SPFUSA
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

Sasakawa USA's Second Annual Security Forum

Updating the Alliance:

Domestic Changes, Regional and Global Challenges

Remarks by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe: "Japan's Global Role"

Admiral Blair:

Ladies and gentleman, I have the great honor to present the Prime Minister of Japan.

Prime Minister Abe:

私の長年の友人で、敬愛する笹川陽平会長が、ブレア提督という素晴らしい方を米国笹川平和財団の代表に迎えられ、SPFUSA が目覚ましい活動をなさっていることに対しまして、敬意を表します。本日のお招きに、心から感謝申し上げます。

Chairman Yohei Sasakawa is a long-time friend of mine, and someone I admire. He invited a great leader, Admiral Dennis Blair, to head the Sasakawa Peace Foundation U.S.A. Since then SPFUSA has been engaged in highly commendable work, for which I would like to pay tribute. I also wish to express to all of you my heartfelt gratitude for having invited me here today.

午前中、議会上下両院合同会議で、日本の総理大臣として初めて演説をする栄誉に浴しました。申し上げたことのエッセンスは、強い日本は米国の利益であり、強い日米同盟は、地域と世界の利益である、という点に尽きます。

This morning I had the honor of addressing a Joint Session of Congress as the first Japanese Prime Minister ever to do so. The essence of my remarks there was that a strong Japan is in the

interest of the United States, and a strong U.S.-Japan alliance is in the interest of the region and the world, full stop.

強い日本は、安定して成長する経済に土台を置きます。若い世代の日本人が、自分と自分の国と、その両者の将来について、自信をもつところから始まります。私の外交・安全保障政策は、アベノミクスと表裏一体であります。

A strong Japan should be founded on an economy that grows steadily. It starts with a new generation of Japanese gaining confidence in themselves and their future, and about their own country and its future. My foreign and security policies are inseparable from my Abenomics, like two sides of the same coin.

厳しい財政の中にある日本は、防衛費を劇的に増やすことはできません。それでも、日米同盟をもっと機能させる努力はできます。自分の国を自分で守る意図と能力を持たない限り、日米同盟を強くすることはできません。

Japan is under severe budgetary constraints and unable to increase its defense budget dramatically. Still, we can make further efforts to have the U.S.-Japan alliance function better. The bottom line is that unless you have the will and the capabilities to defend your own country, you can't fortify the U.S.-Japan alliance.

それがリバランスを補強し、日米が力を合わせることで、アジア・太平洋、インド洋にかけての地域に、平和と安定を確かなものにできればよい。そう思っています。

Our efforts will complement the rebalancing now being pursued by the United States. And those efforts, with the United States and Japan joining forces should lead the region from the Asia-Pacific to the Indian Ocean, toward more enduring peace and stability. That is what I hope for.

私たちを取り巻く安全保障環境は、依然として厳しさを増しています。自衛隊機が南西方面でスクランブルを実施する頻度は、日に日に増えるいっぽうです。海上保安庁も、連日連夜、荒海の中、必死に領海を守っています。南シナ海で起きていることは、多言を要しません。10 年前とは様変わりだと言ってもいいでしょう。

The security environment surrounding us only gets more and more challenging. The frequency with which the Japan Air Self-Defense Force is scrambling aircraft in our southwest skies is on the rise day by day. And night and day, in turbulent waters, the Japan Coast Guard is going all out to defend our territorial waters. What is taking place in the South China Sea should be clear to all. What you see in the region today is a picture entirely different from what you saw there even a decade ago.

安全保障法制の見直しを、私たちはこの夏までに実行する決意です。これで、平時・グレーゾーンから緊急事態に至るあらゆるレベルの事態に、切れ目のない対応を可能にすることができます。

We are determined to have new legislative bills for our security passed by the Diet by this coming summer. Once these new bills are in place we will be able to respond in a seamless way to all levels of possible security events, from both normal circumstances and “gray zone” situations to those requiring emergency responses.

今までは、例えば日米のイージス艦が日本のそばで弾道ミサイルの警戒に共同して当たっている際、米艦が攻撃を受けても、我が国のイージス艦は米国の艦船を助けることができませんでした。これが、可能となります。

Suppose for instance two Aegis-type destroyers from Japan and the United States are in a joint operation on the high seas near Japan on guard against possible incoming ballistic missiles, and that the U.S. ship suffers an attack. Until now, Japan's Aegis-type vessel could not help the U.S. destroyer. We will finally be able to do just that once these new bills enter into force.

国際平和協力活動を一緒にしている他国部隊が襲われた場合、自衛隊は駆けつけて助けることができませんでしたが、これが可能となります。

Take another example from our international peace keeping activities. Suppose a unit from some other country that is working side by side with Japan is suddenly attacked. Until now, it was impossible for the Japan Self Defense Force to rush to that unit's rescue. We will now also be able to do that with these bills in place.

