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Expanding International Activities

IMADR Meet in Paris

IMADR directors had their second board meeting at the head office of MRAP in Paris on August 28 and decided to hold the second general assembly of IMADR in Bangkok, Thailand, in March 1990. IMADR also organized on August 29, the following day, a symposium at the UNESCO headquarters under the theme 'Human Rights and Discrimination in Europe and Asia' with as many as 250 participants.

These two meetings, planned in celebration of the bicentennial of the French Declaration of Human Rights, reconfirmed the significant spirit of the Declaration and pointed to the need for its further proliferation. The meetings marked a beginning of truly international activities of IMADR and the Buraku liberation movement outside Japan.

The following reports on the details of these meetings.

The Second IMADR Assembly To Be Held In Thailand Next March

The Second IMADR directors' meeting was held at the Head Office of MRAP in Paris from ten in the morning to six thirty on August 28. President Uesugi opened the meeting saying "We hold this second director's meeting in Paris commemorating the bicentennial of the French Declaration of Human Rights. I urge all the directors to conduct active discussions to eliminate discrimination and to ensure human rights." Director Levy, representative of MRAP, followed by greeting the participants. A one-minute silent prayer was then dedicated to the late Yo Kubota, IMADR academic adviser, who suddenly deceased in Namibia on June 28.



IMADR director's meeting held in MRAP headquarter in Paris.

Agenda 1 through 4 on activity reports, account settlement report, membership, etc. were discussed in the morning and unanimously approved by the participating directors.

Reports from various countries followed. In

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particular, Mr. Dlamini, chief of ANC's International Affairs Section, made an appeal to other participants saying "We are fighting now demanding the withdrawal of state-of -emergency order and the release of all the political prisoners. Also, we are denouncing the September 6 general election which excludes the blacks. We call for your support to these activities."

In the afternoon agenda 5 through 11 on activity plan, budget proposal, draft appeal, etc. were actively discussed and approved in unanimity by all the directors.

Of special significance of these are 1)organizing events in December in Japan under the theme of 'Current Situation of Asian-Pacific Minorities and Human Rights,' 2)holding the Third IMADR directors' meeting, the Second General Assembly and a symposium on 'Development and Human Rights' in Bangkok, Thailand, from March 17 to 20 in 1990 and 3)efforts to expand membership and organizational capacity.

The meeting was concluded by a word of appreciation by Vice-president Schreiber to the hospitality of MRAP and ended with great success. 10 of 13 directors and two inspectors were present in the meeting.

Build-up International Solidarity against Discrimination!

— Symposium Commemorating the Bicentennial of French Declaration —

In commemorating the bicentennial of the French Declaration, a symposium was held in Room 4 of the UNESCO headquarters on August 29, the following day, from two o'clock with 250 participants. The symposium was cosponsored by IMADR and MRAP under the subject "Human Rights and Declaration in Europe and Asia."

The symposium was moderated by Director Levy and opened by President Uesugi's statement which went "We have organized this symposium in commemorating the bicentennial of the French Declaration of Human Rights. We have seen progress in eliminating discrimination and establishing human rights through the past two centuries. However, we still find serious violations of human rights as represented by Apartheid. As the 21st century draws near the humankind as a whole is faced with such formidable tasks as elimination of nuclear weapons, eradication of discrimination and prevention of environmental destructions. I believe that today's symposium makes an important contribution in that light."

Director Dlamini from ANC made an appeal for dismantling Apartheid.

Five activity reports were shared and questions were raised from the floor. The first speakers were Secretary-general Aunit of MRAP and Mr. La Arre, specialist on immigration issues, on 'Issues of European Immigrants - from a legal and social perspective.' They covered the following topics:

- * About 14 million immigrants live in Europe and they contribute to the economy of each nation.

- * Majority of immigrant workers have lived in their host countries for years and the second and third generation immigrants are increasingly born there.

- * Immigrant workers are not ensured their fundamental rights such as the right to take up a job of one's choice, the right to live with one's family and the right to move freely.

- * Priority should be placed on human rights before national border and the principle to respect each other as a neighboring resident rather than as a citizen of the same state should be honored.

- * Stronger international solidarity is needed to advance these aims.

The second speaker was Chairman Rose of the Central Committee of German Sinti and Roma on the subject "Rise of Extreme Rightists in Europe." The outline was as follows:

- * The concept of human rights has been alien to minorities who have had their rights constantly violated.

- * For instance, as many as 500 to 600 thousand Sinti and Roma were massacred by Nazi Germany.

- * Just recently the West German government apologized for the massacre and began to give compensation for it. However, the rise of extreme rightists and strengthening of discrimination are both observed.

