

## *Foreword*

EUROPEAN-JAPANESE relations in general, and in particular the private, intensive bilateral discussions and deliberations between Japanese and Europeans in the "Hakone" Conferences (as the European-Japanese Conferences have been nicknamed after their first venue) have come a long way since 1975, the year of birth of this series of meetings. As our discussions have rapidly moved from a rather tentative, hesitant and circumspect exploration of bilateral frictions and mutual concerns to an intense, frank, lively and highly constructive true dialogue, so European-Japanese relations have intensified and broadened in general. Cooperation has become a frequently evoked catchword and, in many economic and political areas, a growing reality in those relations.

Yet in spite (or perhaps because) of this rapid evolution of dialogue and cooperation, there remain nagging questions about the realization of the potential in this cooperation. Are Japan and Europe carrying their fair share of the Western alliance system's common burden? Are they really exploiting the opportunities of mutual cooperation vis-à-vis the Soviet Union, the antagonistic superpower—but also vis-à-vis their common ally and protecting superpower, the U.S.A.? Do they play their proper role in the management of a world economy marked by growing complexity, accumulating imbalances, and declining U.S. leadership?

It was questions like these that inspired the agenda of the Eighth

Hakone Conference in Berlin. This meeting was a joint venture of the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) with the newly launched Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin (Japanese-German Center Berlin)—itself an expression and an embodiment of the desire to develop closer dialogue and cooperation between Japan and Western Europe—and the Aspen Institute Berlin. The splendid surroundings of the Aspen Institute and the warm hospitality of its people gave this conference an extraordinarily pleasant atmosphere and, no doubt, greatly helped to keep the discussions probing, and pushing outwards, the scope and relevant questions for Japanese-European cooperation. To Shep Stone, the towering North American pillar in this otherwise bilateral affair, to Dr. Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling, and to the staff of the Aspen Institute we therefore owe a great deal, for which we want to express our deep gratitude.

As always, the meeting brought together a core of participants with long experience in this conference series and a number of new faces. Again, this mixture proved highly creative, helping us to go beyond the present concerns in intergovernmental dialogue, yet remain in touch with realities and their limitations. We hope the following set of conference papers, together with a summary essay, will provide the flavor of the discussions. We gratefully acknowledge the time and effort the authors have taken to prepare, and often also to revise, their contributions. The editing was done by Dr. Hanns Maull and Dr. Charles Morrison.

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