

“I will make efforts to adjust domestic laws,”

says Prime Minister Nakasone.

The Chairman of the Socialist Party of Japan urges the ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Last year, during the activities of the 35th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, movements to seek early ratifications of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have risen to a tremendous high.

With this activity as a back ground, Chairman Ishibashi of the PSJ pressed the P.M. for early ratifications of both conventions during the representative interpellation at the Diet which started on February 2.

The P.M. answered, “The point is I am basically for the International Convention. However, at this minute, I am making efforts to adjust domestic laws.”

Also, about the Convention on Women, he answered, “I would like to have it ratified before the International Women’s Conference in 1985.”

In the future, we would like to strengthen our activities towards early and complete ratification of both conventions with his answers as a weapon.

Reference;

Yasuhiro Nakasone: “As Japan, it is very understandable and basically approval concerning the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. However, it becomes necessary to adjust domestic laws before hand.

Taking this into account, I am making efforts to adjust them now.

As for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adjusting domestic legislations is underway and therefore am making efforts to ratify this before the International Women’s Conference in Showa 60 (1985).



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The Central Executive Committee for the Universal Declaration makes a demand action to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Abe seeking early and complete ratification of the International Convention.



Central Assembly on Promotion of Buraku Liberation Administration Held on February 8

In spite of losing the general election, the "administrative reform equals military expansion" theory is being enforced as ever. This assembly was held, with 2000 people from various fields attending, in order to bounce off these attacks, to seek for maximum measures and to start real activities towards establishing the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation which has a genuine view of liberating the Buraku.

As can be observed from the table, the budget for Dowa was cut down and at the same time the budget for welfare and education has been cut down for the first time: the school fees for universities has been raised, the health insurance system introduced a 1% share for each in the expenses, etc. On the other hand, the fact that the budget for the military has been treated well with the increase of 6.6% compared to the last years budget has been severely pointed out.

the budget for Dowa in the past few years

	the total amount of the budget for Dowa (billion yen)	the percentage compared to the previous year
1978	184.3	32.4% increase
1979	226.5	22.9% increase
1980	252.5	11.5% increase
1981	279.2	10.6% increase
1982	274.5	1.7% decrease
1983	238.4	13.2% decrease
1984	214.8	9.9% decrease

Also, many vicious incidents of discrimination have occurred as a reality of discrimination against Buraku. Limiting only to the cases that the Ministry of Justice took into account, it is reported that during the whole year of 1982 there were;

- incidents of discrimination in marriage ————— 196 cases
- incidents of discrimination in employment ————— 174
- incidents of discrimination by documents of the company business ————— 24
- incidents of discrimination concerning social association with neighbors, etc. ————— 50
- discriminative speeches and conducts ————— 543
- discriminative scribblings ————— 189
- discriminative writings (on paper) ————— 80
- other discriminative cases including cases in work sites ————— 62

which totals up to 1,318 cases of discriminative incidents.

Under these realities, it is important to;

- (1) get the government to investigate the real condition of the Buraku and by doing that make clear the real condition and the subject concerning the discrimination against Buraku,
- (2) enforce the struggle against discriminative incidents,
- (3) demand early and complete ratifications of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, as a direction for the future struggle. Also, the importance of a still more cooperation with the wide range of people, not only between the Buraku people, was confirmed.

And under the struggle to cut our way through establishing the Fundamental Law on Buraku Liberation, it was appealed to protect the fortress of the human rights and welfare in Japan and to establish and expand democracy and peace.



Aiming for further development and succession of the Central Executive Committee for the 35th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The general meeting of the Central Executive Committee for the 35th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was held in Tokyo January, and Chairman Eiichi Isomura and Vice Chairman Saichiro Uesugi (also the Chairman of the Central Headquarters of BLL) along with representatives of 13 prefectural committees, the Liaison Conference to Fight against Racial Discrimination, the Japanese Conference of Women, the General Council of Labor Unions, the Japanese Federation of Labor, the Tokyo Metropolitan Entrepreneurs Liaison Association on Dowry Problem, the Joint Conference of Religious coping with Dowry Problem, etc, totaling approximately 40 people attending.

Committee's Secretary-General Tatsukuni Komori (also Secretary-General of the Central Headquarters of BLL) proposed "a summary of the activities concerning the 35th anniversary of the UDHR and the future direction". In his proposal, he made a report that the resolution for early ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination had reached from 7 prefectural assemblies and 379 cities, wards, towns and villages with signatures rising up to 515,643 people (the figures as of Jan 10.). Couple of points to evaluate had been mentioned on top of that.