- * We have to keep our eyes on how the treatment of minorities by government officials and mass media as criminals is conducive to the rise of extreme rightists.

- * International solidarity activities are indispensable under these circumstances to protect the rights of minorities.

The third speaker was Prof. Kim of Ryukoku University, Japan. The outline was as follows:

- * Until recently Asian labor was heading for America and Middle East but this move has been rapidly shifting to Japan under the high yen.

- * The Japanese government, however, maintains



the position not to accept the entry of menial workers to Japan. Thus, most of these workers become illegal and are experiencing serious violation of their rights.

* The number of these Asian workers in Japan is estimated around 100 thousand. Male workers are placed under bad working conditions in constructions sites and small factories and plants while females are predominantly in service industries compelled in particular to work as prostitutes.

* In the future there is no option other than to legally accept even menial labor and ensure them international standard of human rights.

* Japan has a problem of discrimination against Koreans who were forcibly removed to Japan under the colonial rule before the war and post-war repatriations and guarantee of basic rights are demanded.

* IMADR is vested with a challenging mission as a nongovernmental body to protect and improve the situation of human rights in Asia.

Last but not least, Mr. Eutice from CERD of the UN talked under the subject "Role of UN in the Field of Human Rights" and discussed the following points. :

* Efforts of many people for two centuries since the French Declaration of Human Rights have made human rights as universal entity as symbolized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

* It is, however, not enough just to stipulate human rights in declarations and conventions. We must live and protect human rights in our daily life.

* The UN, in view of this aim, has focused its efforts on human rights standard setting, enhancement of human rights, elimination of human rights violation and eradicating causes of such violations.

* It is important to honor internationally the

right to development of LDC to overcome problems of hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy.

* Of special significance is to educate and train young people to eliminate discrimination from the international community and establish human rights.

Vice-president Schreiber concluded the meeting saying "We had fruitful discussions on issues of immigrant workers in Europe and Asia. As IMADR we would like to attach much importance to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and keep our eyes on human rights in Asia. Also, we hope to have more participation of women."

After the symposium a film 'Hakai' (violation of commandments) was shown to the participants with simultaneous interpretation by Ms. Cadou. Accompanied by an appeal on Buraku discrimination problems, the film impressed the participants deeply.

A friendly reception followed the film show. Mr. Aunit, secretary-general of MRAP, said with appreciation in ending the reception "Today's symposium was a great success for IMADR and for MRAP." This concluded all the programs of the day.

Note :

IMADR=The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism

MRAP=The Movement Against Racism and for Friendship among People

CERD=Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

LDC=Least Developed Countries

Discriminatory Correspondence By Personal Computer

BLL have established the circulation of Buraku lists and occurrence of discriminatory harassment through personal computer correspondence involving the use of ham radio, mainly in the Kansai and Kyushu districts.

This is the first time that a case of discrimination against Buraku involving the use of personal com-

puter correspondence has come to light. BLL consider this to be a new type of discriminatory incident occurring in the context of an advanced information-oriented society.

BLL will inform the Ministry of Postal Services of the case and ask them to open an investigation.

A lot of ham radio enthusiasts have been enjoying



free exchange of information with the principles of "Openness" and "Non profit-making" as ground rules. One group of these enthusiasts, the Japan Amateur Radio Ham League, was shocked by the incident.

According to BLL, the information exchanged consisted of Osaka Buraku lists and lists of BLL centers in Osaka and Wakayama, including their addresses and telephone numbers. Along with this information, the Osaka prefecture Buraku list contained malicious statements like the following: "This is a big present for people whose children want to get married. Be very careful not to misuse this information."

Recipients of this information also exchanged views on what was transmitted. Some radio hams protested that the sin of mobilizing such files will haunt every enthusiast, urging them to reflect on what they have been doing. Others, on the other hand, are reported to have said: "We have to keep an eye on the severe reality of the situation. There may be a large number of people who want the Buraku lists."

In May 1989 a radio ham in Miyazaki discovered that an Osaka prefecture Buraku list was on the information file and reported it to BLL. The file was subsequently discovered in one route after another. Although BLL, working in collaboration with the Japan Amateur Radio Ham League, has been making an effort to find the source of the file, there have been no positive results so far.

According to the Japan Amateur Radio Ham League, personal computer correspondence with radio hams has been active during the last few years and is known as packet telecommunication. A radio ham wire is used for packet telecommunication while a

telephone wire is used for regular personal correspondence. There are more than 800,000 ham radio enthusiasts in Japan and 20,000 of them are using packet telecommunication. There are 200 people offering the use of their personal computer as a common notice board and providing a service as a "volunteer station" for other people to add or take out information.

