



The Year 1987 is for Peace and Human Rights!

The year 1986 was the International Year of Peace. All over the world there were numerous activities carried out for peace and human rights. Unfortunately, the results were not so impressive.

In Japan there were movements gaining ever more momentum for adopting the Hiroshima Appeal and for furthering efforts toward the elimination of discrimination against the Ainu and Burakumin. However, we were not able to see any concrete outcome.

As we celebrate the beginning of this new year 1987, we would like to make significant steps forward to avoid the crisis of nuclear war and instead to

achieve massive disarmament by the end of this year. At the same time, we hope to make our contribution to progress in abolishing all forms of discrimination in the world, including Apartheid in South Africa.

We are anxious to achieve complete ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and enactment of the new law for the Ainu people as well as of the Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation. The system of compulsory fingerprinting for foreign residents in Japan, including Koreans, should be abolished this year.

We celebrate in 1987 the 40th anniversary of the Japanese Constitution. In this context, both peace and human rights need to be pushed to the forefront.

We are grateful for your generous support and expect it to continue further this year. We wish you good health and happiness.

CONTENTS

Rev. Jackson Expresses Concern about Minorities and Apartheid to Prime Minister Nakasone (2) / Rallies Held in Tokyo and Osaka Calling for Human Rights (3) / Discriminative Experience X (4) / Sixty Percent of Ainu People Feel Discrimination (5) / Protest against Area Improvement Measures Council (7)



Rev. Jackson expressing the solidarity by the demonstration for the Alien Registration Law on his visit in Japan. (Osaka, Dec. 10, '86)



Rev. Jackson Expresses Concern about Minorities and Apartheid to Prime Minister Nakasone

The Reverend Jesse Jackson, leader of US civil rights movement, visited Japan upon the invitation made by the Central Executive Committee on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, consisting of the Buraku Liberation League and other organizations.

He paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Nakasone at his official residence on December 8 and discussed issues with him for about 50 minutes. In regard to the recent statement by the prime minister on the intellectual level of minorities in the United States, Reverend Jackson pointed out that blacks and Hispanics are extremely sensitive about the suffering caused by the Japan-US trade imbalance and urged that Japanese businesses in the US strengthen their economic relations with US minorities. He expressed also his deep concern about the plight of minorities in Japan. Further, he demanded strongly that thorough going sanctions against the Republic of South Africa be implemented.

Blacks, Hispanics and women, he said, are especially sensitive about such a situation. He then emphasized that economic relations between Japanese companies operating in the US and US minorities should be expanded and that awareness be enhanced on the part of Japan about the sizable purchasing power possessed by the minorities. He further proposed that a special committee be set up to enable blacks and Hispanics to negotiate increased trade between US minorities and Japan.

The prime minister explained that efforts are being made on the Japanese side to expand imports of agricultural products to alleviate the bilateral trade imbalance. He added, "Although I cannot force Japanese trading companies to cooperate with US minorities, I will encourage them to do so." Mr. Nakasone, however, made no reference to his own statement on the "lower intellectual level of minorities".

The Reverend Jesse Jackson appeared to be deeply concerned about the forced fingerprinting system for foreign residents in Japan as represen-

tative of the human rights situation in Japan. The prime minister told him that the government is planning to submit a draft bill in the next ordinary session of the Diet for improving the fingerprinting system. He also mentioned that action is being taken to revise the title of the law for the Ainu people.

Regarding South Africa, Rev. Jackson criticized as "immoral" Japanese businesses for expanding trade with South Africa after US corporations withdrew. Responding to this accusation, Mr. Nakasone only said, "We have banned the export of products that may possibly be used to suppress movements by blacks, and are extending support to neighboring nations including Mozambique. We will continue to keep our eyes on South Africa."

Rev. Jackson's Itinerary

- Dec. 8 Meet Prime Minister Nakasone - Attend Tokyo Rally for 38th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Press Conference*
- Dec. 9 Meet Presidents of Sony and Toyota - Meet Dietmen against Fingerprinting - Meet Japanese Committee against Apartheid - Meet Ms. Doi, Chairperson of Japan Socialist Party - Meet Christians - Meet Those Refusing to be Fingerprinted - Meet Mr. Takeshita and Mr. Abe, new leaders of LDP*
- Dec. 10 Visit Buraku, Nishinari - Meet Korean Christians in Japan - Meet Those Refusing to be Fingerprinted - Attend Osaka Rally for 38th Anniversary of UDHR - Press Conference - Meet President of Matsushita Trading Co. - Interview with Mr. Uesugi, Chairperson of BLL.*
- Dec. 11 Tour Peace Museum - Meet President of Mazda*



Rev. Jesse Jackson Expressed Solidarity Saying " Japan Should Be Human Rights Surplus Nation "

Rallies Held in Tokyo and Osaka Calling for Prompt Ratification of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and Solution to Domestic Discrimination Problems

The Osaka Rally to Commemorate the 38th Anniversary of UDHR was held in Osaka and joined by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the American civil rights leader and about 2,000 citizens participated.

