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Council of Area Improvement Measures Resumed.

Burakumin Send a Delegate to the Council as a Member.

A Buraku representative will be able to join the council as member according to the strong support of public opinion. The name of the person is Mr. Hideo Kameoka who is acting President of the Dowa Policy Council in Ehime Pref. and also a member of the prefectural assembly. As a result the thick wall of governmental bureaucracy has been crushed.

The council held a general assembly on December 7, 1990 and 20 new committees (10 from government and 10 from scholars and men of experience) resumed discussions. Mr. Eiichi Isomura,

Honorary Prof. of Tokyo Metropolitan University was re-elected as President by common vote.

As a topic of discussion the matter of post validity of the "Law on Specific Government Budgetary Measure concerning the Projects Designated for the (Dowa) Area Improvement" will be considered. After February 1991, the meeting will be held twice a month and an interim report will be submitted during the Summer and some time around December 1991 concrete suggestions will be made.

The Governors of Mie and Hiroshima Prefecture Expressed Their Opinions about the Legislation of the Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation

The following is a summary of the two governors' address at the meeting in Tokyo on February 1, 1991. Mr. Toranosuke Takeshita, Governor of Hiroshima Pref.

In Hiroshima Pref. various administrative measures for the Buraku problem have shown certain fruitful results especially with regard to environmental and housing improvements and other related matters. However, discrimination cases

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still occur one after another and there are still many problems to solve in the areas of employment, education, enlightenment, etc. Under these circumstances, it is necessary to enact legal measures in order to fundamentally solve this problem after the current law on "Dowa" will have expired. As far as the elimination of all forms of discrimination including Buraku problems and the establishment of human rights, he promised that he will try to make an effort as the head of Hiroshima Pref.

Mr.Ryozo Tagawa, Governor of
Mie Pref.

In the field of education and employment substantially good results have been obtained for the

administrative measure for Dowa by Mie Pref. However, there are still needed environments, including the housing problem in depopulated rural areas or in large scale Buraku in urban communities. In addition, job discrimination and marriage discrimination cases have not been eradicated.

In the future we respect the contents of the declaration, "Mie Pref. is a prefecture of human rights" which was adopted at the last year's prefectural assembly. And based on an actual survey of Burakumin's living conditions, we will do our best toward legislating the Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation in solidarity with related administrative agencies in order to eliminate the "Dowa" issue.

Obtained Signatures by Dietmen Who Approved the Legislation of the Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation.

Effective January 9, 1991.

Name of Party	House of Representatives			House of Councilors			Grand Total		
	No. of Diet-members	Signature	(%)	No. of Diet-members	Signature	(%)	No. of Diet-members	Signature	(%)
Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)	283	98	34.6	114	28	24.6	396	126	31.8
Socialist Party of Japan (SPJ)	140	140	100.0	73	73	100.0	213	213	100.0
Komeito : (Clean Government Party)	46	44	95.7	20	19	95.0	66	63	95.5
Japan Democratic Socialist Party : Minshato	14	13	92.9	10	8	80.0	24	21	87.5
United Social Democratic Party : Shaminren	5	5	100.0				5	5	100.0
Union				12	10	83.3	12	10	83.3
Councilor Club				4	3	75.0	4	3	75.0
Nonpartisan (members of the Diet)	6	2	33.3	5	3	60.0	11	5	45.5
Japanese Communist Party (JCP)	16	0	0	14	0	0	30	0	0
A vacancy	2			0			3		
Total	512	302	59.0	252	144	57.5	764	446	58.4



Dowa Education Is Backward in the Northern Part of the Tohoku District (North/East) Japan.

The National Dowa Educators Association has tried to intervene with government authorities in order to set up a basic policy and a fulltime person-in-charge of a Dowa Education section.

20% of the municipalities do not have a basic policy for the Dowa education issue. This information was made clear by the first questionnaire carried out by the National Dowa Educators' Association. It showed that there was a dispersion by area with regard to how each municipality was treating this matter.

In order to understand the actual situation of Dowa education, this survey was made in August 1990 through the board of education of 47 municipalities and 11 big cities which has a population of more than one million. (Only one organization did not fill in the questionnaire.) The survey was taken in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Dowa Policy Council's report by the government in which the Dowa problem was placed as a "National priority".

As can be seen in the following summary, 45 organizations have set up a basic policy for the Dowa problem and 9 out of 12 organizations responded that they do not have any idea for the time being. 37 boards of education set up a section-in-charge and 41 organizations maintained a certain number of teachers to promote Dowa education. Organizations which designated schools certain to study the Dowa problem in their area were only 37.

As a result of the survey, we can see that in the Northern part of the Tohoku district (North/East) of Japan, where the governmental Dowa measure has not been carried out, Dowa education has not been developed.