Because of the limitations on the distance of radio waves, a packet telecommunication is equipped with an auto device for transmitting its information from one station to other stations.

The investigation has shown that the Osaka Buraku list has been transmitted through 10 stations between Osaka and Miyazaki prefecture. Each station has its own "call sign," however; if someone uses someone else's call sign or makes up a fake sign, senders cannot be identified. Many of the call signs used in these cases of discriminatory correspondence were either fictitious or belonged to other people.

— Buraku Lists —

It is now over 10 years since the 1975 discovery of the discriminatory "Buraku List" publications, providing the locations of Buraku throughout Japan. Nine kinds of list, accounting for a total of 220 copies at prices ranging from ¥5,000 to ¥50,000, have been purchased by major companies in order to exclude Burakumin from employment.

In spite of a declaration by the Ministry of Justice that the Buraku list case has been cleared up, BLL has been pressing for the elucidation of every relevant fact.

BLL Launches Protest

Justice Ministry Declares End of "Buraku List" Probe

On Aug. 10, 1989, the Buraku Liberation League held a press conference to protest against the Justice Ministry's decision to end its investigation into the

"Buraku List" issue.

It is now nearly 14 years since these "Buraku Lists," which specifically name Buraku areas, emer-



ged as an issue violating human rights.

The denunciation struggle established that nine kinds of "Buraku List" were produced and some 220 copies were purchased mainly by large companies. Of the lists made public, the third and the fifth, "National Special Buraku" and "Japanese Buraku," sold most copies.

However, no one knows exactly how many were printed and sold. The publishers and distributors concealed their identity.

In the case of the seventh list, the name of the publisher was established as Mr. _____ of the

Detective Company. But he refused to be approached by the Ministry of Justice.

In May of this year, a lot of "Buraku Lists" were circulated using personal computers and ham radio stations. Given this and other incidents, BLL cannot agree at all that this issue has been settled.

The Ministry of Justice take the view that it is

well over 10 years since the "Buraku List" problem came to light. Some people connected with the investigation were now either dead or missing or not cooperative. So they insist that no further progress can be expected.

But it is the opinion of BLL that the authorities have not conducted the investigation sincerely. Even if the publishers did prove to be uncooperative, they should not terminate proceedings given their responsibility for the protection of human rights. The government and BLL differ over the number of "Buraku List" purchasers. BLL suspect the authorities have concealed the true number and claim that they have adopted a discriminatory attitude.

BLL requests that the Ministry of Justice place itself in the position of the victims of discrimination and disclose the truth. It will carry on the struggle in solidarity with the people in order to do away with cases of discrimination.

Literacy for ALL people !!

With "International Literacy Year (ILY)" near at hand, a lecture meeting in commemoration of ILY was held on August 31 at Furitsu Rodo Center in Osaka city. This lecture was sponsored by the National Federation of UNESCO Association, ILY Osaka Promotion Office and the Yomiuri newspaper.

Mr. Paulo Freire, one of the leading men in a literacy education and professor of the Atate University of Campinas in Brazil, was a lecturer for this meeting. He was born in Brazil, and have been involved in an adult literacy and people's education for 30 years. In 1986, Mr. Freire was awarded the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education in recognition of his contribution to educational theory and practice.

This meeting was attended by approximately 800 people, including persons concerned with a literacy education and those attending a night literacy class. At the request Mr. Freire, who expressed a preference for a dialogue to a lecture, the meeting was proceeded by a dialogue between Prof. Ken Motoki of Osaka University, a secretary of ILY Osaka Promotion Office.

Mr. Freire stated that, "the significance of a liter-



Mr. Paulo Freire visited a literacy class in Buraku

acy education is not simply being able to read and write but to be capable of understanding what's happening in the world. that is, through reading and writing, learners should be able to realize what their circumstance are and the means to change their reality.



Literacy education for adults undertaken with this objective has to express political realities and must not take a non-committal attitude or be mechanical, without emotion.

Those of us who are engaged in literacy work must be understanding and respectful of the learners' language, culture and environment; otherwise, we have no true effect.

"Illiteracy is the result of ideological or financial circumstances, it is not a matter of people's learning ability. Being literate is a basic human right and we must struggle to gain it."

He concluded his speech as follows: "Literacy is

absolutely essential to abolish all forms of discrimination in the world and liberate the people." That same evening, Mr. Freire visited the literacy class of Buraku in Higashi Yodogawaku, Osaka city. The adult learners, who have experienced vicious discrimination, read aloud their writings of their experiences. Listening to them, Mr. Freire frankly said, "I've never heard such impressive writings with such strong human emotion and creativity. I am much impressed to know how positively they have been struggling against discrimination. I'm happy that I could spend a meaningful and wonderful time here."

