America and elsewhere should also be important matters of our concern. The conflicts not only affect the lives and safety of those who live in these areas, but also, if escalated, may trigger a major war involving nuclear weapons. Japan has thus been working hard to devise ways of creating a climate conducive to the early resolution of these conflicts, as well as to the prevention of their escalation.

The increase in the stockpile of nuclear weapons and the eruption of regional conflicts are both attributable, in the final analysis, to distrust between the parties involved.

Therefore, the key to the resolution of those issues lies in bringing the parties around, through better mutual understanding, to mutual trust. Indirect as it may seem, efforts have to be made over time to create opportunities for deeper mutual understanding to eliminate mutual distrust, gradually, and to attain mutual trust. Japan views the United Nations and other international organizations as important for such efforts, and intends to exert its efforts to revitalize the functions of these organizations.

I note that Canada, on its part, has attached great importance to the activities of these international organizations, and has been taking the lead in actively promoting them. The people of Japan have never forgotten the very great help Canada extended to Japan in the post-war years as we returned to the international community and joined these international organizations.

The second point of our world policy is to strengthen solidarity among the free nations of the world.