Mr. Araki, Secretary-General of National Dowa Educators Association criticized the Ministry of Education, because the administration insists that they have instructed all municipalities to carry out Dowa education without fail. Yet despite the ministry's insistence, the result have

been unexpectedly poor. Mr. Araki stated that the state's responsibility was very creative. National Dowa Educators Association will appeal strongly to governmental authorities about this problem.

Questionnaire Replies (summary) .

- 1) Does each municipality and board of education have its own basic policy about "Dowa" (human rights) education?
 - Yes 45
 - No. 12
 - Under consideration 1
 - Currently working. 1
 - For the timebeing, No 9
 - Undecided. 1
- 2) Does the board of education have a full-time person (s) or section in charge in its organization?
 - Yes 37
 - No. 20
 - Intend to 0
 - Under consideration 1
 - For the timebeing, No. . . . 18
 - No answer 1
- 3) Are a certain number of teachers disposed in school specially for the promotion of Dowa education?
 - Yes 41
 - No. 15
 - No answer 1
- 4) Are Dowa education seminars for school teachers held which are sponsored by the board of education?
 - Yes 48
 - No. 9
 - Intend to 0
 - For the timebeing, No 9



5) Has the board of education on its own designated certain school in its area to study Dowa education?

Yes 37

No. 20

Intend to 1

For the timebeing, No . . . 19

6) In 1989, did any discrimination case occur in

school (public)?

Yes . . 23 (grand total 247 cases)

by student. . . 118

by teacher . . . 19

by parents . . . 5

Others 35

No 31

No answer 3

The Kaizuka case of discrimination in marriage : Young man reported in choked voice.

Marriage Cancelled After Family Background Investigation

Aiming at enacting the "Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation" a briefing session for cases of discrimination was held on January 17 at Chusho Kigyo Bunka Kaikan (Culture Hall for Minor Enterprises), Tennoji-ku, Osaka. During the session, the Kaizuka case of marriage discrimination was reported for the first by the young man involved.

Mr. A, a civil servant, said, "The case is not yet over. So far I have received 34 unnerving anonymous letters. Sometimes a razor was enclosed in them. And I've gotten more than ten silent calls at midnight in just one day. I can't settle down to work. I am worn out." In a choked voice, he added encouraged by a lot of supporters, "I finally made up my mind to come here."

"I am mad. How come I have to suffer to mercy. I've been attacked unfairly." "So many anonymous letters and telephone calls were meant not only for me, but for my sister and her husband at his work place, threatening us all. I'll never forgive such a thing", he raised his voice.

"If this situation goes on any longer, I think I will run away to a somewhere to be alone". He broke off his words. "It was not until they looked into my birth origin that I knew that I am from the Buraku. I learned that my grandmother's mother was from a Buraku in Wakayama".

Under such circumstances he criticized the administration. "They say that there have been no reports of violations since the Regulation for Private Inquiry Agencies was issued. But actually there are many, including me, who have been looked into. I feel very angry with the authorities; they are not working on the problem at all" "In fact, it is easy to get a copy of anybody's family registration. Our administration should take firm stance to protect human rights" and he concluded, "I am having a very hard time but with support from all of you I will work against discrimination."

Abstract of the Case
Razors Enclosed

Mr. A, a civil service, 30 years old, had been dating Ms. B, 22 years old, for three years. On July 1, 1989 they got approval from B's parents and they were on their way to getting married. Then by her parents' suggestion, Mr. A visited her house on April 22, 1990 accompanied by his father and grandmother. They were received warmly by them. He visited her home a few more times after that.

Then on June 18, Mr. A received an anonymous letter (the first one, dated June 16) typed on a word processor. The sender, pretending to be Ms. B's intimate boyfriend, abused her in the letter and demanded that he stop seeing her. The



wording in the letter, "You can get along with Etas", made a strong impression him somehow. He told Ms. B about the letter but she seemed to have no idea who sent it. Around this time he also began to get trick (silent upon answering) telephone calls ten times a day.

On July 31, the next letter (the second, dated July 30) arrived. It said, "Wait for me at eleven o'clock on August 6, in front of the fountain at Kaizuka station." So, on August 6 he went there as instructed in the second letter but nobody turned up. The same day, A's grandmother received the fourth letter (dated Aug. 4). It said, "If you love your grandson, have him stop dating her by all means".

On August 7, he learned that one of his friends, C, got the third letter (dated Aug. 3), which said, "Tell A to break off with B. Tell him without fail. That Etas so and so speaks great, but he is a filthy, mean, and horrible guy".

Another letter (the fifth) came to A the same day. Now he realized that private investigator was looking into his family origin. Still, at that time, he did not know whether he was from the Buraku or not.

On August 21, the sixth letter (dated Aug. 20) arrived. This time he consulted with one of his colleagues, showing him all of the six letters, and was advised to show the letters to Ms. B's parents.

