DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 6 Emperor Will Remain in Tokyo for War Crimes Verdicts - Seiji - 31 Jul 48. Translator: F. Ota. (DD)

Full Translation:

The Emperor has not made any trips this year, although sincere invitations from various districts, such as HOKKAIDO, KYUSHU, SHIKOKU, have been sent to him. It is believed that the Emperor would like to visit those districts. However, no official schedule has yet been made, although some people in HOKKAIDO and KYUSHU are acting as if the Emperor's trip has been practically settled.

The Imperial Household authorities say that it is impossible for the Emperor to visit HOKKAIDO this year since July is already over. KYUSHU has been eagerly waiting for him since the beginning of the year, but the Emperor has decided to postpone his trip until after the verdict of the Tokyo Military Tribunal has been announced. Accordingly, it will be very difficult for him to visit KYUSHU in time for the national athletic meet scheduled for next fall in FUKUOKA.

The Imperial Household authorities, worried that preparations for the Emperor's reception are under way in KYUSHU and HOKKAIDO when no definite plan has yet been made, sent the following notice to the heads of the local government concerned last April:

"We are informed that enthusiastic preparations are under way to welcome the Emperor, but there is no way of predicting when the trip will be taken. Although this office has been consulting local governments on their plans for the Emperor's visit, no decision has been made yet. There is no need to make any special preparation. Should some preparation by chance be requested, every consideration will be taken to make the existing facilities suffice and limit preparations to a minimum. Until such time, it is requested that nothing be done. No last minute requests for preparations which will be difficult to meet will be asked."

The local governments concerned have already replied in acknowledgment. Therefore, if the Emperor should visit KYUSHU, his retinue will further be decreased so as to make his trip as simple as possible.

ITEM 5 The Emperor Should Apologize to the People (Sub-Editorial) - Provincial Paper: Chuka Kokusai (Osaka) - 10 Aug 48. Translator: Y. Kuniyasu. (DD)

Full Translation:

Philip SIMMS, an American foreign affairs critic who is opposed to the abdication of the Emperor, declared recently that the Emperor should apologize to his people.

Since the termination of war, the Emperor has made frequent inspection tours throughout the country, but we cannot understand his intentions. He has also spoken words of comfort and encouragement to repatriates and war sufferers, but he has never apologized to them.

Although this editor is not defending the Emperor, if he had apologized to the people for his responsibility for the war and abdicated his throne immediately after the surrender, he would probably have been more esteemed by the people and the outcry against the Emperor system would not have been raised as it is. However, the Emperor has not apologized, but is continuing to tour the country in an arrogant manner. As a result, the Emperor's popularity has declined and some are even disgusted with his impudence.

Although the Emperor is now the symbol of the state, he will have no excuse for being condemned as a puppet if he cannot make his own decisions. The Emperor is generally believed to be an expert biologist, therefore, if he were to abdicate and devote himself to the study of biology, he may be able to contribute much to academic circles. It is regrettable that such an excellent scholar should be subject to various criticisms. We hope the Emperor will take some trustworthy action.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 Poll Shows 90.3% for Emperor System; 68.5% against Abdication - Yomiuri - 15 Aug 48. Translator: J. Ide. (GS)

408

Summary:

Since the Japanese people have been given the chance to amend the new Constitution, three years after surrender and two and a half years after the effectuation of the Constitution, this paper conducted a public opinion poll on a nation-wide scale regarding the Emperor, who has now become the symbol of the nation. As a result, it has been clarified that an overwhelming majority of the people support the maintenance of the Emperor system and oppose abdication of the Emperor. The results can be tabulated as follows:

First Question: The Emperor is "the idol of the people" and, under the new Constitution, "the symbol of the State." What do you think of this "Emperor System" of JAPAN?

1. Should be maintained, 90.3%.
2. Should be abolished, 4.0%.
3. Don't know, 5,7%.

Second Question: What do you think about the abdication of the Emperor?

1. Should stay on the Throne, 68.5%
2. Should abdicate and be succeeded by the Crown Prince, 18.4%.
3. Should abdicate and abolish the Emperor system, 4.0%.
4. Don't know, 9.1%.

The first question can be tabulated by regions, occupations, etc, as follows:

ITEM 1 (Continued)

FIRST QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT EMPEROR SYSTEM?

		Number of Answers	Percentage Total	Answer 1	Answer 2	Answer 3	Percentage by profession, sex, class, etc. Total	Answer 1	Answer 2	Answer 3
	Grand Total	3,080	100.0	90.3	4.0	5.7	100	90.3	4.0	5.7
PROFESSION	Farmers, fishermen	1,156	37.5	33.3	1.1	3.1	100	88.7	3.1	8.2
	Businessmen	724	23.5	21.7	0.8	1.0	100	92.3	3.3	4.4
	Salaried men	607	19.7	18.5	0.8	0.4	100	93.7	4.3	2.0
	Industrial workers	329	10.7	9.3	0.7	0.7	100	86.9	6.4	6.7
	Professional	94	3.1	2.7	0.3	0.1	100	88.3	9.6	2.1
	Unemployed	69	2.2	1.8	0.2	0.2	100	85.6	7.2	7.2
	Others	101	3.3	3.0	0.1	0.2	100	90.1	2.0	7.0
SEX	Male	1,825	59.3	54.1	3.3	1.8	100	91.3	5.6	3.1
	Female	1,255	40.7	36.2	0.7	3.0	100	88.8	1.7	9.5
AGE	20 - 29	654	21.2	19.3	1.4	0.5	100	90.8	6.6	2.6
	30 - 39	853	27.7	24.9	1.4	1.4	100	89.9	4.9	5.2
	40 - 49	781	25.4	23.5	0.5	1.4	100	92.7	2.0	5.3
	Above 50	792	25.7	22.6	0.7	2.4	100	87.9	2.9	9.2
EDUCATION	Primary School	2,020	65.6	58.5	2.0	5.1	100	89.2	3.0	7.8
	Middle School	852	27.7	25.8	1.4	0.5	100	93.2	5.0	1.8
	College & Above	208	6.7	6.0	0.6	0.1	100	88.9	9.6	1.5
PARTY SUPPORTED	Democratic Liberal	987	32.0	30.0	0.5	0.6	100	96.4	1.6	2.0
	Socialist	641	20.8	19.2	1.0	0.6	100	92.5	4.8	2.7
	Democratic	418	13.6	13.2	0.1	0.3	100	97.4	0.9	1.7
	Peoples Co-operative	58	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0	100	96.6	1.7	1.7
	Communist	55	1.8	0.2	1.6	---	100	10.9	89.1	0.0
	Others	24	0.8	0.8	0.0	---	100	95.8	4.2	0.0
	None or Don't know	397	29.1	24.1	0.8	4.2	100	82.9	2.5	14.6
	Demobilized & repatriates	722	23.4	21.5	1.5	0.4	100	91.7	6.5	1.8
	Others	2,358	76.6	68.8	2.5	5.3	100	89.9	3.3	6.8
	War sufferers	435	14.1	12.6	1.0	0.6	100	89.0	6.9	4.1
	Others	2,645	85.9	77.7	3.0	5.1	100	90.5	3.6	5.9
	City inhabitants	1,039	33.7	30.4	1.8	1.5	100	90.0	5.4	4.6
	Rural "	2,041	66.3	59.9	2.2	4.2	100	90.4	3.4	6.2

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775 015

ITEM 1 (Continued)

SECOND QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ABDICATION OF THE EMPEROR?

		Percentage				Percentage by professions, sex, class, etc.			
		Don't Abdicate	Abdicate	Abolish	Don't Know	Don't Abdicate	Abdicate	Abolish	Don't know
	Total	68.5	18.4	4.0	9.1	68.5	18.4	4.0	9.1
PROFESSION	Farmers, fishermen	26.4	5.4	1.2	4.5	70.3	14.4	3.1	12.2
	Businessmen	15.5	5.3	0.8	1.9	65.9	22.9	3.3	7.9
	Salaried men	14.0	4.3	0.8	0.6	71.0	21.6	4.3	3.1
	Industrial Workers	7.0	1.9	0.7	1.1	65.3	17.6	6.4	10.7
	Professionals	2.0	0.7	0.3	0.1	64.9	23.4	9.6	2.1
	Unemployed	1.4	0.3	0.1	0.4	63.8	11.6	7.2	17.4
	Others	2.2	0.5	0.1	0.5	68.3	15.8	3.0	12.9
SEX	Male	40.2	12.9	3.3	2.9	67.4	22.2	5.6	4.8
	Female	28.3	5.5	0.7	6.2	69.5	13.7	1.7	15.1
AGE	20 - 29	15.3	3.5	1.4	1.0	72.2	16.4	6.6	4.8
	30 - 39	18.5	5.4	1.4	2.4	66.9	19.6	4.9	8.6
	40 - 49	17.7	5.1	0.5	2.1	69.8	20.0	2.0	8.5
	Above 50	17.0	4.4	0.7	3.6	65.9	17.5	2.9	13.7
EDUCATION	Primary school	44.6	11.0	2.0	8.0	68.1	16.8	3.0	12.1
	Middle school	19.6	5.7	1.4	1.0	70.8	20.7	5.0	3.5
	College & Above	4.3	1.7	0.6	0.1	63.5	25.4	9.6	1.2
PARTY SUPPORTED	Democratic Liberal	23.7	6.7	0.5	1.1	74.1	20.7	1.6	3.6
	Socialist	14.2	4.5	1.0	1.1	68.2	21.5	4.8	5.5
	Democratic	10.7	2.1	0.1	0.7	79.2	15.8	0.9	4.1
	Peoples Co-operative	1.3	0.4	0.0	0.2	65.5	22.4	1.7	10.4
	Communist	0.1	0.1	1.6	0.0	3.6	5.5	89.0	1.9
	Others	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	79.3	12.5	4.1	4.1
	None or Don't know	17.8	4.5	0.8	6.0	61.5	15.6	2.5	20.4
	Demobilized & repatriates	16.5	4.6	1.5	0.8	71.2	19.7	6.5	3.6
	Others	52.0	13.8	2.5	8.3	68.0	18.0	3.3	10.7
	War sufferers	9.3	3.1	1.0	0.7	65.0	22.3	6.7	5.0
	Others	59.2	15.3	3.0	8.4	63.9	17.8	3.5	9.8
	City inhabitants	20.8	7.2	1.7	4.0	61.8	21.5	4.9	11.8
	Rural "	47.7	11.2	2.3	5.1	71.9	16.0	3.6	7.6

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POLITICAL SERIES: 2585 (Continued)

ITEM 1 (Continued)

In analyzing the results of the first question, it is noteworthy that 10.9 percent of the supporters of the Communist Party support the Emperor system. The greatest number of the supporters of the Emperor system are salaried men (profession), male (sex), 40 - 49 years old (age), and supporters of the Democratic Party (political party). The demand for the abolition of the Emperor system is greater in proportion to the degree of education, in reverse proportion to age. Those engaging in intellectual professions, such as writers, doctors, lawyers, and religionists, are remarkably strong for the abolition of the Emperor system.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 Attorney General Proposes that Emperors Be Allowed to Resign - Yomiuri - 13 Aug 48. Translator: K. Higashikawa. (UG)

402

Full Translation:

The present Imperial Household Law will be revised in a manner that will enable Emperors to abdicate of their own volition, Attorney General SUZUKI revealed yesterday. The bill for the revision will be presented to the ordinary session of the Diet scheduled for December, SUZUKI added. His statement is significant inasmuch as the abdication of the present Emperor is being discussed both at home and abroad.

The Attorney General further disclosed that a bill for the revision of the new Constitution will also be introduced to the December session of the Diet and that a committee for revising the Constitution will be set up by both Houses of the Diet.

Acting upon the behest of the Far Eastern Commission relayed by SCAP to Attorney General SUZUKI concerning the revision of the Constitution, he conveyed the SCAP directive to the Upper House President and the Lower House Speaker, requesting them to set up a committee for the revision of the Constitution. The Diet has not as yet started any preparation for the revision but is expected to make a selection of the committee's membership in the very near future.

The proposed revision of the Constitution will not touch vital provisions, such as the continuation or discontinuance of the Imperial Institution, the acts of the Emperor in connection with state affairs, the dissolution of the Diet, or the selection of the Cabinet, as provided for in Article 7 of the Constitution, but the revision will be restricted mostly to procedural matters, according to Attorney General SUZUKI.

For instance, Article 89 of the Constitution bans appropriation of public money for the use of any system of religion, or religious institution or association, or for any charitable, educational or benevolent purposes. The proposed revision, however, will permit the Government to make appropriations for private schools. The title "Daijin" (State Minister) which is considered feudalistic may also be changed.

Attorney General SUZUKI said, "As I received SCAP's instructions in connection with the revision of the Constitution, I relayed them to the Upper House President and the Lower House Speaker, asking them to organize a committee for the revision of the Constitution. The Diet does not seem to be very enthusiastic about it as yet, but I would like to have the ordinary session of the Diet scheduled to meet in December deliberate on the constitutional revision. It is still undecided whether or not the bill for the revision will be presented by the Government or by the Diet or jointly by them."

Attorney General SUZUKI stated that he had not as yet given any consideration as to whether the continuance or discontinuance of the Imperial Institution should be decided by plebiscite. However, he added, "I have no intention to decide the abdication of Emperors by plebiscite. Personally, I think abdication should be decided by Emperors of their own volition. Accordingly, to enable Emperors to abdicate of their own free will, I intend to present a bill for the revision of the Imperial Household Law, together with the bill for the constitutional revision, to the December ordinary session of the Diet."

"Some propose" the Attorney General continued, "to restrict the Emperor's powers concerning state affairs as provided for in Article 7 of the present Constitution, but the powers are really nominal, for the Emperor acts only upon the advice and approval of the Cabinet. Inasmuch as the basic principle of the maintenance of the Emperor System is recognized in the Constitution, I think there is no harm in leaving the powers of the Emperor as they are."

Explaining that the proposed revision of the Constitution deals chiefly with procedural matters and does not touch vital phases of the Constitution, SUZUKI said, "Article 89 of the Constitution prohibits appropriation of public money for religious, charitable, benevolent and educational organizations, but I would like to amend the article in such a way that will permit appropriation of public money for private schools. I would also change the title of State Ministers to Secretaries or Undersecretaries. I have not yet given any thought to revising the necessary conditions for dissolving the Diet and the method of selecting the Cabinet as pointed out recently by HANDLEMAN of INS in YOMIURI."

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 6 Effect of Publishing Emperor's Biological Works - Provincial Paper: Kahoku Shimpo (Sendai) - 1 Aug 48. Translator: C. Ida. (WM)

402

Summary:

Publications of the Emperor's biological studies are expected to go on sale in September.

Following the end of the war, the Emperor renounced his divinity and toured the nation to prove that he was just an ordinary individual. However, the people still regard the Emperor as a mysterious person. This cannot be helped because the Emperor still occupies the position of hereditary sovereign, even under the new Constitution. Therefore, as long as he is the Emperor he must retain his dignity. The publication of his biological work will provide him with a good opportunity to abandon all formalities. At the same time it will do much to help the people to realize that the Emperor is really an ordinary person.

As science is based on truth, all men are equal in the eyes of science. Therefore, the publication of his works will mean that the Emperor will introduce himself as an ordinary human being to the people.

Fortunately, the Emperor's research is on natural science. In connection with the publication, we recall that INOUE, Tsuyoshi, opposing the promulgation of the Imperial Rescript on Education, advised Emperor MEIJI to publish it as his personal writing. His advice was motivated by the fear that, since the Rescript dealt with cultural science and is related directly to practice, any criticism of it, even if made on the basis of pure reasoning, might be considered as a criticism of the Emperor's personality. In the case of natural science, however, there is no danger of this. If mistakes are found in the Emperor's research, they will be regarded as the mistakes made by a scientist, and there will be no doubt cast on the character of the Emperor. Biologists may criticize the Emperor's work without hesitation, and they must be convinced that, by so doing, they are showing respect for the Emperor as a scientist. It is said that the Emperor is hesitant to give his own name to his discoveries for fear that biologists might hesitate to point out mistakes in his work. It is incumbent upon scientists to dispel these fears.

The new rich, failing to realize that the book written by the Emperor is valuable, not because the Emperor himself wrote it, but because of the truth which is sought in it, are anxious to obtain the Emperor's book before biologists do in order to decorate their rooms. To eliminate this possibility, it is to be hoped that the Emperor will write many more books.

The publication of the Emperor's work will make the people realize that the Emperor is an ordinary person and at the same time it will make the first step towards the democratization of JAPAN.

ITEM 7 Emperor Cannot Abdicate under Existing Law - Tokyo Mimpo - 15 Aug 48. Translator: M. Ota. (WM)

402

Summary:

The abdication of the Emperor is possible if the Constitution is revised, but the Government has never discussed the matter, Attorney-general SUZUKI revealed on 13 August. SUZUKI cites this as a good time to re-examine the Constitution.

Foreign newspapers have mentioned the fact that President NAMBARA of the Tokyo University and Chief Justice MIBUCHI of the Supreme Court had commented on the abdication of the Emperor, which fact was again played up in Japanese papers. Recently, a Scripps-Howard paper has again taken up this issue. When the new Constitution was enacted, the question of whether or not provisions concerning the abdication of the Emperor should be included had been one of the issues. However, the new Constitution and the Imperial Household Law were legislated on the premise that the Imperial Throne should be ascended by the next in line only in the event that the present Emperor dies. Accordingly, the abdication of the Emperor is impossible under the existing laws.

However, SUZUKI said, "Should such a case come up, certain legislative steps can be considered." This means that the question of abdication, which has been regarded as "a matter not to be anticipated," can now be regarded as a possibility if necessary steps are taken to revise the existing laws.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 Emperor System (by Tsunedo Kyo) - Yomiuri - 15 Aug 48. Translator: S. Yokoyama. (RL)

1 402

Summary:

As the International Military Tribunal for the FAR EAST approaches its verdict, the Emperor's war responsibility has come to be questioned anew.

Although the Constitution has no provision for the Emperor's abdication, many observers think that he should abdicate. However, even those in favor of the Emperor's abdication agree that the Emperor system should be maintained.

It recently was reported that CHINA is desirous of the abolition of the Emperor system in JAPAN. A similar view has frequently been expressed by RUSSIA. Within our country, too, some insist upon the necessity of abolishing the Emperor system because the development of capitalism in JAPAN had close relationship with the Emperor system. They feel that the Emperor system also played a large role in the recent imperialistic war of aggression.

Since the termination of the war, the Japanese people have been accorded the right to decide freely whether or not the Emperor system should be retained. As a result of the so-called Constitution Diet held in 1946, it was decided to retain the Emperor system even under the new Constitution, although in a fundamentally-different form from that under the old Constitution.

Since the final objective of revising the old Constitution was to enact a new Constitution in line with democratic principles, the fact that the Emperor system is retained under the new Constitution indicates that the Japanese people entertain the view that the Emperor system is not detrimental to the democratization of JAPAN.

The Constitution Diet held in the summer of 1946 was composed of members elected under the new election system, which had undergone an epoch-making revision in enlarging suffrage. The constitutional revision made by this Diet must be considered as reflecting the people's will.

However, the fact must not be overlooked that at the time when the general election was held in April, 1946, the people had no definite idea about the revision of the Constitution or about the problem of the Emperor system. In view of this fact, it is undeniable that the Diet's decision cannot be regarded as a perfect reflection of the people's will.

It is incompatible with the fundamental principles of democracy to retain the Emperor as an important organ of the state. The Emperor system was retained under the new Constitution perhaps because the people are still emotionally inclined to it. The fact that the existence of the Emperor was useful in accomplishing various surrender terms provided by the Potsdam Declaration was also an important factor contributing to the maintenance of the Emperor system. . . . . .

The new Constitution was not enacted in such a way as to reflect the general will of the people and it is desirable that the problem of the Emperor system be decided by popular vote. The amendment provision of Article 96 should be utilized in this connection. It will be most appropriate to take such a step about five years after the enforcement of the new Constitution because the people by then will be able to acquire enough experience to judge whether or not the Emperor system is detrimental to national democratization.

Young people being educated according to the new educational principles will by that time attain suffrage. It will be advisable to set up a system under which a popular vote will be held regularly every 10 years to decide whether or not the Emperor system should be retained. In such a way alone can national democratization be gradually achieved.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 8 Public Opinion and the Emperor System - Minami Nippon (Kagoshima) - 23 Jul 48. Translator: E. Sato. (RL)

402

Summary:

According to a public opinion poll which we conducted early in July, the majority of the prefectural people feel that it is needless for the Emperor to abdicate. As far as the Emperor system is concerned, the Japanese people's sentiment toward it is independent of the depth of their feudalistic coloring.

Although this national feeling was misused to the utmost by the militarists and nationalistic bureaucrats, and the people were thrown into a miserable aggressive war, the people, following their defeat, knew that the Emperor system and the actions of the State are two entirely different matters. The Emperor is naturally on intimate terms with the people, who are now giving all-out support to the Emperor system. This can be proved from the fact that even those who enumerate many evils in the Emperor system do not always advocate the need of abolishing the system.

Many people still emphasize the necessity of maintaining the Emperor system out of reverence for the Emperor. If the belief that the Emperor system is maintained by the support of such people is true, the possibility exists that the system may be used for wrong purposes.

It seems to us that the majority of the victorious nations, taking a firm stand against the maintenance of the Emperor system, holds the same view. In order to have the victorious nations change their view, it is absolutely necessary for the Japanese people not to allow the government, which formerly misused the Emperor system, to rise again in the future.

Even though the Emperor's position is guaranteed in the new Constitution, the Emperor system is a necessity until the entire people can conduct state affairs on their own initiative. A scientific study of the national feeling toward the Emperor system must also be made.

The problem of the Emperor system cannot be settled only from the unilateral standpoint assumed by the Communists. It would be unfortunate for JAPAN, however, if her statesmen and people think that the problem has been settled by expressly providing for the system in the new Constitution.

Since the new Constitution clearly specifies the Emperor system, if the people fully understand its character, the problem will naturally be brought to a final settlement with the smooth progress of democratization.

To discuss the problem in connection with the Tokyo war crimes trial and the peace conference, or in consideration of abolishing the Emperor system as it has been advocated in a few foreign countries, is an opportunistic attitude, inconsistent with the national sentiment of the people, who are anxious to retain the Emperor as the symbol of the State.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

AUSSIE MISSION TO MEET HIROHITO

TOKYO, July 10 (INS)—Revelation that the Australian Parliamentary Mission arriving this month plans to meet Emperor Hirohito raised Japanese hopes Saturday that the Australian attitude toward Japan is becoming warmer.

The mission is scheduled to arrive in Japan on July 19.

It will be the first official Australian group to be received in audience by the emperor since the surrender.

A year ago Australia's Minister of External Affairs, Dr. H. C. Evatt, pointedly declined to meet the emperor during his visit to Japan.

STARS & STRIPES JUL 17 1948

EICHELBERGER TO CALL ON EMPEROR

YOKOHAMA, July 14 (INS)—Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger will make a farewell visit to Emperor Hirohito in the Tokyo Palace next Monday.

Eichelberger, who has never met the emperor, will be accompanied by his wife and by his aide, Maj. James Gibbons, a member of the Eighth Army since it was activated in Memphis, Tenn., in June of 1944.

The emperor extended the invitation to Eichelberger Saturday through the Japanese Government's liaison official with the Eighth Army.

Empress Nagako will also receive General and Mrs. Eichelberger.

SCAP approval of the visit was given formally yesterday but details of the visit have not yet been concluded.

General Eichelberger does not yet know whether he will lunch at the palace with the emperor.

STARS & STRIPES JUL 14 1948

CLAIM EMPEROR WON'T CONVERT

By Int'l News Service

Ancestor worship, performed by the emperor in tribute to Japan's eight million Imperial Gods, is one of the strongest factors preventing Hirohito from becoming a Christian.

This is the belief of top ranking members of the Imperial Household and a handful of other Japanese who report to the emperor's court regularly.

They believe that speculation on Hirohito's possible conversion to Christianity, based on Francis Cardinal Spellman's recent visit to the emperor, is groundless.

Prince Takamatsu, the emperor's brother, told International News Service he believes no effort to convert the emperor could possibly have been made during Hirohito's 30-minute conference with Cardinal Spellman recently.

"There is no reason for it," he said. "And I do not believe the emperor will ever be converted. At least such a conversion will not be brought about so easily."

JUL 20 1948
STARS & STRIPES

EICHELBERGER TO SEE EMPEROR ON JULY 19

Farewell Visit of 8th Army Chief Will Be His First Call

HOWARD HANDLEMAN
International News Service Staff Correspondent

Lieut. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger will make a farewell visit to Emperor Hirohito in the Tokyo Palace next Monday.

General Eichelberger, who has never met the Emperor, will be accompanied by his wife and by his aide, Major James Gibbons, a member of the Eighth Army since it was activated in Memphis, Tenn., in June of 1944.

