

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS
Government Section

JAPANESE PRESS
Governmental News Items

23 July 1949

RAIL UNION TO CALL GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING:

According to ASANI, the central struggle committee of the National Railway Workers Union, with chairman Itaru Kato presiding, yesterday adopted a resolution to issue a directive calling a national convention of the central committee on 15 August. Leftist groups were said opposed to the proposed convention, refusing to recognize the validity of the directive.

After the meeting Kato told the press that the action was necessary to rebuild the Union. He said "there will be no further directives until the central committee convention, at which time all criticisms and comments should be made".

A statement made public yesterday by the Democratization League declared that "the Japan Communist party had decided to make the national railways the battleground for its avowed revolution by violence through so-called regional people's struggles, to which the Yoshida Cabinet had responded, resulting in a fierce battle between extreme leftists and the rightists." The statement said that observation of public reaction to news of the dismissal of the 17 leftist members of the central struggle committee indicated coolness and silent criticism of the decision (Communist) to utilize the railways for a violent revolution. "In view of these circumstances," the statement concluded, "we have resolved to cut off the Communist party's control over the union and make a fresh beginning of our struggles through lawful collective bargaining and grievance disposition."

REVENUES FOR NATIONAL RAILWAYS DECLINE:

According to figures compiled by the general business bureau of the National Railway Corporation, total receipts (passenger and freight) for the first ten days of July amounted to ¥2,381 million, or a drop of about ¥400 million from the anticipated ¥2,804 million in receipts, KYODO reports. The Nitsuka train disaster, the Shimoyama death, and train obstructions were held primarily responsible for the decline.

According to JIJI PRESS, Transportation Minister Shinzo Oya yesterday told the House of Councillors Rules Committee that his Ministry was studying means to cope with decreased revenues of the state railways.

ALLOCATIONS TO BE MADE TO DISASTER AREAS:

The Cabinet at its regular meeting yesterday decided to allocate ¥1,200 million from the public works fund to aid districts damaged by the recent typhoon "Della", KYODO reports. The Cabinet also received information on damages caused in the Kyushu and Shikoku areas recently by the typhoon "Faye", according to the account. Rehabilitation funds to those areas were expected to be discussed after complete information relative to damages had been received.

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LOANS MADE AVAILABLE TO AGRICULTURAL KORANS:

To alleviate the monetary shortage of public corporations (kodans), according to KYODO, the Finance Ministry tentatively has decided to provide the five public corporations connected with the Agriculture and Forestry Ministry with a loan of ¥7,470 million as operational funds. The loan would be made available during the present month, it was said, as the first phase of the ¥9,000 million fund accommodation program recently drawn up by the Finance Ministry.

SENDAI COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS ADOPT RESORT TO FORCE RESOLUTION:

According to KYODO, the Sendai chapter of the National Communications Workers Union yesterday adopted a resolution to resort to force if necessary in opposition to the projected personnel reduction.

NEW FEDERATION OF INDUSTRIAL UNIONS ISSUES STATEMENT:

The new National Federation of Industrial Unions yesterday issued a statement urging expulsion of Communists from the National Railway Workers Union on the ground that they are responsible for the present situation of the Union, KYODO reports. The union was urged to reorganize its executive staff on the basis of democratic principles.

SAITAMA LABOR CONGRESS ORGANIZED:

According to KYODO, a Saitama District Joint Congress for Reconstruction of the National Railways yesterday was organized with prefectural chapters of the National Railway Workers Union, the General Federation of Labor Unions, the Tohu Railway Workers Union, the Japan Express Company Workers Union and other labor groups participating. The inaugural meeting agreed to urge early convocation of the special Diet session, and defense against the "outlawry" of the Communists.

ORDINANCE PROMULGATED TO SHORTEN SUMMER WORKING HOURS:

According to KYODO, the Government yesterday promulgated a Cabinet Board Ordinance to shorten by four hours the summer working hours of Government workers during the period from 23 July to 1 October. Under the new ordinance Government workers on Saturday will work for four hours from 0830 throughout the designated summer period.

LEFTIST FARMERS CONVENTION TO BE HELD:

A national convention of farmers, sponsored by leftist agricultural organizations and farmers unions, will be held in Tokyo on Monday, KYODO reports.

11 ADDITIONAL PERSONS ARRESTED IN "TSURUGA WALL NEWSPAPER INCIDENT":

Eleven additional persons were arrested by the Osaka headquarters of the National Rural Police on charges of violation of the press code in posting "wall newspapers" in and around Osaka describing the "Tsuruga, city of fear riot". JIJI PRESS reports. This brought to 48 the number held in custody in connection with the incident.

