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A Tribute to Tadashi Yamamoto
by David Rockefeller

April 17, 2012

Tadashi was my friend.

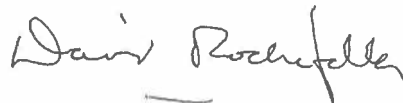
I mourn his passing for many reasons.

In recent years Tadashi and I reminisced about our effort to establish what would become The Trilateral Commission. Some forty years ago, Tadashi and I were walking down the Avenue Matignon in Paris after a meeting which had revealed all of the obstacles we would have to overcome to set up a new organization linking Japan, Western Europe and North America. It was a daunting and somewhat discouraging list. I realized we needed someone with an unusual set of skills to handle the delicate set of negotiations in Japan, and spontaneously asked Tadashi if he would consider playing a role. To my relief, he spontaneously accepted! To this day, I believe that if Tadashi hadn't agreed to my request, The Trilateral Commission might not have come into being. It certainly would have been a very different and probably much less effective organization.

We owe much of Trilateral's success over the past four decades to our friend Tadashi. He has managed the affairs of Trilateral (Japan) with consummate ability and dedication, first as Secretary and then as Executive Director. In recent years, most critically, he played a vital role in the continuing dialogue between America, Europe, and East Asia that has led to our expansion and continued relevance in a world far different and even more complex than the one we contemplated from that Parisian street half a lifetime ago. His commitment to Trilateral and to many other organizations came from his enduring belief -- formed early in his life -- in the critical importance of international engagement as the means by which nations can resolve their disagreements.

Today, when I think of my friend, I remember his wonderful personal qualities -- his warmth, deep intelligence, tireless energy, persistence and loyalty. He also had a great capacity for friendship. The world is a better place because of Tadashi. I shall miss him deeply.

I salute you, Tadashi. Your legacy will never die.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Rockefeller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom center of the page.