

First of all, during this past summer vacation, I visited some of your training camps, and I was moved by the enthusiasm in your activities there, in the camps of the soft tennis and badminton clubs near Lake Yamanaka-ko, the football and rugby clubs in the Sugadaira-kogen Highlands, the boys' basketball club in Katashina Village, the tennis and swimming clubs in the Kita-Shiga-kogen Highlands, the track-and-field and girls' basketball clubs in Tatsuno Town near Lake Suwa-ko, and the orchestra club in Niigata. I really enjoyed having meals together with you, watching you practice, and talking with some of you. And I appreciate that many of you liked the Instagram posts that I uploaded when I visited those camps, which made me feel closer to

you all.

Boys and girls, I would like to talk about ~~two three~~ two things at the start of the second trimester, 2018.

First, the floods on the seventh of July caused by heavy rains in western Japan took many people's lives. Hiroshima, Okayama, and Ehime Prefectures suffered especially much. In contrast to those prefectures, in Kochi Prefecture only two people died, even though the accumulated rainfall during that time there amounted to more than 1,000 mm, which was almost twice as much as that in Hiroshima and Okayama. Why was that? People in the Kochi region have for ages past been struggling with floods. That's why over that time they have

continued to construct banks, enlarged the capacity of dams, and prepared safe shelters for people. One survey has shown that about 80% of residents in Hiroshima, Okayama, and Ehime did not follow evacuation advisories issued late last month in relation to Typhoon #12 because they believed their houses were safe, even though those three prefectures had suffered much by the downpours on the 7th of July. Natural disasters can occur anytime, anywhere in Japan. I believe we may be able to reduce the damage they produce. We should try to prepare for such natural disasters as a large scale earthquake directly underneath the Kanto Plain or a Nankai Trough earthquake, which may very well occur in the near future.

Second, on the 9th of this month (August), United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attended the remembrance ceremony for the victims of the 1945 atomic bombing of Nagasaki. He is the first U.N. chief to attend it. During a joint news conference with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on August 8<sup>th</sup>, he said, “The voice of the *hibakusha* is a fundamental message for peace. ‘No more *Nagasaki*, never more *Hiroshima*, not any more being *hibakusha* necessary’ is also the message of the United Nations”.

Two years ago, Barack Obama visited Hiroshima for the first time as President of the United States of America. In his remarks, he said, “Those who died — they do not want more war; they would rather

that the wonders of science be focused on improving life, and not eliminating it.”

Now, with unpredictable negotiations on denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and collapsing agreements on nuclear development in Iran, we truly need to create a future in which Hiroshima and Nagasaki are known not as the dawn of atomic warfare but as the start of our own moral awakening. How, then, might we be able to do so? I would like to hear your opinions on this issue.

At the end of the first trimester I asked you a question that was to be your *shukudai*. Concerning denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, who is the smartest guy among President Trump, North Korean leader

Kim Jong Un, President Moon Jae-In, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Putin, and Prime Minister Abe? Concerning this issue, it looks like President Moon is not driving the train any more, Prime Minister Abe has never had a chance to getting on board the train, and China and Russia may be able to reduce the American military forces on the peninsula at little cost. We need to watch future developments very carefully.

Third, and last, I would like to consider how we treat one another.

Please remember to be careful with the words that you use with your friends. It is possible that things you have said carelessly might hurt your friends' feelings — without your having meant to do that. I hope

all of you are gentle and kind to one another, not ignoring your friends, and not speaking ill of them. Every student deserves respect. As I have told you, it takes only a moment to destroy a good relationship, and it takes very long time to become reconciled with one another. And when your friends are in low spirits or when they find it hard striving to solve their problems all by themselves, offer your friendship. A real friend is one who walks IN when the rest of the world walks OUT.

時間短

縮のため割愛

Today I have told you **two** ~~three~~ things: first, that it is important for you to prepare for natural disasters in order to help reduce the damage they produce; second, that we must watch future developments in denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula; ~~and third, that you should~~

~~be considerate to your friends.~~

In closing my speech, I would like to say I do look forward to the School Festival, and I do hope you will pass on the proud traditions of the *Gaien-sai* to your *kouhai*. And, of course, study hard.

Thank you very much. 746 ~~898~~ words