

Caroline Kennedy Leaves Japan After Three Years as U.S. Ambassador

1) Tokyo (AP) -- Caroline Kennedy is stepping down Wednesday after three years as U.S. ambassador to Japan, where she was welcomed like a celebrity and worked to deepen the U.S.-Japan relationship despite regular flare-ups over American military bases on the southern island of Okinawa.

2) She ruffled some feathers early on by tweeting her opposition to Japan's dolphin hunt, shortly after her embassy issued a statement expressing "disappointment" that Japan's leader had visited a shrine that memorializes World War II war criminals, among others.

3) During her tenure, though, the conservative Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and liberal U.S. President Barack Obama built a relationship of trust despite coming from opposite ends of the political spectrum.

4) "She has great skills and authority as a convener, a much needed function in U.S.-Japan relations," said Kent Calder, the director of the Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. "She has been more of a network builder than a concrete policy initiator, but that is almost an inevitable role for ambassadors these days."

5) Her legacy includes facilitating Obama's historic visit to Hiroshima last May, one of two Japanese cities devastated by U.S. atomic bombs in 1945, Calder said. Kennedy was in Pearl Harbor at the end of last year when Abe reciprocated with a visit to the site of Japan's 1941 surprise attack that drew America into World War II.

6) On a smaller scale, some will remember the efforts of the first female U.S. ambassador to Japan to promote literacy and women's and LGBT rights, and for her visits to the northeast region slowly recovering from a deadly and destructive tsunami in 2011.

7) The daughter of former U.S. President John F. Kennedy arrived in November 2013 to more fanfare than the typical envoy. Thousands of onlookers lined streets to snap pictures and wave as she traveled by horse-drawn carriage to present her credentials to Japan's emperor. The procession was broadcast live on Japan's public broadcaster NHK.

8) Her popularity strained embassy resources, a 2015 U.S. government report found, because of the demands for her participation in events across the country. It noted that the embassy "has now caught up on the backlog of gifts sent to the ambassador in her first six months in Japan."

9) Now 59, Kennedy is returning to her Manhattan home with husband Edwin Schlossberg, who split his time between Tokyo and New York. She hasn't indicated publicly what her future plans are. **【Jan 18, 2017/AP】**



←Outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy receives bottles of wine as a farewell gift from Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo.

- 1) step down 辞任する
U.S. ambassador to Japan 駐日米大使
celebrity 有名人
despite ~にもかかわらず
flare-up (怒りなどの) 激発、(問題などの) 急激な再燃、表面化、勃発
- 2) ruffle someone's feathers 人を怒らせる、苛立たせる
embassy 大使館
memorialize 記念する
war criminal 戦犯、戦争犯罪人
- 3) tenure 任期
conservative 保守的な
liberal 自由主義の、進歩派的な
trust 信頼、信用
spectrum 領域、範囲
- 4) authority 権威
convener (会の) 議長、主催者
function 機能、働き、職能、役目
concrete 具体的な、現実の
initiator 主唱者、発起人
inevitable 避けられない
- 5) legacy (金銭の) 遺産、(精神的) 遺産
facilitate 容易にする、促進する
devastate 荒らす、荒廃させる
reciprocate 返礼する
- 6) literacy 読み書き能力、教養
LGBT = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender 性的少数者
deadly 致命的な
destructive 破壊的な
- 7) fanfare (派手な) 誇示、宣伝
envoy 行使、外交官、使節
onlooker (通りすがりの) 見物人
horse-drawn carriage 馬車
credentials 信任状(通例 s)
- 8) strain 緊張させる、精一杯働かせる
resources 資源、財源(通例 s)
catch up on 遅れを取り戻す
backlog 炉背木、未処理の仕事、【略】(商品などの) 手持ち、在庫
- 9) split 分ける
indicate 指し示す、ほのめかす

☆Ice breaker for active discussion

1. What is your impression about Ms. Caroline Kennedy?
2. In your opinion, what are the roles of ambassadors?
3. Who would you like to be the next US ambassador to Japan in place of Ms. Kennedy? Why?
4. If you were to be sent as an ambassador to any country, which country would you like to go? Why?
5. Make sentences using the following words: step down, tenure, conservative, ruffle, reciprocate, inevitable and onlooker.