(1) Never before did the public opinion become active concerning the elimination of all forms of discrimination and protection of human rights as in discrimination against Buraku; (2) the commemorative assembly was a success; (3) the enlightenment through the use of mass media developed to be the best; (4) a closer connection was built with the UN Human Rights Center.

As of the future directions, we appealed; i) to alter the committee's name to the Central Executive Committee to Seek Realization of the UDHR, appeal for further participation from various bodies and individuals, and continue the activities; ii) to seek public and transmission of the information concerning "respect for human rights" which the government appealed in the

Tokyo Declaration; iii) to seek early ratifications of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; iv) to build a stronger connection with the UN Human Rights Center; v) to hold a series of studying classes with the Central Executive Committee as the promoter; vi) plan an assembly during the human rights week in Dec. inviting guests from foreign countries.

Also, for the present problem, as well as gathering signatures requesting the ratification of the International Convention and submitting it to the government and the Diet, we will negotiate with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also, an appeal was made to develop a demand for the Diet's resolution on early ratification through the executive committees in various districts.

Finally, it was expressed that it is important to plan an originality establishing executive committee in Tohoku, Hokkaido and Okinawa districts and make the movement national wide. Also emphasized was the importance of the continuous activities, not until the law is made.



The members of the Central Executive Committee submits signatures (totaling 810,000) to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs seeking early ratification of the International Convention.



The significance of the Second World Conference and a theme towards the future

One enduring result of the Second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination may prove to be the restoration of a global consensus on action to combat racism and racial discrimination. Much of the energy and dedication that was evident when the Decade against Racism and Racial Discrimination began in 1973 was dissipated in the controversy as to whether zionism constitutes a form of racism. The fact that the Second World Conference which met in Geneva in August 1983 was well attended and that there was no walk-out at the end, indicated significant progress. Furthermore, considerable satisfaction resulted from the fact that the Programme of Action, despite strong reservations on certain provisions by some of the Western members, was approved without a dissenting vote. The Conference was characterized by a spirit of co-operation, a discernible determination to ensure a successful outcome and broadly-based efforts to find common ground for future action.

Although the achievement of full political consensus on the Declaration and Programme of Action eluded the participants, nevertheless, a clear "ethical consensus" against the policy of apartheid emerged. This development together with the efforts at reconciliation during the Conference prepared the ground that made it possible for the 38th Session of the General Assembly to reach a political consensus on a

Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Assembly resolution (38/14) proclaiming a Second Decade was adopted by consensus and the Decade consequently began on 10 December 1983.

The urgent task now is for those who for one reason or another did not fully co-operate in the programme of the first Decade to re-dedicate themselves to the global struggle against racism, racial discrimination and apartheid. Special attention will have to be given to the implementation of each of the various provisions of the Programme of Action for the second Decade. In this connection, there is a need for imaginative programmes to change attitudes. The Programme of Action outlines concrete mechanisms for doing this through education and by a more responsible use of the mass media. It is only by the concerted effort of the entire world community that the goals of the Decade can be realized. In this context it is important that governmental action be undertaken in co-operation with the purposeful action of individuals and groups of individuals. The Programme of Action makes it clear that a broadly-based societal contribution will be needed to abolish all forms of racism.

James O. C. Jonah
Secretary-General for the
Second World Conference to Combat
Racism and Racial Discrimination

To Summarize and to Clarify the Theme

Holding the 6th Research Workers' Conference

The 6th Research Workers' Conference, to summarize the annual activity of the Buraku Liberation Research Institute and to clarify the theme towards 1984, was held in February with hundred research members attending.

On the first day, as a general report, members indicated the reality and the theme toward it from four separate fields of their research: 1) liberation movement, 2) human rights and administration, 3) education and areas, 4) history and theory.

On the second day, a report was made from these sections and a discussion afterwards. Considering the results of the activities concerning the 35th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights, Oga, director of this research, concluded with an appeal to bring the public interests higher in ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.



Vicious and Discriminative Scribblings

Two vicious discriminative scribblings have been found one after another in Osaka January.

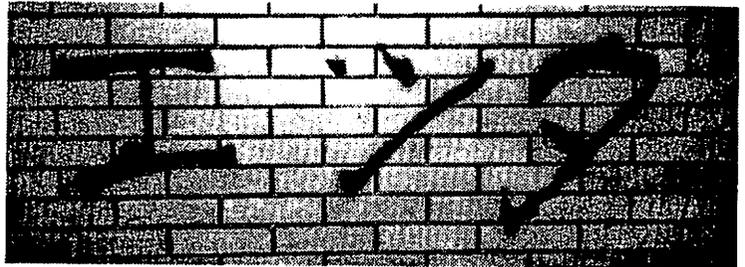
On the door of the toilet in the district's park was written "You people of different race! You're as same as dogs. Etta! Buraku! Four legged beasts! Buraku! Females and kids! Be-careful of how you speak. You won't be able to become Japanese."