On August 27, A and B went to see B's parents at home and, showing them the six letters, discussed the sequence of events with them. They were surprised at the news. A had heard from B that of all her relatives only her uncle could use a word processor. But her father refuted the suspicion. He said, "He would never have done such a thing. Knowing him, I think he would prefer speak to you directly, if he had something to say. Anyway, I'll speak to all our relatives but I think we have nothing to do with the letters".

Then A said further, "One of my relatives has probably been put in prison. And even if I'm from Buraku, would you still approve of our getting married?"

"That was the past. That has nothing to do with us now", he answered. In addition, he also told A that he was sorry about the divorce case in his family. Two of his cousins had married

but had separated, he said. And headed "Never think about divorce when getting married". A was relieved to hear such remarks from B's father but he did not completely believe him, since he had been told by B that her father was prejudiced.

On August 31, the 7th letter (dated Aug. 30 and containing a razor) was delivered to his friend C, the 8th letter (dated Aug. 30, with a razor) to A, the 9th letter (dated Aug. 30, with a razor) to his grandmother, and the 10th letter (dated Aug. 30, with a razor) to his sister. They were threatening. "Your house shall be burned". "Watch out around you. Anything can happen". . . .

A's sister telephoned B's father and complained "We have small kids. How dare you do such a dangerous thing?" A also called him after he received the 8th letter. B's father denied it again, "No matter how often you ask we have the same answer. We have nothing to do with the letters."

During that time A's grandmother's and his sister's house trick (not a word uttered when answered) calls began to come several times dozens of time a day.

On September 12, A got a call from B who said in effect that her family had no connection with the letters, but rather the A's family might have written them. She wanted to break off their relationship. He told her, "We must meet and talk anyway."

On October 6, the 17th letter (dated Oct. 5) was delivered to D, A's boss, and another boss of A's received the 18th letter (dated Oct. 5). Abusing and slandering A, the letter said, "Fire A and C". On October 8, the 19th letter (dated Oct. 6) was delivered to his grandmother. It said, "We are not so down and out as to be with Eta. B has no intention to marry A. He is blocking her prospective marriage".

On October 17, when A's grandmother asked B's father over the phone about what was going on, he said, "I don't know. Are you still being blackmailed?" "Then", she asked, "Is B coming to us?" "It is up to my daughter", he answered. And then B was on the phone, and said to her, "I don't want to date anybody now. I'll end up with him." Later A himself talked with her on the phone and they decided to break off. (*A's name was written in the letter).



Encourages Status-Consciousness, Misunderstands Historical Facts.

“A Prejudiced” Game, “THE LAND OF NINJA”

It has been learned that prejudicial terms are used in the manual of the game called “The Land of Ninja”, a role playing game or, rather, a table game to be more exact. Historical facts are distorted and today’s realities of discrimination are ignored in the game’s description. As a result prejudicial feelings may spontaneously arise while playing the game. The game was put on sale three years ago, a spin-off the Ninja fad, and it became a hit in the U. S. The game has been imported and sold in Japan. In January our headquarters sent an investigating committee to the game’s sales agent in the U. S. A., Company (Headoffice in Maryland) for inquiry about the game and to explain the realities of discrimination (“Buraku”, for example) in Japan.

In the manual for players of the game, you will find for example, such descriptions as:

“ETAs. . . are outcastes. They are filthy and unruly people. Formerly they had been assigned to do “dirty” jobs and that is why they are put in the lowest position in society as well as in the law.”

“ETAs. . . untouchables. The lowest status. They handle filthy things such as dead bodies, feces and much, and are engaged in butchery. They also exist in the forms of Ninja, thief and performer.”

“HININ. . . the lowest position in ETA society. They are engaged in dealing with dead bodies and executing prisoners.”

“AINU. . . descendants of the indiginous of Japan. They are descended more from the Caucasian race than the Japanese race. The men are hairy and the women have tattoos around their mouths or on their hands.”

“AINU. . . white barbarians living in the northern part of Honshu and in Hokkaido.”

All the NINJAs are regarded as ETAs in the game.

It is quite clear that these explanations are not based on historical facts. Moreover, they do not at all refer to the fact that the authorities created the status discrimination and actually took advantage of it in order to control people. Mention is also not made of the fact that discrimination still exists in



Japan today.

The game has still more problems.

It is not, so called, a family computer-type role playing game, but a table game. Without TV screens players are supposed to enjoy the story described in the book, as well as conversations among players using their imaginations.

Following the instructions of the game, master participants role a die to determine their status, occupation, birth place, talents and properties. Each participant is allotted to one of any of several social positions such as court noble Samurai, commoner and Eta, and is further given character in the scenario who is, for example, going on an adventure to fight against monsters.