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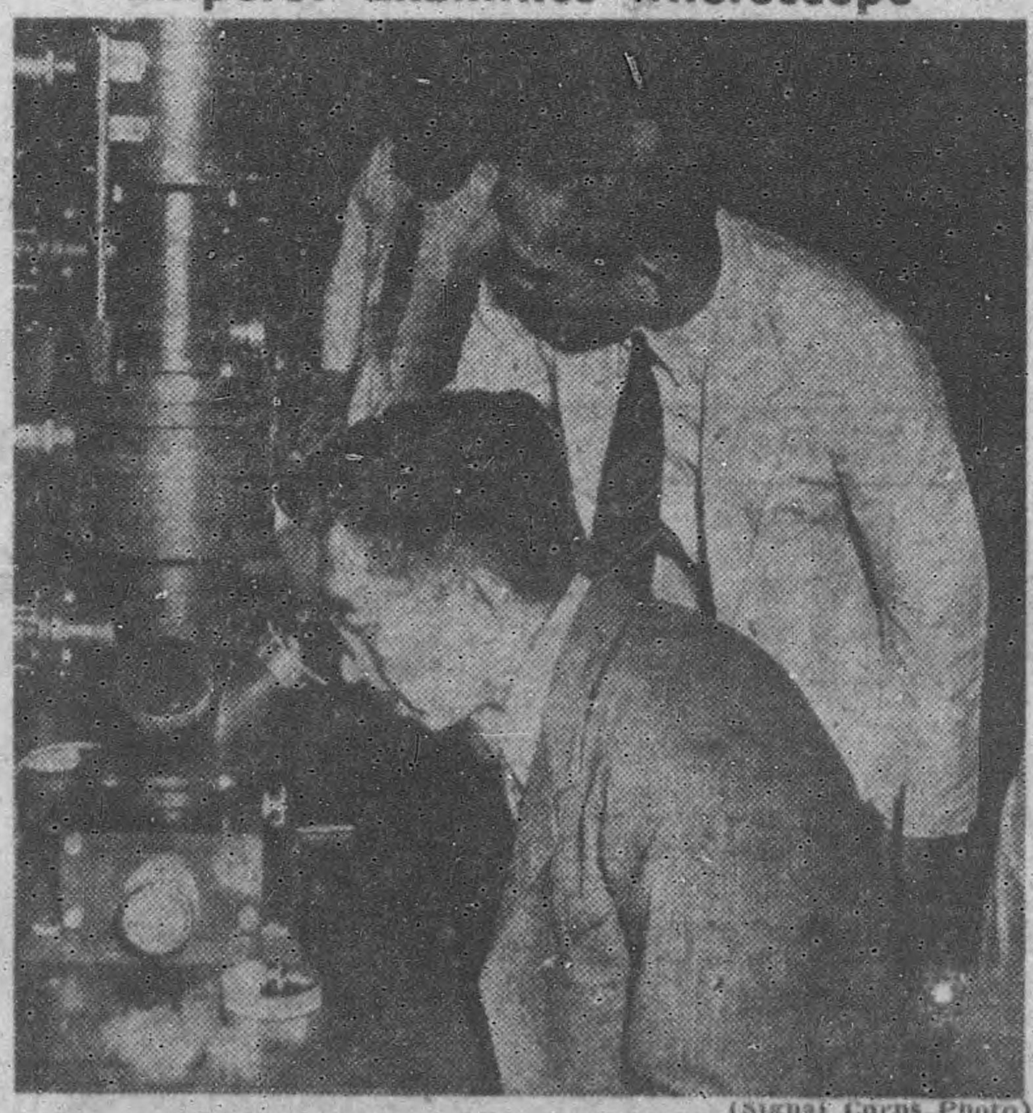
Empress Nagako will also receive Gen. and Mrs. Eichelberger.

General Eichelberger, whose Eighth Army has been custodian of Japan since the airborne troops arrived at Atsugi Airport on August 30, 1945, has never before met the man who is the traditional leader of the Japanese people.

NIPPON TIMES JUL 15 1948

Emperor Examines Microscope



(Signal Corps Photo)

Emperor Hirohito looks into the lens of an electronic microscope as Kenji Kazato, head engineer for the Electron Scientific Laboratory, Chiba prefecture, Japan, explains the fundamentals of the scope. During this visit to the Asahi Shimbun, Japanese newspaper, Hirohito attended his initial meeting with the Board of Directors and his first visit to the newspaper, located in Tokyo, Japan.

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Hirohito Views New Microscope

By S/Sgt. HOWARD D. MILNER, Staff Writer

Emperor Hirohito, making one of his rare public appearances, today visited the Asahi Shimbun building in downtown Tokyo to see and operate a new type electronic microscope.

The emperor first became interested in the machine in January of this year when his son, Prince Akihito, told him of it. Hirohito expressed keen interest and arrangements were made for him to view it.

Hirohito has his own laboratory in the Imperial Palace and has long been interested in scientific and microscopic advancements in Japan.

Officials of the laboratory explained that this is one of the largest electronic microscopes in Japan. Construction of the device was started in the spring of 1945. It was first operated in the summer of 1947 and was fully completed in December 1947 and is one of 12 such microscopes in Japan.

The electronic microscope is used for research in fields, where ordinary microscopes cannot function. It is several thousand times more powerful than the best lens-type microscope. There are 300 of these machines in the United States. Officials of the laboratory said that if Japan could obtain material, this country would have 30 machines constructed by the end of this year.

It is the first time the emperor has seen the machine, which took approximately two and one half years to build. The laboratory secured financial backing from numerous wealthy Japanese to finance the construction. Among these is Chuji Ito, one of the largest shipbuilders during the recent war, who has contributed funds to build-up culture and scientific inspiration in Japan. The machine cost 850,000 yen to build. Although the material has been furnished by the United States, the idea for construction of the machine came from Germany.

The emperor was dressed in a gray business suit, light blue spotted tie and socks, brown shoes, white collar and straw hat with black band. He was greeted at the entrance to the building by several hundred Japanese civilians.

Chu Hasebe, president of Asahi Press, escorted the emperor on his tour of the building and introduced him to directors of the organization.

Kenji Kazato, head engineer of the laboratory, explained the working of the machine to Hirohito, who showed keen interest. Others who aided the emperor during the operation of the machine were Shoji Seto, professor at Tokyo University; Hideo Fukumi of the Welfare Ministry; Dr. Keinosuke Kobayashi, Kyoto University professor and Dr. Shigeo Suzuki.

Emperor Hirohito is considered an expert on biology and has long been fond of microscopes. For the meeting today, sponsored by the Asahi Press, he sent 17 samples of seaweed from his private collection to be used by the scientists. He reportedly has one of the largest collections of seaweed in Japan and often has gone with his family to his villa at Hayama beach, near Tokyo, to gather new specimens.

JUL 20 1948
STARS & STRIPES

PREWAR POWER OF HIROHITO GONE

Speaking for members of the Australian Parliamentary Delegation now visiting Japan, Leslie Haylen, delegation leader, said their recent meeting with Emperor Hirohito would allow them to assure the Australian people that the prewar power of the emperor had been taken from him.

"We have spent considerable time since our arrival in Tokyo investigating and discussing all aspects of the new Japanese constitution," Haylen said. "We have been particularly interested in finding out for ourselves the position which the emperor holds in the Japanese state.

"We feel," he continued, "that we should be able to report to the people at home that the pre-surrender power of the emperor has been shorn from him."

JUL 23 1948
STARS & STRIPES

HIS MAJESTY PLAYS GOOD GAME OF CHESS

402

But Emperor Has Not Much Leisure for Pastime

By MINORU TANAKA
Kyodo reporters assigned to Imperial Household Office
(Condensed from magazine "Answers")

"That is a poor move you have made." "Look out! You'll lose."

Such voices, mingled with laughter, were heard from the drawingroom of a quiet farmhouse surrounded by groves.

"That's Heika's (Majesty's) voice. Heika has a loud voice, you see," the maids working in the kitchen were telling village folk delightedly.

The Emperor was playing a chess game.

This happened one morning in October last year when the Emperor, while on a trip to Niigata Prefecture, spent half a day of rest at the residence of one Mr. Iizuka at Takata Village, Kashiwazaki, in that prefecture.

"How good is His Majesty as a chess-player?" the reporters asked an Imperial Household Office official who was a member of the suite.

"I have no idea, but they say he can be classed as a master. You know better than I do, don't you?" the official replied.

Practised on Board

His Majesty is a golfer, too. He practised the game on board ship while on his trip to Europe many years ago as Crown Prince. He used to play it in the palace on Sundays and still has a lump on his palm from gripping the golf club. Up until 1932 or 1933, there was a golf course in the palace.

Such publicity about His Majesty's hobbies may be taken amiss when he is seriously concerned about the welfare of the people. He plays neither golf nor billiards nowadays. The billiard-table in his living quarters is now covered over with cloth, showing that he has no use for it at present. Even chess, a pastime he began again only recently, he rarely plays with the crown prince on Sundays.

In his childhood, His Majesty spent every summer swimming at Numazu (in Shizuoka Prefecture). One summer, while a pupil in the elementary class of the Peers' School, he watched his classmates play chess and learned the game. On their promptings, he tried his hand at it and soon made good progress. He became good in any game he tried, whether it was chess, ping-pong or tennis, because he was enthusiastic.

Play Seriously

Chamberlains Irie, Yamada and Higashizono, who used to be His Majesty's chess playmates, were often asked everywhere, "You lose the game to His Majesty on purpose always, don't you?"

"Don't say that! It's an injustice to His Majesty. And games aren't interesting unless you play seriously. Besides, neither His Majesty nor the Crown Prince care much about the result of a game."

I recall an occasion when I saw the Crown Prince play ping-pong with his classmates. The latter more or less stood on ceremony at the beginning, but soon they were engrossed in the contest.

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The Crown Prince fights his father, tooth and nail, at chess games. His Majesty parries the onslaught calmly with the air of an indulgent father coaching his son.

In his childhood, His Majesty used to practise chess on his father, the Emperor Taisho, and on the late Kurahei Iwasa, one-time Imperial Household Minister and a master of the game, I was told.

"Then His Majesty must be a master himself," I once said to a man close to the Throne.

"No, not a master yet."

"His Majesty never makes surprise moves," the same man told me. "He seems averse to them. All his moves are based on logic through and through, and you can't beat him in that."

NIPPON TIMES JUL 3 1948

His Majesty showed great interest in the story of Father Flaujac's journey and his stay in Rome. A veteran of 40 years service in Japan, Father Flaujac recentiy made his first trip outside of Japan since his arrival here in 1909.

Travelling by way of the United States he spent Holy Week in Rome and was received in audience by the Pope on Easter Monday. After an extended visit to France and Belgium he left for Japan via the United States and in Los Angeles and Seattle he lectured to Japanese audiences, returning to Japan late in June.

JUL 4 1948
NIPPON TIMES

GEN. EICHELBERGER GUEST OF EMPEROR

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By the United Press

Lieut.-Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger and Emperor Hirohito met for the first time when the Eighth Army commander and his wife were luncheon guests of the Emperor and Empress at the Imperial Palace, Monday.

Major J. J. Gibbons, General Eichelberger's aide, also attended the luncheon.

General and Mrs. Eichelberger are scheduled to return to the United States aboard the USAT Buckner sailing from Yokohama August 4.

NIPPON TIMES JUL 2 0 1948

Meets Emperor

(Sun News)

402 Rev. Joseph Flaujac

HIS MAJESTY RECEIVES PHOTOGRAPH OF POPE

Presented by the Rev. Flaujac At Palace Audience

The Rev. Joseph Flaujac, founder of Bethany Institute for social work in the Tokyo area, was received in audience by the Emperof Friday morning. It is recalled that the Rev. Mr. Flaujac recently presented an autographed photograph of Their Majesties to His Holiness Pope Pius XII. Reciprocating the courtesy His Holiness through Father Flaujac Friday presented his own photo, autographed to both the Emperor and Empress and expressing his good wishes for their welfare and the welfare of Japan. In accepting the gift His Majesty gave expression to his profound appreciation of this latest courtesy of His Holiness. The audience lasted a full hour, reports Tosei.

Abdication Danger Seen by Writer

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(Continued from Page 1)

Bolshevism, the United States ought to be able to hold its own in the Pacific even though the danger is great. The Japanese islands would form a sort of barrier between Red Asia and ourselves. If the Japanese people ever find themselves without their traditional religion they might be an easy prey for Communism."

JUL 9 1948
NIPPON TIMES

U.S. Writer Sees Danger In Emperor's Abdication

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Kyodo-UP

NEW YORK, July 7—A Scripps-Howard columnist William Philip Simms, discussing in his column reports that Emperor Hirohito plans to abdicate, said Emperor Hirohito had been reported previously to be about to resign, but "what now makes it serious is the fact that Moscow-directed Communists are working to make his abdication merely the first in a series of moves to abolish the national religion around which nearly everything in Japan revolves."

"As long as something like the present system stands the Communists will find it difficult, if not impossible, to gain a foothold in Nippon," he wrote.

The columnist added that if the Emperor's influence is removed, observers believe that "Japan would be a pushover for Moscow, and said General of the Army Douglas MacArthur did not share the view of many that Emperor Hirohito should have been tried and hanged as a war criminal."

Mr. Simms said General MacArthur "insisted that the spiritual influence exercised by Emperor Hirohito could be used for good as well as evil. In some quarters' opinion Emperor Hirohito's worth to General MacArthur has been equal to 20 divisions."

"Today," the columnist added, "All Asia is aflame. Red agents or Red armies are on the march throughout Manchuria, Korea, China, Indochina, Malaya and Indonesia. One half of the population on the globe out there is being subjected to increased pressure from Moscow . . . But as long as Japan and the Philippines can be kept free from

(Continued on Page 2)

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HIROHITO STILL V.I.P.

By RUSSELL BRINES,
Chief of Bureau, The Associated Press

THE Japanese people in effect have given Hirohito another vote of confidence.

They did it by showing obvious and genuine relief that former Prime Minister Hideki Tojo whitewashed the Emperor before the International Military Tribunal for the Far East. Fighting for his life, Tojo insisted Hirohito had no responsibility for war even while admitting evidence that seemed to incriminate the ruler.

The people were highly pleased. Newspapers throughout the nation bannerlined the "Emperor Free of War Responsibility" as a major feature of Tojo's initial defense affidavit. His word was generally accepted by the Japanese as assurance Hirohito could not be incriminated.

This adulation is a major prerequisite retained by the Imperial family after its conversion into taxpaying individuals forced to live for the first time on a fixed and closely supervised income.

By European standards, the Japanese monarch still ranks in upper brackets. But by contrast with the past he lost a lot.

Hirohito—the Japanese Government says—started the new year as one of few Japanese who paid all his tax bill. It totalled 3,338,206,702 yen, or 90 per cent of his assessed assets. He paid it by turning over Imperial palaces, vast tracts of forestlands and other income estates, formerly owned perpetually by the Imperial Household. He retained an estimated 400,000,000 yen worth of personal possessions and imperial treasures.

The Diet voted the Imperial family 45,000,000 yen as first year's "salary" on fixed income. This is equivalent to $9,000 at legal rate, but actually worth about a third of that.

From this budget amount, the Imperial Household Ministry must

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PRINCE AKIHITO is a great camera fan as are most of his countrymen. Next in line of succession to the throne, it has been rumored that he may renounce his right and become a commoner. As yet no official voice has suggested abolition of the Emperor system which still draws throngs of obsequious subjects whenever the Emperor leaves Tokyo for a tour.

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From this budget amount, the Imperial Household Ministry must maintain the Tokyo Imperial Palace and such detached palaces as the Emperor chooses to occupy with the government's permission. Recently the Tokyo palace staff has been reduced to little over 1,000—a fourth of what it used to be.

All this resulted from policies of Occupation authorities to remove special privileges from the Imperial Court. Only the Emperor and his immediate family are among the formerly extensive royalty to retain the privileges of the rank. But crimes of lese majeste had been abolished.

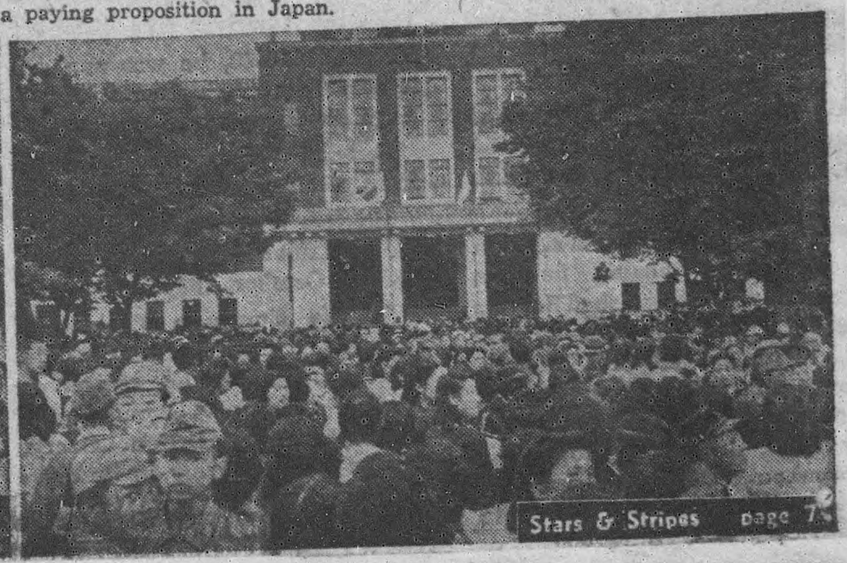
Nevertheless, Hirohito and his descendents have an unusual security on the throne as far as the Japanese people are concerned. No political leader of any consequence yet dares to advocate abolition of the emperor system. It will continue unless the Allies require its elimination.

It is also unlikely the Emperor ever will feel financial pinch. His monarchial-minded subjects are not apt to tighten has purse strings in future on their own volition. Even today volunteer laborers are booked through next fall for the "opportunity" of raking leaves and cleaning palace grounds in Tokyo—at a saving to the Imperial purse.

Hirohito's numerous trips throughout Japan are financed by local governments. Local governments also maintain some of his villas—including the one in Kyoto which has been in top shape for years without ever receiving an Imperial visit. When the Allies depart, the Emperor may get back his private train and some more automobiles.

The Emperor business is still a paying proposition in Japan.

THE EMPRESS, quiet, cultured and a devoted wife and mother rarely appears in public but has an active interest in Japanese charities and is leader of the Japanese Red Cross. Above she addresses her subjects over the air. Below thousands of loyal subjects throng the grounds of the Imperial palace when it was first thrown open to the public.



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ITEM 2 Emperor's Abdication Feasible through Special Legislative Procedure - Provincial Paper: Osaka Nichinichi (Osaka) - 15 Aug 48. Translator: H. Akutsu. (DD)

Full Translation:

The Government has never given consideration so far to the problem of the Emperor's abdication, declared Attorney General SUZUKI in a press interview on 13 August.

The Japanese newspapers have more than once carried dispatches from abroad disclosing the appearances in foreign newspapers of the discussion on the Japanese Emperor's abdication by President NAMBARA of Tokyo University and Chief Justice MIBUCHI of the Supreme Court. Recently, the Howard chain of American newspapers publicized the same subject.

For clarification of his position Attorney General SUZUKI explained in the 13 August interview that previously he was asked if the Emperor's abdicating is possible under the existing laws, to which he replied that in such an event a special procedure could be enacted.

It has become clear that both the Government and the leaders of the Diet have no intention of taking up this problem, judging from the Attorney General's statement and Speaker MATSUOKA's 13 August statement. However, the problem could still be studied to discover if the abdication is possible from the standpoint of the Constitution and the Imperial House Law.

It is possible to interpret the SUZUKI statement as saying that enactment of a special procedure could make the abdication possible. At the time of the drafting of the new Constitution, the retention of the provision governing abdication became a subject of considerable discussion. The Government, at the time, held the view that the succession of the throne is accomplished only when the ruling emperor dies, and did not expect the problems of the transfer of the throne or retirement. With this in mind the enactment of the new Constitution and the Imperial House Law were drafted and passed by the Diet.

Article 2 of the Constitution provides that the imperial throne is a heritage and its succession is effected in accordance with the provisions of the Imperial House Law, while Article 4 of the Imperial House Law stipulates that on the death of an emperor, an imperial heir shall immediately be enthroned. No other provisions are found in the Constitution or the Imperial House Law concerning the imperial succession. Thus, it is clear that the succession of the throne takes place only on the death of an emperor; consequently, the abdication, or transfer of, or retirement from the throne are unthinkable.

Commenting on this system, Dr MINOBE, Tatsukichi in his essay on the Japanese Constitution explains that the transfer of the throne since the middle ages had been a customary practice, but the old Imperial House Law rejected this practice and provided that the succession of the throne shall be effected only on the death of an emperor. He added that the new Imperial House Law adopted the same system. Dr MINOBE's interpretation concurs with the Government's views in the enactment of the new Constitution and those of the legislature which approved the Government views.

Thus, it is clear that the abdication of the Emperor is impossible under the existing law. But, if the problem of abdication should arise, it is possible that a special legislative procedure may be drawn up to settle the problem. Based on this supposition, the possibility of the Emperor's retirement or transfer of the throne through revision of the Imperial House Law has come to be a matter of discussion. (KYODO)

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ITEM 7 Two Historians Argue Abdication Question - Provincial Paper: Osaka Jiji Shimpo (Osaka) - 20 Aug 48, Translator: R. Abe & A. Kawamura. (DD)

402

Summary:

The continuance of the Emperor system was a hot public issue immediately after the end of the war. The new Constitution, however, recognized the Emperor system in reflection of the general public opinion that it would not obstruct the democratization of JAPAN.

A related issue, the question of whether the Emperor should abdicate or not is now being warmly discussed, particularly among Japanese historians. The differing views of two historians follow:

Dr. Fuji, Assistant Professor, Kyoto University:

The idea that the Emperor should reign for life is based upon the view held since the Restoration of 1868 that he is sacred and inviolable. Before the restoration, however, there were many cases where Emperors abdicated. But I do not believe there is any precedent of an Emperor abdicating because of direct political responsibility.

The Emperor, according to the new Constitution, is the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people. Although he is human, he is not an individual. While he is one of the Japanese people, his is an existence peculiar to itself. In this lies the significance of the phrase, "symbol of the State."

It follows then that we cannot simply apply to him moral laws that are applicable to the ordinary individual. Thus abdication cannot absolve him of his responsibility for the war; that is, his responsibility is a complex thing that cannot be shrugged off by this means.

It has become clear following the war that, whereas nations are a natural development, the structure of the Japanese nation is a contradiction. To resolve this contradiction, we must repent of our sins. Only by regaining humility through repentance can we resolve the contradiction and work toward world peace.

For the Emperor to think that abdication is sufficient repentance would be evasion of responsibility. He can truly absolve himself only by remaining in repentance on the throne and saving the Japanese people - that is, in the spirit of Buddha, he, as the symbol of the State, should desire to devote himself to saving the people.

In a period of civil strife in JAPAN during the feudal era, a war lord addressing his subordinates who were resigning in acknowledgement of failure said, "As for me, my responsibility requires that I should not resign." In the same manner, the Emperor's responsibility lies in the fact of his existence, and my desire is that he remain on the throne and serve his country together with the people.

Abdication Advocated

Professor NARAMOTO, Ritsumeikan University: I do not think it is proper to judge the question of the Emperor's abdication in the light of precedence. It should be separated from Japanese history and considered as a problem in the democratization of JAPAN. Although the Emperor is regarded in the new Constitution as the symbol of the State, he has not become a true symbol as yet. He is still the "sacred and inviolable" Emperor. The legacy of the erroneous Emperor System still clings to the present Emperor. Thus, although the Constitution now so stipulates, I believe it is impossible for him to change quickly into a true State symbol. Consequently an abdication would not simply be the assumption of responsibility on his part, but is a problem of much greater gravity. In other words, an abdication would not merely be following an established precedent in Japanese history, but would imply the obliteration of the former excessive regard for the Emperor. Thus abdication is imperative.

When Emperor MEIJI passed away, his subjects felt as if the Meiji Era had vanished. In the same manner the abdication of the present Emperor, who has been the heir to the old Emperor System, will enable us to rid ourselves of the feudalistic ideas still clinging to us, and place us another step forward on the road to democratization. Its significance, therefore, can be said to be very profound.

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I[illegible] 3 Group Devoted to Restoring Imperial Power Exposed - Akahata - 24 Aug 48. Translators: F. Mitsuhashi & M. Ota. (DD)

Full Translation:

There are two old two-storied concrete buildings standing diagonally opposite the Aoyama metropolitan tram depot in MINATO Ku, TOKYO. One building houses four shops, and the other is managed by a company called the YAMATO KOSHA. Superficially, these buildings are occupied by the Yoyogi Book Store, a tea-house, a seed dealer, a bakery, and the Fuji Publishing Company (managed by the YAMATO KOSHA), but, behind these businesses lurks a secret.

People, living in the same town, have named these buildings "KOMORI YASHIKI" (Bat Mansion). Originally, these buildings belonged to the Tokyo Metropolitan Office, but they were leased by a group, known as the "ROSHI TAI" (TN: ROSHI derives from RONIN, who were, in the feudal days, samurai who had severed relations with their lord. TAI means Corps.) during the war. The leader of this group was KAGEYAMA, Masaharu, who had figured in the notorious 15 May and

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ITEM 3 (Continued)

26 February incidents. The group is composed of those who had participated in the 26 February incident, alumni of the former TAKUSHOKU (Colonial Exploitation) University and DAITO (Great Eastern) Cultural School, ex-officers, rightist ruffians, and adventurers in CHINA. When rightist bodies were purged after the termination of the war, this ROSHITAI covertly changed its name to the YAMATO KOSHA.

The main hall on the second floor is the office of the YAMATO KOSHA which publishes "FUJI", a magazine for short poems. In order to discuss articles for the magazine, a poetry party (TN: Poetry party is a meeting where poets gather to compose poems.) is held once a month (on the third Sunday). This reporter participated in a poetry party sponsored by the body.

After being examined at the inquiry office of the Fuji Publishing Company, I was allowed to go up to a room on the second floor which covers an area of about 26 square meters. The adjoining room is the office of the leaders of the company. On the extreme inner side of the main room a god was enshrined, in front of which sacred straw festoons were hung. On the right side of the shrine were cinerary urns of those who committed HARAKIRI at Yoyogi Plain immediately after the termination of the war. A framed picture of TOYAMA, Mitsuru, (TN: A famous rightist leader.) hung on the front upper wall. On the altar were rice and fruits, as offerings. On the nearby sword-rack were two sword-canes.

On entering the room, I first respectfully worshiped the god and the cinerary urns, and then, politely saluted the other participants who had preceded me here. They returned the salute. I saw persons wearing HAORI and HAKAMA among those dressed in officer's uniforms. All of these were members of the YAMATO KOSHA.

About an hour later when the room was filled, a pale man with sharp eyes appeared. He was wearing a blue sack-coat with a white shirt and no tie. The man was Chief KAGEYAMA of the organization. All attendants prostrated themselves before KAGEYAMA. Then they turned to the front and sat down. Following this, the leaders of the organization came out of the leaders' office and sat down in front of them.

National Ceremony Reproduced

At the command of a member all participants clapped their hands and made repeated obeisance to the enshrined god and the cinerary urns, in the same manner that they had when they entered the room. Following this, they made deep obeisance in the direction of the Imperial Palace and said prayers three times in a loud voice for about 15 minutes. This was a reproduction of the national ceremony forced on the people during the war. The ceremony ended after the attendants fell prostrate before KAGEYAMA.

Then KAGEYAMA said, "Before opening the poetry party, I would like to acquaint you with the instructions on the attitude you should take towards the Emperor's abdication issue, which I have sent to local chapters at their request."

He also said, "When our colleagues in OSAKA district came to offer their service at the Imperial Palace, they visited the Emperor Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery. The gallery keeps the pictures of the great work achieved by Emperor MEIJI in the Sino-Japanese and the Russo-Japanese Wars. We who are determined to continue his great work should visit the gallery without fail."

