

Ford says Japan ally against war, inflation

TOKYO (AP) — President Ford acknowledged Wednesday that the United States and Japan "have had some disagreements" on policy matters but declared the two nations will work together to help solve the world's economic ills and avert war.

In a text prepared for the first formal address of an unprecedented presidential visit, Ford told a luncheon crowd at the Japan National Press Club, "We worked together to solve the problems of the cold war. We succeeded because we

worked together. Now we confront new and even more complicated problems. Just as we worked together to maintain today's peace, we can work together to solve tomorrow's problems."

The President cited inflation, recession and potential shortages of fuels and raw materials and said, "America cannot solve those problems alone. Nations can only solve them by working together. We can work together to meet the global economic issues.

"I believe we are not just temporary allies; we are permanent friends. We share the same goals—peace, development, stability and prosperity."

To criticism by some Americans of his decision to visit Japan "when we have unsolved problems at home," Ford said his response is that U.S. domestic difficulties "are not just American problems but the problems of the world as a whole."

Just prior to his press club appearance, Ford held a second day of

meetings with Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka and other ranking Japanese officials. On Tuesday he assured the Japanese leaders they could count on a steady supply of food from the United States.

The President expressed understanding for Japan's "special sensitivities" about nuclear weapons, a key domestic issue, and tried to clear the way for purchase of choice American beef, now in abundant supply in the United States as farmers sell off cattle they can't afford

to fatten up on expensive grain.

"Our paths are not always identical," Ford told Emperor Hirohito in a banquet toast, "but they all lead in the same direction—that of world peace and harmonious relations among mankind."

Ford and Hirohito drove off in a long, black Nissan limousine to the Imperial Palace. Crowds were kept back by police but some 2,000 selected spectators, most of them women, were allowed within reach so that Ford could shake a few

hands.

Cheers rang out and small American and Japanese flags were waved in the spring-like breeze. In contrast to Monday, no demonstrations against Ford's visit were reported anywhere in the Tokyo area.

A railway worker's strike for higher year-end bonuses, timed partially to embarrass the government during Ford's visit, forced an estimated 36 million Japanese to find alternate transportation to work or else to stay at home. But the

24-hour strike, which ended at noon, had no significant effect on Ford's activities.

Reporting to newsmen on Ford's talk with Tanaka, Kissinger said the President assured Tanaka that Japan "could count on a stable level of agricultural supplies from the United States." This was a vital guarantee from the world's largest food producer after the Nixon administration last year abruptly halted exports of soybeans, a Japanese staple.

Regarding U.S. efforts to get the Japanese government to ease its ban on meat imports, Kissinger said: "That question was discussed. I don't want to speak for the Japanese government but my impression was that the President's point will be taken very seriously."

Kissinger said Ford was understanding about Japanese concern over nuclear weapons reportedly brought into Japanese ports by U.S. warships. But he implied the controversy remained unsettled by saying that the two sides agreed on further consultation between the secretary of state and Foreign Minister Toshio Kimura. He added that the 1960 security treaty between the two countries would be applied.

The treaty does not allow the United States to deploy or store nuclear arms in Japan without the government's permission. However, there have been reports, regularly denied by the Japanese, that the agreement allows U.S. ships bearing nuclear weapons to stop routinely at Japanese ports.



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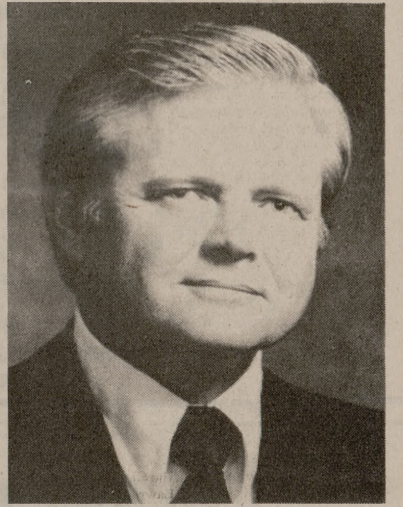
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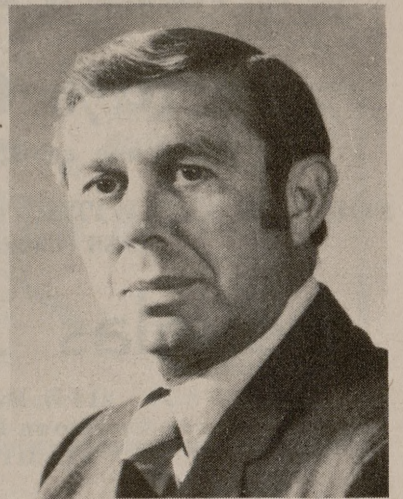
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Former students elect officers for coming year

Fort Worth businessman John W. Caple was chosen president and Federal Trade Commissioner Mayo J. Thompson president-elect Saturday of the 65,000-member Association of Former Students.

Caple and Thompson were picked, along with other officers, as the leaders of the alumni organization met on campus to formulate plans for continued support of the university.

Caple, a 1952 graduate and class agent, is president of Trailer Equipment Inc. He is chairman of the Friends of the Corps Committee, a past president of the Fort Worth A&M Club and two years ago served as the association's vice president for fund raising.

Thompson is a 1941 Texas A&M graduate and was an attorney in Houston before being appointed to the FTC in Washington. He serves as a member of the TAMU Centennial Committee and Alumni-Student Relations Committee.

Elected as program vice presidents were James R. Page of San Antonio, activities; R. Wade Lorenz, Lake Jackson, community affairs; Harvey Cash, Dallas, fund raising; Dr. John M. Knox, Houston, high school program; Robert A. Mears, Houston, membership, and Douglas E. Flatt, Tyler, public relations.

Bob Bell of College Station and Herb Gersbach of TAMU were chosen as Memorial Student Center representatives.