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**The American Jewish
Committee**

Institute of Human Relations
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His Excellency Katsumi Sezaki
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations
866 U.N. Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Please let me repeat our appreciation for the opportunity to meet with you on Thursday and to share our views on various subjects of concern and importance to us as American Jews.

We see our meeting as another important step in the process of building bridges of communications and understanding between the Government and people of Japan and the American Jewish Committee and its Pacific Rim Institute. We see this relationship strengthening even more in the future, and we were delighted with your invitation to visit again with you.

Our thanks again for your candid views on the odious U.N. Resolution 3379 which purports to equate Zionism with racism and which so stains the U.N. itself and creates an aura of legitimacy for anti-Semitism. We are hopeful and optimistic that your Government will join the chorus of nations seeking repeal of this historic embarrassment for the United Nations.

As we discussed, we believe that your Government will pursue -- at this most opportune time following the Gulf war -- policies which will continue to strengthen the bilateral diplomatic, political, economic and cultural ties between Japan and Israel. Developing even closer links through more frequent and wider diplomatic contact, trade, commerce, investments and cultural exchanges will be of mutual benefit without, we firmly believe, harming relationships with any third parties. We were happy to receive your positive reactions.

Finally, we were pleased with your statements respecting Japan's enhanced involvement in the Middle East peace process. Nations such as Japan

which have influence and interest in the area can assist by supporting the principle of direct, bilateral negotiations between Israel and those Arab states which remain in a state of war with Israel. There can be no diplomatic substitute for the principle of direct talks. It is time, after 43 years, for the Arab belligerents to accept Israeli legitimacy and permanence in the region, and to engage together in positive steps for economic development, environmental cooperation, regional security and arms limitations in the Middle East. Were such a process possible, solutions to the Palestinian situation surely could be concurrently and, no doubt, more constructively sought.

One step in that direction would be cancellation of the economic boycott of Israel by the Arab states and an end to compliance with that boycott by the nations of the world. Your statement that your Government finds such a boycott inappropriate is most welcome, and we hope that Japanese industry will indeed ignore it [as Toyota, for example, has recently done by beginning to sell cars in Israel.]

Mr. Ambassador, please be assured that we of the American Jewish Committee and its Pacific Rim Institute will continue in our efforts to improve understanding between our two nations and their peoples. We will continue to speak out forcefully against Japan-bashing. And we will continue to pursue and value our opportunities to dialogue with you and other representatives of your Government.

We thank you again for your time, your courtesy and your consideration of our views.

Respectfully,

BMR/br

Bruce M. Ramer, Chair
Board of Trustees and
Pacific Rim Institute
of the American Jewish Committee

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