

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2026

Remarks Prior to a Dinner With Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi of Japan
March 19, 2026

President Trump. Thank you very much, everybody. Please.

We have a very special person with us tonight, an amazing person.

Tonight I'm delighted to welcome a great friend and partner for her very first visit to the White House. We've become very close, so close that I endorsed her for her election. *[Laughter]* And she did well. She got the greatest—the highest number ever gotten by somebody running for the highest position in Japan, beating out a lot of our friends. And it's a tremendous tribute.

And that's our really amazing friend, the Japanese Prime Minister, who's going to speak in just a few minutes. But we're very honored to have you with us tonight. Thank you.

Prime Minister Takaichi. Thank you.

President Trump. And I want to congratulate the Prime Minister on that unbelievable—all over the world they were talking about it—that victory in last month's election, winning by numbers that, as I said, nobody has ever seen in Japan before.

And this was not only an amazing political achievement. It was a resounding declaration of strength and confidence, national spirit, and resolve straight from the Japanese people, who love you.

And the Prime Minister's visit comes as we are just days away from the most beautiful season here in Washington—which, by the way, is a crime-free city, just about. *[Laughter]* And we're doing—we're very proud of that. We have done a great job, and it's a very safe place that people are coming to in record numbers.

And the blooming of the Japanese cherry blossom trees is something very special. For more than a century, this magnificent explosion of pink and white has graced America's Capital—I mean, it's been something that really represents Washington so well—as a living symbol of the cherished friendships between two of our world's most extraordinary nations.

And this year, we're honored to receive an additional 250 cherry trees—and they're very big, beautiful trees—from the great people of Japan in recognition of America's 250th anniversary. And they will remind every future generation of our timeless bond, and they'll be planted near and around the Washington Monument. And it's going to be something very special. They've already started the planting, but it's 250 beautiful specimen trees. And we'll get you over here. We'll check them out after they're planted. We'll get you back. *[Laughter]*

Americans and Japanese come from opposite sides of the globe, but since the earliest days of commerce between our two countries, we've always recognized that despite obvious differences, we share a great deal in common.

Both of our civilizations have been defined and propelled by proud cultures deeply committed to excellence, hard work, and pushing the frontiers of what is possible. That's why, in every field, human—I mean, human endeavors from so many different sides of the planet, from medicine to music, from art to engineering, you find that Americans and Japanese are leading the way. Always leading the way.

These shared traits and values have transcended every trial in history—and you look—no matter where you go, you see this—and ultimately made our nations into strong allies and very

close friends. Our partnership has made both the United States and Japan stronger, freer, and more successful than virtually any other nation on the planet.

And under the leadership of the Prime Minister and myself, I know we will soon make that partnership even stronger and better than ever before. We have that relationship, and actually, it started quite a while ago.

On my visit to Tokyo last year, we reached a historic trade deal that will increase our cooperation on everything from energy to semiconductors and shipbuilding and pharmaceuticals. It was a big one—one of the biggest deals ever made. The United States is also encouraged to see the steps the Prime Minister is taking to expand her country's commitment to its own security and defense and buying a lot of our defense equipment, I'm happy to tell you.

So just to close up: With the commitment of the leaders and the biggest leaders in the country—some of the most successful people in the country, politically and business wise—and all of the partners in the room, the United States and Japan can be an unstoppable force for freedom, security, and progress for our countries and for the entire world to look up to.

So let us stand together with the strength and dignity, purpose. Let us keep our people safe, our nations prospering, and our alliance flourishing for many, many generations to come.

And with that, I'd just like to thank the Prime Minister. This is a spectacular woman, and it's an honor to have you with us at the White House. Thank you.

Prime Minister Takaichi. The Honorable President Donald J. Trump; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen: I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for hosting such a beautiful dinner for me and my delegation.

Donald, thank you very much for your warm feelings toward Japan and your friendship. So tonight I would like to start off by extending my sincere congratulations on two important anniversaries.

The first one is the birthday celebration. Donald, tomorrow is a birthday of your son, Mr. Barron Trump. And I know he has grown up so much into a very tall, good-looking gentleman. *[Laughter]* As I see you, Donald, it is very clear where he got it: of course, from his parents. *[Laughter]* There is no doubt about it.

President Trump. Thank you.

Prime Minister Takaichi. So, Donald, if I may ask you, please convey my sincere happy birthday wishes to him.

President Trump. Thank you.

Prime Minister Takaichi. The second one is the 250th anniversary of the United States, as you rightly mentioned. The United States has long been an icon of freedom and democracy in the world, and this year, the United States is marking a historic milestone. And on behalf of the government and the people of Japan, I would like to extend my deepest congratulations to you and the American people.

And I understand that in August this year, at Donald's suggestion, INDYCAR race, Freedom 250 Grand Prix, will be held here in Washington, DC. This race will bring roaring Chevrolet and Honda engines to the National Mall. *[Laughter]*

In addition, Japan's NTT Group has been a title sponsor of the INDYCAR Series. As you see, INDYCAR race is a perfect, perfect example of the friendship between Japan and the United States. So I do hope that you have a huge success at this racing event.

Speaking of our friendship, here in Washington, DC, Japanese Sakura, or cherry trees, have long been letting us know the arrival of spring, and also, it has been a symbol of the history of Japan-U.S. friendship.

And this is also something that Donald already mentioned but I would like to reiterate: This year, Japan extends a gift of additional 250 cherry trees to Washington, DC, to celebrate America250.

Actually, my original plan was to bring so many cherry flowers and directly hand it to you, Donald. But unfortunately, because of the very strict quarantine measures, that I couldn't make this happen. *[Laughter]*

A stronger Japan and a stronger America, a more prosperous Japan and a more prosperous America—I am very confident that Donald and I are the best buddies to realize this shared goal. *[Laughter]*

Late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was Donald's dear friend and also my dear friend too, eloquently said one phrase here in Washington, DC, upon his visit. And as I stand here today, I would like to repeat what he said with greater pride and confidence:

[Prime Minister Takaichi spoke briefly in English as follows.]

Japan is back! *[Laughter]*

[Prime Minister Takaichi continued in Japanese, and her remarks were translated by an interpreter as follows.]

Japan once again will lead innovation in the world, and the new Japan stands ready to play an even greater role for world peace. Japan will continue to walk on such path, together with Donald and together with the American people.

Let us together create a new chapter in the history of Japan-U.S. alliance, a chapter filled with hope and strength. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:20 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. Prime Minister Takaichi spoke in Japanese, and her remarks were translated by an interpreter.

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