



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1984

The Honorable Robert J. Dole
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Bob:

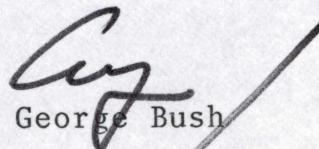
Thank you for your recent letter on U.S. coal sales to Japan. This is one of the issues which we are concentrating on as part of our follow-up to President Reagan's visit to Tokyo last November. You are correct that in the past two years U.S. coal sales to Japan have decreased. This has been due to Japan's increasingly efficient use of energy, the oil glut, and the fact that Japan has used the U.S. only as a "spot source" for energy supplies.

We are strongly espousing the view that the U.S. should become a long-term, strategic source of energy supplies to Japan. Given Congress' negative attitude toward oil sales, we are concentrating on coal and LNG. The Japanese are sending a coal-buying mission to the U.S. in May and seem particularly interested in helping to further two large-scale coal projects which would result in large-scale sales to Japan in the 1990's.

We fully agree with the concerns voiced in your letter and hope that concrete progress will emerge in the next couple of months.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



George Bush