

Message of Condolence on the Passing of Tadashi Yamamoto

Tadashi Yamamoto was a cherished friend, an astute analyst of world affairs, and a trusted partner in building a new era of amity and cooperation in Japan-U.S. relations. I join his many friends in America in mourning the loss of a man of exceptional courtesy and nobility, and in saluting his vast contributions to trans-Pacific friendship.

Mr. Yamamoto's career spanned, and helped shape, the decades of Japan's extraordinary resurgence. I met him through the Trilateral Commission, which he sustained with his wisdom, tact and leadership. He became my guide on many visits to Japan, arranging an enormous number of interviews, lunches and occasional cultural events to help me understand this extraordinary land.

During this period the relationship between Japan and the United States was in transition—from the immediate postwar reconstruction era, to a new partnership of two major countries, each feeling a special responsibility to work for solutions to the unprecedented problems of the contemporary world. Mr. Yamamoto acted as a vital bridge, smoothing cultural differences, explaining the Japanese perspective with acuity and grace, and bringing together senior figures from each side to discuss the questions of their common future. Through his work with the Japan Center for International Exchange and the Trilateral Commission, he helped institutionalize his own personal dedication to close ties and friendship between Japan and the Western countries. When complex issues arose or Japanese and American perspectives diverged, Mr. Yamamoto's steady wisdom could always be counted on to contribute to a solution. He was helped by his special humanity, which transcended cultural bounds.

Since our first meeting, I never visited Japan without relying on his advice. On many occasions, he acted as my host; his exceptional hospitality and many thoughtful

arrangements made each stay a special personal and intellectual experience. Mr. Yamamoto became, for me – as for so many others in the American policymaking and business communities – a close friend and a trusted guide.

He brought unfailing dedication and vision to his work even in his final months. When we met recently in Tokyo, he was planning new initiatives to strengthen Japan's international partnerships and build East-West dialogue. He gave me his analysis of Japan's special achievements in healthcare – without even hinting at his own need for it – and he looked forward to his country playing an increasing international role in this field. In this and in so many other endeavors, he foresaw, and helped point the way toward, a bright future. He leaves behind many friends and colleagues eager to continue on the path he charted, inspired by his personality and conscious of what a gap his departure has left.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. A. Kissinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Henry A. Kissinger

April 17, 2012