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POLITICAL

ITEM 3 (Continued)

Next he explained their duty to restore the Imperial regime, during the course of which he made a remark which can be interpreted in various ways. The remark was: "You have already been instructed on how to accomplish this purpose."

He said that the Emperor's abdication issue was brought up because of domestic and international relations. In other words, "the Emperor may decide to abdicate as he issued an extraordinary Imperial rescript to terminate the war. However, we, his subjects must devote ourselves toward restoring the Imperial regime."

In conclusion, KAGEYAMA emphasized that they should take every precautions not to be exploited by Communists who are their enemy.

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ITEM 10 Various Views on the Emperor and Emperor System - Shin Yukan - 16 Aug 48. Translator: S. Ono. (WM)

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Summary:

The problem of conducting a thorough study on the status of the Emperor is the most important issue in present day JAPAN, which has reached a point where its future course must be decided. Despite the stipulation in the new national Constitution that the Emperor, who has no voice in national politics, is a mere symbol of national unification, political parties are trying to utilize the Emperor issue as the means of expanding their political influence, some by flatly opposing the existence of the system and others by advocating its continuation to maintain their old established spheres of influence.

Yet, this problem deserves serious, impartial consideration.

The following are some views on this issue collected from various circles, including scholars, politicians, men of arts, religionists and other intellectuals.

Emperor Should Remain to Atone for Evils Done in His Name

AKAIWA, Sakae, Christian Minister: In my opinion, the problem of the Emperor embraces two different issues: the problem of the present Emperor and the issue of the Emperor system. I think it would be better to abolish the Emperor system because it can be utilized by reactionary elements. I do not side with those who demand the

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ITEM 10 (Continued)

abdication of the present Emperor. His retirement will never compensate for the evils done upon the nation in his name. He should devote himself to helping war victims with the means available to him.

Abdication against the New Constitution

MATSUOKA, Komakichi, Speaker of the House of Representatives: I cannot accept the view advocating the abdication of the Emperor, especially when it is based on the objective of ultimately abolishing the Emperor system. In the first place, the abdication of the Emperor before his death is against a stipulation in the new Constitution.

Moreover, if the Emperor retires and the crown prince, who is still young, succeeds his father, the new Emperor can hardly serve as a mainstay of peace in the nation, which has changed so greatly since the reign of Emperor MEIJI who was crowned at the age of 16.

I strongly oppose those who advocate abolition of the Emperor system. The new Constitution provides that the Emperor is the symbol of national unity, and this is quite compatible with democratic government. As everyone knows, ENGLAND has its king, but no one doubts the democratic character of GREAT BRITAIN.

Emperor System Responsible for War

HOSOKAWA, Karoku, member of the House of Councillors: The Emperor holds the supreme responsibility for the execution of the brutal war and all the calamities which it produced, and the Emperor and the Emperor system are inseparable issues. The directives of the Allied Powers ordering the dissolution of financial clans, destruction of big scale landowner system, and democratization of bureaucracy are the proof that the Allies blame the Emperor system for the war.

The fact that the survival of secret agencies in JAPAN was pointed out in foreign countries last year is the evidence that there still exists the danger despotism could reappear under the Emperor system. The present Emperor should abandon the status his family has held so long.

Need More Time to Review the Issue

SHIMOYAMA, Seichi, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court: I do not like to touch upon the issue of the Emperor, though my personal opinion is against that of the extreme radicals. There is a need for more to decide such a grave problem.

Issue Must Be Decided in Accordance with World Opinion

NABEYAMA, Sadachika, Head of the World Democracy Research Institute: It is my opinion that the problem of the Emperor should be ultimately decided in accordance with the public opinion of the world on this issue. If world opinion demands his abdication, the Emperor should retire. The Communist method of taking up the Emperor problem as a means of conducting a revolution is entirely meaningless.

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ITEM 10 (Continued)

Responsible for War as Supreme Commander of Army and Navy

NAKAMURA, Tetsu, Professor at Rikkyo University: Though the people are apt to forget it, we must remember that the Emperor was the supreme commander (DAI GENSUI) of the Army and Navy in JAPAN. Thus, it is evident that the present Emperor should abdicate and take the responsibility for the last war.

The present stage of historical development, demanding a shift from capitalism to socialism, does not permit the existence of such a relic of feudal age as the Emperor system. Under the republican system of government, the president is elected by the nation and shoulders the political responsibility of the people. This is a matter of historical necessity. All mysticism surrounding the Emperor must be eliminated.

Emperor System Suited to National Character of JAPAN

KAGAWA, Toyohiko, Christian social worker and labor leader: I can find nothing against the continuation of the Emperor system. The system is quite suitable to the national character of JAPAN, as well as to its economic condition. In EUROPE, there are six nations, including ENGLAND and HOLLAND, which possess some form of monarchy. Furthermore, there is no man of real calibre among the politicians of present day JAPAN who can replace the Emperor to rule the nation. The maintenance of the Emperor system is a matter of serious importance to the peace of the nation.

Who Would Replace the Present Emperor

KIKUOKA, Hisatoshi, poet: The abolition of the Emperor system is possible only when the world comes to be governed under a federated government. Such politicians as YOSHIDA, Shigeru, KATAYAMA, Tetsu, and TOKUDA, Kyuichi have no solid popularity to replace the Emperor. In the history of JAPAN, the Emperor was the symbol of humanism, always weeping and suffering with the people.

Abolish the Emperor System

SATA, Ineko, woman novelist: It is clear that the true cause of the last war lies in the Emperor system. Thus, without abolishing the Emperor system, the democratization of our nation can never be realized. The Japanese should abolish the system upon the basis of their own judgment, but not because of the public opinion of other countries.

Must Respect Emperor as Symbol of Unity

KON, Hidemi, commentator: The Emperor, forming the center of national order, has been one of the beautiful traditions of our country. In the war days, the military utilized the Emperor to force the complete subjugation of the people. Now, when JAPAN is to be democratized, we must respect the Emperor as the element to unite the citizens who stand on equal term with each other and maintain national unity.

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POLITICAL SERIES: 2598 (Continued)

ITEM 10 (Continued)

People Have No Right to Accuse Emperor

AMANO, Teiyu, president of the JAPAN Education Foundation: The abdication of the Emperor should be decided by the Emperor himself. The provisions of the new Constitution regarding the Emperor system should be respected. The people have no right to accuse the Emperor of war criminality.

Student Urges Abdication after Peace Treaty

IWASHIMA, Masakichi, 23, student at Keio University: I have nothing against the maintenance of the Emperor system, though it is my view that the present Emperor should abdicate after the conclusion of the peace treaty.

SHIBASONO, Hamako (assumed name), third year student of the Kyoritsu Pharmaceutical College: I have no definite opinion about the Emperor system. I believe that the nation as a whole is responsible for the last war.

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ITEM 10 Abdication Is a Necessity (by Yokota, Kisaburo, LL.D., Professor at Tokyo University) - Yomiuri - 26 Aug 48. Translator: B. Ishibashi & F. Mitsuhashi. (TY)

407

Full Translation:

The abdication of the Emperor is being seriously discussed recently by the intelligentsia. Specifically, MIBUCHI, Tadahiko, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and NAMBARA, Shigeru, President of the Tokyo University, are reported to be demanding his abdication. The truth is, however, that these people when interviewed by the press equivocate for reasons I cannot understand. Thus it is not clear whether they want abdication or not.

Nevertheless, the fact that they do comment on this matter is of grave significance for they, because of their positions, are regarded as the most enlightened among men of erudition. Regardless of whether these men are sincere in demanding the abdication, it can be concluded that men of high intelligence in general are to a degree hoping for his abdication.

It is no accident that this question has recently become a particular object of discussion. Full three years have elapsed since the end of the war. Those who assumed fairly important degree of responsibility for the long aggressive war since the Manchurian Incident have all been purged from public office, the teaching profession and from important economic positions. Those who bear a particularly heavy responsibility for the war are on trial by the Tokyo Military Tribunal as important war criminals, and now with their examination over, the nation is waiting for the verdict. This means that the final judgment will be passed on the Japanese aggressive war.

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ITEM 10 (Continued)

Question of Emperor's War Responsibility

It is, therefore, only natural that at this time the question of abdication of the Emperor, the person who bears supreme responsibility for the war, has come up for discussion.

It is apparent that the Emperor is supremely responsible for the long aggressive war since the Manchurian Incident from a technical viewpoint, there should be no objection this opinion. The Emperor was a ruler and sovereign, who exercised sovereignty and was provided with supreme power over both political and military affairs. Such being the case, as the supreme representative of JAPAN's course of action, he should at the same time bear supreme responsibility for it.

The Emperor's responsibility is borne out by facts as well as by customs and tradition. This is clear from the Kido diary brought out at the Tokyo Military Tribunal. According to the diary, top executives of the Government and mililitary departments always reported to the Emperor on important national policies and obtained his approval. The Emperor was reportedly always advised by KIDO, then the Lord Keeper of Privy Seal, to repress or soften as much as possible positive war policies of the militarists.

This means that the Emperor had constant relations with the program and the enforcement of war policies, that he expressed his opinions and that he had sufficient opportunity and authority to suppress militarists, if he had so desired. Despite this authority and opportunity, if he permitted and approved enforcement of war policies without taking restraining measures against the militarists, then the conclusion that the Emperor bears the principal responsibility is inescapable.

Emperor's Private Opinions

It may be true, of course, that the Emperor as an individual did not want war. He might even have secretly hoped to check the militarists' schemes. Yet the fact is the war program was pushed with the approval and permission of the Emperor and the war at last broke out. Judging from this fact the Emperor as a public man cannot shirk his responsibility for the war. Because he gave final approval as the sovereign, political and legal common sense dictates that he should naturally assume the top responsibility.

"Divine Right" of Monarchs

Some may argue that the Emperor is sacred and inviolable and is free of all responsibility. However, the following two facts must be reconsidered.

Firstly, this contention derives from the theory of divine right and feudalistic ideology. At the start of the modern European era a theory was established in EUROPE to protect legally the system of monarchy which had been strengthened at that time. This theory held that rulers derived their power from God, consequently that power was supreme and sacred, with no responsibility to any one or thing other than God.

This theory was introduced into JAPAN and made a supplement to the existing feudalistic ideology. As a result, the Emperor was set up as a sacred and inviolable god-man, free from all responsibility. This concept, an anachronism in 20th century democracy must be destroyed.

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ITEM 10 (Continued)

Secondly, the world no longer recognizes the inviolability of a sovereign regarding responsibility for an aggressive war. After World War I, the Allies pressed charges against the German Emperor. The charge was that he had violated the sacredness of treaties in contradiction to international morality. After World War II, the Germans who were responsible for the aggressive war, whether sovereign or not, were subjected to trial and punishment as war criminals.

The Italian King was also forced to assume his responsibility for domestic politics, and not only did the King abdicate but the monarchy, itself, was abolished. At present, so far as aggressive war is concerned at least, to insist upon one's inviolability because one is a sovereign is not recognized by the world.

Arguments for Abdication

Considering the above two points, so far as aggressive war is concerned, it is anachronistic to insist upon the inviolability of the Emperor under 20th Century democracy and peace.

The abdication of the Emperor is required not only because of responsibility for his past conduct but also for sake of rebuilding a new JAPAN. Needless to say, a new JAPAN must be reconstructed as a peaceful and democratic country.

Firstly, judging from the viewpoint of peace, the extreme militarism and imperialism of the past must be eliminated. For this purpose, the abdication of the Emperor, who was the highest representative of militaristic imperialism in the past, is natural and even inevitable.

It is theoretically incomprehensible and actually impossible for the Emperor, who, representing the militaristic and imperialistic JAPAN gave final approval to many aggressive wars in the past, to remain as the symbol of a new JAPAN, now developing into a peaceful nation.

Secondly, for the sake of democracy and the politics that will be conducted under that democracy the most important thing is to put emphasis on responsibility. According to the new Constitution, the Cabinet is responsible to the National Assembly but the latter wields the right to allow the former to assume responsibility of administration. Moreover, the people have the right to impeach judges and to have them assume responsibility for their conduct. To make clear and place importance upon responsibility is the key to democratic politics.

Clarification of Responsibilities

If the above argument is sound, then it follows that the most important requisite for the construction of a democratic country is to clarify the responsibility for the present plight of the Japanese State and people. If the Emperor does not assume this responsibility and if the people do not want him to do so, the responsibility for past incidents will become obscure and a true democratic nation will never be constructed, because a sericus error will have been committed at the start of this task.

Generally, the Japanese have little concept of responsibility. They neither assume responsibility themselves nor want others to do so. They believe that a man of noble character does not have to call to account the responsibility of others. Individually, this belief may be correct, but, where public men are concerned it is erroneous.

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If the people in all strata of society fail to clarify their respective responsibilities, the state of politics will certainly collapse. In democratic politics, irresponsibility is particularly destructive. It is absolutely necessary for the Japanese people, now at the threshold of democratic politics, to make clear who should assume the responsibility for past incidents.

Thus viewed, the abdication of the Emperor is an indispensable condition for the construction of a new JAPAN. It is impossible to create a truly peaceful nation and sound democratic politics without fulfilling the above condition.

Position of the Intelligentsia

In conclusion, I want to mention a few words concerning the stand of the intelligentsia. They have no political power but have the ability to apply their intelligence. They have the ability to respect logic and understand theories without being influenced by frivolous sentiment and simple tradition. It can even be said that they do not lack the will to act in accordance with logic and theories.

However, the intelligentsia in the past lacked the will to put their beliefs into practice. For this reason, they were overruled by the Military, and this led to the present misfortune.

Accordingly, the intelligentsia of this day must exercise their will and purpose. They must clearly back what they believe to be proper and what they regard as true and voluntarily work for the realization of their convictions. This is absolutely necessary as a means to prevent great tragedies in the future.

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ITEM 12 The Position of the Emperor - Shin Yukan - 16 Aug 48. Translator: Seki. (DD)

402

Summary:

There are two different outlooks regarding the position of the Emperor, whom the new Constitution defines as the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people.

The first is that the Emperor inherits the history of the Japanese race by virtue of his ancestry and assumes, of his own will, an attitude of dignity. Though every one in the nation is greatly concerned over his actions, he is beyond their criticism.

The second is that, regarding the Emperor as one of the people, the nation pays him the highest respect as the inheritor of the history of Japanese race and puts absolute confidence in him.

The above expression may not be adequate, but when the people fully understand this, the Emperor will surely have become the symbol of the unity of the people.

However, now, three years after the surrender, has the Emperor's position been really established? For instance, in spite of the fact that the Emperor declared himself human and started a new life accordingly, the communists have heaped numerous insults upon him, taking advantage of the lifting of the ban of criticizing the Emperor; they are thus denying Japanese history and they are basing their strategy of achieving a revolution by violence on this denial.

This shows that the real position of the Emperor is not fully understood by the people; to them the Emperor has merely been shorn of his political functions since the surrender.

The Emperor, being the symbol of the unity of the people, his standing should be of great concern to the Japanese people. The more confidence the people place in him, the more sincere the retrospection for the future of JAPAN becomes necessary.

On this day, 15 August, we are determined to build up a well-balanced, healthy individual livelihood and at the same time we pray earnestly that JAPAN will recover it's independence as early as possible and will tread its way into prosperity. This hope is rooted deeply within the people, and so long as one lives in JAPAN he cannot deny it.

The desire of the people is that the Emperor should be such, and such is an evidence that the people have come to have a distinct self-consciousness regarding their own living.

On this day of the anniversary of the surrender, people should set up a definite answer to this question of the position of the Emperor. That is one of the keys to solve the fundamental problems on the way of reconstruction of our country.

(KURIHARA, Kazuo)

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ITEM 9 War Responsibility and the Emperor's Abdication (Oyama, Ikuo) - Magazine: Chuo Koron (Monthly) - Aug 48. Translator: M. Suzuki. (WM)

1407

Summary:

(TN: The author is noted liberal who was a political refugee in AMERICA until recently).

Our present views on the abdication of the TENNO and the abolition of the Tenno system are based on the recognition of his war responsibility. However, immediately after the war, there were loud arguments as to whether or not the TENNO should be included among those to be tried at the International Tribunal for the Far East under the Potsdam Declaration, which stipulated the punishment of all war criminals. The TENNO was carefully protected under the new Constitution as the "symbol of the nation" and was not included among the war criminals more as a matter of convenance than principles.

It appears that the demands for the abdication of the TENNO is a compensatory manifestation rising from the recognition of this more temperate measure. Although the demand of abdication differs little from the abolition of the Tenno system, the one does not necessarily need to be followed by the latter. Since both arguments are based on the Tenno system and the democratization of JAPAN, they are both worthy of public discussion.

According to a conversation between Tokyo University's President NAMBARA and Chinese correspondent in TOKYO, NAMBARA recognizes the moral responsibility of the TENNO for the war, which is quite natural. However, is he right in ignoring not only the legal responsibility of the TENNO but his political responsibility for the war as he appears to be doing? I believe his moral responsibility cannot be limited to him only as an individual but to the unlimited sphere of political morality through which his social influence is felt. We should not make the old Constitution's provision concerning the inviolability of the TENNO, a symbol of mysticism and absolutism, the only standard by which to guide our thoughts.

Voluntary abdication would be the best solution to the problem, but what would happen if this plan failed? This is why this problem is not an easy one from the standpoint of the democratization of JAPAN.

From a personal standpoint, I do not hesitate to agree with those who believe that the TENNO would be happier if he abdicated and became one of the people.

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ITEM 1 Emperor and Religion - Provincial Paper: Toyama Shimbun (Takaoka) - 28 Aug 48. Translator: F. Mitsuhashi. (TY)

402

Full Translation:

Some time ago, it was said that the Emperor intended to become a Christian. This gave rise to various rumors concerning the problem of "what the Emperor's religion had been in the past".

On 27 August this paper reported an interview which John C WALTERS, chief editor of the Melbourne Sun had with the Emperor on 24 Aug. The Emperor when asked by the newsman about the rumored conversion replied; "I pay my respects to foreign religions. However, I think it is better for me to believe in my own religion".

Thus he denied the rumor that he would be converted to Christianity. The following are views of various religious circles here in TOYAMA Ken, on the report that the Emperor does not believe in Christianity.

MUKOYAMA, minister of the Takaoka Church of the Japan Christian Association, said, "When the Emperor was a Crown Prince, he was an honorary adviser to the YMCA in ENGLAND, and I therefore believe that he has been deeply interested in Christianity. I think that when the Emperor said that he had better follow his own religion and denied the rumor that he would embrace Christianity, he did so because it would be awkward from his special position as Emperor. On this point, I feel deep sympathy for him. I hope that the spiritual agony of the human Emperor will be eased by his own religion."

KUSANO, chief priest of the DAIHOJI (Temple), of the Nichiren Sect, said, "The fact that the Emperor, in reply to the question by WALTERS expressed his view mindful of his status as a state symbol and the fact that he paid respects to foreign religions shows that he has been making a deep study of various religions. I think that when the Emperor said, 'My own religion', he spoke from his status as the human Emperor. At any rate, it makes me happy that the Emperor, himself, said that men must live by religion."

TOYODA, chief of the Takaoka Mission Shin Sect, HONGANJI faction, said, "When the Emperor was Crown Prince, he received lectures on Buddhism from Doctor YABUKI, Nobuteru. Thus, I believe he has some understanding of religion. However, I do not know of anyone who has exposed the Emperor to Christianity. For the Emperor to understand various religions of the world, he must study Christianity, too. If he, as a result of his study should embrace a certain religion as an individual, it will not matter. However, if he should do this as a state symbol, then he must give this problem careful consideration.

"It should not be surprising if the Emperor should embrace a certain religion. Up to the Tokugawa era, many Emperors were Buddhists. When the Emperor said that he would have his own religion, he pointed out that men needed religion. By making his statement he stressed the need for religion in men's lives more plainly and effectively than anyone else could have. I think it is undesirable for the Emperor to speak on religion until the people can clearly differentiate between the Emperor as a state symbol and the Emperor as an individual."

SEKI, a Shinto priest of the SEKINO Shrine, said, "It is difficult for a man to change his religious belief all at once. I hope the Emperor will remain in the status befitting JAPAN's unique Emperor system. His recent statement to a foreign correspondent was enough to sweep away the rumor that he would convert to a foreign religion."

NAKAGOE, chief of the TENRIKYO branch office in TOYAMA Ken, said: "We often hear of the misery of defeat, but, according to our religion, 'to win' means 'to borrow' and 'to have been defeated' means 'to have sown seed'. Herein lies the starting point on the way toward JAPAN's reconstruction. I think that the Emperor has a firm belief. However, if the Emperor speaks on religion, it will disturb the present Japanese whose religious faith is superficial.

"I think that the Emperor, as a human being, has the right to choose any faith. If the Emperor obtains serenity of mind by his own religion, it will be a good example toward the religious education of the Japanese people."

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ITEM 3 Diet Dissolution May Be Delayed - Shin Tokyo - 31 Aug 48. Translator: F. Mitsuhashi. (SS)

Full Translation:

Although such developments as the delay in convening the extraordinary Diet session, the Democratic Party's decision on the Middle-course Political League and NISHIO's acquittal are factors which tend to prevent Diet dissolution, Socialist Chairman KATAYAMA still demands such a move. Moreover, left-wing Socialist leaders, including Labor Minister KATO, are contemplating a new offensive against the policies of the present coalition Cabinet by advocating a fundamental revision of the three-party policy agreement. These are all points of contention which have gradually complicated the political situation.

The top leaders of the Democratic Party at a meeting on 24 August decided that the Democratic Party would seek convocation of the extraordinary Diet session on 10 October. Premier ASHIDA reported this to Socialist Chairman KATAYAMA who was on tour. KATAYAMA wired ASHIDA in reply on 28 August, requesting that the matter be left for discussion until after his return to TOKYO. ASHIDA, however, is scheduled to go on a stumping tour of NAGOYA and KYOTO on 3 September, and KATAYAMA will be busy mending party political fences, after his return. Accordingly, it is felt that a meeting of the two leaders or of the heads of three Government parties will be held about the middle of September when ASHIDA can be present.

The Socialist Party will hold a Central Executive Committee meeting on 4 September, to discuss various problems facing the party and determine the attitude it will take at the subsequent Central Committee meeting. It is expected that, by that time, the procurators will have decided whether or not to appeal NISHIO's acquittal to a higher court.

How NISHIO will try to dissuade KATAYAMA from demanding a Diet dissolution is worthy of attention. It can be conjectured that rightist leaders including Commerce-Industry Minister MIZUTANI will regain influence through NISHIO's return to politics and that they, joining hands with Secretary-general ASANUMA and Ministers MORITO and NAGAE, who trace their political lineage to the former Japan Labor Party, will try to influence the party in favor of non-dissolution.

On the other hand, it is observed that the neutrals and the leftists including YONEKUBO and SUZUKI (M), who assumed party leadership during the time NISHIO was under indictment and who had persuaded KATAYAMA to demand a Diet dissolution, will naturally devise some means to resist the rightists. Such leftist leaders as SUZUKI, KATO and NOMIZO have already commenced to negotiate with one another about this problem. Whether or not ASHIDA will be able to prevail upon KATAYAMA to back down on his demand for dissolution depends upon whether or not the right-wing Socialists will be able to overrule the leftists.

Since there is a fairly strong opinion in the Socialist Party that the dissolution, even though necessary, need not be hurried, it is thought that if the dissolution becomes inevitable, it will take place at a considerably later date. It is also thought, however, that leftist leaders will attend the Central Committee meeting, scheduled for mid-September, and advocate the following fundamental policies:

1. No change from the demand for a Diet dissolution.
2. Speedy convocation of the extraordinary Diet session.
3. No objection against revision of the National Public Service Law, but full and energetic attention toward the problem of new wages for public servants.

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ITEM 6 In Agreement with Dr Yokota's Agreement (Letter to the Editor) - Yomiuri - 2 Sep 48. Translator: Seki. (SS)

407

Full Translation:

It is quite natural that the question of the abdication of the Emperor, as the highest responsible person for the War, is being widely discussed at a time when the final verdict of the International Military Tribunal is about one month away. Among the theses on abdication appearing lately in the papers, Dr. YOKOTA, Kisaburo's is, I think, the most logical and valid.

Mr KANAMORI, Tokujiro contends that if the Emperor is responsible for the war, the Japanese nation as a whole is responsible also. His argument gives one the impression that, for the purpose of defending the Emperor's position, he makes a sweeping jump in logic, shifting the responsibility of the Emperor to others. If we follow his argument, the Japanese nation as a whole should be tried at court as war criminals.

As a matter of course, such is out of the question, logically as well as realistically. Even if the whole nation were responsible, it is irrefutable that the leaders in the Government and in the Army, who instigated and directed the war, should shoulder the whole responsibility. Then it follows as a logical sequence that the Emperor, being Sovereign of the State and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, should be held responsible for the war. As Dr YOKOTA has stated, such a contention as the sacredness of the Emperor can never find support at present.

If it is an undeniable fact, as Mr KANAMORI asserts, that the majority of the present generation is ardently desirous of retaining the Emperor, and if they wish to keep the Emperor system for long, the Emperor should take such action as will meet with the approval of the public opinion of the Allied countries to clarify his responsibility as Sovereign of the State when the final verdict of the class A war criminals is announced. In other words, if the present Emperor, taking full responsibility for the war, would abdicate in favor of the Crown Prince, the Emperor system will be safeguarded.

It seems to me that those who oppose Dr YOKOTA's argument by attempting to extricate the present Emperor from war responsibility because of their love for him, are to making him a victim of their affection instead. If the Emperor hesitates to abdicate, I fear the Emperor System will be short-lived.

It is wise and appropriate for the Government to take up the abdication issue legally by amending the Constitution.

(HAMANO, Suetaro, Chief of Communications Bureau, Nichibei Tsushinsha)

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ITEM 7 Emperor's Abdication and Revision of the Constitution - Provincial Paper: Kobe Shimbun (Kobe) - 23 Aug 48. Translator: W. Hayashi. (DD)

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Summary:

A newspaper recently reported that the Government is making preparations to revise the Constitution because the Emperor will abdicate the Throne after the decision of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East is made public. Many foreign dispatches also reported the possibility of the Emperor's abdication and attracted our attention. However, there is no direct relationship between the Emperor's abdication issue and the revision of the Constitution. In this connection, Attorney-General SUZUKI also declared that these problems have no relationship with each other and pointed out the inaccuracy of the newspaper reports.