This displays a discriminative consciousness concidering discrimination against Buraku as racial discrimination and regard Buraku-min as

below human being. A junior high student, also a member of a children's association, discovered a scribble written in red spray paint in an underway passage near Shin Osaka Station. It was written on the wall as "Eta! Buraku! Dirt! You Fool!" Each letter was scrawled 30cm. wide which made a 6 meter scribble across the wall.

These discriminative scribbles in January and February this year already totals 14 cases only in Osaka.

Discriminative scribbings written near the Shin-Osaka Station in Osaka.



Displaying Hostility

Discriminative Postcard sent to Osaka Prefectural Government

Last year, on December 7, during the Human Rights Week, a discriminative post card (see below) was sent to the Osaka Prefectural Government.

The contents includes names for low social status and deep rooted prejudice which displays discriminative conscious and hostility. Furthermore, it is written as though the cause of the discrimination against Buraku lies in discriminated Buraku-min.

A part of the discriminative post card:

1. they combine in groups,

2. they do unsanitary things or they are filthy,
3. their manners and speech are very bad,
4. they have a peculiar accent,
5. they are egoism and lack or have no common sense and morality,
6. they are rich in characters as to commit mass violence,
7. their face and the look of the eyes are wierd,
8. most of them are heavy drinkers or bullies,
9. many of them commit crimes or bad behavior without regret

Isn't it better act so as not to be thought of as Doetta! (super-etta).



Result of a fact-finding investigation of anti-Buraku discrimination in Osaka, Part III

The Reality of Discrimination Against Buraku in Osaka (3)

Employment

(1) Forms of employment

Concerning forms of employment, workers of Buraku communities have not reached the public standard as shown in Chart (1). The percentage of the Burakumin workers with stable employment is 53.%, which is less than the average rate of non-Burakumin in Osaka Prefecture by as much as 12.8%.

On the other hand, the percentage of the workers with unstable employment as shown in

the same chart from item 2. through 6. indicates that the Burakumin workers have high rate of 18.1%, therefore, 2.6 times as much as the average rate of non-Burakumin, which is 7.0%

The item 7., executives of firms or bodies, shows that the Burakumin workers are only 1.7% which is 1/3 of non-Burakumin of that status (4.7%), so many of Burakumin hold low position in their working places.

Chart (1): Forms of Employment

		Buraku (Oct. 1982)		Osaka (1979)	
		%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons
Employed by firms, bodies individuals, governments, etc.	Total No. of employees	73.5	26,409	78.0	2,863,000
	1. Stable employment	53.5	19,248	66.3	2,433,000
	2. Temporary employment	2.6	928	4.6	170,000
	3. Daily employment	3.5	1,265	2.4	87,000
	4. State employment for the unemployed	0.3	122		
	5. Part-time jobs	8.2	2,946		
	6. Side jobs	3.5	1,274	4.7	173,000
7. Executives of firms or bodies	1.7	626			
Self-employed (self manage- ment, owner of factories, farms, etc.)	Total	15.9	5,734	13.6	500,000
	8. Hiring	7.4	2,677	5.0	185,000
	9. Not hiring	8.5	3,057	8.6	315,000
10. Helping business of self management		8.4	3,018	6.4	233,000
11. Homework		1.6	569	1.9	71,000
12. Unknown		0.6	223	0.1	2,000
Total		100.0	35,953	100.0	3,669,000

(2) Social Security

It has been proved through the investigation that among the social guarantees, such as health insurance, a welfare annuity or pension, unemployment insurance, and workmen's accident compensation insurance, the largest number of Burakumin workers are insured with health

insurance (66.9%), and as for unemployment insurance they are low in number (47.1%).

To our surprise, 54.1% of the Burakumin are insured with workmen's accident compensation insurance, which is comparatively low in percentage, still worse, among Burakumin workers,

there are even some uninsured people with any social security.

A retiring allowance or a paid holiday are applied to about 50% of Burakumin workers and only 37.5% of female Burakumin are permitted a special monthly leave for women. So women workers of Burakumin are treated rather coldly.

Also as shown in Chart (2), bonuses are paid to just 65% of Burakumin.

Social Security is, therefore, entirely insufficient with Burakumin workers in comparison with those who work for the public agencies (19.8%). To labor unions, just 37.1% of Burakumin belong.

