

Dear friend of Japan,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

Today I would like to talk about the Statement by Prime Minister Abe on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. This Statement was decided by the cabinet and immediately released on Friday 14 August, and is attached for your reference.

Prime Minister Abe begins the Statement saying “We must learn from the lessons of history the wisdom for our future.” Most importantly this Statement is for the people who suffered as a result of Japan’s actions during the war.

I would like to highlight some key features of the Statement.

One key element in the Statement is the fact that it affirmed Japan’s “feelings of deep remorse and the heartfelt apology for its actions during the war”, a sentiment which Japan has repeatedly expressed. This Statement also stresses that “this position articulated by the previous cabinets will remain unshakable in the future” and “we Japanese must squarely face the history of the past. We have the responsibility to inherit the past, in all humbleness, and pass it on to the future.”

Secondly, Prime Minister Abe firmly states that “Incident, aggression, war – we shall never again resort to any form of the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes” and “while taking silent pride in the path we

have walked as a peace-loving nation for as long as seventy years, we remain determined never to deviate from this steadfast course.” Based on this firm recognition and commitment, Japan will contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world more than ever before under the banner of "Proactive Contribution to Peace."

Thirdly, Prime Minister Abe expressed in the Statement Japan's "heartfelt gratitude to all the nations and all the people who made every effort for reconciliation". Furthermore, the Prime Minister expressed his appreciation to the "former Prisoners of War of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Australia and other nations (who) have visited Japan for many years to continue praying for the souls of the war dead on both sides."

The additional attached document, originally released on August 6th, is the Report of the Advisory Panel on the History of the 20th Century and on Japan's Role and the World Order in the 21st Century. Before considering the Statement, Prime Minister Abe established the Panel to present him with views relating to the five points listed below, which would then act as a reference for the Statement. In the press conference, Prime Minister Abe himself referred to this Report as a voice of history. We believe that this Report well illustrates the thoughts behind the Statement.

1. How should we view the history of the world and Japan in the 20th century? What are the lessons we should learn from the experience of the 20th century?

2. What is the path that Japan has taken in the 70 post-war years in light of the lessons learned from the 21st century?
3. How did Japan pursue reconciliation with the United States, Australia, and European countries, as well as China, the Republic of Korea and other Asian countries in particular in the 70 years after the war?
4. What is our vision of Asia and the world of the 21st century, drawing on the lessons learned from the 20th century? What are the contributions that Japan should make?
5. What are the specific measures that Japan should take on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II?

Yours sincerely,

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Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia

[Statement by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe \(August 14, 2015\)](#)

[Report of the Advisory Panel on the History of the 20th Century and on Japan's Role and the World Order in the 21st Century \(August 6, 2015\)](#)