日本国内で進む、こうした変化が一つ。もう一つ、米国のリバランスが相俟って 、今度の新しいガイドラインになりました。一昨日、2+2 会合をもって、合意がなった。歴史的合意であります。

On the one hand, you have these kinds of changes going on in Japan, while on the other, you have rebalancing underway in the United States. In combination, these two circumstances have brought our new security guidelines into being. Our "Two Plus Two" ministerial

consultations the day before yesterday sealed our bilateral agreement, which was truly historic in nature.

日米同盟の意義とは何でしょうか。冷戦に勝利をもたらしたこの同盟は、新たな環境に対応する柔軟性をもっています。なぜなら、それは価値が支える同盟であるからであります。日米が共有する揺るぎのない価値が根底にある同盟であるからであります。

What is the significance of the U.S.-Japan alliance? This alliance, which brought us to victory in the Cold War, has a great deal of flexibility in adapting to new security environments because it is underpinned by common values and because it takes as its foundation the unshakeable values shared by Japan and the United States.

信頼に基づいているからでもあります。あの、日本を襲った災害の後、助けに来てくれた米軍の人たちを動かしていたのは、一片の命令だけだったとは思いません。困った人がいるとき黙過することができないという、米国人の溢れんばかりの善意がそうさせたのだと思います。それが、悲嘆にくれた日本人にどれだけ希望をくれたかもしれません。

It is also because our alliance is grounded in mutual trust. The U.S. servicemen and women who rushed to the rescue of Japan after the devastating disaster did so, in my view, not merely because they were under orders to do so. They simply could not stand idly by when someone else needed help. The overflowing compassion that is so quintessentially American naturally led them to do so. You cannot imagine how much this gave hope to the hopeless people lost in their grief.

このとき受けた恩を決して忘れないよう、そして米軍との「絆」をますます強くするために、私たちは、在日米軍で働いた経験がある人々とのネットワークづくり、またその強化のプロジェクトを SPFUSA と協力して始めます。

In order for us not to forget the kindness we received from you, and also for us to strengthen the "*kizuna*," or bonds of friendship, we have with the U.S. military even further, we are launching in cooperation with SPFUSA a project to network people who have worked in the U.S. Forces in Japan. We will keep up our efforts to strengthen that network.

在日米軍経験者やそのご家族は、帰国後、全米各地で活躍されています。裾野の広いネットワークで繋げることができるなら、彼らはそれだけ、折に触れ日本のことを思い出し、日米関係を支える力強い母体になってくれるでしょう。

Across the United States, current and former servicemen and women and their family members who spent time in the U.S. Forces in Japan are playing important roles in various ways. Connecting them in a broad network will enable them to recall from time to time their days in Japan, and possibly, also serve to support the U.S.-Japan relationship.

議会の演説で私は、高校生の頃から愛聴してきたキャロル・キングの You've got a friend を引きながら、日米同盟は今や、希望の同盟になるのだと言いました。

In my address to Congress earlier today, I mentioned the Carol King song "You've Got a Friend," a tune I have been fond of ever since my high school days. I referenced that song to say that the U.S.-Japan alliance should be an alliance of hope going forward.

希望の同盟は、世界に安心を与える同盟です。希望の同盟は、世界の公共財を進んで守ろうとする同盟です。それは繰り返しますが、民主主義、人権、法の支配といった我々に共通の価値を、増進させようという同盟です。

This alliance of hope is an alliance that gives assurance to the world. And this alliance of hope is one that willingly works to safeguard international public goods. It is, I should repeat, an alliance working to advance democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law, and other values we hold in common.

ブレア提督、ダニエル・ボブ、加藤和世さん、SPFUSA の皆さん。今日は素晴らしい機会をくださり、本当に有り難うございました。Thank you so much.

Admiral Blair, Dan Bob, Kazuyo Kato, and all of you at SPFUSA, thank you so very much for having given me such a wonderful opportunity to address you today. Thank you so much.

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Q&A Session:

Admiral Blair:

So Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much for those remarks and on expanding on some of the themes that you made in your remarkable address to the Congress this morning.

If I could just start out with the question a little bit more about your personal story. It's truly remarkable. Your first term as the Prime Minister was very short. You were not able to accomplish many of your goals. And then in 2012 when you came back as Prime Minister, bang! There was this far-reaching policies – security, economics, many other things, long-term goals that you immediately put into action. During those five years when you were out of office, how did you develop such a full agenda for action? How did you build the necessary political support for both your leadership and for your agenda?

