

Today , on 11 February, appropriately Japanese national Foundation day, I would like to review three aspects of my father's life- his character , his achievements and his legacy.

As many of you have known us for so long, you will know how much family meant to my father. This is beautifully demonstrated by the way Rosey has captured his smile in the lovely photo in the order of service, beautifully taken on Christmas Day just over a year ago. Charlotte has created this marvellous banner which celebrates the diversity of his interests and beliefs . We have all been inspired by my mother's resilience and positivity since my Father's death. This has perhaps given us a glimpse as to how she cajoled and encouraged him to achieve so much in his long and happy life. Clearly without my Mother we would not have so much to celebrate today.

Friends played a key part in my father's life. Look around you at the range of ages and nationalities in this chapel . This does not look like a memorial service for a 94 year old - he was making new friends of all ages right until he very end. When he first visited the ruins of Japan in 1946 , despite having relatives who were mistreated on the Burma railroad, in his usual fashion he ignored instructions not to fraternise with the locals. He actively sought friendships, using his hard learned Japanese language skills, and thus started a relationship with Japan and the Japanese that would encompass his whole life. His approach lead to a rather unconventional form of diplomacy - the undiplomatic diplomat he called himself - because he was always brutally honest with everyone he encountered. The sycophancy of telling people what they wanted to hear was not his style. He was rather amused to be "fired" as he put it from his column at The Japan Times at the age of 93 following a characteristically blunt expression of his concerns about a resurgence of nationalism in modern Japan.

It would though be a mistake to construe his friendship for Japan as a lack of loyalty to his country. His whole career was always focussed on what was best for Britain . While being careful never to talk his country down, he was realistic and honest about Britain's failings just as he was not shy to criticise the failings of Japan as he saw them. Loyalty also manifested itself in his constant desire to recognise those who worked with and for him rather than take the glory of his achievements himself. Teamwork was an essential part of his modus operandi. Always keen to recognise and respect others at all levels, I remember in particular his attitude to the domestic staff. New Year's Day at the Ambassador's residence in Tokyo was special - we could be found wandering the cavernous catering kitchens, hangover in hand looking vainly for that illusive cure, as my father had given all the staff the day off in recognition of their efforts in the past year. His drive, energy, honesty and occasional obstinance - a mixture he summed up as persistence, won people over again and again.

So what of his many achievements . His persistence shone through as he persuaded the Americans to grant that Anglo- French icon Concorde landing rights. His humanity when he worked with his favourite foreign secretary Lord Carrington to persuade the government to accept the boat people who were expelled from Vietnam. His diplomacy and patience when he engaged with UK veterans to make the case that, despite the undeniable cruelty of the Japanese in the Second World War, the whole nation could not be tarnished forever by such evil. His foremost diplomatic achievement though was I think his championing of Japanese inward investment in the UK in the early 1980's.

As his final dispatches from Tokyo make clear , he felt Japanese investment in the UK would be very beneficial to both countries. This would overcome the stalemate of trade restraint blocking Japanese exports from benefiting UK consumers. UK industry would also learn from Japanese practices - the prevailing arrogant view that UK industry was superior was not backed by the evidence of Japanese success. He had to use persistence to overcome resistance from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and win around Japanese industrialists to investing in the UK regions. The benefits came home to me some years later when I was running an old factory in the north of England with a history of poor management and industrial strife. My father gave me an introduction to Nissan in Sunderland and I sent a delegation of shop stewards and junior management to see what they were doing that was different. They were inspired by the teamwork and consensus the Japanese were achieving on Tyneside and , by copying many of those themes, we were able to turn our own performance around and the factory still exists today.

My father only got into the diplomatic service on his second attempt when the service lowered the pass mark. His plan B was to go into academia. At 60 , he launched this as his second career. He authored numerous books and papers and has been described as one of the foremost Japanese scholars of his generation -not bad for someone who never held a formal academic post! He passionately believed that only by understanding Japan and the Japanese would Britain be able to sustain a long lasting fruitful relationship. He fostered this desire for mutual understanding through his very proactive chairmanship of The Japan Society for 10 years. He fought hard for the establishment of Japanese studies at UK universities and was very active in the faculties at Cambridge and UAE. He was focussed both on language and cultural ties and many of you will know that my parents fine collection of ceramics , maps and prints now resides mostly at the Sainsbury institute in Norwich for all to enjoy. He strongly believed that the maintenance of these high quality facilities was very much in our national interest . The fact that so many UK Japanologists are here today is a testament to his achievements.

So now briefly to his legacy - what would be his instructions to us. In the immediate sense he would want to ensure the book he was writing on the

links between the Japanese imperial family and our Royal Family, to be published to commemorate the accession of His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito , is completed on time! More importantly he would want us to defend the UK academic institutions that focus on Japanese studies. Finally I think he would want us to move forward together , using honesty and dialogue to help us make progress . He was an internationalist, whose values came from his first hand experiences of the devastation of the Second World War. The shrill “ Me first” narrative of the modern political world was something he abhorred and I think he would like us to counter it as best we can.

It is at this stage in a speech that my father would turn to Mum, tap his stick in later life and say perhaps a bit louder than he should “ I think William likes the sound of his own voice - its time to sit down.”

Well dad, we are getting to that time. I know that the one thing you would want me to do on your behalf is to thank everyone here for their friendship , collaboration and inspiration that made all your 94 years so happy and productive.

To bring us back to the here and now, shortly Carter will read the dismissal. Please listen to those words, because within them is a bit of an instruction to us as to the way I think he would want us to lead the rest of our lives.