Chart (2): Conditions of Social Security of Burakumin workers

	Buraku (Oct. 1982)		Buraku (1973)	
	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons
1. Health insurance	66.9	17,678	64.7	—
2. A welfare annuity or pension	62.1	16,398	55.5	—
3. Unemployment insurance	47.1	12,426	53.5	—
4. Workmen's accident compensatin insurance	54.1	14,288	55.9	—
5. A retiring allowance	50.6	13,365	56.0	—
6. Paid holidays	53.2	14,061	54.6	—
7. Special monthly leaves for women	37.5	9,915	—	—
8. Bonuses (summer & year-end)	65.0	17,163	69.5	—
9. Labor unions	37.1	9,788	37.0	—
10. Uninsured	19.8	5,227	—	—
11. Unknown	19.8	1,239	—	—
Total replies	498.1	131,548	—	—
Total No. of persons to reply	100.0	26,409	—	—

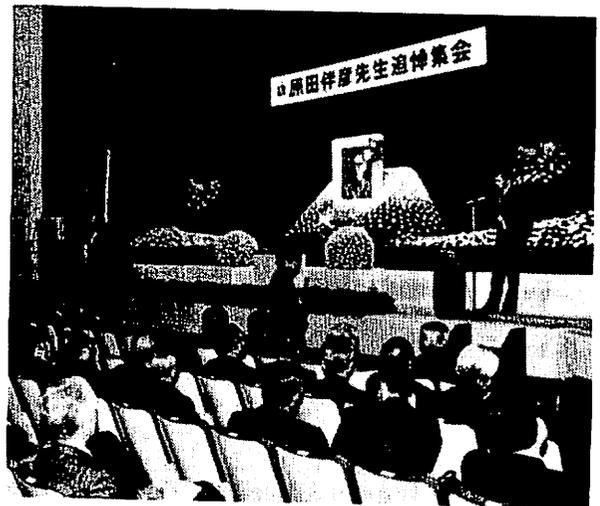
Chairman Tomihiko Harada, forever peacefully

Flowers were devoted as people remembered his achievements

A memorial services for Professor Tomohiko Harada, also the Chairman of the Buraku Liberation Research Institute, who died on December 8, was held in February in Osaka with approximately thousand people participating.

Not only did he make achievements in his wide researches of the cities in the feudal and modern age and in the history of Buraku, but he was also a brilliant educator and a man of practice. As if indicating his personality, many people made a memorial address: such as the governor of Osaka, the mayor of Osaka, the labor union, the president of the Osaka City University, the religious people, various companies and also President Toru Midorikawa of the Iwanami Shoten, Publishers.

From the Central Headquarters of the Buraku Liberation League, Chairman Saichiro Uesugi made a memorial address.





The present dimension of the problem of religious intolerance

Dougan Beacà, J.D.

I. The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief

On the 25th November 1981, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted without a vote resolution 36/35 ^{2/}. This resolution was the achievement of more than twenty years efforts deployed by the United Nations and as it has already been pointed out it is a great contribution to the encouragement and protection of fundamental human rights ^{3/}.

The Declaration contains a preambular part of ten paragraphs and an operative part of eight articles. In the preamble reference is made to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as the Covenants on Human Rights. The preamble emphasizes in particular that manifestations of intolerance and discrimination in matters of religion or belief still exist in various parts of the world and expresses the conviction that "freedom of religion and belief should also contribute to the attainment of the goals of world peace, social justice and friendship among peoples and to the elimination of various forms of discrimination. If one should trust the information received from the media on the tensions existing in various areas of the world then the importance of this last reference becomes more evident.

In its operative part, the Declaration lays down in Article 1, paragraphs 1 and 2, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Article 5 deals in its paragraphs 1 to 5 with the various aspects of the right of freedom of thought,

conscience and religion with regard to the child. It also enounces the right of parents and legal guardians of the child to organize the religious life of the child in accordance with their own convictions. Article 2 gives a definition of what the Declaration intends by the expression "intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief" in its paragraph 2 as being "... any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion or belief and having as its effect nullification or impairment of the recognition, enjoyment of exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis". Article 6 should be read together with Article 1. This article lists some of the specific aspects of the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The Declaration in its Articles 4 and 7 enounces what States should to in order to promote the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. While Article 1, paragraph 3 and Article 8 are referring to the possible restrictions which can be imposed upon the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

^{2/}. See General Assembly official records, sup. 51 (A/36/51)

^{3/}. See doc. E/1983/13, para. 503.

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INFORMATION

BURAKU LIBERATION NEWS is published every two months by the Buraku Liberation Research Institute. The editorial staff will be very happy to receive any information concerning human rights, discrimination problems, liberation movement etc. If you have any, could you kindly send it to the following address?

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