

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 16, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM J. BAROODY, JR. 

SUBJECT: Trip to Japan: Proposed  
Visit to Hiroshima

As an extension of the Presidential philosophy of reconciliation, I believe it would be advisable to include a visit to Hiroshima in your forthcoming Japanese trip. By making such a visit, you will provide indisputable assurance of your intent to heal wounds, both national and international.

Hiroshima -- and Japan -- are still alive with sentiment concerning the bombing and its aftermath. If a parallel can be drawn, your visit to Hiroshima would be comparable to the magnanimity of the French and Germans in the sincere efforts of reconciliation attempted by DeGaulle and Adenauer. In terms of practical politics, a Presidential visit to Hiroshima would vitiate much anti-American sentiment in Japan, and serve as a decisive deterrent to the strident propaganda of the extreme right and left. Beyond question, your presence would afford a vehicle for bringing Japanese-American relations to a position of amity which no extremists will be able to attack with confidence.

To reap benefits from such a Presidential action even beyond the sphere of Japanese-American relations, I would further recommend that your Hiroshima appearance be used as a forum to advance the cause of nuclear peace. Our relations with Japan are secondary in consideration to the broader framework of building an effective world peace. A Presidential speech addressed to the peoples of the world on behalf of a lasting peace



in a thermo-nuclear age would be very effective. Our desire to effect arms control through SALT, MBFR, and other policies of restraint can thus be enunciated in a manner which would gain the attention of all peoples and all governments. Your words, spoken in Asia, would have a particular impact in Peking, and would be most meaningful there. To the Japanese, still seriously involved in an understandable reversion to realistic defense policy without reliance upon the United States, a speech of this kind would be most salutary.

The advantages of a Presidential visit to Hiroshima are obvious and would be magnified if the suggestion were to originate from Washington. There is no doubt that the Japanese would deeply appreciate the gesture advanced by the President himself, and would realize that the genesis of the trip came from your desire to advance the cause of conciliation. The September 21st visit of Mr. Tanaka to Washington would seem to provide an opportune moment to discuss this initiative.

FOR RECOMMENDATION: If you think this idea has merit, I will run this by Henry Kissinger and the NSC for staffing.

APPROVE (FOR STAFFING): \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER:

