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PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS OUTLINED CENTRAL MEETING FOR THE PROMOTION OF BURAKU LIBERATION ADMINISTRATION DRAWS DIVERSE AUDIENCE IN TOKYO

A meeting sponsored by the National Movement Central Executive Committee attracted some 2,400 people, including members of the Buraku Liberation League and trade and labor unions, representatives from political parties, officials from various government administrations, religious figures and leaders of business and industry, to Tokyo on 13 January 1983.

Saichirō Uesugi, chairman of the committee, issued the sponsors' appeal. "Through a broad-based cooperative effort that even encompassed cooperative members of the Liberal Democratic Party, we were able to secure the new law [Law on Special Measures for Regional Improvement Projects, which was enacted in March 1982, to replace the expired Dowa legislation].

"Today, voices calling for the revision -- and weakening -- of the Constitution and the trend toward militarism are growing at an alarming pace. These leanings threaten to bring a reduction in the quality of the people's welfare and strengthen discrimination. We must advance toward a worldwide movement for the promotion and security of human rights, and make this meeting a decisive step toward the enactment of a Fundamental Law of Buraku Liberation."

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THE INSURANCE RESEARCH CASE

The Tokyo-based private investigation agency Insurance Research was first denounced at an 18 June meeting last year for both its discriminatory private investigations and its guidebook "Etiquette for Investigators." A second denunciation meeting was held in September 1982; the third meeting was held in Tokyo on 1 February this year. The three main points on which the company stands accused of discrimination are:

1. The guidebook "Etiquette for Investigators," issued to its employees, contains both discriminatory and libelous passages. The book recommends that "a job applicant from a Buraku is best not employed." It also contains a fabricated story that the BLL protested against their practices and extorted two million yen as a settlement of the affair. Other passages are equally malicious.
2. The research institute itself conducted some 156 private investigations, many of potential marriage partners, and in a large number of the cases, the main object was determining whether the person under investigation is from a Buraku or not.
3. Insurance Research is sponsored by the Insurance Association, which consists of nineteen insurance companies. Each of these companies has a committee to promote Dowa education; not even a single committee member made any indication that he had noticed the discriminatory nature of the etiquette book.

The meeting made it very clear that even after the national exposure of the "Buraku lists," large companies are still conducting controversial private investigations to determine if a job candidate is a Burakumin -- and therefore not "company material." Once again, the discriminatory hiring practices of the large firms was brought to light. Members of the BLL present at the 1 February denunciation meeting stated, "We will continue to pursue the responsibility of Insurance Research, Insurance Association and the Kanto bureau of the Justice Ministry in this case of manifest discrimination."



GOVERNMENT ATTEMPT TO ABRIDGE CIVIL LIBERTIES THWARTED

A bill to reduce the powers of the Civil Liberties Bureau of the Justice Ministry through annexing it to another bureau was submitted in the mid-term report of the Second Special Administrative Investigation Meeting in July 1982. This reduction and annexation plan was abandoned in its last report, due to a nationwide cooperative campaign launched by many organizations in massive opposition to the proposal. The Central Headquarters of the BLL issued the following statement on the defeat of the measure.

DECLARATION

In a reactionary line of administrative reform, the Second Special Administrative Investigation Meeting -- the so-called Rincho -- suggested a bill to reduce and annex the Civil Liberties Bureau of the Justice Ministry in its mid-term report. Behind this move lay a neglect of human rights protection activities, a willful ignorance of the continuing discrimination cases occurring throughout the country.

We of the Buraku Liberation League, in opposition to such a reactionary trend, waged a campaign to crush this attempt to reduce the powers of the Civil Liberties Bureau. With many other groups fighting to protect human rights, we actively participated in a national campaign of opposition to the measure. As a result, in its last report on 24 December, the Rincho was forced to abandon the proposed bill.

This incident clearly shows the government's policy of neglecting human rights whenever possible under the lines of administrative reform and arms expansion. From now on, we will intensify our efforts to ferret out all faults in human rights protection and the actions taken in response to the repeated discrimination cases. With the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as catalyst, we are determined to make unparalleled advances in Buraku liberation, the elimination of all kinds of discrimination and the protection of human rights.

BLL Central Headquarters
December 24, 1982



SAYAMA CASE RETRIAL NEGOTIATIONS ENTER SECOND YEAR--

--RESPONSE OF JUSTICE MINISTRY REMAINS NEGATIVE

Although the Justice Ministry's review of whether the retrial motion filed in the Sayama case merits the case being brought before the Supreme Court or should be dismissed has now continued for nearly two years, the situation has recently entered a crucial stage. The Buraku Liberation League, with the backing of public action, is negotiating with the Justice Ministry over two key issues:

1. Evidence proving Ishikawa's innocence is still being kept hidden by the police. Although some of this hidden evidence has recently been unveiled, it should all be brought into the open.
2. The law states that those who are sentenced to life imprisonment are eligible for release on parole after serving ten years of the sentence. Although Ishikawa has already been imprisoned for longer than this mandatory period, he remains in detention. His temporary release should therefore be effected immediately.

