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ACTION EA-06

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (KENNEDY, EDWARD M.)
SUBJECT: SENATOR KENNEDY'S VISIT TO JAPAN

REF: 77 TOKYO 19660

1. DURING HIS FOUR DAY STAY IN JAPAN, JAN. 9-13, SENATOR
KENNEDY HAD SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH VIRTUALLY EVERY
IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY AND
ATTRACTIONS EXTENSIVE AND HIGHLY FAVORABLE MEDIA COVERAGE.
(WITH FEW MINOR CHANGES, SCHEDULE CONTAINED REFTEL WAS
ADHERED TO.) PERSISTENT THEME FROM OPENING DISCUSSIONS
WITH YOUTHFUL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN KYOTO TO FINAL
MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN'S LARGEST PRIVATE SECTOR
LABOR UNION WAS US-JAPAN TRADE AND STEPS BOTH NATIONS MUST
TAKE TO COPE WITH GROWING IMBALANCE. THROUGHOUT HIS THREE
DAYS OF MEETINGS WITH LEADERS, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD, OF ALL
POLITICAL PARTIES, TOKYO AND OSAKA BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES
AND MEDIA, HE ELOQUENTLY STATED US POSITION, REINFORCING
STR STRAUSS IN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS THEN UNDERWAY WITH
MINISTER USHIBA. SENATOR'S SPEECH AT FOREIGN CORRESPONDE
PONDENTS CLUB CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THIS EFFORT
AND TO GREATER JAPANESE UNDERSTANDING OF POLITICAL ISSUES
FACING AMERICAN LEGISLATORS. AT SAME TIME, THROUGH HIS
MEETINGS WITH POLITICAL LEADERS, HE CAREFULLY UNDERLINED IM
PORTANCE US ATTACHES TO OUR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP AND VITAL
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NECESSITY FOR CLOSEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN RESOLVING
OUR PROBLEMS. SENATOR'S STATEMENT AT CONCLUSION OF TRADE
TALKS HELPED TO REASSURE JAPANESE THAT THEY WERE MOVING
IN RIGHT DIRECTION, WHILE EMPHASIZING NEED FOR FURTHER
CONSTRUCTIVE MEASURES.

2. SENATOR'S SPEECH IN HIROSHIMA AND VISITS TO CENOTAPH
AND RADIATION EFFECTS RESEARCH LABORATORY UNDERLINED HIS DEDICATION TO CONTROL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TO RATIONAL PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. THEY WERE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE CITIZENS OF HIROSHIMA AND GAVE SUBSTANTIAL BOOST TO EFFORTS OF LABORATORY. SENATOR WAS GREETED BY FRIENDLY AND ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS THROUGHOUT HIS STAY, ESPECIALLY AT LDP HEADQUARTERS AND HIS CALL ON SOKA Gakkai President Daisaku Ikeda. HIS THREE TELEVISION INTERVIEWS WERE CARRIED ON NATIONWIDE NETWORKS AND CONVEYED IMAGE OF DEDICATION, KNOWLEDGE AND REASONABLENESS.

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