Following greetings from Governor Kishi of Osaka Prefecture, Mayor Ohshima of Osaka City and Rev. Lee, Mr. Wajima, former president of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, stated on behalf of the organizing committee, " Peace is not just the absence of war. Peace is a condition in which discrimination is eliminated and human rights established." The Rev. Jackson addressed the participants under the title " Human Dignity and Peace to the World". He emphasized, " Human rights is the key to peace. We must carry on our struggle to guarantee human rights for all the people. " He further stated, "It is 45 years since the war. But the lessons of the war have been lost. " and questioned the negative stance of the Japanese government regarding human rights problems faced by Burakumin, Koreans and Ainu people. He expressed his deep concern about the attitude of the Japanese government in dealing with these minority groups which, he said, is the barometer of civilization of Japan. He further emphasized: " Japan should recreate itself as a nation to register a surplus in human rights as well as in trade " adding " Forced fingerprinting is a form of discrimination just identical to the pass books in South Africa under Apartheid policy. "

Mr. Tomonaga, secretary - general of the BLRI, made the keynote speech at the rally. His basic points were : 1) There is no way to hold back the tide for human rights protection domestically and internationally. 2) Apartheid in South Africa, a military

budget which wastes money to the extent of about 1 trillion dollars, continuing discrimination against minorities in Japan and other difficult problems are yet to be solved. 3) Nakasone's statement was a disgrace to Japan as an " international nation " and endangered anti - discrimination activities in Japan. 4) Prompt ratification of Anti - Racial Discrimination Convention, nuclear disarmament and anti - Apartheid movement are more important than ever.

Mr. Nomura, director - general of the Hokkaido Utari Association, called for the enactment of a new



Rev. Jackson giving a special lecture at the 38th Memorial Osaka Meeting of the International Declaration of Human Right. (Osaka, Dec. 10, '86)



law for Ainu people to protect the rights of this indigenous population to enjoy their culture and to live a decent life, thus replacing the discriminatory Hokkaido's Former Natives Protection Law.

Representing Koreans in Japan, Prof. Kim of Ryukoku University discussed the historical background of Japan's invasion and emphasized the importance of abolishing the fingerprinting system and protecting the rights to education and work.

To conclude the rally, Mr.Uesugi, Chairperson of the Buraku Liberation League Central Committee, elaborated on the current situation of discrimination against Burakumin as symbolized by the "Buraku Lists," and advocated the immediate enactment of the Fundamental law for Buraku Liberation for a drastic solution to Buraku discrimination problems and appealed for strengthened unity between victims of discrimination and broad sectors of the public.

Finally, Mr.Morita, representing religious groups, proposed the Appeal from the Rally. The rally was a great success.

In the press conference immediately following the rally, Rev.Jackson said, in regard to his earlier visit to a Buraku community in the morning, "The impoverished housing reminds me of the days when I was treated as a second - class citizen. The late Dr.Martin Luther King Jr.led the legal movement to change such a reality. Your movement in Japan is right on target. Plase keep your faith and never be let down." He also commented, "The American



Reporters at the 38th Memorial Osaka Meeting of the International Declaration of Human Rights. From the left. Rev.Jackson, Giichi Nomura(chairman of the board of directors of Hokkaido Utari Association), Prof. Kim Dong Hun(Ryukoku University),Saichiro Uesugi(Head of the Central Executive Committee of BLL)

press always writes about big corporations and high living standards in Japan. I am grateful that I was able to see the other side of Japan. "

Rev.Jackson had a discussion in the evening with Mr.Uesugi, Chairperson of the BLL, in front of media representatives and others and said, " It has been a real fruit for me to be able to see people fighting discrimination in Osaka. Let us join our efforts to move ahead. "



Findings from Survey on Living Conditions of Utari in Hokkaido **Sixty Percent of Ainu People Feel Discrimination**

The Report on Utari in Hokkaido, released by the Hokkaido Prefectural Government, clearly revealed the extent of existing discrimination against Utari people.

The survey, released on June 1, 1986, included the following findings. The Utari population in Hokkaido is 24,381, living in 7,168 households. 36.3% of households fall below the income tax threshold while 60.9% receive welfare assistance -- almost triple the ratio (21.9%) of relief recipients registered in the 70 municipalities where Utari people live. Their income level is also lower than average.

