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HIROHITO
(Phonetic: heeroheetoh)

JAPAN

Emperor

Addressed as:
Your Imperial Majesty

Hirohito, 73, Emperor of Japan since 1926 and Head of State since 1945, heads the world's oldest ruling house. The postwar Japanese Constitution established the Emperor as the symbol of national unity. The throne has no legal powers of government, but the Emperor performs many ceremonial functions.



The Emperor leads a quiet but busy life, studying and signing laws and documents and attending public functions. He is well informed on internal security matters and international developments, and he has expressed a desire for continuing close relations between the United States and Japan.

In September and October 1971 the Emperor and Empress Nagako visited Western Europe, stopping en route for a brief meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, with then President Nixon. Hirohito had been to Europe in 1921, but this trip was the first in which a reigning Japanese monarch traveled abroad.

Much of the Emperor's leisure time is devoted to the study of marine biology, and he has published several books on his findings. His Majesty neither smokes nor drinks. He has some knowledge of French and is said to read English with the aid of a dictionary. The Emperor and his wife have five children.

30 October 1974

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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