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Implementation of International Solidarity Actiivity!!

23rd Buraku Liberation Research Meeting Staged.

The 23rd Research Meeting was held in Fukuoka city on October 7-9 with 12,000 participants. The meeting appealed for the importance of international solidarity in the anti-discrimination movement. The following is an outline of speeches delivered.

Fundamental Proposition (Summary)

Mr. Tatsukuni Komori
(Secretary-General of the central headquarters of the Buraku Liberation League)

Following the victory in the Upper House elections, we have to get another victory in the Lower House elections in order to realize a great advance in human rights movements.

In Buraku discrimination, we have made an improvement in the housing situation to some extent. However, we have to begin in earnest to improve the actual circumstances of our daily life, employment and education.

There are still 1000 Burakus where Dowra measures have not been carried out. Discrimination cases can still be seen in marriage, employment, and schools. The number of people who do not admit



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their discriminatory attitudes is also increasing. Even though it is now 14 years since the discovery of the discriminatory "Buraku list" publications, not every aspect of this case has been clarified. There has been a lot of discriminatory correspondence by personal computer to transmit information about the location of Buraku.

In order to solve those Buraku problems, the "Fundamental Law" for Buraku Liberation is essential.

We also have to bring about a retrial of the Sayama case to have Mr. Ishikawa released on parole.

The Buraku liberation movement raced the third stage of joint struggle demanding peace, human rights, and democracy. We need to strengthen our domestic movements and also international solidarity with other overseas organizations.

The important tasks which we have to accomplish are: first, to set up the Asian Pacific Human Rights Information Center: secondly to ratify the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. To realize these goals, we are required to build a subjective plan and develop our liberation theory.

The Task of IMADR

Mr. Kenzo Tomonaga, (Secretary of IMADR)

There is a growing international tendency to eliminate discrimination and human rights violation. There have been cases of human rights violation even by a state. Therefore it is indispensable to have the international solidarity of non-governmental organizations.

The task of IMADR is to eliminate all forms of discrimination world wide, and recently, many organizations have been working on Apartheid intensively.

There are only a few human rights organizations located in Asian countries. Their role is valuable. IMADR is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and working toward ratification and observance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. At the 2nd board meeting in Paris, creating branches in various countries was agreed. IMADR is hoping to have more affiliated organizations.

The task of Japan as it moves toward the 21st century is to apologize for her criminal acts during World War II. Though the discriminatory statements by former Prime Minister Nakasone have been taken up in 60 different countries, they have not been examined closely in Japan. We want to meet the criticism by the UN of Japan on its trading links with South Africa.

Toward the Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of a Child.

Mr. Shozo Suzuki (Emeritus professor of Kansai University)

Mankind is facing the crisis of nuclear war, destruction of nature and mass deaths caused by a spiritual drought. A struggle to oppose this crisis will involve the task of protecting our future children and also the human rights problem.

In the preamble of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child which the UN adopted in 1959, it says that "the mankind is under an obligation to give its best to our children." Within this year, the UN will probably adopt the Convention on the Rights of the Child. When a state disregards children's rights, the UN observes and advises on the case. Therefore, we have to make our movement advance to realize its prompt ratification.

In Japan, there are children who refuse to go to school, a great number of bullying cases, suicides, and withdrawals from school. These facts obviously show that human rights violation exists in Japan. In order to abolish these violations, we should not be controlling children by force but respect and urge children's autonomy.

Principles of International Prevention of a False Charge and the Task of Japan

Mr. Hideo Niwayama (Professor of Kagawa University)

In Japan, police cells have been used as Daiyo Kangoku (substitute prisons), and this is becoming the cause of false charges. In 1988, the UN determined the "Body of Principles for the Protection of all



Persons under Any Forms of Detention or Imprisonment” to prevent a false charge.

In these principles, there are provisions for observation and investigation. We have to know the gap in implementation of this regulation in Japan and overseas.