In fact, the revision of the Constitution contemplated by the Government seems to be limited to technical phases. Furthermore, the Government can only submit referential materials to the Diet, because the revision of the Constitution must be initiated by the Diet according to Article 96 of the Constitution. Accordingly, it is likely that an unofficial body, chiefly composed of Diet members, will be established shortly to study the revision. Thus, criticisms will be raised that such a small revision does not require the people's approval.

Why then has the revision of the Constitution come to be considered in connection with the Emperor's abdication? Article 2 of the Constitution stipulates that "The Imperial Throne shall be dynastic and inherited in accordance with the Imperial House Law passed by the Diet". However, the Imperial House Law has no provisions pertaining to the Emperor's abdication. The Imperial House Law provides only that a regent shall be appointed in case the Emperor is a minor, or in case the Emperor is unable to handle national matters due to physical or mental diseases. Thus, according to the present law, the Emperor cannot abdicate or establish a regency on his own initiative.

Furthermore, a regent must be appointed when the present Crown Prince succeeds to the Throne, but the only regent authorized by the Imperial House Law is the Empress alone, and she is practically unable to play such an important role. Princes TAKAMATSU or CHICHIBU may be fitted for the role, but the Imperial House Law must be revised in this case. This is why the revision of the Constitution is being discussed in connection with the Emperor's abdication.

In the final analysis, the Emperor's abdication must be initiated by the Emperor himself. We hear that the conservative political party circles think that the Emperor's abdication would be advantageous for maintaining the Emperor System, but they never publicize their opinions positively. The Government does not want to take the initiative in such a delicate matter either.

"Do you believe in Marxism?" Every politician will refuse to discuss such a problem in the Diet, because to confess such a matter might drive him into a disadvantageous position, although such a matter has no direct connection with carrying out his policies. The present issue comes under the same delicate conditions. It is reported that some officials close to the Throne also favor the Emperor's abdication, but they also decline to express their views positively. In short, there is a clear distinction between the Emperor's abdication issue and the problem of whether to maintain the Emperor System. The Emperor's abdication issue has no import to attract our attention.

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ITEM 9 Constitutional Amendment and Emperor (Yamakawa, Hitoshi) - Seinen Shimbun - 8 Sep 48. Translator: F. Mitsuhashi. (DD)

40 7

Full Translation:

Some time ago, a certain newspaper, interpreting a statement by Attorney-general SUZUKI, reported that negotiations were under way to amend the Constitution in order to provide for a stipulation which would enable the Emperor to abdicate voluntarily. Next day, however, SUZUKI denied the report and explained that his statement regarding constitutional amendment had no connection with the problem of the Emperor's abdication. With the judgment of the Tokyo Tribunal on Class A war-criminals in sight, it is a common belief that it would be natural for the problem of the Emperor's responsibility to become a focus of discussion. Thus, the general public appears to put more credence in the original report in the newspaper.

It goes without saying that the Emperor is responsible for the war and the subsequent misery of the 80,000,000 people. So far as the Emperor possesses the understanding and common sense of an ordinary man, he would inevitably feel his own responsibility, no matter who may say otherwise. Thus, it seems best that the Emperor, who has become an ordinary mortal prove himself to be one by acting as a man with human understanding and common sense.

In considering a constitutional amendment in connection with the Emperor's position, there is a more important problem than the problem of his abdication. If the present Emperor abdicates, his successor will automatically become our Emperor with no choice given to the people in the matter. The new Constitution stipulates that Sovereign power resides with the people. It also clearly states that the position of the Emperor as the symbol of the State derives from the will of the people. That is, the Emperor's position derives neither from his ancestors nor from his lineage and fate. Nevertheless, in actuality, the people have not the right to say what sort of a person they want as the symbol of the State. Our Emperor is chosen not by us, the people, but by the lineage presumed to be descended from AMATERASU OMIKAMI (Sun Goddess).

In accordance with the spirit of the new Constitution, the feudalistic concept and system of "family" has been smashed. We, living under democracy, have no longer such feudalistic bond. However, regarding the Emperor's position alone, "family" is still recognized as before. The Emperor as the symbol of the State means the Imperial Family, not the Emperor as an individual.

Who Will Succeed the Emperor

There is a paradox in the existing Constitution, because it contains both the fundamental principle of democratic politics and the principle of absolute politics: that is, it stipulates that Sovereign power resides with the people, and accordingly, the position of the Emperor as the symbol of the State derives from the will of the people, it also admits that the Imperial Family hereditarily occupies the position of the symbol of the State by transcending the people's will. The problem of whether or not the Emperor will abdicate is incomparably smaller than this problem. If the Constitution is amended in connection with the Emperor's position, this fundamental problem, rather than the problem of the abdication, should first be solved.

In order to eliminate this paradox in the existing Constitution, -- this defect in the Constitution may be expressed better by the word, "deception" or "trickery" --- we must do away with one of the two

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ITEM 2 (Continued)

conflicting things. That is, we must do away with the ostensible, democratic principle that the position of the Emperor as the symbol of the State derives from the will of the people, thus returning the sovereign power to the Imperial Family, or else, we must do away with the system which hampers the thorough enforcement of democracy.

If the Emperor System is abolished and if the person to become the symbol of the State is decided by an election, this problem will be solved clearly. If the present Emperor becomes a citizen and runs as a candidate for that election, he will certainly be returned by an overwhelming majority. If I were the Emperor, I believe I would voluntarily advocate such an election system.

If we do not touch the Emperor System, itself, and consider things within the frame of the existing Constitution, which implies that it is advisable to retain the Emperor as the symbol of the State, we must, as a minimum means to eliminate the above-mentioned paradox, amend the Constitution so that succession to the throne will require Diet approval. If even this procedure is not recognized, the constitutional stipulation that the Emperor's position derives from the will of the people would indeed be an empty one.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 6 Opposition to the Emperor's Abdication (Letter to the Editor) - Yomiuri - 29 Aug 48. Translator: Seki. (DD)

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Summary:

I would like to say a few words about the article written by Dr YOKOTA, Kisaburo, on the Emperor's abdication. The article gave me the impression that it may have been written by a foreign scholar. It is regrettable that no less an authority on international law than Dr YOKOTA should confuse the domestic and international laws on the Emperor's position as the sovereign of a State.

The question of the Emperor's war responsibility according to international law should be left in the hands of the Allied Forces, and the final solution seems to have already been given in the successive statements issued by them.

What Dr YOKOTA has written sounds like the arguments of the carping intelligentsia and does not appeal to us.

By the provisions of the New Constitution the Emperor is deprived of his right of sovereignty, is restricted in his political powers, and remains only as the symbol of the State; thus he was dealt with more severely than if he had been forced to abdicate. There is no need of a symbol to abdicate.

Most of our fellow countrymen will surely recollect with profound gratitude the Emperor's endeavor to bring about peace in the crucial, closing period of the war.

The feudalistic, age-old barrier having been lifted, not only have we found the Emperor kind-hearted and sympathetic toward his subjects but foreigners, too, have found him so. We feel happy to do our utmost under the present Emperor in realizing the reconstruction of our country.

There may be arguments in favor of charging the Emperor with war-responsibility or demanding his abdication in the light of the law. However, such an event of historical importance can never be settled by mere legal theorizing. Moreover, our traditional political ethics will never permit it. On this point our history gives abundant proof. To air only the opinions of the intelligentsia can never be called democratic; we have to probe more fully into public opinion.

In this light the recent public opinion poll of the Yomiuri on the Emperor System was very significant.

(Writer: IWAKOSHI, Ichiro, unemployed, ODAWARA-Shi KANAGAWA-Ken)

Editor's Note: There have been 11 letters to the same effect.

ITEM 10 Abdication of the Emperor (Letter to the Editor) - Tokyo Mimpo - 5 Sep 48. Translator: Y. Kuniyasu. (TY)

402

Full Translation:

The abdication of the Emperor, which has been discussed off and on since the end of the war, is again being argued vigorously, this time between Dr YOKOTA, Kizaburo and President NAMBARA of Tokyo University.

From a logical point of view there is no question of the Emperor's responsibility for the war, for even officers have been held responsible for the atrocities committed by men under their command during the war of which they knew nothing about. Therefore, there is no excuse for the Emperor to claim that he is innocent or could do nothing to prevent the war. Moreover, the Emperor was well versed in political and military affairs at the time of the war, and he was the most influential person to check the high-handed acts of the militarists.

It is obvious that the Emperor has not been called to account for various political reasons. Furthermore, the people do not even desire his abdication. If the abdication is realized under such circumstances, the people's sympathy will be centered on him and his successor, the Crown Prince, and as a result, the Emperor System may be further strengthened through such people's sentiments.

It is meaningless to lay stress on whether or not the Emperor will abdicate. However, if the Emperor abdicates in full recognition of his war responsibility, it would be far advisable. At any rate, when we think about true democracy of JAPAN, we cannot help considering the Emperor System as a remnant of feudalism instead of thinking about the fate of the Emperor as an individual. (By KOZAKA, Kamezo, student, CHUO Ku, TOKYO).

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ITEM 4 Future of Emperor System Rests with People - Provincial Paper: Nagasaki Nichinichi (Nagasaki) - 31 Aug 48. Translator: H. Furukawa. (DD)

402

Summary:

The Japanese monarchy, which is called the Emperor system, is now under popular discussion: some insist on its maintenance, some demand its abolition, and some discuss the abdication of the present Emperor. The monarchical system is primarily the product of historical development, and not of political theory. It is inevitable, therefore, that the monarchical system becomes the target of criticisms with the adoption of democratic government as the universal political system.

If a "benevolent" or "enlightened" despot were to set up a "council" in his solemn court to hear the opinions of his attendants, the said "council" would become more and more independent from the control of his successors, and finally develop into a cabinet or parliament which would put a check upon the monarchy. The monarchy must be tried by the principle of decision by the majority, which forms the primitive but fundamental basis of democratic government. Only those which stand this trial can survive under the democratic principle and structure.

Under the democratic political structure, the monarchy must choose between the two forms of its existence, the English form or the Japanese form.

The English monarchy is called the "dignified part" of the Constitution. Although the term "dignity" is of feudal origin, it indicates that the English monarchy stands on love for the King, which is based on national tradition and the people's sentiment. In ENGLAND, the King is regarded as the source of dignity. In constitutional theory, the legislative power rests with the "King in Parliament", and the executive power with the "King in Council." State Ministers are "His Majesty's Servants", and even the opposition parties in Parliament call themselves "His Majesty's Opposition". In practice, however, the legislative power is in the hands of the largest party in the Lower House, and the executive power is exercised by the Cabinet which is organized by that party. The largest party shifts with the support of the people with whom resides sovereign power. Such a way of exercising the Constitution gives dignity to the King, separating from him the actual operation of democratic government. Thus, the English monarchy is consistent with the principles of democracy because of the independence of its dignity from actual politics.

The other form of constitutional monarchy is the Japanese Emperor system under the new Constitution. The status of the Japanese Emperor is expressly provided in the Constitution. He "acts on matters of state," but has no "power related to government." Moreover, the advice and approval of the Cabinet are necessary for the performance of acts on matters of state, which are limited to those prescribed in the Constitution.

We must, instead of regretting the lost dignity of the Emperor, consider the result which was brought about by the dignified and powerful Emperor system prescribed in the Meiji Constitution. The English way of carrying on the constitutional monarchy requires the highest political culture on the part of the people. The abuse of the dignity of the Emperor by the militarists, bureaucrats, and ultranationalists, which led to the development of militarism and imperialism, compelled the country to renounce war by means of constitutional provision.

The new Constitution provides that the Emperor shall be the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people. As the symbol of the state, he represents the country. As the symbol of the unity of the people, he is the center of the Japanese people, in a sense which is emotional rather than juristic. Herein lies the possibility that the Emperor system will revive as the object of the people's affection. The Emperor system cannot exist independently from the minds of the people who exercise the constitution. The future of the Emperor system depends solely on the minds of the people.

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ITEM 8 Pro and Con of Emperor Abdication Problem - Provincial Paper: Yukan Kyoto (Kyoto) - 6 Sep 48. Translator: E. Sato. (SS)

407

Summary:

Nearly one year and a half has passed since the new democratic Constitution was put into force. Two points of strinking contrast exist between the old and new Constitutions. First, the new Constitution stipulates that sovereign power resides with the people. Secondly, it provides that the Emperor shall be the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people. These two characteristics are basically incompatible with each other.

With reference to the Emperor's responsibility for the war, some quarters maintain that the Emperor, who was most responsible for the national conduct of imperialistic JAPAN, should shoulder the responsibility for the war, while others hold that the people should not call the Emperor to account since he is the symbol of the unity of the people and deprecated the aggressive war. Rather, they should construct a peaceful nation centering around the Emperor.

It is true that the Emperor was the supreme authority on State actions, and the responsibility for Japanese militarism was on his shoulders. Furthermore, with the democratization of the nation, it was revealed that the Emperor is a human being, and the idea that the Emperor is sacred and inviolable, was rejected. Such being the case the Emperor, as a public individual, cannot be freed from his responsibility for the war both formally and substantively. Not only some leftist elements, but well known procurators and jurists state that as long as the Emperor does not assume the responsibility for the war, democratization will make little headway. On the other hand, those who are trying to preserve the Emperor system, have not yet abandoned their old idea that the Emperor is sacred and inviolable, and have no positive theory which will contribute toward promoting the development of a democratic nation. They want the system to serve as a barrier against the spread of Red influences. Among member nations of the Far Eastern Commission, there are many that entertain misgivings about this policy of maintaining the Emperor system in order to check the rampancy of Communistic ideas.

The time has come for all Japanese war criminals to bear their responsibilities for the war. The people should bring the matter of the Emperor's abdication and the problems following the abdication to a correct settlement in view of existing circumstances, under which undemocratic forces are still strong in spite of the restraints placed on the economic foundation of an absolute system.

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ITEM 7 Retention of Emperor's Status Advocated - Seiji - 2 Sep 48.
Translator: S. Yokoyama. (TY)

407

Summary:

Since the end of the war, JAPAN has witnessed various reforms such as the revision of the Constitution, changes in the land tenancy system, and the purge. These reforms are as yet insufficient to make JAPAN a completely free and independent nation. It is noteworthy at this juncture that abdication of the Emperor is being predicted by the foreign press while a public opinion survey has been conducted by a Japanese newspaper on the same problem.

Foreign nations look upon the problem of the Emperor's abdication as an important indication of the future course that JAPAN will pursue. Under the old Constitution, the Emperor was vested with the sovereign power of the state. It is quite natural that there is renewed interest in the abdication problem today as the time approaches for the final verdict to be given on the trial of the class A war criminals who wielded power in the name of the Emperor.

It is indeed regrettable that the problem is not being discussed as openly as may be desired. This is perhaps due to the surviving custom of respecting the Emperor blindly as well as being a form of mental reaction to the disastrous defeat. The long established custom of honoring the Emperor cannot be done away with in a short time.

It is natural for those who have been thrown into utter misery by the defeat to try to retain the old system. The fact that the majority of the people are opposed to the Emperor's retirement is due to these reasons. Those who favor the maintenance of the Emperor system contend that the retirement of the Emperor is a preliminary step toward the abolition of the Emperor system. However, the problem of the abdication must be discussed separately from that of the abolition of the Emperor system.

Under the old Constitution, the Emperor had various rights but no obligations, he being inviolable. From this point of view, it is not deemed proper to call the Emperor to account for starting the war. Nevertheless the opinion that the Emperor as a sovereign cannot evade war responsibility has also sufficient ground. Since the Emperor himself has abjured his divinity, it is not without reason that the Emperor's responsibility for the war, at least in a moral sense, has come to be questioned. It is desirable that all the people, and specifically the learned, will express their opinions on this problem without reserve.

Some argue that respect for the Emperor as an inviolable being will be a strong bulwark against possible revolution by force. However, such a nation is too utilitarian. Unless the people have strong confidence that they can prevent a bloody revolution by enhancing democracy, the reconstruction of a democratic JAPAN will be impossible. The dignity of the Emperor must be maintained in a reasonable way.

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ITEM 5 Emperor's Possible Conversion Discussed (Tomomatsu Entei) - Magazine: Shinri (Monthly) - Jul 48. Translator: K. Osawa. (RL)

Summary:

Press notices in regard to Christianity and the Imperial Family have been started recently. "The Emperor may be converted," or "The Empress and princesses desire to believe in Christianity," say the rumors.

Inasmuch as freedom of faith is now guaranteed, it matters little to what religion the Emperor or other members of the Imperial Household adhere in their private capacities. However, it must be remembered that the religion adopted by the Imperial Family exerts, in view of their status, great influence upon society. The Christians probably take advantage of this fact.

When Buddhism was introduced into JAPAN, the Emperor at that time, although inclined to believe in it, was so scrupulous under the environing conditions that he had the problem discussed by his subordinates and refrained from professing his faith. This holds true even now.

If the Imperial Family is converted to Christianity, it will not only cause great repercussions in religious circles, but in the community at large.

First of all, this will favorably impress all Christians in the UNITED STATES, and, in turn, JAPAN's economy will be favorably affected by the donation of LARA goods or the introduction of foreign capital. What is more important, however, is that it will deliver a great blow to Shintoism centering around the Grand Shrine of ISE. The people will also feel that the greatest support had been removed from Shintoism.

What the writer fears most of all is that it may result in exclusivism or a Fascist movement among the people. They will censure ignorant toadyism and opportunism on the part of the Emperor, and, with that excuse, will start a movement for the preservation of national characteristics.

I, as a Buddhist, am sorry that we could not persuade the Emperor and his family, to become converted to Buddhism. The Empress' sister is the wife of a priest in a Buddhist sect. Through this channel, the Imperial Family could have been converted.

At first, the Christian offensive against Buddhism was not as intense as was expected, but recent propaganda in the form of such important news as the conversion of the Imperial Family has thus far been very successful.

This success is accompanied by great peril. If Christianity develops with the background of a gay aristocratic court, losing its traditional martyrdom, it will face a crisis. Moreover, it will give rise to opportunism among the people. In this way, the puritanical stoicism, peculiar to Christianity will not be maintained in JAPAN.

If Christianity becomes the state religion, it will be corrupted. This problem should be handled with a righteous recognition of current realities.

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ITEM 2 Should The Emperor Abdicate? (Miyazawa, Toshiyoshi) - Magazine: Shakai (Monthly) - Aug 48. Translator: K. Hirayama. (TY)

Summary:

When the Imperial Household bill was presented to the Upper House two years ago, President NANBARA of Tokyo University vainly explained the necessity for the Emperor to abdicate, for most members were against the proposal.

Since then, this problem was not brought before the public until recently. Now the rumor is being circulated that the Emperor will abdicate when the judgment of the Tokyo War Tribunal is delivered.

The Emperor's abdication is advocated not by only those opposed to the Emperor system, but also by some of its supporters. Supporters of the Emperor system are in favor of abdication not because they do not hold the Emperor in reverence, but because they feel that by making this request, they are showing their utmost loyalty.

The restoration of the Emperor to status of a mortal has been realized in theory, but not in practice. For instance, it is most unreasonable for newly-appointed state ministers to make it a rule to address their words of gratitude to the Emperor. The Emperor only confirms their appointment, which actually was made by the Premier. Nor is it right for the real name of the Emperor, "HIROHITO", to be written in the English edition of the Official Gazette, while only the words, "Imperial sign manual and seal", are used in the Japanese edition.

Among those who advocate the Emperor's abdication, some, including President NANBARA, are supporters of the Emperor system. At the same time, they are in favor of humanizing the Emperor in an attempt to strengthen his position.

From an objective standpoint, it is questionable whether such a step will be of value in maintaining the system. Should the ruler be deprived of all political authority, it can no longer be a true Emperor system; if divested of divinity, he can no longer be a true Emperor. Although the theory of a human Emperor is an excellent idea, careful consideration must be given to the question of to what extent the "Emperor" essentially coexists with ordinary "man".

The democratization of politics means the emancipation of politics from all taboos. In a great measure, taboos surrounding the Emperor seem to have been removed since the end of the war, but the fact is that they are still deeply cherished in the hearts of the people.

If all such taboos should be eliminated from the Emperor system, the raison d'etre of the system would also be eliminated. I feel that the plan to perpetuate the Emperor system through the abdication of the present Emperor will not be successful.

ITEM 2 Prince on Emperor's Abdication - Provincial Paper: Kyoto Shimbun (Kyoto) - 15 Sep 48. Translator: J. Nakamura. (TK)

Extracts:

Prince TAKAMATSU refused to comment on the Emperor's abdication issue when interviewed by the press in KYOTO on 13 September.

With considerable embarrassment he said, "I will refrain from commenting on the abdication issue because my comments may be misinterpreted, not only here in JAPAN, but in other countries."

However, he followed with, "My personal opinion is that as long as the Constitution is not amended, there is no need for the Emperor to abdicate."

He also said, "After becoming commoners, various persons of royal blood have opened shops of one kind or another. However this is not the only way that they can be of use. Although I have resigned as honorary president of the Red Cross and Brethrens Relief Association because I was an active army officer during the war, I would like to work together with the people in various fields in the future."

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Emperor, Empress Visit Art Exhibition, Show Great Interest In Painters' Works

TOKYO, June 8.—Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress this morning visited the second joint Western style art exhibition which is now being held at the Ueno Art Gallery under the auspices of the Mainichi.

Their Majesties arrived at the gallery at 8.45 a.m. and were met at the entrance by Kazuo Kanda, representative director of the Mainichi. The Emperor returned the greetings of the members of the company by waving his hat.

Taking a short rest, Their Majesties led by Kanda, Shintaro Yamashita, Ikuma Arishima, both of the Issui-kai Art Group, and Hisashi Tsuji of the Kofu-kai, went through the halls displaying the work of painters of 13 art schools, showing great interest in the exhibit.

Their Majesties left the gallery at 11.15 a.m.

(Photo shows Their Majesties at the art exhibition.)

MAINICHI JUN 9 1948

Emperor Sends Pope Autographed Picture; To Become Christian?

Imperial Household Grants Land To St. Joseph Colony Sponsored By Catholics

United Press

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TOKYO, June 7.—Speculation that H.M. the Emperor will embrace Christianity flared up again when Catholic Church sources here revealed that the Emperor had sent an autographed photograph to Pope Pius XII.

Sources close to the Imperial Household told the United Press that the Emperor at this time considers himself a "man without religion", although he observes Shinto ceremonies in connection with traditional court duties.

Shinto religion now has been divorced from the State and the Emperor has renounced all claim to divinity.

Although the Quaker influence is considered strong within the Palace because of the presence of Mrs. Elizabeth Gray Vining who is tutoring the Crown Prince, speculation was fanned by the fact that two outstanding Catholic leaders are due here.

In connection with the Emperor's gift of a picture to the Pope, it was recalled that the Imperial Household granted some land last year for the Catholic-sponsored St. Joseph's colony which is for Japanese repatriates from Manchuria and Korea.

There have been a lot of rumors in the past about the prospects of the Emperor embracing Christianity but nothing ever came of them.

Observers believe that the influence of Christianity is greater here now than ever before—possibly because of General Douglas MacArthur who frequently mentions Christianity and Christian ideals in his public statements.

Emperor Writes 60-Page Book On Sagami Bay Shellfish

H.M. the Emperor is the author and publisher of a 60-page book on marine biological research in which he was engaged for 20 years, reports the May 31 issue of the American news magazine Newsweek.

He has written a scientific book about umi-ushi (sea cow), a type of shellfish peculiar to Sagami Bay, where he has a summer villa.

Most of the work was done in his laboratory there.

Illustrated in color, the Emperor's book will probably be translated into English after it is published this summer.

MAINICHI JUN 9 1948

Their Majesties Inspect Repaired Tone River Bank

Kyodo

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URAWA, June 12.—Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress this morning visited the section of the Tone river embankment at Higashi village, Saitama prefecture, which recently was repaired after being ripped asunder by last autumn's serious flood.

After hearing a report on repair work by Governor Ito of Saitama prefecture, Their Majesties left Kurihashi station by special train for the Imperial villa at Nasu.

MAINICHI JUN 14 1948

Never Considered Emperor Abdication, Says Prime Minister

Kyodo

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TOKYO, June 27.—Prime Minister Hitoshi Ashida declared in the House of Representatives yesterday that he has never considered the abdication of the Emperor in reply to Sanzo Nozaka, top Communist leader, who interpellated on the credibility of the report about the possible dethronement of the Emperor.

The Prime Minister also stated that although it is free for foreign countries to criticize the Emperor system, the Japanese Constitution recognizes the existence of the Emperor.

MAINICHI JUN 28 1948

Hirohito Will Not Abdicate, Say Officials

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By United Press

Emperor Hirohito continues to be held in the highest esteem and there is no thought that he will abdicate in the foreseeable future, this correspondent learns in the highest SCAP quarters.

Rumors circulated both in Japan and abroad that the emperor may step down in the near future are attributed to Communist and ultra-nationalist propaganda.

The Communists secretly are continuing their agitation against the emperor personally and the so-called "emperor system" because they believe this system is a principal obstacle to achievement of their desire to create a totalitarian state along the Soviet Russian pattern, a high informan said. The ultra-nationalists are agitating against the present emperor because they blame him for Japan's surrender and his loyal cooperation with the Allied occupation. They would like an emperor whom they would be able to control.

General MacArthur repeatedly has made it clear that he feels Emperor Hirohito has lived up to every pledge made by the Japanese Government at the time of the surrender and subsequently, the informant said. He has told foreign visitors repeatedly that he considers the emperor to be a valuable public servant, who is fulfilling his function under the new constitution in admirable fashion. He has described the Emperor as a worthy model for all Japanese —a man of impeccable family life and high character.

The present feeling in the highest SCAP circles, it was said, is that the best interest of the Japanese people and the Allies will be served if Emperor Hirohito has a long and successful reign.

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ITEM 6 Imperial Palace Service Association Exposed - Provincial Paper: Chuka Kokusai - 25 Sep 48, Translators: B. Ishibashi and R. Abe. (SS)

Full Translation:

At a time when the question of maintaining or abolishing the Emperor System is being discussed and the dissolution of right-wing nationalist organizations is being demanded to promote JAPAN's democratization, it is interesting to note that young men and women in farm villages have organized the "Imperial Palace Service Association". Since the end of the war, a total of 140,000 people from each prefecture in the KANTO, TOKAI, HOKURIKU, TOHOKU and KINKI districts have already served or are scheduled to render service at the Imperial Palace in the name of the association. Moreover, indoctrination of the Emperor System is furthered in the guise of various lectures, thereby producing no small effect on the young men and women in the villages from which these people were sent.

