

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 3, 1993

His Excellency Morihiro Hosokawa
Prime Minister of Japan
6-1 Nagata-cho 1-Chome
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100
Japan

Dear Prime Minister Hosokawa:

As members of the U.S. Congress, we welcome the Japanese Government's recent acknowledgement that the Japanese military was directly involved in establishing and managing military brothels (comfort stations) throughout Asia between 1932 and 1945. We consider it particularly important that the Japanese Government also admitted the use of "coaxing, coercion and other measures" to recruit many of the "comfort women." These are essential steps toward clarifying accountability for human rights abuses committed during World War II.

We respectfully urge the Japanese Government to take additional steps to ensure justice for women who were compelled to work as prostitutes in the military brothels. Many of these women have alleged that recruiters used force or deception to deliver them to military brothels. Numerous reportedly suffered long after they escaped or were released from the brothels because the social stigma attached to sexual abuse turned them into social outcasts in their home countries.

A number of former "comfort women" have filed lawsuits seeking official apologies and monetary compensation. We urge you to ensure that the allegations in these cases are investigated promptly and impartially. We further urge your government to cooperate fully with the recently appointed United Nations special rapporteur on sexual slavery in order to provide a complete account of the "comfort women" policy. Additionally, just as it was important for the U.S. Government to decide in 1988 to extend long-overdue official apologies and to pay compensation to surviving American citizens of Japanese descent who were wrongfully forced into internment camps during World War II, we strongly urge your government to do the same for women survivors of forced service in military brothels.

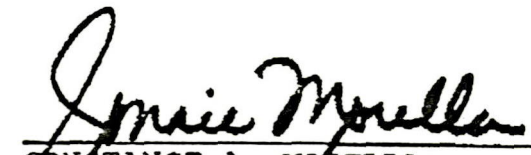
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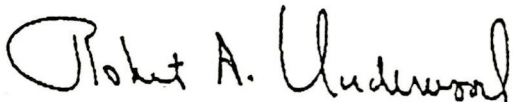
These steps cannot undo regrettable chapters of history, but will hopefully ease the continuing agony of the women survivors, pave the way for improved relations between Japan and its neighbors, and enhance Japan's credibility as a major advocate of human rights world wide.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you and working with your new Administration.

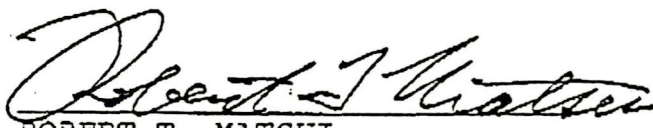
Sincerely,


PATSY T. MINK


CONSTANCE A. MORELLA


ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD


LESLIE L. BYRNE

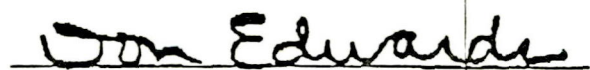

ROBERT T. MATSUI


NEIL ABERCROMBIE


WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON


NANCY PELOSI


NORMAN Y. MINETA

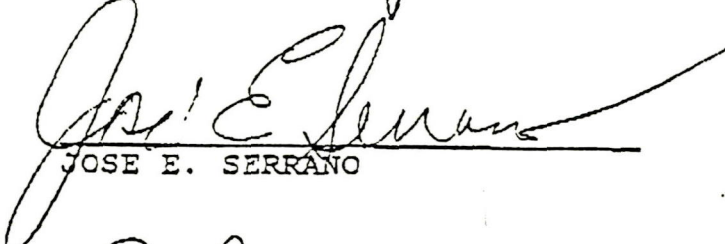

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DAVID E. BONIOR


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RONALD K. MACATLEY


JOSE E. SERRANO

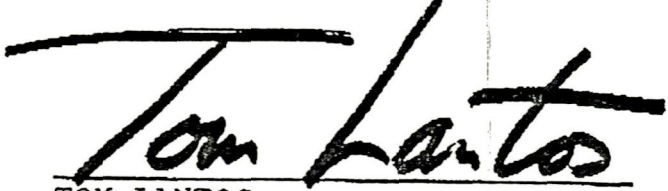

WILLIAM J. HUGHES

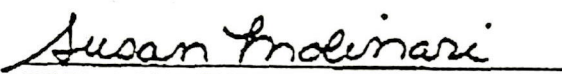

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN


MICHAEL J. KOPETSKI

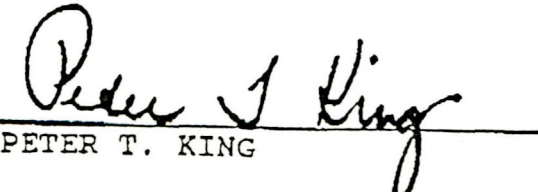

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