First we have to abolish the Daiyo Kangoku. The International Covenants on Human Rights prohibit Daiyo Kangoku. Japan approved the International Covenants on Human Rights in 1979, so it means Japan is violating this provision. The International Academic Circle of Criminal Law also determined its interpretation of the provision as follows: A detained person should not be brought to the police after going on trial or being charged.

We have to insist on this provision to the administration, the police, and the courts in a dignified manner.

Kokin Niho (The Police Cell Act) would make Daiyo Kangoku a fixed part of the system. The government has been publicizing the act as helping to maintain public peace. We have to recognize this case as a serious matter and obstruct it somehow.

Toward Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Mr. Sang Ho Lee (National Liaison Conference to Combat National Discrimination)

Racial discrimination against Koreans in Japan exists strongly even 44 years after the War. Besides the Alien Registration law and the Immigration Law, in schooling, employment, the Livelihood Protection Law and the pension system, racial discrimination has been running through from the cradle to the grave. Racial exclusionism is expanding. This is obvious when we see the fact that a young second-generation Korean who refused to be fingerprinted received a threatening letter saying, “Korean, go home!”

Japan has not made an official apology or paid compensation for depriving Koreans of their language, forced settlement and labor, conscription and mass murder. On the contrary, she tried to rationalize and justify her colonization.

Emperorism which caused a war of aggression into Asia and the idea of homogeneous still exist and are causing discrimination against Koreans, Ainu, Okinawans and Buraku people. Ratifying the Con-

vention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination will be the first step to abolish discrimination.

Literacy Movement and International Literacy Year as an Essential Part of Buraku Liberation Movement

Mr. Shigemi Umenaga (Director of Educational Department, Fukuoka Headquarter of B. L. L.)

The literacy movement in the Buraku has started to gain the literacy of which we had been deprived by discrimination and now it is in force nationwide.

There are 850 Rimpokan (Buraku Community Center) and 292 of them have active literacy classes. This implies government recognition that the idea that the literacy problem has been solved in Japan is wrong. The government has to begin in earnest to open a national investigation to see the actual condition of literacy in Japan.

The UN has marked the next year as International Literacy Year to enhance the literacy movement. We must urge the government to clarify its policy on the literacy movement with the recognition of present literacy classes and give it concrete shape soon by such means as guaranteeing academic achievement, expanding of night classes correspondence study programs. Moreover, we have to request the government, towns, and villages to strengthen the social enlightenment of the literacy problem.

We also have to strengthen our activities with the idea of literacy as the essential component of a liberation movement.





A Member of Human Rights Protection Committee Commits Discrimination !

A member of a human rights protection committee used the word, "special Buraku" in his writings. On August 4, 1989 The Buraku Liberation League's Chiba prefectural branch presented a critique of this

case to the Chiba legal affairs bureau after they confirmed the facts and pursued their administrative policy concerning human rights issues.

This case came to light in December 1988. Mr.



, a member of a human rights committee living in Shirai-cho town, Chiba used a discriminatory term "special Buraku" in his work titled "Men who sold their spirit - Siberian confidential documents." This term was used to emphasize abnormal conditions in the armed forces during the World War II.

BLL headquarter and Chiba pref. branch have both been making the following representation to the legal affairs bureau and municipality of Chiba pref. and Shirai-cho town :

- 1) Fact finding
- 2) Meeting with Mr.
- 3) Review of administration concerning human rights protection

4) How to settle the discriminatory case, etc.

First of all, the Chiba legal affairs bureau has not treated this case as "human rights violation". Secondly, they practically stopped Shirai-cho town and Chiba prefecture from participating in this case on the Tokyo legal affairs bureau and the Ministry of Justice.

BLL asked them about the above-mentioned points but they did not receive an adequate answer. They also requested the same bureau to meet Mr. but they were refused point-blank.

There was obviously low awareness of human rights issues in the relevant offices.