Those who participate in the association are required to pay all their expenses for staple foods, side-dishes and travel during the five-day period of service. Therefore, the participants are economically confined to young men and women of the better class in the farm villages. Organized into a body of 30 to 50 in each village, the participants arrive in TOKYO on the day before they go into service. After entering the Imperial Palace they are quartered in a former chamberlain's office. Wearing arm-bands of the "Imperial Palace Service Association" they engage in work allotted by the Imperial Household Board in fields of nearly 1,200,000 square yards within the Imperial Palace. They do such tasks as weeding, reclamation, cleaning, farming and trimming of dwarf trees. About the end of their service period the Emperor visits and talks to them. After listening to the Emperor's speech they return to their villages.

Association Is Product of Higashikuni Cabinet

This "Service Association" started when TANIKAWA Shun, chief cabinet secretary at the time of the Higashikuni Cabinet organized, with the agreement of the former Household Department, a nationalist mental training society called the "Mikuni (National) Service Association", c calling together young men and women of the farm villages at a hall in KURIHARA Gun, MIYAGI Ken, his native home. After that, this movement spread on a nation-wide scale coincident with Imperial visits to various places and the emergence of rightist ideologies. In 1946 there were 189 such organizations involving a total of 10,527 members, of which 6,754 were male and 3,773 were female. The total number of persons who were mobilized for service at the Imperial

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ITEM 6 (Continued)

Palace during the year amounted to 32,575. The following year 324 organizations were mobilized. These included a group led by a certain person who was known as an advocate of militarism and who is reported to have organized a "Yamato Public Association" after the war. Young farmers' organizations and some families of deceased soldiers and injured soldiers were also active in the organization. The participants numbered 16,133 of which 10,230 were men and 5,903 were women. The total number mobilized for service amounted to 56,236.

This year, the Comrade Society in ARATO Mura, SETA Gun, GUMMA Ken was the first organization to render service at the Imperial Palace. With the joining of the Matsumoto Medical College, which is slated to serve on 28 December, the number of organizations which have already applied for service this year amounts to 263, with almost the same membership as last year. In other words, a total of nearly 140,000 model young men and women in farm villages have been or are going to be mobilized since the surrender.

According to the Imperial Household Board, it is an outstanding phenomenon that after there is an Imperial visit the number of service associations from the districts concerned shows a sudden increase. The number of participating organizations up to 1947, if classified by prefectures, is as follows:

ISHIKAWA--54, MIYAGI--52, TOKYO--48, CHIBA and TOCHIGI--42, AICHI--41, FUKUSHIMA--31, GUMMA--28 and NIIGATA--24.

Thus, the number of service organizations is overwhelmingly large from districts where the Emperor has already made a tour of inspection. However, in such prefectures as MIE, WAKAYAMA, TOTTORI, HIROSHIMA, TOKUSHIMA, EHIME, KOCHI, FUKUOKA and KAGOSHIMA, that he has not visited, there have been almost no participating organizations. That the service association is closely related with the idea of Emperor worship has been statistically revealed.

Work of Association Observed

On 10 September we visited and scrutinized the work being done by the Young Men's Assoication of MORIMACHI Mura, MINAMI KAMBARA Gun NIIGATA Ken and a group from the families of deceased soldiers of NITTA Mura, TOME Gun, MIYAGI Ken. There we found young men and women applying themselves assiduously to weeding, as though deeply stirred, and bereaved families intently trimming potted plants with their aged eyes blinking. It is customary for Imperial Household Department personnel to give them lectures after work on the theme, "The Emperor's Everyday Life". Thus the feeling of respect toward the Emperor is said to be strongly implanted in their hearts. WATANABE, a member of the above Young Men's Association, revealed his impressions with great emotion: "I shed tears, unable to utter a word". This was when the Emperor asked several questions about the situation in farm villages.

The work output of the service organizations is considerable. The Imperial Household Board states that these organizations make up for the loss in the Imperial Palace labor crew that was lost when more than 100 laborers and farmers were dismissed after the end of war. The number of persons in the landscaping section of the Imperial Palace is now reduced from a former 130 to three. However, the vast area of the field including, nearly 80,000 square yards of ruins of both the front and back halls of the main palace, and nearly 240,000 square yards of the interior of the western palace is now being cultivated by these service organizations. Barley and sweet potatoes harvested here are offered on the table of the Emperor's family as well as of the high officials and other personnel of the Imperial Household Department.

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POLITICAL

ITEM 6 (Continued)

Now that feudalistic farm villages are under rebuke throughout the world because they are a drawback to the democratization of JAPAN, the "Imperial Palace Service Association", which is furthering Emperor worship on an organized basis in the minds of typical youths of the farm villages, is now being criticized concretely and seriously in several quarters.

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Their Majesties Offer Contributions To Campaign Fund

TOKYO, Sept. 4.—Their Majesties the Emperor, the Empress and the Empress Dowager have granted a sum of money to promote social enterprise in commemoration of the visit of Miss Helen Keller to Japan.

At 10 a.m., today, Yoshitaro Kusuyama, chairman of the Helen Keller Campaign Committee, visited the Imperial Household Office and received the Imperial monetary gift from Director Tajima of the Office.

Yesterday, sums of money were also granted by T.I.H. Princes Chichibu, Takamatsu and Mikasa.

MAINICHI 5 SEP 1948

EMPEROR AND EMPRESS RECEIVE MISS KELLER

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Present Visitor With Bouquet Of Flowers and Green Tea

Miss Helen Keller, internationally famous deaf and blind authoress and lecturer, accompanied by her faithful secretary Miss Polly Thomson, yesterday morning had about an hour's informal chat with the Emperor and Empress within the Imperial Palace.

Miss Keller arrived at the Imperial Palace about 10:30 a.m. and was shortly thereafter ushered into the presence of Their Majesties.

The Emperor and Empress thanked Miss Keller for her memorable work for the deaf, dumb and blind and questioned her about her latest impression of Japan. Their Majesties recalled that they had met Miss Keller at the Shinjuku Imperial Garden Party in 1937.

After an informal chat, the Emperor and Empress introduced to Miss Keller their daughters Princesses Takako, Suga and Yori. On Miss Keller's departure from the Palace at 11:45 a.m., Their Majesties presented Miss Keller with a bouquet of flowers and a container of choice Japanese green tea.

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READERS IN COUNCIL

Chinese Interested Too

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To the Editor:

I, a Chinese, agree with the letter from Mr. Ichihara which appeared in the Nippon Times dated August 17, In that letter Mr. Ichihara emphasized that the Emperor system of Japan should be taken up from the international point of view, and I am strongly for it. We know there are still not a few military-minded and ultra-nationalistic people in Japan who are dreaming of reviving the so-called divine Japan centering about the Emperor.

To be sure Japan declared to democratize herself and seems to be striving to become a democratic country, but she is neglectful of examining the Emperor system which trampled on democracy and suppressed all Japanese liberalists in the past. Needless to say the responsibility for it lies not with the general public, but with its leaders.

Some conservative elements, in particular, are trying not only to cover the evil side of the Emperor system, but to revive the innocent people's worship for the Emperor. If such a reactionary force grows in power, the Japanese people will surely forget to discuss this most important problem which is apt to be misunderstood by the rest of the world.

We Chinese as well as other Orientals are paying attention to how the Japanese people dispose of the Emperor system, because the democratization of Japan is closely related to that of the whole of Asia.

So we hope many progressive and enlightened Japanese like Mr. Ichihara will fight firmly with the anti-democratic forces in Japan.

PAN KUNG-CHAN
Tokya

8 SEP 1948
NIPPON TIMES

HIS MAJESTY TO LUNCH WITH ARTISTS TODAY

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Education Minister and Arts Academy Members Invited

Seeking to keep in touch with recent developments in Japanese literature, arts and music, the Emperor will give a series of luncheons to all members of the Academy of Arts over a period of several months.

The first luncheon will take place today at the Imperial Palace with Education Minister Tatsuo Morito, President Seiichiro Takahashi of the Academy of Arts, novelist Naoya Shiga, and 13 others attending, reports Kyodo. The second luncheon will be held next month with Shoen Uemura, famous woman painter, and 15 others invited.

28 SEP 1948
NIPPON TIMES

Emperor To Give Luncheons To Art Academy Members

Kyodo

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TOKYO, Sept. 27.—Seeking to keep in touch with recent developments in Japanese belles lettres, arts and music, H.M. the Emperor will give a series of luncheons to all members of the Academy of Arts over a period of several months.

The first luncheon will take place on September 28 at the Imperial residence with Tatsuo Morito, Education Minister, Dr. Seiichiro Takahashi, President of the Art Academy, Naoya Shiga, novelist, and 13 others attending.

The second luncheon will be held next month with Shoen Kamimura, famous woman painter, and 15 others attending, while the third will be held in November with Tokiyoshi Bunno and 15 others invited.

Dates for the remaining luncheons have not as yet been set.

MAINICHI 28 SEP 1948

Emperor Still Held In High Esteem; Abdication Rumors 'Red Propaganda'

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By Miles W. Vaughn, United Press Vice-President For Asia

TOKYO, Sept. 10.—The Japanese Emperor continues to be held in the highest esteem and there is no thought that he will abdicate in the foreseeable future, this correspondent learns in the highest SCAP quarters.

Rumors circulated both in Japan and abroad that the Emperor may step down in the near future are attributed to Communist and ultra-nationalist propaganda.

The Communists secretly are continuing their agitation against the Emperor personally and the so-called "Emperor system" because they believe this system is a principal obstacle to achievement of their desire to create a totalitarian state along the Soviet Russian pattern, a high informant said.

The ultra-nationalists are agitating against the present Emperor because they blame him for Japan's surrender and his loyal cooperation with the Allied Occupation.

They would like an Emperor whom they would be able to control.

General MacArthur repeatedly has made it clear that he feels the Emperor has lived up to every pledge made by the Japanese Government at the time of the surrender and subsequently, the informant said.

He had told foreign visitors repeatedly that he considers the Emperor to be a valuable public servant who is fulfilling his function under the new Constitution in admirable fashion. He has described the Emperor as a worthy model for all Japanese—a man of impeccable family life and high character.

The present feeling in the highest SCAP circles, it was said, is that the best interest of the Japanese people and the Allies will be served if the Emperor has a long and successful reign.

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THEIR MAJESTIES VISIT EXHIBITION 402

(Kyodo)

The Emperor and Empress yesterday morning visited the educational exhibition which is now being held at the Mitsukoshi Department Store, Nihonbashi. After making an hour inspection there, Their Majesties also saw the alcohol industry exhibition in the same department store before returning to the Imperial Palace.

NIPPON TIMES 16 SEP 1948

His Majesty Invites Art Academy Members 402

TOKYO, Sept. 29.—His Majesty the Emperor gave a luncheon to members of the Japan Art Academy on Tuesday, September 28, at the Imperiaj Palace.

His Majesty seemed to have enjoyed the day's topics including game of chess, theatrical performances, and the Teikoku Bank mass murder case.

His Majesty appreciated the redoubled efforts of the Japanese artists to tide over the current national crisis.

The persons honored by invitation were Naoya Shiga, Hakucho Masamune, Yuzo Yamamoto, Nyozekan Hasegawa, Ton Satomi, Mantaro Kubota, Takashi Tatsuno, Tengai Kosugi, and Yoshio Nagayo, all members of the Japan Art Academy.

H.I.H. Prince Mikasa, Education Minister Tatsuo Morito, and President of the Japan Academy Seiichiro Takahashi were also present.

MAINICHI 30 SEP 1948

Emperor, Empress Visit 2 Exhibitions 402

TOKYO, Sept. 15.—Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress visited both the Educational Commodities and Alcoholic Industries Exhibitions simultaneously being held at the Mitsukoshi department store, Nihonbashi, Tokyo, today at 9 a.m.

Showing keen interest in each display, Their Majesties inspected the displays guided by Education Minister Tatsuo Morito.

(Sun-Acme photo shows Their Majesties seeing the displays).

MAINICHI 17 SEP 1948

Emperor to Meet Newsmen For First Time on Oct. 5

By FRANK WHITE
Associated Press Correspondent 402

Emperor Hirohito will hold his first public press conference October 5 in connection with the observance of the first Japanese National Newspaper week.

The Emperor, however, has decided he will not answer any political questions propounded by Allied correspondents who have been invited to be present along with Japanese newsmen.

The press conference will be held in the Mitsukoshi Department Store on the Ginza Street after the Emperor views a display arranged by Japanese newspaper publishers.

Maj. Daniel C. Imboden of the Press Division, Civil Information and Education Section which is SCAP's contact with the Japanese press, said when details were being arranged the Emperor said:

"Would it be impolite if I refuse to answer political questions by Allied correspondents?"

Major Imboden replied "Allied newsmen often find they do not receive answers to questions they ask. I have no control over what questions may be asked. However, the Emperor has the right like any other public official to refuse to answer any question."

The Emperor did not mention what he would do if Japanese newsmen asked political questions.

The Emperor has received individual newsmen before but not a general press conference.

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ITEM 5 The Emperor's Abdication Problem - Provincial Paper: Kitanippon Shimbun (Toyama) - 14 Sep 48. Translator: I. Hotta. (TK)

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Summary:

Now that the abdication of the Emperor is being widely discussed, the people must not remain indifferent to this problem.

As one of the reasons for abdication, Russell BRINES, chief of the Tokyo Branch of the Associated Press, pointed out the war responsibility of the Emperor. He said the fact that the militarists used to emphasize the war as being fought in the name of the Emperor gave foreigners the impression that the Emperor had been responsible for the war. Viewed from such a point, his war responsibility is undeniable.

As another reason, it is pointed out that there is a general fear that the reactionary powers, who want to reconstruct JAPAN imperialistically, would use the Emperor as their nucleus. According to Mr BRINES, these reactionary powers believe that the Emperor is still the emblem of greatness to the Japanese.

Thus, there is due reason for demanding the abdication of the Emperor. However, the responsibility of the Emperor since the surrender is more important than his responsibility for the war. The Emperor as well as the people are expected to fulfill the conditions prescribed in the Potsdam Declaration, and if the Emperor has followed the declaration since the surrender, there is no reason why the Emperor should abdicate.

Even though the Emperor may abdicate, the fear that he may instigate the revival of imperialism in JAPAN does not disappear. It has been reported that SCAP leaders are of the opinion that if the Emperor remains on the throne, it will be to the advantage of both the Japanese and the Allied nations.

To conclude, it should be said that the question of abdication must be studied from various viewpoints and the people are not yet in the stage to have a definite opinion on this problem.

ITEM 7 The Emperor and Artists (Sub-Editorial) - Tokyo Shimbun - 28 Sep 48. Translator: Y. Kuniyasu. (DD)

402

Full Translation:

The Education Ministry has announced that the Emperor will give a series of luncheons to the members of the Academy of Arts.

The first luncheon will take place today, with Education Minister MORITO, President TAKAHASHI of the Academy of Arts, and novelists, such as, MASAMUNE Hakucho, YAMAMOTO Yuzo, HASEGAWA Nyozekan, SATOMI Ton, KUBOTA Mantaro, TATSUNO Takashi, NOGAMI Yaeko, KOSUGI Tengai, and NAGAYO Yoshiro attending.

From the above-mentioned persons, one can easily see that the Academy members are all first rate figures. Therefore, it can be expected that the meeting of the Emperor, as a scientist, and these famous novelists will prove interesting.

A few years ago the Emperor met with several literary men in KYOTO and many people received a deep impression from the report of the meeting. With the pleasant attitude of the Emperor and the refined personalities of the artists combined, the meeting gave us much pleasure. We expect that the current luncheon will also bear successful results.

The second luncheon will be held with YOKOYAMA Taikan, famous painter, and more than 10 other artists. The third one is scheduled with YAMADA Kosaku, famous musician, and ONOE Kikugoro, leading "KABUKI" actor. Thus, the true significance of each meeting will be realized.

It will not be necessary to keep secret the outcome of the meeting, in which free discussions will be made frankly. Only by spreading it through writings and speeches, can its significance be attained.

Elevated artistic spirit and popularization of culture must be a characteristic of New JAPAN. In this sense, we take great interest in these luncheons.

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SOCIAL

ITEM 8 (Continued)

abdication of the Emperor is unnecessary before our firm belief of reconstructing a new JAPAN based on the Tenno spirit.

It is strongly desired that our compatriots rise up to oppose the abdication of the Emperor, dispel the illusion harbored by the people, crush the scheme of the Communist Party, and promote the reconstruction of our country.

ITEM 8 Refute the Proposed Abdication of the Emperor (KUBO Haruzo) - Magazin Yosei Jiho (Monthly) - Sep 48. Translator: M. Takagi. (TK)

Summary:

According to the press reports, it appears that rumors that the Emperor will abdicate are circulating in foreign countries. Although this subject has not yet been formally taken up as a problem by either GHQ or the Government, we can ill afford to close our eyes to it, for movements to abolish the Tenno System are even rising, based on these rumors.

Moreover, immediately after the end of the war, the Communist Party strongly contended that the Emperor was a cirminal, and attempted in this way to abolish the Tenno System. Since the communists are also involved in the current abdication question, let us study this theory that the Emperor is a war criminal.

The charges by the international tribunal have been based on the violation of international law. Therefore, the Emperor cannot be called a war criminal until actual evidence can be shown that he has violated international law. He was the commander in chief of the Japanese army, but he was not a militarist: militarists are a clique in the army who hold a boss-like position, but the Emperor had no special connections with such people.

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ITEM 8 (Continued)

The same holds true regarding the accusation that he was a leader of the ZAIBATSU. The evil acts of the ZAIBATSU is one thing and the fact that the Emperor is wealthy is another. The Emperor must be criticized or attacked with these points in mind.

A considerable number of people seem to be of the opinion that although the Emperor is not a war criminal, he must share responsibility for the war. But legally speaking, the international law does not recognize the responsibility of a sovereign for a war. However, I believe that a moral responsibility does exist and that he is fully aware of this. But in this case, the responsibility is toward his ancestors and foreign countries and not the people of this country. The nature of this responsibility is not such that the people can attack the Emperor. Rather, the people should become morally conscious of their own responsibility for the war.

Factors In Considering Abdication

Concerning abdication, the following points must be considered.

(1) The Emperor cannot abdicate even if he so desires as long as the Constitution is not revised, for Article II stipulates, "The Imperial Throne shall be dynastic....."

(2) The Allied Powers will probably not become involved in this problem for they pledged in the Potsdam Declaration that they would respect the will of the Japanese people.

(3) In case the people desire his abdication, this is possible through a constitutional revision.

There is the assertion that it is better for him to abdicate in order to prevent TOJO Hideki from dying a martyr's death and to preserve the dignity of the Imperial House. Such an opinion is based on the idea that TOJO takes on himself responsibilities incumbent on the Emperor. However, since the Emperor's responsibility is quite different from that of TOJO, such an assertion cannot be recognized.

People Oppose Abdication

Next, have the people lost faith in the Emperor to the extent that unless he abdicates it will reflect on the dignity of the Imperial House?

Generally speaking, the characteristic of the past Japanese political system is found in the fact that although the state ministers in office were looked upon as leaders of the state who also assumed political responsibilities, the Emperor assumed the supreme responsibility based on the fundamental morality of the state. The opinion that increasing opposition against the Emperor will impel the abdication movement cannot be taken seriously, for currently, the voices against the Emperor have become weaker than immediately after the surrender. In fact, movements opposing abdication are seen in various places.

Even if the abdication problem should be taken up formally, the majority of the people will demonstrate their opposition to such a move. We strongly advocated the retainment of the Tenno System and refuted the Communist-proposed abolition of it. Even if the Emperor should express his desire to abdicate of his own accord, we will strongly express our disapproval of such a step.

We have consistently asserted that we must build a new JAPAN based on the "Tenno spirit." Our country was destroyed because we abandoned the "Tenno spirit." The non-comprehension of this spirit gives rise to confusion and obstructs national reconstruction. The

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ITEM 11 Royalty Before and After Defeat - Jimmin Hyoron (Monthly) - Oct 48. Translator: M. Suzuki. (TK)

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Summary:

The royal families are like the garnishing of SASHIMI (TN: A favorite Japanese dish consisting of slices of raw fish and garnishing). With the strengthening of the Tenno System their status went up, but they existed only for the Emperor. That is why they were never permitted to act other than as members of his family. Matters such as marriage and foreign travel all required his permission:

The adoption of a child was forbidden. All males were expected to become military men and never dreamt of becoming merchants.

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ITEM 11 (Continued)

As members of the family of a god, as long as they advertised the Emperor's divinity their living was guaranteed. They were nothing more than clowns of the Tenno System.

This ideology which made the Emperor a divinity resulted in advocating a royal cabinet each time the nation was in confusion. It led to establishing Prince FUSHIMI as commander in chief of the naval general staff and Prince KANIN as chief of the army general staff when the Shanghai Affair broke out, and aided in suppressing all opposition and in driving the people into war. The militarists were able to maintain their power by co-operating with the royalty, and the latter were in turn able to strengthen the Tenno System from this co-operation.

The Imperial Household

The Imperial Household is composed of three families (eight members) in direct lineage to the Emperor and 11 other royal families (52 members). Under the ideology of absolutism, the people had to vow their loyalty to the emperor. The ruling class then made this people's ideology of absolute obedience its excuse to use the royalty as tools to exploit the working people and dominate all classes.

The movements of the royal families are connected with the Emperor; but just as facts concerning his war crimes are vague so are their movements obscure.

Obeying the Emperor, the royal families made many plans. Prince KANIN co-operated with bureaucrat GOTO Fumio and Prince HIGASHI KUNI with rightists ISHIHARA Kanji and TOYAMA Mitsuru in arousing public sentiment in regard to the commencement of hostilities. These movements were impressed on the people by the army which along with absolute obedience built up the atmosphere for war.

Higashi Kuni to Rescue

In October 1941 when the international situation became strained, Army Minister TOJO demanded the resignation of the Konoe Cabinet and advocated the Prince Higashi Kuni Cabinet. Why was the latter advocated each time something came up?. Princes KANIN and HIGASHIKUNI were the two princes outside those in direct lineage who could cast most weight on the side of the Emperor and the army.

As Prince HIGASHIKUNI had often acted unconventionally and at timeshad spoken progressively and abused other royalty, he had given the impression of being democratic. This typical debauchee, who acted like a patriot and talked big, co-operated with TOJO and was influential in the army. The Emperor opposed making him premier because he feared the consequences. Thus it happened that TOJO became premier.

We have been given to understand that, while the Emperor and the royal families assumed a cautious attitude toward opening hostilities, TOJO went right on and brought on the war. This is strange, for it has been said Prince KAYO was treated with distrust because he advised a cautious attitude.

At any rate, for nearly five years absolute obedience was forced on the people and several millions of them were sacrificed. In August 1945, the Potsdam Declaration was accepted with the retainment of the Imperial Family as the only term. This was the love the Imperial Family showed for the people!

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ITEM 11 (Continued)

With the resignation of the Suzuki Cabinet on 15 August, for the first time a royal cabinet was born on 18 August with Prince HIGASHI KUNI as its head. It is said that he visited the Meiji and Yasukuni Shrines and swore he would bear what was unbearable and uphold the national Constitution and the safety of the Imperial Family. On the 22nd, he sent Prince KANIN to the south, Prince ASAKA to CHINA, and Prince TAKADA to MANCHURIA, to deliver the Imperial command and the cease-fire orders. Royalty who had been so active during the war were now messengers of peace.

On 29 November, a royal conference was held, and to safeguard the Imperial Household, seven princes representing the Emperor visited throughout JAPAN the Imperial tombs of successive generations to report the end of war. They were welcomed by the people again as messengers of peace. A strange existence indeed!

Royalty to Commoners

However, in May 1946 an order from SCAP divested them of "all special privileges and exemption from obligations including exemption from taxation." On October 1947 all the Imperial Princes excluding the three in direct lineage became commoners. The 51 members who became commoners received a total of 47,475,000 yen. With this as capital HIGASHI KUNI has opened a grocery, a shop of articles of art and curios, and store selling machinery to make Japanese crackers. KUNI is manufacturing and selling the Kuni perfume and managing halls, clubs, and bars.

Even now the Emperor and his relatives are traveling throughout JAPAN to strengthen the Tenno System, which the ruling class favors and aids. This will mean that slave-like subordination will be emphasized again to bring the people under the domination of absolutism. This will again bring the danger of Fascism and war.

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ITEM 1 Emperor as Symbol of State Creates Dangers (EMORI Moriya) - Magazine: Jimmin Hyoron (Monthly) - Oct 48. Translator: K. Hirayama. (RL)

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Summary:

The writer, KONISHI Masao, depicts well the physical characteristics and mental attitude of a well-fed man of leisure in his description of the Emperor - the clothes he wears, the slender cane he carries, the side-to-side roll of his head as he walks, the superfluous fat on his body, the dull, wavering gaze, and the general lack of vitality unbecoming his healthy complexion.

The Agriculture-Forestry Ministry distributes a ration of 160 KOKU (one KOKU=4.94 bu) of rice and wheat flour, 185 KAN (one KAN=8.27 lbs) of MISO (soy bean paste), and 1,200 KAN of sugar yearly to the Imperial Family, which consists of five members. Moreover, the Emperor purchases 600 KAN of vegetables a month from special channels, although he owns extensive grazing grounds and farm land. As he has so much to eat, his corpulence, listless eyes and vacant look are only the natural results.

Why has this man become the subject of a world-wide controversy since the defeat? Of course, people have no interest in a mere individual named HIROHITO; the controversy concerns the Emperorship, which, in JAPAN, is a most unaccountable position.

The new Constitution divested the Emperor of his former sovereign rights; nor he has only the formal duty of presiding over 10 kinds of ceremonies under government order and surveillance. The people wonder why such an unnecessary formality is necessary in a busy world. Not only do they question the uselessness of such a position, but they believe that it is harmful. Yet the reactionaries, with State Minister KANAMORI as their spokesman, assert that the Emperorship is of vital importance as the symbol of the state and the unity of the Japanese people.

Here, we must be careful. Just to preserve peace, we could let the Emperor fulfill this useless duty, but the reactionaries are not satisfied with only this.

First, they made the position hereditary in the Imperial Family, which is said to have descended from the gods in order to place them above the common people. This conception is still widely prevalent among the people, despite the declaration that the Emperor is human.