300 households were sampled and asked to respond to detailed questions. 46.3% -- 6.9% more than in the 1979 survey -- replied "We cannot continue to live this way" and "It takes everything just to eat." 23.1% said "I have experienced discrimination" while another 22.1%, almost the same proportion, said "I have no experiences of discrimination." 61.2% of the total responded "Discrimination still exists."

Responding to multiple choice questions about the type of discrimination, 71% said it was "connected with marriage," and "in the local community," 50.8% said "at school" and 41.5% replied it was "connected with employment."

The rate of advancement to high school is 78.4% while that to college or university is 8.1% -- both notably lower than the national average.

In response to the question "Do you think that special measures are necessary for Utari people?", 78.3% said "Yes, because there is a significant gap in living conditions between the Utari people and the general public." Measures deemed important include "children's education" (cited by 75.6%), "stabilizing living conditions and employment" (68.4%), "promotion of industry," "preservation and transmission of Ainu culture," "improvement of living environment", etc -- in that order.



An Appeal from an Ainu Mother over the Reality of Discrimination

A letter to the Prime Minister

I am an Ainu mother bringing up three children of Japanese nationality. I am writing this letter in the hope that non - Ainu with Japanese nationality will understand how my three children have grown up.

I was born in an Ainu hamlet. Elderly people spoke Ainu as their mother tongue and practiced Ainu traditions and customs. After the war, Ainu spoke mainly Japanese. My children grew up as Ainu, the indigenous people of Japan, in these circumstances.

When my daughter was four, she was told by her friends at nursery school: " Your legs are dirty. Nobody will marry you. " She washed her legs with soap in the bath every day. However much she scrubbed, her body hair wouldn't go away.

When she went swimming in the sea, she would hide her body from people's eyes beneath the surface of the water. This primary school child stayed in the water even until the skin on her fingers and palms was wrinkled. Because of the hair on her body, she was reluctant to take part in sports at junior high school.

Whenever a health check was scheduled at school, my children shaved the hair off every part of their bodies. My sons were contemptuously called " Nose hair! " and " Ainu! " when they were first graders at primary school. Now they shout at me: " It was terrible in our primary and junior high school days. Give us back our school days. "

An Ainu woman employed in Sapporo (the capital of Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan) goes to a bathhouse with private baths. She hates exposing herself to the cold stares in the usual bathhouse. A young Ainu man employed in Tokyo cannot relax in the bathhouse because the others gaze at him as though he were an animal. Another young woman with slight facial hair around her mouth was stared at coldly on a station platform and mocked by children as " a man - woman with a moustache. " There are so many examples.

Mr.Prime Minister, my children have been discriminated against because of their physical ap-

pearance ever since they can remember. We possess Japanese nationality and we hope to live in a friendly and cooperative way with many Japanese people. Not a day has passed, however, without my children crying, although the Japanese constitution clearly guarantees basic human rights for everyone. They wish for happiness but their actual life is so lonely.

I am bitterly angry with the Prime Minister for always defining us as a minority, just to suit the government, and for arguing that Japan is a mono - racial nation.

We want to create a future in which Ainu children will be happy. We want to create with you, Mr.Prime Minister, a society in which the Ainu people can properly transmit Ainu culture over the generations with Ainu as their mother tongue. Japan is not by any means a mono - racial nation. I do hope you will change your views. We need to live in a society in which every race can speak its own mother tongue with Japanese as a common language.

(A letter printed in the Asahi Shinbun,
Oct. 28, 1986)



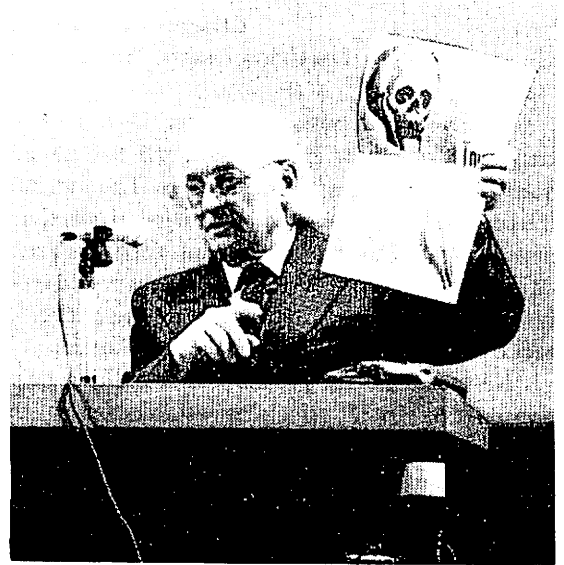
IYP Commemoration

“ Peace is All ” Exhibition Successfully Held

“ Peace is All ”, an exhibition commemorating the International Year of Peace, was held in Osaka from Oct.23 to Nov.3 with more than 50,000 participants.