In the table of classified occupations, each status is written along with the occupations. A performer is “Eta”. An artisan who is engaged in butchery and hides or leather business is also “Eta.” As for a foot soldier, the lowest rank of Samurai, he is also “Eta” if he rolls 6 on the die. An Eta cannot be a Shinto priest. . . etc. Court nobles and Samurai are in superior positions with a lot of money, fighting ability, and destructive weapons to use.



In the end participants in the game will never fail to be conscious of their status. A sense of discrimination, hidden deeply in one's mind may be uncovered, developed and bounce out during the course of playing the game.

The game in its English version was imported to this country by Co. and others. So far, more than one thousand sets have been reportedly purchased and played. A young man who had played the game said, "White playing, words of discrimina-

tion were often heard. We played, empathising with the character, so when someone made a mistake, we would unintentionally utter, for example, "Eta is impossible", "You Eta cannot ride the high horse, can you?" "I am a noble man, you see?"

Considering the importance of the matter, our headquarters decided to send General-Secretary Komori and other members to the U.S. in January to investigate the games sales agent Co.

Strengthen Further International Activity!

IMADR's 4th Board of Directors' Meeting Held in New York.

IMADR's 4th Board of Directors' Meeting was held on January 20, 1991 in New York from 1:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and decided on further international activity.

Ms. Myriam Schreiber, President, gave an opening address in which she stated that IMADR's activity should be strengthened more and more internation-

ally. Then Mr. Saichiro Uesugi, Honorary President, expressed his thanks for each directors' day-to-day activities and Prof. Rhim Soon Man gave a welcome speech on behalf of the hosting location.

The following are activity reports, an accounting statement and a members' report submitted by Mr. Kenzo Tomonaga, Vice Secretary-General.

Activity Reports 1990

- 1) May 27 — June 8
Conference on Minorities in the US / Japan, New York.
- 2) August
Participated in the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights.
- 3) December
Participated in the third World Congress on Human Rights held in New Delhi by HURIDOCs (Human Rights Information and Exchange for the Asian Region) and the following World Congress on Human Rights.
- 4) End of May
IMADR Japan Committee established.
Membership survey :
19 organizations in 8 countries and 74 individuals.
On January 19, 1991 the Romani Association of Rumania made an application.

All directors unanimously agreed to accept the above-mentioned reports.

Activity Plan and Budget :

Mr. Kinhide Mushakoji (Secretary-General) proposed an activity plan and a budget plan. In addition to the usual activities he proposed to send a delegate to the UN Commission on Human Rights and to the "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" to participate in the "Memorial day for CERD held every 2nd of March and to promote some activity on UN Human Rights Day, every 10th of December. In addition to these activities he suggested 1) A symposium with the theme "New World and New Discrimination" (Autumn, 1991 Geneva), 2) Opening a Geneva office effective January 1991, 3) Establishing a Human Rights Information Center in the Asia-Pacific Region. All directors unanimously agreed to these plans in addition to the budget active discussions.

After a recent activity report from each organization was made, the location of the next (5th) Board of Directors Meeting and the third General Assembly was decided : China or Korea, sometime in 1992.

IMADR's UN NGO Application Deferred But Favorable Treatment Expected in 1993 !

The UN NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) Committee was convened at UN Headquarters, New York and IMADR's (International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism) application on consultative status with ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) was discussed on January 21, 1991, and the committee decided on January 30, 1991 to defer again until its next session in 1993.

IMADR first applied 2 years ago, soon after its foundation. However, the committee remarked that IMADR's history was still young, and its international activities were insufficient and so the application was deferred. Since then, for the past 2 years, IMADR has enhanced its internationality in the aspect of movement and organization.

As a result NGO Committee members including Cyprus and Bulgaria have recognized us favorably. Nevertheless, international activities are still unsatisfactory : At least 4 years actual results should be shown ; and international solidarity should be strengthened more and more. Thus, The application was deferred again to the next session in 1993.

In addition to the above-mentioned points, the All Japan Federation of Buraku Liberation Movements

attempted to block the application, as they have 3 times previously. First of all, they sent 11 delegates to New York and distributed slanderous papers stated that BLL was a type of fascist gangster's group and that IMADR was merely a cover for them. They insisted, therefore, that the committee not accept IMADR's application.

However, through IMADR and BLL's counter argument, IMADR's application was not refused but deferred by the NGO Committee. Thus the All Japan Federation of Buraku Liberation Movement's attempt was a failure.

During this period the IMADR delegation actively lobbied the NGO Committee members.

The delegation members were :

Ms. Myriam Schreiber, President ; Mr. Freddi Dlamini, Vice President ; Mr. Mario Jorge Yutzis, Director ; Mr. Kinhide Mushakoji, Secretary-General ; Ms. Manae Kubota, Director ; and, Mr. Tatsukuni Komori, Director.

On January 30, 1991, IMADR stated that it will try to strengthen its international activities against discrimination in order to be granted consultative status at the next opportunity.