Secondly, they stipulated that the Emperor shall be the symbol of the unity of the Japanese people. This obviously means that the Imperial Family stands in a position above the people in order to unite them.

Thirdly, they prescribe that this position is grounded on the will of the general populace. It means, in other words, that all the people must be united in their support and loyalty to the Imperial Family, that those who do not do this are unpatriotic. Of course, all three conceptions conflict with the principles of equality and the freedom of thought and conscience.

These three stipulations appear to be harmless thus far under the supervision of democratic influences, but should these influence be forced to retreat, even temporarily, the "symbol" will rise from his desk to create sufferings among the people.

KANAMORI and his colleagues are now busily spreading the reactionary idea under the guise of popularizing the new Constitution. Not only that, but they are developing organized activities, such as the "palace labor service campaign," which has mobilized some 120,000 persons during the past three years under the guidance of KAGEYAMA Masaharu, formerly of the DAITO-JUKU (Great East School).

Such activities are increased wherever the Emperor travels, thus organized activities are skillfully carried out. Youths offer their services at the palace, talk with the Emperor and Empress, have their photographs taken with them, and return home greatly impressed. To these youths, the Emperor is the symbol of the same militant JAPAN as of old times.

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ITEM 22 Emperor's Moral Responsibility - Chuka Nippo - 7 Nov 48.
Translator: M. Yasutake. (WM)

402

Full Translation:

The International Military Tribunal for the Far East, which has been judging the so-called war crimes behind the aggressive war, which transgressed human morality and violated the rules of war, has now reached its final stage.

According to a special dispatch from NEW YORK dated 5 November, the New York Times, in an editorial, expressed the following noteworthy opinion:

1. The SOVIET UNION is now publicly carrying out a policy which is being attacked in the Tokyo Trial.

2. The Emperor, who is the sovereign of the aggressor, JAPAN, is excluded from the trial. These two facts leave room for doubt from a moral standpoint.

Much has been said thusfar about whether the Emperor was responsible for the war. The Potsdam Declaration states, "The authority and influence of those who have deceived and misled the people of JAPAN into embarking on world conquest must be eliminated for all time."

Some people feel that this provision clearly points to the Emperor. There are arguments to the effect that ex-US Secretary of State BYRNES's interpretation is not right.

The Potsdam Declaration leaves the Japanese decide whether they shall keep the Emperor system or not, but it includes no provision clearing the Emperor of war guilt. In connection with the exclusion of the Emperor from the Tokyo trial, the NEW YORK TIMES states that this fact has nothing to do with the legality of the judgment itself or with the criminality or innocense of individual defendants. The paper concludes that the Emperor has been excluded from the trial merely for convenience sake, considering the formation of the trial and the conditions of JAPAN.

GANDHI once pronounced, "Facts are three-fourths of the law." We have no ideas of reprisal against the Japanese Emperor. We sympathize with the Emperor who was placed in an unfortunate position in the past; we hold no ill will against him. However, we think we can say that the Emperor as an individual should feel the "moral responsibility" which the NEW YORK TIMES questions. The judgment now being read in the trial rightly points out that the war waged by JAPAN was entirely aggressive in nature. The Emperor who while sovereign of the state, failed to prevent the Japanese from being "deceived and misled" (Potsdam Declaration) should naturally shoulder moral responsibility for it.

The Japanese Emperor, who had been a mere puppet, put off his puppet's coat with amazing courage and resolution and made JAPAN accept inconditional surrender in opposition to the military. He saved JAPAN from, in the words of the Potsdam Declaration, "prompt and utter destruction." Thus he brought the war to an end and made clear for the first time his existence as the sovereign of a state.

The Japanese must decide for themselves whether they shall follow the Emperor system or not. But if the Emperor, who was always a puppet in the past, can ever again be used by militarists as a tool for aggression, he will have to be eliminated from this world forever.

We have no intention of avenging ourselves on the Japanese Emperor, but we hope that he will at least feel the moral responsibility for the recent war. It is true that the Emperor was a mere puppet and was deceived by the Japanese military clique, but he, as a human being, cannot shut his eyes to the stern fact that JAPAN was an aggressive country.

JAPAN's aggressive war dyed the mountains and fields in CHINA with Chinese blood and deprived the Chinese masses their homes. The Japanese Emperor as a human being should feel the moral responsibility for this fact.

In the rescript issued on 1 Jan 46 the Emperor prayed for JAPAN's reconstruction and renounced his divinity. He declared himself a human being. As a human being and not as a puppet and with the courage which he showed at the time of JAPAN's surrender, the Emperor should feel keenly his moral responsibility for the war.

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ITEM 3 The Taxation of His Majesty, the Emperor - Magazine: Shinso (Monthly) - Oct 48. Translator: S. Matsumoto. (36)

Summary:

"Does the state collect taxes from the Emperor?", I asked ITO, Chief of the Direct Tax Section of the Kojimachi Revenue Office which handles the taxation of the Imperial Household.

"Since the Emperor is one of the people," he answered, "he is also subject to the same tax laws." To look first into the Emperor's metropolitan residents tax, I visited the Tokyo Metropolitan Office and found that the Metropolitan authorities did not collect a sen from the Imperial Household. So I asked an official in charge of direct taxes: "Isn't this against the Emperor's true wish, now that he has denied that he is divine and has become one of the people?"

His answer was: "If tax laws are strictly applied, he should also pay this tax. But the Mayor of TOKYO issued an instruction on 29 Sep 47 to the effect that it is not proper to impose taxes on the Emperor since he is the symbol of the state and the object of our adoration."

I then called on IIDA, Chief of the Accountant Section at the Imperial Household Office. He answered with a somewhat embarrassed look. "I did not know that. The Imperial Household Office has never petitioned to be exempted from taxes. We intend to pay when asked. But so far we have not received any such notice. As for the exemption from the metropolitan residency tax, it was an arbitrary decision of the Metropolitan authorities."

It is said that this decision was made voluntarily by mayor YASUI of TOKYO.

Today, the Imperial family receives an annual sum of 8,000,000 yen from the state treasury as "court expenses" which is free from taxes in accordance with the Imperial Household Economic Law. As I thought it strange that the Emperor, who says, "I, in Common with the people," should not pay any income tax, I once again visited the Kojimachi Revenue Office and asked head of that Office KAKIMUMA, about this matter.

He gave me a most baffling answer: "The Emperor's taxes have been paid." So I requested him to let me see the Emperors tax report. However, he declined saying, "We can't show the reports of the Imperial family."

"Why not?" I asked.

"Because the Emperor is the symbol of the state."

"What do you mean by symbol?"

"I don't know." He grew deathly pale, but be insisted that he could not show them to me.

At last, I said angrily, "Are you a vassal of the Emperor's?"
"No" he muttered in a faint voice.

Later, however, I obtained permission to see the Emperor's tax report from the Director of the Financial Affairs Bureau and got the following information:

State appropriations the Emperor has received as Imperial Household expenses are deposited in ten banks and one trust company in TOKYO. The total interest on these deposite amounts to 164,454 yen which is said to be the "actual private income" of the Imperial family.

The government taxed the Emperor on this "actual income" instead of his total income of 7,497,454 yen and collected no more than 60,000 yen. The income tax for an ordinary citizen would have amounted to as much as 6,233,050 yen, for incomes exceeding 1,000,000 yen are taxed. Thus HIROHITO would have been the leading taxpayer of JAPAN.

Together with the income tax report, the Imperial family submitted a tax report on donations received for 1947. This tax report, with which the common people are unfamiliar shows with whom HIROHITO is popular.

The following are some of the mayor donators as covered by this report:

Welfare Minister	225,000 yen
Home Minister	112,266 "
Japan Red Cross	5,000 "
Peers' School	100,000 "

Besides, the Emperor's family is said to be exempted from the non-war sufferer's tax because they are included among the war sufferers

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EMPEROR WILL RECEIVE PRESS AT MITSUKOSHI

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Sovereigns Will View Newspaper Week Exhibition

Foreign correspondents and Japanese newspapermen will be greeted by the Emperor at 9 o'clock this morning when he will visit the Newspaper Week exhibition being held at the Nihombashi Mitsukoshi Department Store, according to an announcement by the Japanese Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association.

The Emperor and Empress will arrive at the fourth floor of the exhibition and will converse with the press after seeing the SCAP exhibition.

The Emperor has declined to answer questions relating to political matters. He will leave the Department Store at 10 a.m., the announcement concluded.

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EMPEROR AND EMPRESS TO VISIT WELFARE BODY

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One-Hour Tour of Institute at Meguro Set Friday

By the United Press

The Emperor and Empress, accompanied by Welfare Minister Giichi Takeda, the grand chamberlain and 15 chamberlains, will pay a one-hour visit to the Meguro Christian Welfare Agency on Friday at 1 p.m., an agency official announced. He said it would be the Imperial couple's first visit to any welfare agency.

The organization won the Emperor's special award for welfare activities last year. Since January, 1946, it has provided for 247,000 destitute people and orphans and currently is housing nearly 1,000 old and destitute people and 57 orphans.

The institution is directed by Naosaku Takahashi and his eldest son, Kiyoshi, who currently is studying for advanced degrees at the University of Southern California on a Christian mission scholarship.

5 OCT 1948
NIPPON TIMES

THEIR MAJESTIES MEET THE PRESS

(Sun Photo)

The Emperor and Empress were surrounded by foreign correspondents, Japanese reporters and cameramen, under blazing floodlights when they visited the newspaper exhibition at the Mitsukoshi Department Store, Nihombashi, Tokyo, yesterday morning in connection with the observance of National Newspaper Week.

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Emperor and Empress See Newspaper Week Exhibit

By TAMOTSU MURAYAMA

The Emperor, wearing a gray suit, and the Empress, attired in a light green silk court dress, attended the National Newspaper Week Exhibition at the Mitsukoshi Department Store Tuesday morning.

The hall was humid, due undoubtedly to the approaching typhoon, and the glaring lights which were used by the newsreel cameramen made things worse but both the Emperor and Empress smiled and appeared to take considerable interest in the exhibits as well as the explanations which were offered by foreign correspondents. The hall was jammed making the scene reminiscent of an American press reception for celebrities with cameramen shouting and newsmen pushing their way forward so that the Emperor and Empress were frequently separated.

Frank L. White of the Associated Press, who was introduced to the Emperor, declared that on the occasion of Japanese National Newspaper Week he brought from his organization which is celebrating its centennial anniversary, greetings from its worldwide organization which serves almost every Japanese newspaper.

At the United Press display, the global operations of the U.P. were explained to the Emperor and Empress by Earnest Hoberecht, United Press manager for Japan. The Emperor and Empress also looked at displays arranged by International News Service, Agence France Presse and other agencies.

While the Emperor nodded as explanations were made by the correspondents, the Empress smiled gracefully.

One representative of an American radio company asked the Emperor if he listened to American broadcasts. The Emperor replied that he not only listened to America on the short wave but also turned in to the local Armed Forces broadcast. Asked about what programs he liked the best, the Emperor answered that he was not very choosy.

At this point bedlam nearly broke loose as newsreel cameramen shouted for people to get out of the way while flashbulbs burst interminably and pressmen milled around Their Majesties in the hope of pick-

(Continued on Page 2)

Their Majesties 402 See Exhibition

(Continued from Page 1)

ing up his words.

Through all this near rioting, Their Majesties retained their poise and continued to smile. Her Majesty with fine beads of perspiration on her nose, seemed distinctly amused at the commotion and failed to suppress a faint chuckle of mirth.

Among the foreign correspondents were Lindesay Parrott and Burton Crane of the New York Times; Denis Warner of Reuters; Ray Falk of NANA; Howard Handleman, Far Eastern Bureau Manager of INS, and Mrs. Burton Crane of Pacific Stars and Stripes.

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

402

READERS IN COUNCIL

Abdication Untimely Yet

To the Editor: 402

The discussions about the Emperor and its system have come to the front in some quarters now and then. The nature of the subject is a bit touchy one for our people, but in the age of free discussion, such an important subject should not be let alone, because of its nature, to the discussions of a limited quarter.

In determing a question so important as to fix the future of this State, it is absolutely necessary to ponder the subject not only in its essence, but also in regard to the effect which will extend for a long time to come. If the purport of the discussions on the subject is specifically in the democratization of Japan which will guarantee the peace of this country as well as of the world, we, Christians, cannot believe that the dethronement of the present Emperor and the abolishment of the system will in any way achieve the object.

On the contrary, such an adventurous procedure at this moment when the people here are not yet democratized in the same sense as in Christendom will endanger the future of the State in the realization of true democracy. Who will succeed to the present Emperor repentant for the past and determined to hold peace in future, once dethroned? If it be his young prince, it cannot be said that there would be less chance for so-called ultra-nationalists to come into power.

The democratization of the presence nor absence of the Emperor. They will be attained and guaranteed by the Japanese people only when they are awakened to the love of God and humanity as repeatedly taught by the Man of Nazareth.

As to the need of considering the subject matter in the light of the international viewpoints, which was called forth in your recent "Readers in Council", we have no reason to raise objection, but on our part, we rest quite assured that a well balanced and appropriate international view is being made to the public through the SCAP. Who else can express it more internationally than he?

S. SUZUKI.

Mitaka-cho.

International News Service

6 OCT 1948

NIPPON TIMES

Emperor, Empress Give 1st Interview To Press 402

—Their Majesties Attend Newspaper Week Display—

By Tadao Yasuike, Staff Writer

TOKYO, Oct. 5.—The first full-fledged press interview of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress was held today at 10 a.m. in the crowded corridor on the fourth floor of the Mitsukoshi department store where they visited the National Newspaper Week display.

So profound was Their Majesties' interest in the activities of the press that the Allied correspondents who hoped to question Their Majesties were, on the contrary, interrogated by them concerning the world news gathering activities of their respective organs.

To the very few questions that the newsmen were able to put to Their Majesties, they replied, "We know your paper and we read your reports."

Frank White of the Associated Press was the first to be introduced by Seitoku Ito, president of the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association, to the Emperor and Empress. He gave an outline of AP's world service.

Explains News Gathering

He was followed by Earnest Hoberecht, UP manager for Japan, who explained the global news gathering operations in front of the UP's display of various charts and diagrams and photographs.

Leon Proü of the Agence France Presse, Burton Crane and Lindesay Parrot of the New York Times, Denis Warner of Reuters, Mrs. Shelley S. Mydans of the Time-Life magazine, Allen Raymond of the New York Herald Tribune, and Karl H. Bachmeyer of Newsweek were also introduced by Mr. Ito to Their Majesties.

Mr. Raymond, during the interview, presented two or three copies of the New York Herald Tribune, and Mr. Bachmeyer, two copies of Newsweek (one home and one international edition).

During the interview, news cameras clicked and newsreel cameras ground out as Nippon Hoso Kyokai operators struggled to pick up bits of conversation to be rebroadcast on a national hookup.

Expresses Pleasure

Their Majesties expressed pleasure for the opportunity to come in contact with those on the newspaper forefront.

Upon Their Majesties' arrival at the display, Tetsuro Furugaki, executive director of the NHK, expressed his heartfelt gratitude, on behalf of the JNPE Association, for Their Majesties' visit to the exhibition.

Mr. Furugaki stated that when he was in Lyons in 1921, the Emperor, then Crown Prince, visited there. At that time, radio was first introduced in Europe.

Later, when radio broadcasting became popular in this country, the Emperor ascended the throne, he said.

The Emperor's first broadcast in 1945 brought a revolutionary change to this country, he stated.

At the Braille Mainichi display, Their Majesties touched the aluminum Braille plate.

Their Majesties, concluding their one-hour and a half visit, expressed wishes for the further progress of the Japanese press.

MAINICHI 6 OCT 1948

Their Majesties To Visit Christian Welfare Agency

United Press 402

TOKYO, Oct. 5.—Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, accompanied by Welfare Minister Giichi Takeda, the Grand Chamberlain and 15 chamberlains, will pay a one-hour visit to the Meguro Christian Welfare Agency next Friday at 1 p.m., an agency official announced.

He said it would be the Imperial couple's first visit to any welfare agency.

The organization won the Emperor's special award for welfare activities last year. Since January, 1946, it has provided for 247,000 destitutes and orphans and currently is housing nearly 1,000 old and destitute people and 57 orphans.

The institution is directed by Naosaku Takahashi and his eldest son, Kiyoshi, who currently is studying for advanced degrees at the University of Southern California on a Christian mission scholarship.

MAINICHI 6 OCT 1948

State Ministers Invited To Imperial Tea Party

Kyodo 402

TOKYO, Oct. 4.—H.M. the Emperor invited six Cabinet Ministers to a tea party today at 3 p.m. in acknowledgment of their services for the administration of State affairs.

The State Ministers invited included Chief Cabinet Secretary Gizo Tomabechi, Attorney-General Yoshio Suzuki, Labor Minister Kanju Kato, Transportation Minister Seiichi Okada and Finance Minister Tokutaro Kitamura and Construction Minister Sadayoshi Hitotsumatsu.

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 Hirohito as Unfavorably Seen by a Eugenist (Sonoda Saburo)(Non de plume)
Magazine: Shinso (Monthly) - Oct 48. Translator: K. Hirayama. (SS)

402

Summary:

(The writer is Doctor of Medicine, eugenist and psychiatrist)

A certain German once said, "The Japanese people suffer grand delusions of an unbroken line of Emperors. But, we ask you, isn't everyone born of an unbroken line? Only those family lines which have produced a large number of people who have contributed to the progress of society are superior and of value."

Just how this theory applies to the Emperor of JAPAN is a matter for history to decide. Since the recent great defeat was due to the Japanese people's ignorance of JAPAN, the time has come when the Emperor as the symbol of JAPAN must be reexamined from a viewpoint other than as a living god.

As a mortal, it is natural that the Emperor should have the physical and mental characteristics of his race. His features are mongoloid, but whether he is of the southern or northern mongoloid strain is open to question. Since the typical southern strain in early JAPAN came from the first Emperor, JIMMU, this appears to be the group to which the Emperor belongs.

Marriage relationships in the genealogical tree of the Emperor are not always clear, but judging from social conditions in those days, it can easily be imagined that consanguineous marriages were quite the rage, certainly more so than in the case of the people in general. Such marriages are not necessarily harmful, eugenically speaking. As in the case of the English people, consanguineous marriages are necessary, to a certain extent, to bring out the characteristics of a race. But there is a theory that such marriages result in mental and physical deterioration of the offspring.

As many Emperors died young the average age becoming shorter in the last ten generations, it is undeniable that a weak constitution runs in the blood of the Inperial Family. The Emperor MEIJI begat 15 princes and princesses, but all except Emperor TAISHO and four others died young, a mortality rate of 66 percent. Moreover, Emperor TAISHO and his second son, prince CHICHIBU, suffered from tuberculosis. From the standpoint of eugenics, it must be said that they were predisposed to this disease. From this standpoint, the Imperial Family is not worthy of being pointed to with pride, even as the symbol of a tubercular JAPAN.

The conduct of most Emperors is veiled in mystery, but one need only read the "History of the Emperors" by AKIZUKI Shunichiro to realize that many of them were not persons who could justly be deified as the source of national morality. TAISHO is not the only Emperor who was a psychopathic case, particularly if abnormality in character or sexual desire are considered to be a form of psychosis. In fact, it is difficult to discover a point worthy of praise in the Imperial family tree from the standpoint of eugenies.

As for the present Emperor, HIROHITO, his great-grandmother was NAKAYAMA Keiko. She was not the Empress but the second daughter of Marquis NAKAYAMA Tadayoshi who was descended from the FUJIWARAs. Hirohito's grandmother was YANAGIWARA Aiko. She was also not the Empress but the daughter of YANAGIWARA Mitsuyoshi, and also a FUJIWARA. She had a daughter Akiko, who was known as the CLEOPATRA of TSUKUSHI, because of her passionate sexual nature.

Hirohito's mother is Setsuko, consort of the Emperor TAISHO. She is the daughter of KUJO Michitaka, a descendant of the noblest family among the FUJIWARAs. She can also be said to have a tendency toward degenerative insanity in the light of the fact that she is related to Baron KUJO Yoshimune who broke the heart of his wife, the poetess TAKEKO.

There is a strong probability that HIROHITO's father, Emperor TAISHO was an alcoholic, and from reports which have leaked out possibly a syphilitic.

I hesitate, however, to thoroughly analyze the Emperor from a eugenical point of view, because the Japanese people so far take a distorted view. This problem is not only important for the eugenists, but also for all democratic Japanese people.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 2 Problems of the Emperor's Responsibility - Mainichi - 14 Nov 48. Translator: H. Furukawa. (DD)

408

Full Translation:

Since the authority of the Emperor ended the war, it must have been necessary to start the war. According to a UP report, Tribunal President Sir William WEBB declared that if the Emperor acted on advice it was because he saw fit to do so and that does not limit his responsibility. His immunity was decided upon in the best interests of all Allied Powers.

This remark on the Emperor's responsibility presents a serious problem which the Japanese must consider for their future. The Nuremberg trial established the principle that the head of state should not be excused from responsibility for any violation of the international law by his state. The immunity of the Emperor, however, was taken into consideration even in the sentences handed down to the Japanese war criminals.

At the Nuremberg trial, all the accused tried to put their crime on HITLER. At the Tokyo trial, no defendant attempted to put his crimes on the Emperor. The Emperor's immunity, seems to have been decided upon, not on the testimony of the accused, but in consideration of the national feeling.

Under the new Constitution, the Emperor has no responsibility for matters related to government, but still has responsibility for his acts in matters of state. The distinction between matters related to government and acts in matters of state, however, is not necessarily clear, and the position of the Emperor and his family will become more secure, if the right to perform acts in matters of state is delegated to the Cabinet.

The dissolution of the Diet, which is under discussion in political circles, requires the advice and consent of the Cabinet. It can be interpreted as one of the ceremonial functions to be performed by the Emperor, or as an administrative matter under the jurisdiction of the Government. At any rate, the problems on the Emperor's right to perform acts in matters of state must be carefully studied.

The opposition parties are apparently planning to avoid a Diet dissolution by making this problem a Constitutional issue.

ITEM 23 IMTFE and the Question of the Emperor - Kokusai Times - 17 Nov 48. Translator: S. Higashi. (UG)

402

Summary:

The International Military Tribunal for the Far East has come to a close, but one question still remains unsolved; that is, the question of the Emperor and the part he played in the JAPAN's wars of aggression during the past 20 years.

Even as Tribunal President Webb, the New York Times and the French delegate to the bench pointed out, it is indeed regrettable that the Emperor was not tried. The Emperor cannot hope to eradicate his responsibility for the war with the fact that he decided to end the war by surrendering. His responsibility for declaring war is far too great to be dismissed by such an expedient.

Dissatisfaction with the Emperor seems deeply rooted among the Allied Powers and among the peoples of the world. We remember that conjectures were current some time ago with reference to the possible abdication of the Emperor, that some move to clarify his position would be made in connection with the war crimes trials.

What is the Emperor thinking about today? It is not only the Japanese people who are expecting the Emperor to make some decision from a moral point of view, to either vindicate himself or to make an expression of an opinion. The NEW YORK TIMES once wrote that the Emperor System was one of the remaining vestiges of the past century. But today, the Emperor and the Emperor System exist in the reality of modern JAPAN and has its roots deeply thrust into the conservative and traditional sentiments of the Japanese people.

The Emperor's return to the status of a human being cannot be accomplished through the simple media of issuing a rescript or by making a personal tour of the country. It is most important that he reveals through some form or act the fact that authority rests with the people.

On this occasion of the conclusion of the IMTFE we have expressed our undisguised opinion regarding the Emperor. If we should take advantage of the mindness of the Allied Powers and neglect to probe into the moral responsibility of the Emperor, we would indeed be committing a grave folly.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 A Call for Abdication of the Emperor - Magazine: Shinso (Monthly) - Oct 48. Translator: K. Osawa. (SS)

402

Full Translation:

You declared war upon CHINA, the UNITED STATES and GREAT BRITAIN. By your order, millions of soldiers went to the front. A red slip of paper, and they went out to their deaths. Then their unidentified ashes returned in urns on which were inscribed the words "Departed Spirit of a Hero--urns which contained the earth or sand from some unknown place.

The Imperial Forces fought battle after battle and suffered successive defeats, and yet slogans such as "the Decisive Battle of the Homeland", "the Fight of the Nation to the Death" or "Imperishable Lord of the Gods" were flaunted before us! We were exhorted to exert greater effort! As a result, millions lost their dear ones or were left homeless. And yet, you Emperor HIROHITO, signer of the war declaration, remain unconcerned and neither acknowledge your error nor beg forgiveness. With an air of nonchalance, you go on tours with your bland reply, "Ah so."

Do you not feel repentent before the soul of the departed heroes? Do you not consider yourself responsible for the fact that JAPAN has been reduced to a status below that of a fourth-rate power? As long as you retain such an attitude, the souls of millions of departed heroes cannot rest in peace as they should. Instead, they wander lost on this temporal world and lurk behind every leaf and blade of grass.

Our Emperor, if you have a conscience, acknowledge your faults, repent and beg forgiveness of the people in whom the sovereignty of JAPAN resides. And in order to show your sincerity in apologizing, abdicate to atone for your crime. That is the only recourse for a mortal Emperor to take.

ITEM 2 Emperor Addresses Opening Session of Third Diet - Tokyo Shimbun - 9 Nov 48. Translator: K. Higashikawa. (JJY)

Summary:

402

Honored with the attendance of the Emperor, the opening ceremony of the third special Diet session was held at 1100 hours yesterday in the House of Councillors.

The House assembled in their respective chambers at 1000 hours. The Emperor arrived at the Diet building at 1045 hours and was welcomed by Lower House Speaker MATSUOKA, Upper House President MATSUDAIRA, the Vice-Speaker, the Vice-President, members of both Houses, Premier YOSHIDA, Cabinet Ministers, Acting Director-general TSUKAZAKI of the Supreme Court of Justice, and Auditing Board Director-general SATO. After a short rest the Emperor entered the plenary session chamber where the opening ceremony was held.

Following the opening address delivered by Lower House Speaker MATSUOKA the Emperor read his message to the Diet. Led by Lower House Speaker MATSUOKA the Emperor then left the Diet building. The opening ceremony lasted 10 minutes.

The Imperial rescript follows:

"It gives me great pleasure to meet you representatives of the entire people in this hall on the occasion of the opening of the third special Diet session. It is very gratifying to note that, thanks to the goodwill and aid of the Allied Powers, as well as to the constant efforts of the people in defiance of great hardships, signs of recovery are at last in sight in this country and that we can now hope for the approach of stability, both materially and spiritually in the daily life of the people.

