

In 1879 Sho Tai, the last King of the Ryukyus, left Shuri Castle for the last time. One of his final acts as king was to read a poem that summed up his hope for the future. Today, his words speak to us across the generations: *Ikusa-yun sumachi. Miruku-un yagate*. "The time for wars is ending. The time for peace is not far away. Do not despair. Life itself is a treasure." May Sho Tai's words guide our friendship and our work in the months and years to come.

Governor, I thank you for your remarks and your leadership here. In the end, the words

of Sho Tai, if we can make them real in our time, is the very highest tribute we can pay to all those people whose names are on this magnificent memorial.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. at the Cornerstone of Peace in the park. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Keiichi Inamine of Okinawa; Machika Kawamitsu, student, who introduced the President; and Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Okinawa

July 21, 2000

Middle East Peace Summit

Q. Mr. President, are you more optimistic today about the prospects for a Middle East peace settlement?

The President. All I can tell you is that they're still talking, and consistent with our rules, I'm still not talking. [*Laughter*] But I'm hopeful.

National Missile Defense System

Q. Mr. President, are the two of you going to be talking about missile defense here today?

The President. I'm sure we will. We talked about it last month in Moscow, and I'm sure we'll talk about it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:20 p.m. at the Busena Terrace Hotel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Russia-United States Joint Statement on Cooperation on Strategic Stability

July 21, 2000

The United States and Russia underscore that continued strengthening of global stability and international security is one of the most important tasks today. The Joint Statement on Principles of Strategic Stability, adopted in Moscow on June 4, 2000, establishes a constructive basis for progress in further reducing nuclear weapons arsenals, preserving and strengthening the ABM Treaty and confronting new challenges to international security.

The United States and Russia have begun intensified discussions on the earliest entry into force of the START II Treaty, on further reductions in strategic forces within the framework of a future START III Treaty and on ABM issues.

The United States and Russia are dedicated to the search for new ways of cooperation to control the spread of missiles and missile technology. They will work together on a new mechanism to supplement the Missile Technology Control Regime. This mechanism would integrate the Russian proposal for a Global Monitoring System, the U.S. proposal for a missile code of conduct, as well as the mechanisms of the Missile Technology Control Regime, which the United States and Russia will continue to strengthen. They are prepared to expand their discussions of issues related to the threat of proliferation of missiles and missile technology.