



American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Memorial Society Inc.

*Including all of the Defense Forces of the Philippine Archipelago, The Asiatic Fleet, Wake Island,
Marianna Islands, Midway Island and Dutch East Indies*

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January 6, 2014

The Honorable Caroline Kennedy
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan
Embassy of the United States Japan
1-10-5 Akaska
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-8420
JAPAN

Dear Madame Ambassador:

On behalf of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society (ADBC-MS), I thank you for issuing your prompt statement regarding Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to the Yasukuni Shrine.

The Prime Minister's visit to the Yasukuni Shrine was troubling for many of our members as it suggests an official reluctance to deal honestly with Japan's WWII history. The American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society is an educational organization that consists of former POWs of Imperial Japan and their descendants. Over the years the leadership of our organization has ceded to the descendants of the men and women who suffered so much for their country during their captivity. We are the second generation who remembers Imperial Japan's role in World War II.

Although the visit to Yasukuni Shrine was disappointing, we note that the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made some positive steps to promote reconciliation and mutual understanding on behalf of the history of American POWs. In particular, the POW/Japan Friendship Trips are a model for the kinds of programs that can successfully promote understanding while dealing honestly and openly with WWII history. The ADBCMS is preparing to assist with the planning of the fifth POW/Japan Friendship Trip later in 2014.

Again, thank you for support. We stand ready to work with you in these educational efforts in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jan Thompson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jan Thompson
President

CC : Kenichiro SASAE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
to the United States of America
Daniel Russel, Assistant Secretary of State, U.S. State Department
U.S. Senator Robert Menendez
U.S. Senator Bob Corker
U.S. Representative Ed Royce
U.S. Representative Eliot Engel