"I, however, think it will be necessary for us to continue to exert untiring efforts in the future in order that our country may attain the attributes worthy of a cultural nation, regain our membership in international society, and win confidence of the entire world.

"On this particular occasion, I can but hope earnestly that the Diet will discharge its duties most satisfactorily as the highest organ of state power and that the people will continue to work for the rebuilding of the nation into a peace-loving state by mutual encouragement and exhortation."

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 9 Emperor System Must Be Abolished - Geijutsu - Oct 48. Translator: K. Osawa. (RL)

407

Summary:

The value of a beautiful voice has become important in conveying one's personality since the advent of the radio. The musician appreciates beautiful music in the true sense when he appreciates it spiritually as well as intellectually. This is also true in every day conversation, where one's voice reflects his intellectual activities.

In connection with this, the most interesting fact to me was the Emperor's voice, which, thanks to the surrender, we were able to hear over the radio for the first time. Unlike the coarse voice of the average Japanese, the Emperor is soft and gentle. It is obvious that he is well nourished.

In his rescript on 15 August, the Emperor's voice was lacking in forcefulness. It almost sounded as if he were not human, but this is not strange since, until that day, he was a god placed high on a pedestal. It lent a mysterious touch to the rescript, which deeply moved many people and even caused some to misinterpret the message, which was vague in stating that the war was lost. Some misinterpreted the message as a call for greater resistance.

When the Emperor toured the country, his frequent expression "Ah, so," became such a joke among the people that one found it difficult to use that term. When used by the Emperor, this common phrase became ludicrous because the people, suffering from postwar hardships, instinctively felt in his automatic reply, "Ah, so" that his living conditions were quite different from theirs.

It indicated that a wide gap exists between the human Emperor, who cannot comprehend the people's sufferings, and the masses, who lost loved ones in the war. They looked forward with great anticipation to what the Emperor, now a mortal being, would say, but to their disappointment he always adhered to the same refrain, "Ah so!" Therefore, when he encouraged the people to greater efforts, it fell flat on their ears.

Just as the Emperor's life is far removed from that of the people, Japanese politics, centered on the Emperor, is isolated from the Japanese masses. Their personal feelings toward the Emperor as on individual is of little consequence.

It is not right to leave the job of abolishing the Tenno system to the Communist Party. The writer may be accused of being a Red, but this problem is related to the livelihood of the Japanese people. JAPAN's democratization cannot be realized unless this problem is seriously studied.

TOMABECHI, former chief cabinet secretary, made the surprising announcement that JAPAN has been democratized with the enforcement of the new Constitution. The fact that such a prominent statesman thinks in such a way shows that unless we exert our utmost efforts, we shall again be confronted with the danger of Fascism.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 Our Parasitic Imperial Family (NAGAI Michio) - Magazine: Jimmin Hyoron (Monthly) - Oct 48. Translator: M.I. Suzuki. (TY)

402

Summary:

The proportionate size of the Imperial Household expenses to the national budget has been reduced to 0.014 percent for 1948, from the pre-war figure of 0.08 percent.

The inviolable Imperial Family budget appears to have undergone a bourgeoisie democratic reform, but when we consider the dubious transference of Imperial Household property to state ownership and the difficulty in checking on an Imperial Household economy, which manipulates and misappropriates vast property under the guise of the national budget, we cannot acknowledge the democratization of the Imperial Household budget.

It is absurd that the Imperial Household Office should manage affairs concerning Imperial Household holdings, which have been transferred to state ownership. While pretending to atone for war responsibilities and the exploitation of the masses since the Meiji era in order to enrich the Imperial Family, the fact that the Imperial Household Office is entrusted with the management nullifies the significance of this transference of property, and ensures the possibility of such property continuing to remain the private proerty of the Imperial family.

Despite considerable reduction in the Imperial Household budget, when the critical living conditions of the people are considered, the life of the Imperial family is still most parasitic, particularly when the maintenance of Imperial property, which is not listed in the national budget, is taken into account.

When all things are considered, the Imperial Household expenditures for the current fiscal year totals 58,785,000 yen, an increase of 67 percent over the 39,137,000 yen for last year. Actual living expenses for the Imperial family amount to more than 1,666,000 yen, or an average of about 210,000 yen for each of its eight members.

It is painful to think that this fund is raised in the form of taxes extracted from the sub-subsistence wages of the people. Some may hold that it is the people's duty to guarantee the Emperor, as the sovereign of the nation, a living standard not beneath his dignity. To this, we assert that what the working class desires is a republic where such expensive, parasitic ornaments as an Emperor are not needed. The expenses for each of the Emperor's four children amounts to 400,000 yen annually, a striking contrast to that of the working man's children, who not only lack food but also suffer hardships arising from the new 6-3 eductional system.

The addition of court expenses further accentuates the parasitic nature of the Imperial family. Besides the funds appropriated in the national budget under the law and the Constitution, the Imperial Household realizes profits from valuable Imperial property. Imperial Household property was frozen by the Allied Forces immediately after the end of the war, and last year 90 percent of this was turned over to the national treasury as property taxes. The remainder, valued at 372,455,634 yen, remained in the hands of the Imperial Household as national property, and the profit derived from this is no less than 10,000,000 yen.

The food bill in the Imperial Household budget amounts to 2,000,000 yen besides the beef, pork, vegetables, etc., brought in from Imperial farms and estates.

Taxation paid by the Imperial Family is very small, for appropriations from the national treasury are tax free.

In conclusion, the amount of money received by members of the royal family who relinquished their rank was more than enough to cover their property taxes last year.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 5 The Undeserved Praise for Emperor Meiji (Letter to the Editor) - Akahata - 3 Nov 48. Translator: Seki. (SS)

402

Summary:

Two years have passed since the new Constitution was promulgated. During that time the Democratic Liberal Party, the Democratic Party, the Socialist Party, the People's Cooperative Party and their Governments have kept trampling down the Constitution. To fix the day of promulgation as 3 November, the birthday of Emperor MEIJI, clearly represents a reactionary tendency.

Emperor MEIJI was the very person who suppressed democratic revolution in JAPAN. He became Emperor when he was fifteen years of age and was made the supreme dictator of JAPAN at the time of the Restoration. He began governing the country around 1879. At that time a revolution for liberty and civil rights was being fought in the country, but he made every endeavor to check it.

He and his Government drew up a makeshift constitution favoring the upper class of the Liberal Party, the landlords, the bourgeoisie, and the former samurai clan. Even the temporary Constitution was soon trampled down by him. Because the second session of the Diet in 1891 opposed the military budget, he ordered its dissolution and immediately summoned Premier MATSUKATA, telling him sternly that at the general election the same members should not be returned and "loyal representatives" should be elected.

The Government, encouraged by the Emperor's command, staged a wholesale and vigorous interference in the general election. Gangsters headed by the police invaded the rallies of anti-government candidates. The police declared that anti-government demonstrators would be treated as being anti-Emperor and would be thrown into prison.

The buying of votes was freely practiced. The expenses for hiring gangsters were taken out of the fund for constructing a palace for the crown prince.

The new Constitution was promulgated on the birthday of such a man. At the promulgation ceremony of the new Constitution Premier YOSHIDA cried out, "banzai" for the Emperor, not for the Constitution. This very man YOSHIDA now has again assumed the post of premier and is endeavoring the malrevision of the public service law and is planning to interfere in the coming general election in order to return "loyal representatives" to the House.

In 1891 even the petit bourgeois fought through the interference of the Emperor and his Government. Now in 1948 what should we expect from the working classes of the people at the coming general election? (By INOUE Kiyoshi, historian.)

ITEM 7 Criticism of the Emperor (Sub-Editorial) - Akahata - 5 Nov 48. Translator: S. Yokoyama. (TY)

402

Full Translation:

The third of November being the first Culture Day, Emperor HIROHITO considered it necessary to demonstrate on this occasion that he is well cultured and has a deep interest in culture. Some newspapers published his recent poems which reveal a lack of talent in the literary field.

His ancestors were not poor poets. For example, Emperor TENJI was a fairly good one as one can see in the poetry contained in the Manyo-Shu (TN: the oldest anthology of JAPAN). Since Emperor TENJI, as a big manor lord, established the Emperor System in JAPAN, by defeating all other lords, he must have been an energetic person. His poems are good only because of his vigor.

However, the case of the present Emperor offers no comparison. In the course of the international military tribunal trials, it has been revealed that the role the present Emperor played during the war was a heinous crime against humanity in general. His poor poems indicate sufficiently that the culture of the governing class has irretrievably deteriorated. It is said that literary works reflect the character of the author. If this is true, so is the saying that "Faith makes one worship even the sardine's head."

KUBOTA Mantaro stated the other day that he was deeply impressed by the fact that the Emperor conferred with some of the leading authors such as SHIGA Naoya and TANIZAKI Junichiro. What does this fact signify? The mystification of the Emperor has its origin in the servile ideology of the subdued people. The so-called "lords of literature" must be cautious lest they should be labelled as veterans of slavish culture.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 9 The Problem of Emperor's Abdication - Provincial Paper: Chiba Shimbun (Chiba) - 16 Nov 48. Translator: W. Hayashi. (MJF)

407

Summary:

The question of the Emperor's war responsibility has been discussed both at home and abroad since the beginning of the Tokyo War Crimes Trial, but no conclusion has been reached to date. With the end of the Tokyo Trial, the problem will undoubtedly flare up again. From previous arguments we can predict that the question will be limited to the Emperor's abdication. Needless to say, we must give attention to foreign views. However, the Japanese people should determine their own attitude regarding the problem since it will undoubtedly contribute to the nation's reconstruction.

We are apt to succumb to sentimentalism regarding the issue. However, it is too important to be solved by sentiment alone. It is reported that President NAMBARA of Tokyo University and many other scholars seem to be in favor of the Emperor's abdication, while ex-State Minister KANAMORI and others are opposed. We believe that fundamental analysis of the problem of the Emperor's responsibility is more proper than limitation of the question to his abdication alone.

The Emperor's responsibility must be divided into legal and moral phases. It is apparent that the Emperor was not legally responsible because the war was waged under the old Constitution under which he was sacred and inviolable. However, we cannot conclude that he likewise has no moral responsibility. Recall the fact that tens of thousands of people dedicated their lives to the Emperor, not to the militarists. Inasmuch as the war was waged by the militarists against his will, the Emperor must assume moral responsibility.

From his postwar activities we can easily conjecture that the Emperor is deeply aware of this moral responsibility. Some argue that we should not question the Emperor's responsibility because he is the center of the people's adoration. We cannot side with such dogmatic arguments. We should admit the Emperor's moral responsibility and consider what course he should follow hereafter in compensation for this responsibility.

The Emperor's moral responsibility is often discussed in connection with his abdication. These arguments are based upon the premise that to retain the Throne is better than to lose it. However, we do not think that abdication is the only way for absolving the Emperor from responsibility, nor will his responsibility disappear by abdication. We assume that the Emperor has resolved to remain on the Throne if he can serve the people and compensate for his responsibility by doing so, despite the fact that it is mentally and physically more painful to him than abdication. If so, the people have no grounds for demanding his abdication. Inasmuch as we are aware of the Emperor's conscientious character, the problem of his responsibility should be solved by his own will.

We must earnestly study under what political structure (including the Emperor System) we can save the war widows, orphans, and all war sufferers by uniting the efforts of the Emperor and the people.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 26 War Responsibility of Emperor - Tokyo Mimpo - 23 Nov 48.
Translator: S. Katagiri. (WM)

p 2

Full Translation:

We already discussed the problem of the Emperor's responsibility for the war in the 17 November editorial of this paper. As reported in our 21 November issue, Chief Prosecutor KEENAN, who will return to the UNITED STATES shortly, told the United Press: "The Emperor was not tried as a war criminal suspect along with TOJO and other suspects because the victor nations has agreed to grant him immunity for political reasons."

This is why we want to discuss the Emperor problem again. President WEBB of the Tokyo Military Tribunal issued a separate opinion just after the tribunal verdict was delivered on TOJO and the other war criminals. He said in his separate opinion that, if the Emperor had not wanted war, he could have avoided it. Judging from this statement, he holds the Emperor responsible for the war. Why, then, did the tribunal not try the Emperor as a war criminal suspect? He was not tried simply because he was not indicted. As he was not tried by the tribunal, it is natural that he was exempt from the charge of being a war criminal at the time of the verdict.

It follows, then, that he was not indicted and that he was granted immunity chiefly because the decision regarding the Emperor was made in the best interests of the Allied powers. (Tribunal President WEBB).

Chief Prosecutor KEENAN stated: "The decision to grant the Emperor immunity was made by the Allied powers from a political point of view; the decision was political, and was not for the prosecution to decide." We have learned from the statements of the Tribunal President and the Chief Prosector the basic reason why the Emperor was not tried. The tribunal did not insist that the Emperor was entirely innocent of war guilt, but refrained from trying him for political reasons. We should impress this fact on our minds, because some groups are likely to take advantage of the non-prosecution of the Emperor to prevent the democratization of JAPAN, though the Chief Prosecutor mentioned the lack of evidence as another reason for the non-prosecution of the Emperor. We fear this.

The Allied powers granted the Emperor immunity for political reasons. However, the fact that both the Tribunal President and the Chief Prosecutor expressed their views on the Emperor problem after the judgment proves the importance of this problem. In this way, the Allied powers are given careful consideration to this problem in connection with the problem of democratizing JAPAN. We believe the Japanese people, who have suffered despotic Imperial government for a long time, should independently and earnestly think over the Emperor's responsibility for the war and the Emperor System itself.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 5 Opinions on Emperor's Abdication Polled - Tokyo Times - 14 Nov 48.
Translator: M. Hirasawa.

407

Summary:

The question of the Emperor's abdication is rising again in certain quarters with the termination of the Tokyo war crimes trial. A nationwide survey of opinions was conducted recently on this issue by the Japan Public Opinion Survey Institute among 927 prominent persons. As only men in leading positions were questioned, the results do not represent general public opinion. Persons questioned were divided into four groups, and replies are tabulated as follows:

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

SOCIAL

ITEM 5 (Continued)

Groups	For	Against	Undecided	Percentage of replies
Political, juridical, social	50.9%	42.9%	6.2%	36.2%
Educational, religious, philosophical	49.0	44.4	6.6	41.2
Leading Diet Members	13.8	83.1	3.1	16.7
Leaders in economic world	14.6	80.5	4.9	22.7
Average	41.1	53.0	5.9	30.9

It is noteworthy that in the general replies those favoring abdication exceeded by a small margin those opposing it in the scholars' and critics' group. The reasons which covered a wide range were classified, and those opposing abdication were as follows:

1. The Emperor is not responsible for the war because: according to the old constitution, he did not occupy a responsible position; with regard to affairs of the State politically, he alone could not have changed the situation; Catholic nations do not demand his abdication; and, even if responsible, his abdication would not morally absolve him.

2. Under the new Constitution, it is not necessary for the Emperor to shoulder the responsibility because: he is a symbol, and as such his assumption of responsibility is meangingless; to recognize the hereditary emperor system and then to recognize abdication is meaningless; the Emperor is loved by the people; to back the abdication would be to deny the emperor system; and, there are no regulations in the new constitution governing abdication and succession.

3. Under the theory of JAPAN's national policy, the Emperor should not abdicate because he is the core of national unity; and because of traditional national sentiment.

4. The people are not demanding abdication at present because: most of them are satisfied with the present setup and they do not consider the Emperor responsible for the war.

5. Abdication is not desirable for reasons of national peace and order because: of national stability and unity; of necessity to avoid social and political unrest; it would create ideological and public agitation; to demand abdication means questioning the Emperor's responsibility for the war but overlooking his meritorious action at its close; it would give Communists the opportunity to assert themselves; and former totalitarians will rise again.

6. Abdication would mean greater loss than gain to the nation because: the present Emperor is an excellent figure for a symbol because of his personality and insight; the Emperor has great power in the construction of a democratic nation, and politically speaking, the liabilities would outweigh benefits derived from it.

7. Abdication should be decided by popular vote.

8. Sufficient time has not lapsed since enforcement of the new Constitution to discuss such a vital issue.

9. All the Japanese people are responsible for the war, and not the Emperor alone.

10. Whether or not he abdicates is up to the Emperor himself.

11. As a defeated nation, JAPAN has no right to decide this issue without approval of the Allied Powers.

12. The Emperor's present position was attained as a result of the war; it is desirable that his past deeds be forgotten and his positive endeavors be exerted toward construction of a new JAPAN.

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ITEM 5 (Continued)

In Favor of Abdication

Reasons given by those favoring abdication were:

1. The Emperor should assume responsibility for the war and abdicate because: regardless of his actual power, he was the highest responsible person in the Pacific war; the war was declared in his name, and the Imperial rescript was issued by him; his responsibility for the war casualties and tragedies is serious; from viewpoints of the people's reason and sentiment, the retention of the Emperor in his position is not understandable; the Emperor should feel his responsibility as an individual; he has political responsibility for the actual results; he should abdicate in line with other purgees from public offices.

2. The Emperor should abdicate for the actual benefit it will have on the construction of a new JAPAN, because: it will make the people reflect anew, and spur them in their endeavors; it will increase international trust in JAPAN; and, it will hasten the peace conference, and dissolve international uncertainty.

3. Abdication will serve as a great opportunity for establishment of democracy because: it will deal a blow to the ruling class and accelerate democratization, and it will remove the core of the feudalistic reactionary group which continues to exist.

4. Abdication will firmly establish the people's morals and enhance ethics anew.

5. From the viewpoint of opposition to the emperor system abdication is desirable as a forerunner to its abolition.

6. From the viewpoint of maintenance of the system, abdication may serve to purify it.

7. As an individual, his abdication may contribute to his personal happiness by enabling him to have peace of mind and bringing him closer to the people.

It must be noted that aside from one exception these opinions concerned abdication only, and not necessarily abolition of the emperor system. Also, among the "undecided" replies were many who could not express their views, because they are public office purgees.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

402

Their Majesties to Make Inspection Tours Today Of Five Welfare Bodies

402

The Emperor and Empress will spend the whole day today in visiting five social welfare institutions in the city. Their Majesties will visit the Tokyo School for the Blind and the Tokyo School for the Deaf and Dumb, both located at Shinagawa; the Central Social Welfare Hall, at Harajuku; the Meguro Christian Social Welfare Agency at Kami-Meguro and Tokyo Orphanage. From 1 to 2 p.m., Their Majesties will inspect Japan's first Boys' Town at the Meguro Christian Social Welfare Agency which today accommodates 33 orphans. Japan's Boys' Town is patterned after the late Father Edward J. Flanagan's Boys' Town in Nebraska. Last year Their Majesties made a monetary donation to the Meguro Welfare Agency, established in January 1946. The agency has given food, shelter and clothing to over 31,000 destitute people.

8 OCT 1948
NIPPON TIMES

Imperial Couple Cheer Needy, Handicapped During Tours

402 402

Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress paid visits yesterday to five public and private welfare institutions in Tokyo.

At 9 a.m. the Imperial couple each wearing a red feather on their breasts signifying donations to the current Community Chest Drive, visited the Tokyo School for the Blind in Zoshigaya, Bunkyo Ward, reported Kyodo.

Their Majesties encouraged the 200 blind pupils in their lessons, inspected the unfortunates learning sewing and the art of massage and watched a baseball game played by the blind students. The Empress listened to music composed by one of the blind students and played by the student body of the institute.

At 10:30 a.m. they inspected the Tokyo School for the Deaf and Dumb at Minami Shinagawa and showed great interest in the sign language lessons, the precision tests carried out in the sound room to check the auditory powers of the afflicted, mute dances of the students and handicrafts in bamboo.

At 11:30 a.m. they visited the Central Social Welfare Hall, (formerly the Navy Hall) at Harajuku. Here Their Majesties heard reports on public health and welfare activities.

In the afternoon, Their Majesties visited the Meguro Christian Social Welfare Agency in Kami-Meguro which takes care of roughly 1,000 war destitutes, repatriates, bereaved families of soldiers and social outcasts gathered in from the slum districts of Ueno and spoke words of comfort and encouragement to them.

Finally, the Imperial couple visited the Tokyo Ikuseien, an orphanage, where 60 children orphaned as a result of the war and ranging from six to 15 years of age are accommodated. Their Majesties viewed the students at work and at play, inspecting classrooms, the clinic and the library. The Empress spoke to the children.

The Imperial couple returned to the Palace at 3 p.m.

NIPPON TIMES 9 OCT 1948

Emperor, Empress Inspect Schools For 'Handicapped'

402

TOKYO, Oct. 8.—Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress today inspected the Tokyo school for blind, Tokyo Metropolitan school for the deaf and dumb, Central Welfare Institute at Harajuku, Meguro Welfare dormitory and Tokyo Ikuseikan.

MAINICHI 9 OCT 1948

His Majesty To Invite Social Welfare Workers

402

TOKYO, Oct. 26.—His Majesty the Emperor will invite to luncheon October 27 at noon 13 social welfare workers who contributed toward the furtherance of the social welfare work.

27 OCT 1948
MAINICHI

Cabinet Ministers Guests Of Emperor

402

TOKYO, Nov. 5.—His Majesty the Emperor invited all Cabinet Ministers with the exception of Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida to a luncheon today at noon in order to encourage them in the execution of the State administration.

MAINICHI 6 NOV 1948

Imperial Trophies Granted For 3rd Athletic Meet

402

TOKYO, Oct. 24.—To help promote the physical culture in Japan, Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress have granted their respective trophies bearing the Imperial crest for the Third Annual People's Athletic Meet scheduled to open on October 29 at Fukuoka.

President Azuma and Director-General Kiyose of the Japan Amateur Athletic Association presented themselves at the Imperial Household Office on October 22 at 10 a.m. and received certificates for the two Imperial Trophies.

The Emperor's Trophy is expected to be granted to the winning team in the inter-prefectural competition and the Empress' Trophy to the victorious team in the women's division.

MAINICHI 25 OCT 1948

Yoshida Visits Emperor

402

TOKYO, Oct. 29.—Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida visited H.M. the Emperor at the Imperial Palace today at 11.30 a.m.

30 OCT 1948
MAINICHI

His Majesty Invites Ex-Ministers To Luncheon

402

TOKYO, Nov. 4.—His Majesty the Emperor invited former Cabinet Ministers including former Prime Minister Hitoshi Ashida to a luncheon today at noon in appreciation of their services during their tenure of office.

MAINICHI 5 NOV 1948

President System Under Tenno Advocated

402

TOKYO, Nov. 17.—A "Toryo" (president) system under the Tenno system is advocated in a pamphlet issued in English and Japanese by Naosaburo Tadano, Diet member.

According to this system, the Prime Minister would be publicly elected by the people instead of by the Diet as now stipulated in Article 67 of the Constitution.

Tadano also advocates grouping together two or three prefectures into one major administrative district for self-sufficiency, thus dividing the whole country into some 20 districts, which would be called "states."

Then, by permitting self-government to each state, it is proposed to recognize free economy to it, on one hand, and on the other, carry out controlled economy between states.

"Under such a situation," says the pamphlet, "all non-productive big cities, which have made deformed development, will gradually be changed into productive local cities to form bases for healthy economic reconstruction, by dint of the direct relationship that is established between production and consumption and the exclusion of intermediate exploitation from inter-state economic connections."

MAINICHI 18 NOV 1948

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

402

MEETS EMPEROR

(Kyodo Photo)

Dr. James I. Fieser seen leaving the Imperial Palace after being received in audience by His Majesty yesterday.

402

HIS MAJESTY DISCUSSES CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Thanks Fieser for Aid Given in 1923 Earthquake Here

Dr. James L. Fieser, Executive Director of the North American Committee for a Christian University in Japan, was received in audience by the Emperor at 10:30 a.m. yesterday.

The Emperor is reported to have expressed his gratitude to Dr. Fieser for directing the American Red Cross expenditure of $11,600,000 for relief in the earthquake of 1923 in Japan when he was vice-president of the American Red Cross.

Dr. Fieser is reported to have stated that he intends to make the proposed International Christian University at Mitaka, Tokyo, one of the best universities in the world. His Majesty declared that the university would become the vanguard for the moral reconstruction of Japan and hoped for its early realization. The Emperor also asked Dr. Fieser to send the best professors to teach at the university when it is established.

18 NOV 1948
NIPPON TIMES

HIS MAJESTY THANKS NATION'S COAL MINERS

402

Exhorts Visitors to Redouble Efforts in Upping Output

The Emperor spoke to more than 300 coal miners from various parts of the country yesterday morning and exhorted them to make redoubled efforts to increase the production of coal.

The miners who had come to Tokyo to receive honors from the Commerce-Industry Ministry for the role played by them in increasing the output of coal had assembled in the rain before the Imperial Household Board building in the Imperial Palace to be shown over the palace grounds, when the Emperor appeared and spoke to them.

His Majesty told the miners that he appreciated their efforts toward the increase of coal, for which he said he was grateful. The miners later visited the ruins of war-devastated Palace buildings.

NIPPON TIMES 20 NOV 1948

Emperor Decides To Retain Throne?

402

TOKYO, Nov. 20.—His Majesty the Emperor, who has been deeply concerned over the progress of the Allied trial of Japanese war criminals, is believed to have reached the conviction that he will remain on the Throne until a peaceful nation is realized in view of the consideration that his responsibility for the war will not be expiated by his retirement from the Throne, it is learned.

MAINICHI 21 NOV 1948

His Majesty Encourages Model Coal Miners' Group

Kyodo

402

TOKYO, Nov. 19.—A group of 300 coal miners and workers were greeted unexpectedly in pouring rain by His Majesty the Emperor while being conducted through the Palace grounds today.

Clad in a raincoat and wearing rubber boots, His Majesty suddenly appeared before the 300 men gathered before the Imperial Household Department and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of these workers.

MAINICHI 21 NOV 1948

Kansai Mare Cops Emperor's Cup

402

TOKYO, Nov. 24.—Katsufuji, six-year-old mare from Kansai, captured the Emperor's Cup when she won the 3,300-meter feature race with the time of 3 minutes 30 seconds on the sixth day of the Tokyo horse racing meet at Fuchu track here yesterday.

By virtue of Katsufuji's first victory, her owner was awarded the monetary prize of ¥500,000.

Favored by exceedingly fine weather, a total of 35,000 turf fans swarmed out to Fuchu and bought ¥70,256,600 worth of pari-mutuel tickets.

