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大臣・ジョンソン大使会談（11月29日）

No. 501

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has the honor to refer to a request which the Embassy made to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry on September 5, 1967 for approval of a special quota for the importation of various food products to be displayed and sold at the American Festival to be held at Harumi Pier April 5-21, 1968 and at related promotions in retail stores in Japan. This American Festival is, of course, in pursuance of the goal frequently expressed by both of our governments of broadening and deepening our mutually advantageous trade relations.

The requested special quota totals \$968,750 divided as follows:

American Festival at Harumi	\$303,450
Maidi-ya (for its retail stores throughout Japan)	196,550
Daimaru, Inc.	217,750
Isetan Co., Ltd. and affiliated stores	150,000
Kinokuniya Supermarket Co., Ltd.	<u>101,000</u>
	\$968,750

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The Ministry of International Trade and Industry has not yet acted on the Embassy's request and the matter has acquired considerable urgency. An early decision is required so that orders can be placed and the goods shipped to arrive in Japan in time for the promotions.

The Ministry will recall that the Government of the United States has made repeated representations to the Government of Japan for the removal of quantitative import restrictions which the Government of Japan is applying inconsistently with provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, restrictions which deny to American exporters access to the Japanese market to which they should be entitled and also deny to Japanese buyers the benefits of being able to choose from a wider variety of competitive products. The matter has been raised at meetings of the Joint United States-Japan Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs, at special consultations in Geneva in December 1965, and on numerous other occasions both bilaterally and in multilateral forums. In response to these representations, the Government of Japan has consistently reiterated its intention to increase import opportunities and to move toward liberalization.

Recently the Government of Japan expressed its concern about "protectionist movements" in the United States. President Johnson and members of his administration have strongly reaffirmed their

commitment to liberal trade policies. It is clear, however, that restrictive policies in other countries, including Japan, have been an important factor in stimulating protectionist forces in the United States and make more difficult the administration's efforts to combat them.

The American Festival at Harumi Pier has created a great deal of interest in the United States among state governors and congressional, business, and farm leaders. The opening of a special import quota for those items still subject to quantitative restrictions will contribute greatly to the success of the American Festival and will provide a helpful manifestation of the Government of Japan's intention to permit increased access to its market.

The Embassy hopes that its request for approval of a special import quota will receive prompt and favorable consideration.

Embassy of the United States of America,

Tokyo, November 29, 1967

TALKING PAPER

Subject: U. S. -Japan Auto Talks

According to our records, at the final plenary session of the Joint U. S. -Japan Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs on September 15, 1967, U. S. Secretary of Commerce Trowbridge reported that he had reached an understanding with MITI Minister Kanno under which the Japanese Government agreed to a visit to Japan by U. S. Government officials and representatives of the U. S. auto industry before the end of 1967. These representatives would be joined by senior staff members of the U. S. Embassy and officials of the appropriate Japanese ministries for exploratory talks with particular reference to the commodity and road taxes. Minister Kanno confirmed the Japanese Government's agreement to hold such a meeting. Subsequently, an agreement was reached between our two governments that the meeting should be held in Tokyo on December 12th and 13th.

The U. S. Government has asked Mr. George W. Ball, formerly Undersecretary of State, to represent the U. S. Government as leader of the U. S. delegation with the official title of Consultant to the Secretary of State. Mr. Ball was selected for this position only after determining that he had no connection with the auto industry. Mr. Ball will be assisted by other senior government officials. Representatives of the U. S. auto industry will also be present.

The Foreign Office has informed the Embassy that the Japanese delegation to the talks will be headed by Mr. Katsuji Kawamata, President of Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. and of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, in his private capacity. Japanese Government officials would be present as observers. It has been suggested that Mr. Kawamata might, for purposes of form, be designated as advisor to the MITI minister and thus act concurrently as a government and as an industry representative.

The U. S. Government does not consider the Japanese proposal satisfactory. While we, of course, have the highest personal regard for Mr. Kawamata, this involves a serious question of principle for us.

The restrictions which inhibit U. S. automotive sales and operations in Japan are governmental restrictions: taxes, tariffs, and investment policies. We thus question the appropriateness of the selection of an executive of the Japanese auto industry which benefits from the existing protective system to head a delegation to deal with the U. S. Government's request that the Japanese Government consider steps to reduce protection. It is therefore essential in our view that a Japanese Government representative be in charge of the Japanese delegation. We would, of course, have no objection if the Japanese Government selected a distinguished Japanese private citizen with no conflict of interest and with status as a government consultant to lead the Japanese delegation.

In light of the foregoing we urge that the Government of Japan reconsider its position.

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