

after World War II. If the Soviet Union is busy in Europe at that time, it will be too late to control China...Russia too is having her domestic headaches."

US AID TO JAPAN

Local pressmen throughout the nation greeted President TRUMAN's budget message and the continued US aid with a general tone of optimism tempered by the realization that the rising world prices and the shortage of goods require some quick belt-tightening. Reactions to the US budget announcement ranged all the way from "very heartening" to "dark indeed."

Very Heartening

Striking the optimistic keynote, a Mainichi syndicated editorial appearing in Morioka (bh), Fukushima (bi), and Nagoya (bj) declared: "The Presidential message has requested \$150,000,000 for aid to Japan. Although the requested amount shows a decrease of about \$80,000,000 compared to the amount appropriated this year, Japan rejoices that the US aid is being continued. As reasons for the curtailment, the President points out the satisfactory advance in Japan's economic rehabilitation. This is gratifying for Japan, because the message accuses some US aid nations of inefficiency in their governments and lack of enthusiasm among their peoples...An interesting point in the message is the reference to shipping as a means of Japanese aid. This is likely to mean the chartering of liberty vessels for Japan, although the message does not disclose concrete methods. At any rate, it is welcome indeed that the amount desired by Japan has been requested in the Presidential message."

Hokkaido's four-city paper (bk) saw in the Presidential message a call for Japan to serve as the Asiatic link in the anti-Communist front of the democracies. "Japan's role as the workshop of Asia is becoming clearly apparent," the paper declared. "Japan cannot remain aloof from such a development. The Presidential message not only looks to speedy attainment of a self-supporting economy in our country but also presses for a more basic determination on the part of the entire Japanese nation." Likewise, Nagoya readers (bl) were reminded that Japan must respond to this American call in appreciation of the American program "which envisages something more than Japanese economic independence on a low level." "The American intention is perhaps twofold," the paper predicted. "One is to make Japan a workshop in the Far East and the other is to raise her living standard in order to prevent Japan from becoming a Communist prey. As one of the free nations, Japan must therefore prepare her economic and political structures to meet the new situation."

Privations Ahead

Approached from a more pessimistic angle, the budget message which appeared "heartening" to some took on a more somber meaning in the eyes of a Saga editor (bm). Said he: "Since the new US aid appropriations to Japan are cut by 35 percent, the future of Japan's economy does not allow any optimism. Domestically, prices have already risen, and some observers even fear the resurgence of inflation. It is the duty imposed upon us to endure a life of privations and work toward a bigger foreign trade and economic independence."

Taking a grave view of the slash in US aid, a Fukuoka newspaper (bn) volunteered the following four-point program for economic self-support: (1) Speed up imports through the use of the country's foreign exchange earnings and its own shipping. (2) Stockpile foodstuffs and other important goods immediately. (3) New emphasis on the exploitation of domestic resources, especially for foodstuffs, electricity, pulp, non-ferrous metals, and synthetic fiber. (4) As a prerequisite to all these programs, the accumulation of domestic capital.

(Circulation figures as of November 1950.)

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- (bh) Iwate Shimpō (circ 39,515), 18 Jan
 - (bi) Fukushima Mimpō (circ 89,903), 18 Jan
 - (bj) Tokai Mainichi Shimbun (circ 55,620), 19 Jan
 - (bk) Hokkaido Shimbun (circ 645,485), 18 Jan
 - (bl) Chubu Keizai Shimbun (circ 52,795), 17 Jan
 - (bm) Saga Shimbun (circ 31,252), 18 Jan
 - (bn) Nishi Nippon Shimbun (circ 556,294), 17 Jan