

ワス・アジエリス



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Japan Screen Topics

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TAKEO FUKUDA--PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN

217 feet 6 min. 2 sec.

1. (CABINET) Japan's ship of state has a new captain. Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and his Cabinet pose for their inaugural picture at the Premier's official residence in Tokyo. Mr. Fukuda is Japan's 42nd Prime Minister since parliamentary government was established in 1885.

2. (PARK) On Sunday, the busy Prime Minister sets aside time to stroll with some of his grandchildren in a park near his home. A karate team doing roadwork in the park stops for an exchange of greetings.

When the team moves on, Mr. Fukuda decides to give his grandsons a few pointers in this manly art.

3. (STEPS) As his career has developed, Mr. Fukuda has taken on heavy responsibilities and days like this have become fewer. In recent years, he has been Finance Minister twice, Foreign Minister and Director-General of the Economic Planning Agency.

Today he has time for a chat with another family out with their children to enjoy the fine weather. The clear winter air affords Mr. Fukuda and his grandchildren a special treat-- an unobstructed view of Mt. Fuji.

4. (HOUSE) By Japanese standards, his family home in Tokyo is comfortable, but not pretentious. The Prime Minister gets up with the birds... and when he has time he likes bird-watching.

With Mrs. Fukuda and their grandchildren he positions an apple to attract wild birds.

Before going into politics, Mr. Fukuda was a successful career official in Japan's Ministry of Finance. The experience has given him a deep knowledge of Japan's economy--and its relationship with the international economic system.

5. (WATERING PLANTS) Another of the Prime Minister's hobbies is bonsai... the cultivation of miniature trees. It is a pastime he shares with millions of his countrymen. Mr. Fukuda cares for his bonsai collection himself. After the birds are fed, watering the bonsai is his next morning diversion.

6. (ALBUM) One of the highlights of Mr. Fukuda's career came when he accompanied Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress on Their official visit to the United States in the autumn of 1975. He still delights in showing his grandchildren the photo albums of the trip. He was Deputy Prime Minister at the time.

Mr. Fukuda left the Finance Ministry and entered politics in 1952. He represents his native Gumma Prefecture in the House of Representatives, one of the two houses of Japan's Diet. He has never lost an election.

7. (GO) Honing his political strategy, the new Premier regularly practices go, the popular Japanese board game now played almost all over the world. Mr. Fukuda... is what the Japanese call an eighth dan... or eighth rank player... which classes him among the best go amateurs in the country.

8. (BRUSH) Before the days of pens and pencils, Japanese wrote by brush with black charcoal ink. Brush writing remains a Japanese tradition. Mr. Fukuda still wields a deft brush as he paints a New Year's slogan for his home.

9. (NEWSPAPER) Mr. Fukuda, proficient in English, keeps in practice by scanning Tokyo's daily papers, including the English language ones, before going to work.

10. (LEAVING HOME) An official car has arrived with aides who will accompany Mr. Fukuda to work.

His neighbours greet him outside his house on their way to work.

11. (MR. FUKUDA SITTING) Prime Minister Fukuda maintains an extremely tight daily schedule: cabinet meetings... meeting foreign heads of state... public appearances.

12. (OFFICIAL RESIDENCE -- AFTERNOON) On January 31, Mr. Fukuda was host to another important foreigner at the official residence. American Vice President Walter Mondale arrived as the personal representative of newly-inaugurated President Carter. Vice President Mondale brought a pledge that the Carter administration would continue the long-standing political and economic cooperation between the United States and Japan.

Vice President Mondale gave Mr. Fukuda a bound copy of President Carter's inaugural speech, and accepted a copy of Mr. Fukuda's policy address in return.

13. (DIET-INTERIOR) On January 30th, Mr. Fukuda made his policy speech as Prime Minister before the Diet, and laid down the guide lines of his new administration.

Naming the year of 1977 the year of economy, he stressed the need for cooperation among Japan, the United States and West Europe to move the free world's economy toward greater prosperity. Mr. Fukuda called for increased public spending and a tax cut to speedup the recovery of Japan's domestic economy, that plays an important role in fostering world economic recovery.

14. (DIET-AERIAL SHOT) A peaceful transition of power in democratic Japan brings in a versatile, experienced leader to face the challenges of 1977.

FIVE BIRTHDAYS IN ONE

65 feet 1 min. 48 sec.

1. (CAKES) Five birthday cakes for five babies. The first Japanese quintuplets ever to survive infancy are one year old on January 31, 1977. The mother is Mrs. Noriko Yamashita, 28. Now lets meet the quints... two boys and three girls... in their Tokyo home.
2. (FACES) Camera shy Fuku^{tar}o is the eldest boy and first born as well as the heaviest quint. Yohei, the second boy... Hisako, eldest girl, and strongest of the five children... Taeko, the number two girl. Finally, the youngest of the girls and still the smallest quint--Satoko.
3. (PHOTOGRAPHERS) As a toy for the memorable day, each quint gets a rose from mama. The babies were born at the municipal hospital in Kagoshima City, near their mother's hometown on Japan's southern island of Kyushu. The quints spent their first four months at the Kagoshima hospital, then were flown to Nihon University Hospital in Tokyo. In September, they finally moved into the Yamashitas' two story Tokyo house. The father, Yorimitsu Yamashita, 34, is a newsman with NHK, the Japan Broadcasting Corporation.

4. (QUINTS ON TATAMI) The quintts live in a nursery with Japanese style tatami floor mats. The mother says they sleep 12 hours at night, and another two hours at mid-day. There are no identical twins among the quintts. Mrs. Yamashita says that from the first they have shown separate and distinct personalities.

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An unusual birth makes medical history in Japan. A family that never sought the limelight is sentimentally adopted by a whole nation.