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GS Bulletin Board

CENTRAL STRUGGLE COMMITTEE OF THE STATE RAILWAY WORKERS UNION SPLIT IN TWO

The Central Struggle Committee of the National Railway Workers Union has virtually been split in two, JIJI PRESS reports. The dispute arose at yesterday's meeting over the right of the 17 left-wingers who had been served dismissal notices to sit in on the committee meeting. Democratization League leader Kazume Hoshika made it clear that his faction would no longer deal with the dismissed members. The leftist faction maintained that the discharged members should continue to be recognized as committee members. In turn they charged the Democratization League with being influenced by officials of the State Railway Corporation. The meeting was adjourned when the 14 Democratization League members walked out of the conference.

PERSONNEL CUT PROGRAM COMPLETED

The State Railways Corporation yesterday announced the completion of its personnel cut program, according to KYODO. The total reached 94,312 employees. Of this number 80,141 were discharged in accordance with the Table of Personnel Organization Law; 12,472 resigned voluntarily; and 1,699 were dishonorably discharged. Only some 3 percent of the total rejected dismissal notices.

PROGRAM TO CURB DEFLATION SUBMITTED TO SCAP

The Economic Stabilization Board has submitted to SCAP's ESS a program to curb deflation. According to JIJI PRESS, the program is accompanied by an analysis of the present economic situation. The anti-deflation program calls for the following measures:

- 1) Economic conditions should be corrected on the basis of an anti-deflation program;
- 2) Exports should be increased through cost reduction by means of rationalization of enterprises, revision of floor price levels, adoption of an export guarantee system, and dispatching of Japanese trade agents abroad;
- 3) Demand and employment should be increased through investments of long-term funds;
- 4) Increased direct investments should be made possible through deferment of part of the redemption of State debts from the U. S. Aid Counterpart Fund;
- 5) Loans should be made available from the Finance Ministry's deposits fund;

6) Stockpiles of goods should be disposed of and production readjusted properly;

7) Reduction of subsidies should not exceed the point where export prices will rise to affect adversely export business, decrease the demand within the country or adversely affect the wage structure.

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MUST BE REORGANIZED

Transportation Minister Shinzo Oya told the press yesterday that the resumption of talks with the National Railway Workers Union will not take place until the Union's Central Executive Committee is reorganized, according to KYODO.

FAKUSHIMA POLICE IN DAWN RAID

The Fukushima Municipal Police yesterday arrested eight railway unionists, KYODO reports. These unionists are alleged to have been leaders in the recent case of illegal entry into the Fukushima Railway Administrative Bureau of the State Railway Corporation.

PASSENGER TRAIN "BOMBED"

A passenger train bound from Wakamatsu for Harada on the Chikugo Line ran into an incendiary bomb yesterday afternoon. No damage was caused, reports KYODO. Police are investigating the incident.

MAGAZINE EDITOR DETAINED

Keitaro Sawa, publisher and editor of the magazine Shinse, was arrested by the Tokyo Metropolitan Police last night. The move was made in order to prevent the destruction of any documentary evidence which might be used in the slander suit brought against the magazine by two Democratic Liberal Diet members. The April edition of the magazine, it is charged, published defamatory criticism against leaders of the Democratic Liberal Party, including State Minister Saeki Gawa.

TODAY'S EDITORIALS

TOKYO SHIMBUN comments on the fact that the Communists do not "hesitate to take illegitimate, violent, and threatening steps to attain their ends" is evidence of an impending crisis for the Communist Party. The editorial continues by stating that recent tactics have shown the public that the Communist Party is not a constitutional party acting in the interests of the people. Rather, it is a "group intentionally serving the purpose of a foreign country."

TOKYO NICHINICHI finds it surprising that the conservative parties are so completely lacking in a concrete anti-Communist policy. These parties, unable to cope with the present labor agitation, are attempting to divert their responsibilities by merely employing the slogan "anti-communism." The editorial is of the opinion that the people will not support any anti-Communist movement which gives the impression of being solely motivated by political considerations.

Meanwhile, according to K. other normal city despite rumors being spread of terrorism" and that "women and children were . Kawahara vigorously denied the rumors as "false" they had been "greatly troubled by such rumors when plans for holding a grand celebration on the 50th anniversary of opening of Tsuruga port."

erday was quiet as any city was "stricken by a city". Mayor Yosaku Adless", adding that rations were being made

NEW DEVELOPMENTS EXPECTED IN SHIMOYAMA CASE:

Shigeki Horizaki of the First Investigation Section of the Metropolitan Police Board yesterday indicated to the press that new developments were expected in investigations into the death of president Satsuro Shimoyama of the National Railways Corporation, according to KYODO.

Horizaki said that the chauffeur had been completely exonerated of all suspicion. He denied rumors that he held the opinion that Shimoyama had committed suicide. He said "I never have expressed such an opinion."