Pictures by photographer Masafumi Yamamoto

Circulating Exhibition "As a Friendly Neighbor" Open

During the period Aug.10 to Sept.13, 1989, a circulating exhibition titled "As a Friendly Neighbor" (Pictures by Masafumi Yamamoto) was staged at four locations in Osaka, promoted by the Osaka Liaison Conference for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

These pictures are all of the following categories of Korean people : those left on the Soviet island of Sakhalin, the minority living on mainland China, the atomic-bomb victims living on the Korean peninsula and Koreans resident in Japan.

They are all victims of the Japanese policy of aggression on the Korean peninsula during the World War II era, but even now they have not received any compensation from the Japanese government. These Korean people are the highlight of the exhibition. The focal point of the display is, therefore, to review the "Japanese invasion of Korea."

Japan has recently been undergoing rapid "internationalization", especially in terms of the economy, politics and tourism. However, there are still a lot of serious problems involving friction over human rights. The true meaning of "internationalization" is not to think about one's own country only but also to understand other countries' ways of thinking or differences of standpoint, and to establish a community living in harmony together in the world.

In order to realize this spirit in Japan, we have to eliminate discrimination against Korean people, who have a long history in Japanese society.

Over 40 years have gone by since the end of World War II but we regret to say that the principles behind the war have been fading into oblivion. However, we Japanese have to bear in mind that the scars of the colonial policy and the war of aggression still remain



as fresh memories in Asian countries.

The promoters of this exhibition hoped that through the display Japanese and Korean people would learn to understand and respect each other "as friendly neighbors." We believe the first step towards true "internationalization" has been taken.



A Counterargument to the Report Submitted by Japan under the Int'l Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (8)

Article 20

Any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law.

Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law.

(1)

Article 20 is the provision which prohibits any propaganda for war and incitement to discrimination. The difficulty in Japan in this regard is a lack of concrete national law. Japanese government states in the second periodic report as follows:

"Should there emerge a danger of a harmful effect of propaganda for war in the future, legislative measures would be studied as occasion demands, with careful consideration for freedom of expression".

(2)

However, in our view we must say Japanese current situation is very serious.

With regard to paragraph 1), Prohibition of propaganda for war, there are loud voices even among the cabinet members for requesting reconsideration about responsibility of Japanese Imperialism of World War II. For example, in July 1986 the then Minister of Education, Mr. Masayuki Fujio, commented that Japan did not colonialize Korean peninsula in those days and there was no Nanking Massacre in China, too. As another example, in April 1988 Mr. Seisuke Okuno, Minister of State for the National Land Agency, spoke about Nanking Massacre negatively. Consequently, he was criticized both in domestic and overseas and he was obliged to depose.

What we have to watch is that these two things were not merely individual saying by accident. There is a trend of right-wing behind the sayings. Moreover, what we have to watch concerning "Propaganda for War" is that right-wing organizations deny publicly "the Potsdam Declaration" by using propaganda offensive car and stickers. Japanese government and authorities leaves the matter as they are. Therefore, Article 20, paragraph 1) will have to be materialized and arranged as soon as possible in Japan.

(3)

We would like to criticize about Article 20, paragraph 2), "Prohibition of incitement to discrimination".

Contrary to governmental report, "Incitement to discrimination" trend is increasing.

In September 1986, the former prime minister, Mr. Nakasone discriminated black-American and Mexican-American in his speech in USA and he was claimed internationally. This is fresh in everyone's memory still now. Mr. Nakasone made an excuse for the above claim and further in his speech he stated Japan is a unitary racial state. This means he ignored the existence of native minority in Japan, Ainu. He was wrong again!

Another example in relation to "Incitement to discrimination" is as follows: Since 1980 harassments toward Buraku people and Japanese-Korean by scribbling, anonymous letter or telephone, etc. have been increasing. Among them, "Kill all Buraku people in the poison gas room!" or "Get out Korean from Japan!". In spite of such matter as second fascism, Japanese government and the authorities do not take adequate steps.

Under these circumstances, national law concerning Article 20, paragraph 2) should also be concreted and fixed immediately.

(4)

We give wholehearted support to "General comment concerning Article 20, (11) adopted at 19th session in 1983 and we request Japanese government to respect it. Especially we respect the general comment as stated below:

"For Article 20 to become fully effective there ought to be a law making it clear that propaganda and advocacy as described therein are contrary to public policy and providing for an appropriate sanction in case of violation. The committee, therefore, believes that states parties which have not yet done so should take the measures necessary to fulfil the obligations contained in Article 20, and should themselves refrain from any such propaganda or advocacy".