

Japanese Day of Hope Dinner for Rev. Sun Myung Moon the Largest in History

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On Tuesday, May 7, 1974, the Day of Hope Banquet, the largest banquet in Japan's history, was held at Tokyo's Imperial Hotel to welcome Reverend Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity.

Some 1,700 prominent guests from all fields, including forty parliamentarians, were invited.

Guests from overseas included ten parliamentarians from the Republic of China and the Republic of Korea and Dr. Joseph Kennedy and Miss Trish Marks from the United States. Mr. Kogoro Uemura, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations; Mr. Katsumi Ohno, president of the Imperial Hotel; Abbot Yozo Nihei of St. John's Monastery; and H. E. Kim Young Sun, Korean Ambassador to Japan, were also among the guests.



The banquet was highlighted when Mr. Takeo Fukuda, Japanese Finance Minister, arrived from his previous engagement.

All the guests stood up and gave him an ovation. Reverend Moon himself received him at the edge of the head table and led him to his place. One of the most impressive scenes of that night was the very warm embrace given him by Reverend Moon.

Reverend Moon was supposed to speak for thirty minutes. But actually he spoke more than an hour. It was a surprise that at such a big banquet all the people were quiet and concentrated on the speech and hardly anyone left early. The banquet was truly blessed by God. Reverend Moon's speech was in flawless Japanese, as Reverend Moon had studied in Japan.

In his talk, he emphasized that God loved Japan and that the prosperity of Japan after the war was the proof of God's love for her.

The people of the three nations of Free China, Korea and Japan are brothers, he added. If they become

one and go together hand in hand, there is no fear in the world.



Reverend Moon hugs Japanese Finance Minister Fukuda

After Reverend Moon's speech, Mr. Fukuda gave a congratulatory speech. He summarized what Reverend Moon had spoken. It was very effective in helping the audience understand Reverend Moon's speech.

A movie about Reverend Moon's work in America was shown at the end of the program.

This movie proved what Reverend Moon spoke is really being carried out. The four-hour banquet finished on schedule at 10:00 p.m. All guests left with a great satisfaction.

We have no doubt that the future of Japan is a bright one now. Col. Bo Hi Pak, who accompanied Reverend Moon to Japan, reported that the banquet was a "dazzling success." The 250 waitresses, waiters, and maître d's were very precisely trained by Col. Pak for very efficient and impressive service. The hotel hired help especially for the banquet and trained them for a

week.

This was the first time Reverend Moon spoke publicly in Japan. His speech was interrupted a dozen times with applause, led by Minister Fukuda, who was seated beside the podium.



Col. Pak reported the gist of Minister Fukuda's speech: "We have heard about Reverend Moon, but this is the first time I have heard him speak. We must come forward and help this movement, simply because Japan needs it most. Since the war, Japan has been too materialistic. People have worked hard since the war, but now they feel disillusioned.

What we need is God and a dedication to humanity. This man has the message."