Prime Minister Abe:

私の祖父がよく言ったのでありますけれども、なぜ日本は１回総理を経験した人物をもう一度総理にしないのか。１回の経験の中で様々な失敗や挫折を経験するわけでありまして、次はこうやれば上手くやると、一番よく知っているのは１回失敗した総理大臣であろうと思います。私はその５年間の間に、なぜ一年間で終わってしまったのか、そのことを常に考えていました。そのことを生かしながら、今政権運営を行っている。これが良かったのかなあと思います。

My grandfather used to tell me that, why Japan is having Prime Ministers serving only one term. With no other Prime Minister serving the second term after an interval or pause. But I believe that once you have the experience, that could lead to your asset or some kind of

strength because you can learn something from your own mistakes or the lack of achievement that you couldn't see out of your leadership. So for the past five years I have been thinking what went wrong in my first experience as the Prime Minister of Japan. And that is why I think right now I am seeing successful leadership out of my administration and that has been the key for me to promote specific initiatives.

Admiral Blair:

Let me just say that's unique, Mr. Prime Minister.

You mentioned, Mr. Prime Minister, in your remarks that your economic program, Abenomics, and your security program, are two parts of the same strategy. Could you tell us a little bit about how they are connected and how they reinforce each other?

Prime Minister:

日本は１５年間、１９９７年からずっとデフレ経済の中に沈んでいました。その中 **GDP**、名目 **GDP** は縮小し、そして世界におけるプレゼンスも小さくなってしまいました。

Since year 1997, Japan had been suffering from 15 years of deflation, leading to a shrinking GDP both in real as well as nominal terms. And because of that, Japan's overall presence was shrinking as well.

その間、日本人は自信を失い、もう成長できない、こう思いはじめていました。私はこれを変えなければいけない、デフレから脱却をして、経済を成長させ、そして **GDP** を増やしていく。それは社会保障の財政基盤を強くすることになりますし、当

然、防衛費をしっかりと増やしていくこともできます。また、海外に対する支援も行うことができる。日本のプレゼンスを引き上げていくことができる。つまり、強い経済はしっかりとした安全保障、安全保障政策の建て直しに不可欠であると、こう考えています。

And against this backdrop, Japanese people lost the confidence in themselves. People started believing that we could not achieve economic growth again. And when I took office again, I thought that I should change that way of thinking among the Japanese people. By overcoming deflation and achieving economic growth, and also by increasing the size of GDP, we can actually do a lot more in other areas. Of course, this would include solidifying and strengthening our financial ability to sustain social security. This would also enable us to increase defense spending. Moreover, by having stronger economy, we can be more proactive in offering support to other countries and partners. And by doing so we can expand our presence in the international community. So a strong economy is the essential component for us to havea robust security policy, and that was my personal conviction.

Admiral Blair:

Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister. And one final question. I know this is not your last event of today. Could you just share with us, 2020, Japan will be hosting the Olympics. What is your vision for what the region will look like and what Japan's role will be in that region five years from now?

Prime Minister Abe:

まず、２０２０年のオリンピック・パラリンピックは、日本の魅力、そしてテクノロジーを世界に発信できるオリンピックにしていきたいと思います。同時に、オリ

ンピックであり、パラリンピックでもあります。日本においては、障害のある人も、あるいは歳をとった人も、女性の人も、すべての人たちにとって機会がある。チャンスがある。そしてハードルがない世界であることを示していきたいと思います。

Looking ahead to the year 2020 when Japan is going to host the Olympic and Paralympic games, I would like to prepare for the games so that we can send out a strong message that Japan is filled with both charm as well as technology that we can be proud of. At the same time, the games themselves are not just about the Olympics, but also the Paralympics. We would like to demonstrate to the world that for all, people including the handicapped, elderly, women all have opportunities. I want to create a society where we don't see obstacles of any kind to all people.

そして同時に、世界から沢山の人たちが日本を訪れることになります。その中で、日本はおもてなしで応えたいと思いますが、世界の人々にとって、日本に行くことによって様々な刺激を受ける、そしてまた、あるいは、日本で活動したい、勉強したい、仕事をしたい、と思ってもらえるような国にしていきたいと思いますし、同時に、東日本大震災において多くの人たちの支援をいただきました。あの震災から十分に立ち直った日本の姿をお見せしたいと思います。

And also on the occasion of 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games, we are expecting a large number of people visiting from every corner of the world. We would like to respond to them with our spirit of "*omotenashi*" –with great hospitality. I would like to see the people visiting from around the world be stimulated during their stay in Japan. To be more specific, I would like to see more and more people interested binging their activities to Japan, pursuing

the opportunities for study and research in Japan, and seeking professional careers there. In a parallel effort, we would like to show our gratitude by demonstrating that Japan has achieved full reconstruction after the 3.11 disaster.

Admiral Blair:

Mr. Prime Minister, on the behalf of all the American friends of Japan here, we look forward to a very successful Olympics and a very peaceful and prosperous East Asia in which Japan is playing a leading role. Thank you for spending time with us.

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