A Protest against Statement by Mr. Mizuno, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office

Buraku Liberation League, Headquarter

On October 3, 1989, you made the following statement concerning foreign migrant workers in Japan at a press interview on the issue of refugees' problems. The statement was as follows: "It is like dealing garbage. You just take it back and forth." (Oct. 4, 1989, Yomiuri Newspaper)

You also made the following statements in connection with the consumption tax. "Growing advertisement of the consumption tax is showing that Japanese consumers are ignorant about the tax. It is understandable if those consumers are the wives of day laborers. But even some wives of well-known entrepreneurs cannot tell the difference between a direct tax and indirect tax." (Oct. 4, 1989, Yomiuri

Newspaper)

First, we cannot tolerate your having described foreign labors as garbage. Moreover, your statements contradict what Prime Minister, Kaifu said in his speech on Oct. 2, 1989. Mr. Kaifu's speech emphasized the role of Japan as aiming at becoming an international society as follows: "Japan has to clarify what she can contribute to the world and determine the measures to accomplish it. We will develop our diplomacy to lead the peace and prosperity of the world."

The contradiction between your statements and Prime Minister Kaifu's speech could cause confusion among other foreign countries and intensify accusa-



tions against Japan. Considering these matters, Japan still has a long way to go to establish herself as a country where human rights are protected.

As to the statement, "It is understandable if they are the wives of day laborers....," it clearly shows you look down upon day laborers as ignorant manual workers. We consider your statement to be discriminatory against day laborers. Your statement also implies that day laborers are better off being ignorant about the consumption tax. We categorically cannot forgive your these statements.

As a result of the discrimination against Buraku, we are deprived of equality in opportunity of employment. The repeated statements made by you, the Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office which has a great influence on solving the Buraku issue,

made us absolutely indignant.

On October 4, 1989 you gave a press interview at the Prime Minister's Office. You said, "I regret some of the inappropriate expressions I used. I want to retract them." This ambiguous apology referring to "inappropriate expressions" won't lead to a solution of the problem.

Since you are the Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office, and your statements have a great influence on what your office will do regarding Dowa measures and human rights protection in Japan, we want to propose you make a written explanation and apology for your statements in public.

October 5, 1989

A Counterargument to the Report Submitted by Japan under the Int'l Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (9)

Article 21

When the public holds an assembly, legal restrictions are imposed. Also, even in legally permitted assemblies, policemen often attempt to interfere.

In holding an assembly in a public road or a park, prior permission from administrative authority is required under the Road Traffic Act and the City Park Act. It is controversial enough to require permission for using public facilities. Even more controversial is the ambiguous and unclear language used to describe the criteria. The administrative authority is powered not to permit the use of roads when it anticipates "interference with traffic." In Japan which lacks space to accommodate many people, the need for road space is considerable.

Provided that the use of road always affects traffic to some extent, anticipation wording may result in total ban of assembly.

In addition, many local authorities have ordinances to further regulate collective activities. Prior notification to and permission from the police and the National Security Committee is required for collective activities. However, these permissions often include detailed conditions about the form, method and route of marching. There have been quite a few cases where demonstrations were not permitted. The

Supreme Court has maintained that the regulation by security ordinance is not against the constitution. But it appears that at the basis of that decision, group action itself is regarded dangerous. This basic belief is incompatible with article 21 of this Covenant.

Also, for the past few years, holding of national conventions of the Japan Teachers Union has been consistently interrupted by right-wing organizations. The convention is held at different places year after year, but once the convention site is publicly announced, right-wing organizations from all over Japan gather there and cause chaos. As the result, hotels and other lodging facilities, even including some publicly-operated ones, have not so infrequently shown unwillingness to have the convention in their town. This is virtually an act of interference by right-wing organizations, but public institutions are indirectly aiding their action. Rallies to oppose anti-espionage legislation organized by bar associations have also been interrupted by right-wingers.

These indicate the strong tendency in Japan these days that interference is attempted against various rallies and organized actions that are critical about government policies. The constitution is not truly observed.
