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His Excellency Dr. Koto Matsudaira  
Permanent Representative to The United Nations  
from Japan  
460 Park Avenue  
New York 22, New York

Your Excellency:

On July third in a television program called "Night Beat", the conductor of the program, Mr. John Wingate, asked Dr. Earl Reynolds, who recently returned from Japan, what he thought of the term "Jap". Dr. Reynolds emphatically deplored its use and pointed out that it was in the same class as other derogatory epithets such as "Wop", "Kike", etc. Mr. Wingate, thereupon, replied that you had remarked in an interview that you did not regard the term "Jap" to be objectionable.

It is possible that you have been misquoted.

It is also possible that you were not aware of the real significance and connotations of the term "Jap", although as a diplomat and one presumably acquainted with the history of anti-Japanese agitation and propaganda in the United States, it is difficult to understand how you could regard that term with absolute indifference. Ever since the Japanese began coming to the United States, the term "Jap" has been the favorite derogatory epithet used by anti-Japanese agitators in their campaigns against us. Newspapers and magazines which tried to be fair to the Japanese almost never used the term, while those which aimed to stir up ill-will invariably used it. Those of the Japanese race who have lived long in the United States correctly regard the term "Jap" as an insulting one connoting anti-Japanese hatred, mockery, and contempt.

No other racial or national group in the United States at present suffers from the indignity of having itself referred to in the American press by means of derisive epithets. Only the Japanese continue to be singled out for this kind of public humiliation and insult. Back in 1952, in co-operation with the Japanese-American Citizens League and the New York Local of the American Newspaper Guild, I helped to wage a campaign to eliminate the use of the term "Jap" in the American press. For one year, most of my spare time

at home was spent in pushing this effort. As a result of that campaign, the use of the term "Jap" was stopped by many newspapers and magazines and sharply curtailed by others. The term still, however, appears occasionally among certain newspapers and there is evidence that its use was given up very reluctantly by many writers. There are many American newspaper men who would gladly revive the use of the term "Jap" if they could have arguments to support such action. Your alleged acquiescence in the use of that term will be welcomed by them.

For a man to be personally indifferent to insulting epithets hurled at him by enemies may sometimes be a sign of nobility of character. For a person holding the official rank of a representative of the Japanese Government to express indifference to the public use of derisive epithets applied to his own government and people is quite another thing.

Regardless of whether or not you were accurately quoted by Mr. Wingate, your name has publicly been presented in seeming toleration of the use of the term "Jap". As a high official of the Japanese Government, you can not escape the responsibility to take immediate action to counteract the unfortunate support which has been given in your name to those Americans who would continue to insult your government and people by calling them "Japs".

I shall await with keen interest your disposition of this matter.

Yours respectfully,

*Shosuke Sasaki*  
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