Organized by the Osaka Prefectural Government, Osaka City Government, organizations representing labor, religions and business sectors as well as by the Buraku Liberation League, the exhibition featured various articles left by those massacred in Auschwitz, materials related to the Diary of Anne Frank, and photos and materials portraying the nuclear threat as well as peace and human rights issues.

Mr.Shimanski, 69, an “ ex - prisoner ” who narrowly escaped the holocaust in Auschwitz and was vice - president of the Auschwitz Museum untill 1977, visited Japan and came to the exhibition site. He gave a talk titled “ A Tetimony From Auschwitz ” in a commemorative lecture meeting and reminded the participants of the atrocities committed by the Nazis and the horrors of war and racism.



Mr.Shimanski giving a commemorative lecture (Osaka, Nov. 1, '86)

Protest against Area Improvement Measures Council for Issuing Proposal Declaring Suppression of Buraku Liberation Movement

We are expecting the termination of the effect of the Area Improvement Measures Law at the end of March 1987. The government had the Area Improvement Measures Council, advisory body to the General Affairs Agency in charge of Buraku affairs, submit a proposal on the future direction of integration measures on Dec.11, 1986. The content of this proposal is basically a declaration of suppression of Buraku liberation movement and is to be viewed against the backdrop of 'final ac-

count of postwar public administration' as advocated by the Nakasone administration which attempts to 'finalize' the suppression of democracy. The following is the protest made by the Buraku Liberation League and addressed to Mr.Eiichi Isomura, chairperson of the Area Improvement Measures Council. We hope that many readers will join with us voicing the opposition to the proposal.



To: Mr. Eiichi Isomura
Chairperson of the area
Improvement Measures
Council

December 18, 1986
Saichiro Uesugi
Chairperson of Buraku
Liberation League Headquarters

The proposal was issued on Dec.11 when criticism against the Report of Aug.5 had already been registered from various circles. The fact that the proposal clearly pointed to the need of enacting a new law shows that the government-appointed council could not venture to neglect the voices raised loudly for the fundamental solution to the reality of serious discrimination against the Burakumin.

Nevertheless, the proposal is basically a negation of the basic principles established in the Dowa(integration) Council's Report of 1965 and declared the suppression of our liberation movement. We cannot but feel offended.

Firstly, the proposal is founded on a seriously flawed perception of the reality of discrimination. Buraku businesses, jobs, education and still prevailing prejudice, as represented by continued discrimination cases, are analyzed only insufficiently in this proposal.

Secondly, the proposal aims at reducing and even cutting various integration measures such as individual grants. The ongoing administrative reform is curtailing the general welfare standard and the discontinuation of integration measures without taking into account the reality of discrimination will nullify the past efforts. In this respect, the suggested 'new law' is grossly insufficient in its nature in that it is only conceived as a scaled down extension of the special financial law.

Thirdly, the proposal negates the responsibility of the government, the key concept contained in the Dowa Council's Report, and instead, calls the government to suppress liberation organizations and to control engagement of local government in Dowa affairs. Rather a positive tone is noted for advocating enlightenment activities, but the proposal of 'public-interest foundation', reminding us of the prewar Central Assimilation Association, inherits the philosophy of nationalism.

Fourthly, above-mentioned points are symboliz-

ed in the negative evaluation given to denunciation tactics employed by liberation organizations. However, denunciation activities are intended to materialize 'incessant efforts of people to protect freedom and liberty' as guaranteed in the Japanese Constitution for truly meaningful protection of human rights and democracy.

Fifthly, the proposal falsely coined the concept of 'smearing discrimination' in arguing that the 'lack of initiative on the part of public administration' and 'submerged free expression of opinions' are both caused by denunciation tactics. This is absurd because the prevalent prejudice in the society is not taken into account.

The proposal turned out to be discriminatory and reactionary in these terms for not allowing any representative of victims of discrimination to participate in its formulation. To discuss issues of discrimination in the absence of discriminated-against parties fails to exercise true democracy.

The attitude of Japanese government toward human rights is a focus of attention internationally and domestically particularly after severe criticism has been mounted against Prime Minister Nakasone's 'Japan as a mono-racial nation' and 'US minorities being unintelligent' remarks.

we now have to go back to the principles of Japanese Constitution and the Dowa Council's Report in order to clarify basic issues for the solution to Buraku discrimination and responsibilities concerned. We also need to emphasize the need to legislate the Fundamental Law for the liberation of Buraku. We protest strongly against the proposal of the Area Improvement Measures Council which marks a disgrace to the history of Japanese democracy and human rights.

