

FROM: PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN, 17th Biennial National Convention Headquarters,  
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE (JACL),  
318 Sixth Avenue South, Seattle 4, Washington

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL TO ADDRESS NATIONAL JACL BANQUET

SEATTLE, WASH., JULY 23--U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, will deliver the main address at the Convention Banquet of the 17th Biennial National Convention of the Japanese American Citizens League Monday evening, July 30, in the Grand Ballroom of the Olympic Hotel, James Matsuoka, convention chairman, announced today.

Secretary Johnson will take the place of Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs W. Averell Harriman who was originally scheduled to speak to the more than a thousand delegates who are expected to attend the five-day convention that convenes this Wednesday, July 25, when the National JACL Board meets. The Convention proper begins the following day.

Convention chairman Matsuoka explained that Secretary Harriman's responsibilities in connection with the signing of the 14-nation treaty establishing a neutral Kingdom of Laos in Geneva, Switzerland, this week and the forthcoming state visit of the Laotian Prince-Premier to the United States next week prevents his participation in the Convention Banquet.

"While we regret very much that Secretary Harriman cannot be with us," Matsuoka said, "we as Americans congratulate him on the successful achievement of the treaty that brings peace to that area of Southeast Asia. At the same time, we are more than happy and honored that Secretary Johnson will be with us, for Secretary Johnson has long been identified with Japan and the problems of the Far East. Probably no other Foreign Service Officer



today is better qualified by personal experience and knowledge to advise on American foreign policy in that vital area of the world and to suggest ways and means in which we as Americans of Japanese ancestry may be most helpful to our country in these times of international tension."

Recalling that Secretary Johnson served as the United States representative to the Ambassadorial level talks with Communist China at Geneva for several years and that he is considered to be one of the principal architects of American foreign policy, Matsuoka also remembered that he was the first American consul in Yokohama after the surrender of Japan and was helpful to many Japanese Americans who were stranded in Japan during the war in the satisfactory resolution of their problems.

Born at Falun, Kansas, on October 18, 1908, Secretary Johnson attended Occidental College in Los Angeles where he received his Bachelor's Degree in 1931. During the following school year, he studied at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Washington, D. C. In 1957, Occidental College granted him an LL.D. degree for his achievement in the field of international law.

After working for three years in private business following the completion of his studies at Georgetown, he joined the Foreign Service in 1935, and was assigned to Tokyo as a Japanese language officer. He was transferred to Seoul two years later and then reassigned to Tientsin in 1939. Following his transfer to Mukden the next year, he was interned at the outbreak of the Pacific War in 1941.

He was exchanged in the summer of 1942 and assigned to Rio de Janeiro. In 1944, he was assigned to the Army Civil Affairs Training School Program



and, immediately following the liberation of Manila, was assigned in March 1945 as the first American Consul in the Philippines.

At the time of Japan's surrender, he was assigned to General MacArthur's staff and served in Japan and Korea. In October, 1945, he was also assigned as American Consul in Yokohama and was named Consul General in 1947. He was decorated with the Medal of Freedom for his work with General MacArthur's Headquarters in connection with the repatriation of prisoners of war and civilian internees from the Philippines, Japan, and Korea.

In 1949, he became the Deputy Director of the Office of Northeast Asian Affairs (Japan and Korea) in the Department of State in Washington, and subsequently was named Director of the Office.

In 1951, he was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs. During this period, he was also a member of the United States delegation to the Japanese Peace Treaty Conference at San Francisco.

In 1953, President Eisenhower appointed him United States Ambassador to Czechoslovakia. The following year he was detailed as Coordinator of the U. S. Delegation to the Geneva Conference on Korea and Indochina. In 1955, concurrent with his duties as Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, he was designated also as United States Representative to the Ambassadorial level talks with Communist China at Geneva.

Named Ambassador to Thailand and United States SEATO Council Representative in 1958, he served in those capacities until May 2, 1961, when President Kennedy called him to Washington to serve as the Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

Secretary Johnson is married to the former Patricia Ann Tillman and they have four children. One of his sons, Stephen, has recently been appointed to the Foreign Service and is now a student at the Foreign Service Institute of the State Department.

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