

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.

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The United States and Russia reaffirm their commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the foundation of the international nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime. They will work to ensure early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and seek to expand cooperation related to the CTBT to promote mutually beneficial technical exchanges that will facilitate implementation of the CTBT after its entry into force.

Broadening their cooperation for the purpose of strengthening stability, the United States and Russia will apply their efforts toward creating, and placing into operation within the year, a joint U.S.-Russian center for exchange of data from early warning systems and notification of launches. They will seek to complete work on an agreement on pre-launch notification for

launches of ballistic missiles and space launch vehicles, and on principles for opening this system to the voluntary participation of all interested countries.

The United States and Russia are prepared to renew and expand their cooperation in the area of theater missile defenses, and consider the possibility of involving other states.

The Presidents of the United States and Russia have agreed that officials will meet in the near future to coordinate their activities in this area.

Russia and the United States call upon the other nations of the G-8 and all other nations of the world to unite their efforts to strengthen strategic stability.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan in Okinawa

July 22, 2000

Japan-U.S. Trade

Q. Mr. President, has Mr. Mori agreed to a fourth year of the trade deregulation talks with the U.S.?

President Clinton. Maybe the Prime Minister should answer that.

Prime Minister Mori. Yes, we agreed to continue the dialog for another year.

President Clinton. And I'm very pleased about that because it's, I think, been a very fruitful thing for both our countries, and I think it will—the agreements we've made here at this summit, I think, will be very positive for Japan's economy and our relationship.

North Korea

Q. Mr. President, what is your assessment of North Korea's offer to curb its missile program in exchange for space exploration assistance? Is there any reason to believe that's credible?

And Mr. Prime Minister, were you reassured by that offer?

President Clinton. Well, let me say, based on what President Putin said last night in our conversations, I think that it's something that needs to be explored, and we need to see exactly what the specifics are. I think that he would agree with that, too. It's not clear to me exactly what the offer is and what is being requested and the time for it. But I think we heard enough so that there should be an attempt to determine what the facts are here, but I can't say that I'm clear enough on what the offer was to make a final judgment.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9 a.m. at the Bankoku Shinryokan convention center. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.