Preface

Despite the close relations between the United States and Japan during the past thirty years and the growing number of person-to-person contacts via economic interaction, student exchanges, and various conferences, true communication between our two peoples is still at a relatively rudimentary stage. The reasons are many. Even in situations where language barriers are reduced—and in most settings, these remain formidable—the challenge of conveying to those of another culture the nuances and subtleties that derive from one's own societal experiences and thought processes is a prodigious one.

In a small way, our conference on Japanese foreign policy represented progress in this respect. For five days, January 14–18, 1974, seventeen scholars—almost equally divided between Japanese and American—met in the mid-Pacific, on Kauai, Hawaii, focusing their attention on selected aspects of Japan's foreign policy. An effort was made to encompass both the major issues or aspects of policy and the central institutions involved in the policy-making process. Some participants employed the case-study approach; others wrote as generalists. A variety of methods were used, as will become apparent.

In addition to the individuals whose papers are included in this volume, James William Morley, Edwin O. Reischauer, Royama Michio, and Robert E. Ward participated, serving as discussants. The papers were subsequently revised, both to take account of the initial criticisms and to include later developments when relevant.

Our effort was to select scholars from both cultures having different specialties and coming from different generations. A certain premium was placed on younger scholars in an effort to take advantage of differences in training and perspective. As many of the participants of both nationalities bridged in some measure the linguistic-cultural gap by virtue of their training and experience, communication in this instance flowed with minimal difficulty. Exchanges were lively and to the point. On a number of subjects, there was no agreement, as some of the papers will indicate. Disagreements, however, did not conform to nationality, nor were they absolute in most cases, being rather a matter of degree.

We are much indebted to the Joint Committee on Japanese Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council for its support of the conference, as a part of a series of conferences reflecting various disciplines which it has sponsored on Japan. David Sills was invariably a thoughtful and perceptive representative of the Social Science Research Council who worked with us.

We are also deeply indebted to Edwin O. Reischauer, who consented to write the Foreword. Special appreciation must be expressed to Susan Alitto, who labored long and well in the highly complex task of bringing diverse writing styles into some conformity. And to the University of California Press, whose cooperation equals its standards, we pay grateful tribute.

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