The Justice Ministry reacted as negatively as ever to our proposals. We will keep up negotiations without respite until justice is served.

BLL AND PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY DISCUSS BURAKU ISSUE

, president of University, and members of the BLL met for a discussion on the Buraku issue on the first of December 1982. At the beginning of the meeting, Saichiro Uesugi, president of the BLL Central Headquarters, made the following address: "Universities are expected to play a leading role in the elimination of discrimination against Burakumin. But here at University [a public university and most prestigious in the nation -- ed.], we see recurring discrimination cases, such as the late Professor Hyoe Ouchi's article in the magazine "Sekai" [1969], vicious graffiti, discriminatory translations and publications and Professor 's case [discriminatory comments at an international conference in Germany in 1981 -- ed]. We would greatly like to see University take some action regarding the Buraku problem on its own initiative." It was reported that lectures on the Buraku problem have been held at over one hundred universities throughout Japan.

"I knew that soldiers coming from Buraku experienced harsh discrimination in the army. I've learned much from today's discussion, and have come to truly understand the significant role education must play in overcoming discrimination,"



said President Hirano. "I would like to meet with other members of the faculty and administration of the university to work out our course of action on this important issue from now on." The meeting concluded on this note.

SYMPOSIUM ON APARTHEID AND JAPAN-SOUTH AFRICA RELATIONS

A symposium on South Africa's legally mandated discrimination policy was held under the joint auspices of the Asahi Newspaper and the Information Centre of the United Nations on 20 January 1983, at the Asahi Newspaper Hall in Tokyo. An audience of three hundred attended the symposium, entitled "South Africa and Japan -- In Regards to South Africa's Apartheid Policy."

The symposium was held as a result of the UN's International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions against South Africa and the Anti-Apartheid Conference of the Asian Area of 1982. The aim of this symposium was to promote a clearer understanding of the racist Apartheid policy pursued by the South African government, which remains the major obstacle blocking Japan from fostering a deeper relationship among Asian and African countries.

Keynote information at the symposium focused on the problems created by Apartheid: the struggle of blacks within South Africa itself, the impact on neighboring countries, and so on. The address was delivered by Ahmed Hassan Deliya, Tanzania's ambassador to Japan. Following the ambassador's address, a panel discussion was held. Members of the panel were: Ambassador Deliya; Kango Shimada of the United Nations Centre against Apartheid; Yoko Kitazawa, a commentator on international issues; Eiji Fukunaga of the African Association; Yasuhiko Saito, a Tokyo University professor of Foreign Studies.

In the panel discussion, attention centered on two points: first, the actual situation of black workers in Japanese enterprises operating in South Africa -- the harsh treatment they receive, while the South African government and Japanese big businesses sit back and reap the profits; second, that through the presence of these firms in South Africa, Japan supports the Apartheid policy of the South African government.

The South African Apartheid government wants the Japanese presence; Japanese are accorded the privilege of being "honorary white people." This is, however, a great dishonor for Japan. The audience at the symposium voiced approval to the proposition that Japanese enterprise must be forced to end its support of this "crime against human conscience and dignity" -- Apartheid.



A CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL UNITY TO MAKE THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION SUCCESSFUL AND MAKE THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS A MILESTONE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

This year marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations. This document, written when the heavy damages to mankind brought by WWII still weighed heavily on everyone, stresses the need for continuous efforts to protect and promote human rights and sets forth concrete measures to prevent future wars from occurring and maintain peace.

The protection of human rights has received international attention over the last decade: the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination came into effect in 1969; the International Covenants on Human Rights, in 1976; the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in 1981, to name several examples of United Nations sponsored acts. On the other hand, we cannot ignore the fact that as the international economic situation worsens, the climate suitable to discrimination grows stronger. At the international conference against discrimination which was held in Japan during Human Rights Week in December 1982, speakers gave clear accounts of this frightening trend developing in all countries.

As we stand on the threshold of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we must take more vital measures to protect human rights and strengthen our guard against this peril. The United Nations has called for an official observance of the anniversary of this valuable human rights statement, and our endeavors can be a strong support to this call.

In Japan, various undertakings aimed at the elimination of all types of discrimination -- discrimination against women, discrimination against Burakumin, and all other manifestations of discrimination -- are currently in the planning stages. As these projects, proposals, educational campaigns and so on take on concrete form, future issues of Buraku Liberation News will cover them.



A second major international human rights event also occurs this year. The Second International Conference against Racism and Racial Discrimination will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 12 August, under the auspices of the United Nations. This conference will have a major bearing on the future of efforts to protect and secure human rights.

We, as a private group striving for the elimination of discrimination and the security of peace, believe that we must take an active approach to help secure the success of this international gathering against discrimination and honor the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on its anniversary.

All of us who are working for peace and human rights need desperately to stay in contact with one another. We would like to know about the different appeals, proposals and other activities being planned and carried out by your group or in your country, in honor of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Second International Conference against Racism and Racial Discrimination. Please send us news clippings, copies of appeals, leaflets and handbills, and any other information you have on these activities in your country. By working together, we can gain the strength to turn the tide.