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**The American Jewish  
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**Office of the  
Executive Vice President**

December 17, 1992

The Honorable Michio Watanabe  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
2-1, Kasumigaseki 2-chome  
Chiyodakku 100, Tokyo  
JAPAN

Dear Minister Watanabe:

Our American Jewish Committee/Pacific Rim Institute delegation deeply appreciated your warm and gracious reception during our visit to Japan earlier this month.

We were particularly pleased to learn of your recent efforts to advance the peace process in the Middle East, especially the announcement by your government that it was currently expressing disapproval of the Arab economic boycott against Israel and calling for its suspension. Moreover, the decision of the government to ask companies not to cooperate with the boycott and to end the practice of issuing negative certificates of origin will undoubtedly be very helpful.

It was also good to hear your comment that Japan would "have concrete and specific suggestions" to offer Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during his visit to your country. Improved trade relations and economic cooperation between Japan and Israel are especially important, and we look forward to further progress in this critical area.

Of course, the U.S.-Japan relationship is of fundamental importance to the well-being of both countries. Through its Pacific Rim Institute, the American Jewish Committee has been making special efforts to encourage closer ties between our nations. Indeed, we have already reported the results of our conversations with you and other Japanese leaders to the national administration which will soon take office in Washington.

May we repeat our offer to host a high-level meeting of Jewish leaders when you next visit New York or Washington. It would be a great honor and profound pleasure to have the opportunity of introducing you to key leaders of our community.

Respectfully,



Robert S. Rifkind, Chairman  
Board of Governors



David A. Harris  
Executive Vice President

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