MAINICHI 25 NOV 1948

EMPEROR GETS WIRE URGING ABDICATION

402

The Emperor Saturday received a telegram urging him to abdicate immediately after the execution of Hideki Tojo and six other war criminals, according to a Nagoya report to Kyodo.

The telegram was sent by a shabbily dressed man of about 50 years old Saturday morning from the Showa Post Office in Nagoya.

To the surprise of the clerks, the man presented a telegram form which was filled with these letters: "Address: Tenno Hirohito, Tokyo. Abdicate immediately After Execution."

Being the first of its kind, the post office did not know what to do with the message. It sought instructions of the Nagoya Communications Bureau, which in turn sent an inquiry to the Communications Ministry. The Ministry replied that the message should be treated just like other telegrams. Whether or not the Emperor read the telegram himself is not revealed as yet, however.

NIPPON TIMES 7 DEC 1948

Keenan Talks With Emperor

402

By DUANE HENNESSY
Associated Press Correspondent

Emperor Hirohito chatted for 25 minutes Wednesday with Joseph B. Keenan, the American prosecutor who convicted Hideki Tojo and 24 other Japanese of making war in his name.

"No, we did not discuss Tojo," said Mr. Keenan in reply to a direct inquiry. "Nor did we talk about the trials."

They met in the Imperial Household Ministry building in the palace grounds only a few hours after Gen. Douglas MacArthur confirmed all the convictions, including those sending Tojo and six others to the gallows. But that was chance as the audience had been arranged far earlier.

By Oriental standards the Emperor would not bring up an embarrassing subject such as the trials or Tojo. And by courtesy neither would the prosecutor refer to them.

"The Emperor spoke of his hopes for world peace and the hopes that my country and his could be leaders toward that peace," said Mr. Keenan.

He said the Emperor expressed keen interest in the way the two Houses of the United States Congress are selected and seemed to be

(Continued on Page 2)

Keenan Talks With Emperor

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(Continued from Page 1)

well acquainted with the system.

"He told me he hoped that men of the character and experience of our own United States senators would emerge from Japan's new House of Councillors," declared Mr. Keenan. The elected councillors replaced the old House of Peers nominated by the Emperor.

The Emperor spoke fervently of his hopes for the success of Japan's present Government and for its continued cooperation with the United States.

Mr. Keenan said Emperor Hirohito discussed the character and career of President Abraham Lincoln and wanted to know about the hobbies of President Truman.

Asked if the Emperor inquired about President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mr. Keenan answered: "Mr. Roosevelt's name was not mentioned."

While Tojo was not discussed, some former premiers' names entered the conversation. These included Adm. Mitsumasa Yonai, also once Navy Minister, who died recently, and Adm. Keisuke Okada, who narrowly escaped assassination in a military coup in 1936.

Mr. Keenan said he plans to return to the United States this week end by air.

NIPPON TIMES 26 NOV 1948

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

402

Keenan Meets Emperor In Interview; Peace, US System Of Govt. Discussed

402

By Rutherford Poats, United Press Staff Correspondent

TOKYO, Nov. 24.—Joseph B. Keenan, chief prosecutor of Japan's convicted war leaders, discussed the prospects for world peace and the American system of Government with the Emperor Wednesday, just after General MacArthur had upheld the sentences against the Emperor's chief wartime subordinates.

During the luncheon interview, Keenan told the United Press, neither he nor the Emperor mentioned the just completed war crimes trial. Keenan had declared last week that the Emperor, whom Tribunal President Sir William Webb had called "the leader in the crime," was granted immunity from trial by the Pacific Allies for "political reasons."

He said the evidence did not support indictment of the Emperor. For the chief prosecutor, who is scheduled to return to the United States this weekend, it was his first audience with the Emperor.

"We discussed and compared the governments of the United States and Japan, and the Emperor expressed hope for the new Japanese form of government," Keenan said. The Emperor inquired deeply into the U.S. system of government, showing particular interest in the bicameral legislature, the power of the Senate, and the office of the President, Keenan reported.

"The Emperor expressed his h' h hopes for peace and for continued good relations between the United States and Japan" Keenan said.

The veteran U.S. prosecutor and judge, who is also a member of the Finance Committee of the Democratic National Organization in the United States, said the Emperor questioned him closely on American political campaign methods and on the personalities and abilities of President Truman and Governor Thomas E. Dewey.

Keenan recalled that the Emperor expressed his well-known admiration for Abraham Lincoln, Civil War President of the United States.

MAINICHI 26 NOV 1948

Emperor Sends Message To American President

402

Kyodo-AP

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—Emperor Hirohito of Japan sent President Truman a message Thursday that he wants to foster "the closest and most cordial relationship with the United States."

The oral message was delivered to the President by Joseph Keenan, chief counsel in the Tokyo war crimes trials. After conferring with President Truman, Mr. Keenan told newsmen the Emperor asked him to tell the President that: "He is desirous of contributing his utmost to cementing the closest and most cordial relationship with the United States of America.

"The Emperor appreciates the tolerant attitude of the American Occupatio.. forces and their generous treatment of another people.

"The Emperor desires in his position as constitutional monarch to do all he can to foster the development of democracy, such as we have in this country, among his own people of Japan."

President Truman handed Mr. Keenan a letter expressing his "deep appreciation" for Mr. Keenan's services in the prosecution of the Japanese war leaders.

The President said:

"You have carried out a most difficult and responsible assignment with credit to both your country and yourself, and at the same time have contributed immeasurably to the cause of humanity and the further development of international law."

NIPPON TIMES 4 DEC 1948

Emperor's Message Conveyed To Truman

President Receives Letter Through Joseph Keenan

402

United Press

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2.—The Japanese Emperor told President Truman that he wants to do everything possible to attain the closest and most cordial relations between the United States and Japan.

President Truman received the message through Joseph Keenan, chief prosecutor of Japan's war leaders.

After visiting the President, Keenan told reporters that the Emperor said he appreciated the tolerant attitude of the American Occupation Forces and their generous treatment of Japan.

The Emperor said in his position as constitutional monarch he was doing all he could to foster development of democracy in Japan like that in the United States.

He also told President Truman that he was devoting his time to going among his people and helping in that task.

Keenan said the Emperor was particularly interested in the history of the United States Senate, considered it a unique body, and gave it credit for the development of many United States leaders. He hoped that Japan's House of Councillors would develop into an institution similar to the Senate.

Keenan said the Emperor's study contained a small bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln.

President Truman presented Keenan with a letter expressing his appreciation of Keenan's services in war crime prosecution. President Truman said the prosecutor "carried out a most difficult and responsible assignment with credit to himself and his country," and "contributed immeasurably to the cause of humanity and further development of international law."

Keenan said he gave President Truman a brief report on the trial, but they did not discuss the sentences.

MAINICHI 4 DEC 1948

EMPEROR'S FIRST BOOK ON FISH OUT NEXT YEAR

402

The Emperor's first book "An Album of the Branchia in the Sagami Bay After Birth" will be out early next year, reports the Yomiuri. The book has about 120 pages and will be printed in four colors. As the time for the publication of the Imperial book approaches there is an unending stream of inquiries and orders from all parts of the world. Among the American institutions which are interested in the coming book are the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and Iowa State University, Iowa City, Iowa. Some of the inquiries from individuals in foreign countries have been from Japanese in Brazil.

The Emperor has been known for a long time to students of biology the world over for discovering as many as 83 new species of animals and plants.

NIPPON TIMES 27 NOV 1948

Scientists Meet Emperor

402

Dr. Detlev W. Bronks and four other members of the American Scientific Mission were granted an audience by the Emperor at the Imperial Palace yesterday morning. The Emperor expressed keen interest in the observations made by the mission regarding their tour of scientific and cultural establishments throughout the country. His Majesty is reported to have expressed deep appreciation for their concern over Japanese welfare activities.

16 DEC 1948

NIPPON TIMES

402

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

402

Hirohito Slated For First Press Confab

By Associated Press

Emperor Hirohito will hold his first public press conference October 5, in connection with the observance of the first Japanese National Newspaper Week.

The emperor, however, has decided he will not answer any political questions asked by Allied correspondents who have been invited to be present along with Japanese newsmen.

The press conference will be held in the Mitsukoshi Department Store on Ginza street after, the emperor views a display arranged by Japanese newspaper publishers.

The emperor has received individual newsmen before but not a general press conference.

STARS & STRIPES
SEP 29 1948

More Than 90% of People Want Emperor Retained

402

More than 90 per cent of the Japanese people favor maintaining the Emperor system, while 18.4 per cent are for the retirement of the present Emperor, a public opinion survey by the Yomiuri Shimbun reveals.

Of the 3,080 replies, the overwhelming number of 2,781 or 90.3 per cent backed the Emperor system, and only 4 per cent favored abolishing it, while 5.7 per cent replied that no answer can be made.

On the question of the retirement of the present Emperor, 68.5 per cent said that the Emperor should remain, and 18.4 per cent were for his retirement and the succession of the Crown Prince.

Questioned regarding the political parties, 32 per cent backed the Democratic Liberal Party, 20 per cent were for the Social Democratic Party, 13.6 per cent favored the Democratic Party, 1.9 per cent were for the People's Cooperative Party, and 1.8 per cent for the Communist Party.

Of 55 replies which supported the Communist Party, 6 or 10.5 per cent also backed the Emperor system.

Persons supporting the Emperor system were salaried persons, merchants and manufacturers, farmers and fishermen, people in professions, laborers and unemployed, in the order named.

Those opposing the Emperor system, broken down into classifications, were people in the professions, unemployed, laborers, salaried men, merchants and manufacturers, farmers and fishermen, in that order.

Persons who were polled were selected at random from lists of franchise holders throughout the country. Thirty-four and four per cent of those questioned came from the 25 representative cities; 65.5 per cent were from 69 towns and villages selected from the Statistical Bureau's lists.

16 AUG 1948
NIPPON TIMES

Emperor's Press Conference Scene Of Noisy Confusion

402

By HAZEL SHORE,
Staff Writer

This morning at 9 o'clock representatives of every Allied publication, news service and public information office in Japan. They pushed, they Press, Earnest Hoberecht of the United Press and Howard Handleman of International News Service finally managed to fight their way through the photographers long enough to greet the couple and put in a brief plug for their news services.

An hour later, the emperor and the empress made a quiet exit and the noisy newspaper crowd continued to laugh at the young photographer, who had yelled, "Hey, bring the emperor down here, the light's better."

OCT 5 1948
STARS & STRIPES

Emperor Approves University Project

402

By Int'l News Service

American plans to establish a Christian university in Japan were described by Emperor Hirohito as "important to the moral rearmament of Japan and the world," James L. Fieser said today.

The executive director of the committee for a Christian university in Japan made the statement after a 40-minute conversation with the emperor.

He quoted the monarch as saying that Japan was in great need of American help in the field of education and said that the emperor showed interest in all details of the university project.

The committee, Fieser disclosed, is planning to raise $10,000,000 in a campaign in the United States, April 8 to June 9, 1949.

Hisato Ichimada, governor of the Bank of Japan, is heading a committee that has promised to obtain 150,000,000 yen to finance the purchase of a site and university buildings, Fieser said.

18 NOV 1948
STARS & STRIPES

402

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 8 Emperor's Present Mental Attitude - Asahi Shimbun - 24 Dec 48.
Translators: J. Weiller and S. Ono. (TK)

402

Full Translation:

Although there was widespread speculation at home and abroad on the Emperor's abdication just before the Tokyo Tribunal passed judgment on the seven war criminals, comments on the legal and political aspects of the Emperor's was responsibility now appears to be waning. This is due to Tribunal President WEBB and Chief Prosecutor KEENAN's speeches made just after the judgment, giving reasons why the Emperor was not indicted. Especially, Chief Prosecutor KEENAN's frank statement pointing out the Emperor's delicate mental state with regard to his war responsibility was the most forceful answer to the abdication rumors which emphasized his "moral" war responsibility.

Apart from the outside views as these, how is the Emperor feeling in this respect? So far no voluntary gesture has officially been made by the Emperor but according to the information gathered from sources close to him, both old and new, we surmise as follows:

As Prosecutor KEENAN said, since the Emperor so keenly feels his war responsibility that if he had been made to face the Tribunal he would have taken all the blame on himself; such is the impression gathered from his casual remarks and behaviors.

However, his war responsibility, the Emperor's feels, cannot be made good by a mere abdication, and therefore he believes that as a public person he should not hastily decide his attitude as dictated by his emotion. This imperial belief was not only unshaken, but on the contrary it was strengthened even more when the Tribunal was brought to a close.

When he was informed of the arrests of war suspects he revealed his feelings by saying, "If I could but put myself in their place..." He lost appetite, was pensive in the daytime and spent many a sleepless night. It is said that he often got out of bed at midnight and paced the room, murmuring, "I am alone to be blamed..."

Getting over such a mental torture the Emperor is now gradually adjusting his mental attitude, which, it appears, is the result of his fully taking into consideration both the domestic and foreign situations: especially, the objective circumstances.

When a well-known author in the country presented him with a book containing the opinion favoring his abdication for the sake of upholding the Emperor System, His majesty revealed his thought to the effect that, "As an individual I may share this view, but my position as a public person does not permit it."

The Emperor's resolution not to abdicate was presumably based on his desire to share with the people the difficulties which lie ahead of the nation. This desire was soon realized in the Emperor's inspection tours of TOKYO and local provinces. When he was advised to cease these tours, he was reported to have replied that his personal body was dedicated to the nation. At the same time, he asked to cut down the expenses of his tours.

It is also reported that he has further expressed his inmost feeling by stating that it was his responsibility and feels "terribly sorry" to have thrown the nation into the present calamity. "Though an instant abdication might be one of the means to compensate for my responsibility." he is said to have stated, "I have chosen rather to remain as Emperor and cooperate with the people in reconstructing the country. I believe this is the only way for me to comply best with the desire of my ancestors and the people, and also in line with the purport of the Potsdam Declaration."

The views of various quarters are unanimous that the Emperor is determined to help the reconstruction of a peaceful JAPAN, totally ignoring his personal honor.

When the trial at the Military Tribunal for the Far East was almost over, the Emperor abandoned his scheduled tours to local provinces as well as his customary visit to winter resorts. During the weeks between the sentences and the execution, he was seen in the library or in the conference room where he hears reports on national affairs, deeply engrossed in meditation.

The Emperor was married on the 26 Jan 24, and the coming 26 January is his silver wedding anniversary. Though the day is close at hand to celebrate this happy occasion the Emperor has not permitted preparations for the ceremony, it is said, and he is even trying his best not to have the people reminded of his 25th wedding anniversary.

A person close to the Emperor has said that though the expression may not suit the Emperor who is not a Christian, his determination to serve his people and the country is like "shouldering the cross for the reconstruction of JAPAN."

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ITEM 9 The Emperor (Letter to the Editor) - Shin Tokyo - 13 Dec 48.
Translator: E. Stato. (JTK)

402

Summary:

I read a newspaper report that some one living in NAGOYA sent the Emperor a telegram demanding his abdication soon after the execution of TOJO and the other six war criminals. I agree with him. I also hope that the Emperor will open his palace as a public recreation center.

As stated by Chief Justice WEBB, of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, the Emperor was too weak to reject war. He imposed heavy labor upon the people and forced death upon the soldiers, to execute a war plotted by the militarists. Although the Emperor has been deprived of most of his powers, there is danger that he may possibly be restored to his former position by the reactionary forces, and the people may be deceived again.

Some Japanese, whose minds are still inbued with feudalistic ideas, say that it is pitiful to condemn the seven war criminals to capital punishment, forgetting that they are now in the depths of poverty due to war-damages and inflation.

In order to establish true democracy, it is necessary not only to have the Emperor abdicate but to abolish the Emperor system. It is also hoped that the large palace, which the Emperor and his family are monopolizing, will be released as the masses' recreation center.

(WATANABE, Teruo Shinjuku Ward)

ITEM 3 Leveling Movement League Brings Gifts to Emperor - Provincial Paper: Shin Kyushu (Moji) - 8 Dec 48. Translator: A. Kawamura. (TK)

402

Full Translation:

On the morning of 6 December, a delegation of the Fukuoka Social Leveling Movement League, bearing gifts and banners, marched through the Sakashita Gate into the Imperial Palace. The League is headed by NAGAYAMA Morihisa, director of the Kyushu Public Opinion Institute in HIGASHI NAKASU, FUKUOKA Shi.

It was learned that they came here to dispel the public's misunderstanding about them, caused by MATSUMOTO Jiichiro, Upper House vice-president and their senior, who had refused to have audience with the Emperor in the last Diet session and had urged the abolition of the Emperor System. The delegation explained that this was MATSUMOTO's personal opinion and does not necessarily represent the views of the League.

The gifts to the Emperor included such items as Hakata dolls, Hakataori table cloths, cushions, etc, purchased with donations collected in a drive which the League launched on the Emperor's birthday this year.

ITEM 13 Emperor Will Welcome General Public New Year's Day - Tokyo Shimbun - 26 Dec 48. Translator: H. Miyoshi. (UG)

402

Full Translation:

The Emperor and Empress will receive New Year's greetings at 1000 hours on 1 January from Imperial family members, Premier YOSHIDA and Mrs YOSHIDA, Chief Justice MIBUCHI and Mrs MIBUCHI, Upper House President MATSUDAIRA and Mrs MATSUDAIRA, Lower House Speaker MATSUOKA and Mrs MATSUOKA, all other ministers, National Public Safety Committee members and their wives.

The general public will be allowed to sign the Imperial Registry at the Imperial Palace. Between 0900 hours and 1600 hours visitors are permitted to enter the Palace by the NIJUBASHI Bridge, proceed to the special registration office in the front main gate, where they are to sign their names, pass a burned section of the palace and leave the palace by the SAKASHITAMON Gate.

There were 300,000 visotors on the Emperor's birthday this year, and even more people are expected on New Year's Day. The Imperial Household Ministry is now making preparations to receive them.

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ITEM 3 Abdication of Emperor (SUZUKI Yasuzo) - Magazine: Hikari (Monthly) Nov 48. Translator: T. Osame. (SS)

402

Summary:

That Emperor HIROHITO, who possessed, as the sovereign of JAPAN, such diplomatic prerogatives as concern the conclusion of treaties and the declaration of war, should bear the greatest responsibility for World War II admits of no discussion from the viewpoint of international law. The question of the Emperor's war responsibility was first discussed in foreign countries, and the Japanese people should give grave reconsideration to the fact that they had no misgivings in regard to the Emperor's responsibility until it became a subject for debate among foreigners. This question should have been solved by the Japanese themselves. Japanese officials, however, endeavored to overlook it, as long as it was not introduced into the international forum, and their attitude evoked no protest from the majority of the Japanese people.

Just after the war, many Japanese and foreigners insisted on HIROHITO's abdication. But the old powers, believing such a demand to be intolerable and an avenue for the introduction of evil ideas into JAPAN, maintained that the Emperor was a pacifist and that he was coerced into the position he took during the war by TOJO, KIDO and other war criminals. AMERICA's occupation policy embraced the conclusion that the Emperor system, on which Japanese feudalistic

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ITEM 3 (Continued)

despotism and militarism were established, would not be so detrimental if reformed to prevent its being utilized by a few militarists and bureaucrats, and that disarmament could be carried out most smoothly by utilizing the Emperor system.

Although the legal authority of the Emperor has changed greatly, he still exercises a wide influence over the general public. From the midst of the strong support for the Emperor system, only communists and a few democrats rise to favor its abolition.

Monarchism, of which the TENNO system is one example, is a feudalistic government concept which has already been overthrown by democratic revolution in foreign countries. There are many scholars in this country who contend that the Japanese Emperor system is different in essence from foreign monarchism, and it is regarded as communistic in this country to conclude that the Emperor system is incompatible with democracy. They reason that the most effective means oppressing communism is to protect the Emperor system and to inculcate the spirit of Emperor worship in the Japanese people.

To keep the Communist Party apart from the people, Emperor worship is strongly advocated by those who were accused by the Party of having cooperated with the militarists or having hoarded goods, by the capitalists who were prevented from making monopolistic profits by the organized workers and by the bosses who lost power in the towns and villages.

Since the Japanese have long been forced to bow to the Emperor's picture as if he were a god, it is very difficult for them to no longer engage in this blind worship. Numerous atrocities were committed by the Japanese army in CHINA, BURMA, the PHILIPPINES and other southern islands in the name of the Emperor but, for various reasons, he was not accused in the International Military Tribunal for the Far East. Therefore, it is natural that the Chinese, Philippine and other nations expect that the Emperor will act spontaneously and assume his responsibility when the tribunal closes.

Since the new Constitution prescribes that the sovereignty rests with the people, the Emperor must be able to abdicate the throne at the will of the nation. The Imperial Household Law, however, does not acknowledge his voluntary abdication, with a view to maintaining the Emperor's sacredness. On the other hand, some people hope to put an end to the discussion over the relationship between the Emperor system and the war through his abdication and thereby stabilize the system in the future.

Even if Emperor HIROHITO abdicates, this will not suppress those people who insist that the Emperor system itself is detrimental to the democratization of JAPAN, and the existence of the Emperor system will be exposed to severe criticism. Generally speaking, the Japanese hold such feudalistic views on the Emperor system that even Drs SASAKI Soichi and NAMBARA Shigeru, who are enthusiastic supporters of the Emperor system and who hold that HIROHITO should assume his moral responsibility for the war and abdicate, are regarded as radical in this country. The fact that the Japanese do not, thus, understand the anti-democratic character of the Emperor system will invite an international clamor for the complete abolition of the Emperor system.

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AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION MEETS WITH EMPEROR

Today's program of the visiting Australian Parliamentary Delegation in Tokyo included an informal meeting with the Emperor, which took place in the Imperial Palace at 3:00 p. m.

Earlier the party had been briefed on intelligence and security aspects of the occupation by SCAP's G-2, Maj. Gen. Willoughby. They lunched at the British Embassy as the guests of the Acting Head of the United Kingdom Liaison Mission, Mr. Pink. Other discussions during the day related to the Information, Education and Natural Resources Sections of SCAP.

After the meeting with the Emperor the leader of the Delegation, Mr. Leslie Haylen, said that the delegation felt they would not have been carrying out their mission completely if they had not taken the opportunity of seeing for themselves the man who was the figurehead of the Japanese nation.

"We have spent some considerable time since our arrival in Tokyo investigating and discussing all aspects of the new Japanese constitution," said Haylen. "We have been particularly interested in ascertaining for ourselves the position which the Emperor now holds in the Japanese state, and assuring ourselves, on behalf of the Australian people, that the authority of the Emperor has been reduced to the level of a constitutional monarch in a democratic state such as our own.

"We feel we should be able to report to the people at home that the pre-surrender power of the Emperor has been shorn from him.

"What we saw today will help us in reaching our final conclusions."

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ITEM 12 How Emperor Feels about Abdication Issue - Yomiuri - 24 Nov 48.
Translator: H. Miyoshi. (WM)

Full Translation:

The final decision by General MacARTHUR on the review of the sentences passed on TOJO and 24 other war criminals will be announced this morning.

With the execution of the sentences near at hand, rumors of the abdication of the Emperor are now becoming the topic of conversation both at home and abroad for the fourth time since the war's end (first time, war's end; second, promulgation of the new Constitution; third, effectivation of the Constitution).

In his rescript ending the war, the Emperor had expressed his sentiments with "No matter what may happen to me....." With changes in the situation, however, he has reportedly come to feel that he can better do his share in establishing a peaceloving JAPAN by remaining on the throne rather than by abdicating. Some persons point out that the Emperor's real sentiments may come out as the situation develops further.

Motivated by an interpellation on the Imperial House Law by President NAMBARA of Tokyo University at the 91st Diet session, rumors of the abdication of the Emperor began to spread far and wide. Chief Justice MIBUCHI's comment on the issue, which appeared in the 16 May issue of a certain weekly magazine, was reported by Correspondent PARROT of the NEW YORK TIMES. As a result, the problem was taken up as a world-wide topic.

When TOJO and his 24 co-defendants were sentenced, the world's attention was focused on the stand of the Emperor. Recently, he has reportedly intimated to his attendants his intention of remaining in the throne. If his intentions are clarified, together with the statement on the circumstances leading to the nonindictment of the Emperor made by Chief Prosecutor KEENAN of the Tokyo Tribunal prior to his return to the United States, the abdication issue will be settled. This issue has been widely discussed both at home and abroad since the war's end.

A summation of various reports on the recent mental attitude of the Emperor made by his attendants and persons concerned reveals the following facts:

As General MacARTHUR reportedly told Chief Prosecutor KEENAN, if the Emperor had appeared in court, he would have assumed the sole responsibility. He often said to his attendants soon after the war's end, "If I could only take all the responsibility....." Further, he spent sleepless nights, as revealed by his remark, that he often felt as if his whole body were being torn apart.

While suffering these agonies, the Emperor listened on 28 Jan 46 to a lecture on Emperor UDA's instructions at the time of his abdication. He also visited various localities much like an itinerant priest, as if to apologize to the people. As a result of the changed situation, he reportedly has come to believe that he cannot fulfil all the responsibilities by merely abdicating; that he should do his share in building a peaceful JAPAN by remaining on the throne.

In regard to the abdication, 90.3 percent of the general public (according to a survey made by this paper) and 81 percent of the leading Diet members (according to a survey made by the Public Opinion Research Institute) oppose it. However, the "Emperor's abdication petition" movements are being staged in about 20 prefectures.

It is also said that the Emperor is ready to leave the throne if the present situation changes.

An official concerned said: "The Emperor has a more positive opinion about JAPAN's rehabilitation than we imagine. "He wants to console the people and encourage each of them to restore the race. The Emperor is working to establish an Imperial Family in line with the new democratic JAPAN and the new Constitution."

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ITEM 10 The Emperor's War Responsibility - Provincial Paper: Yukan Mie (Yokkaichi) - 17 Nov 48. Translator: M. Minato. (DD)

402

Summary:

The International Military Tribunal which had drawn the attention of the whole world, and particularly of the Japanese nation, finally rendered its verdict. Of the various opinions of the verdict, the most serious is the Emperor's war responsibility.

Before and during the war, the Emperor had the highest authority and power. With him in their center, these Class A defendants seized control of Japanese politics and plunged the people recklessly into the war. According to the old Japanese mode of thinking, the Emperor is not responsible and is inviolate. Therefore, there is the opinion that the Emperor has no responsibility for the war. Such an idea, however, held true only in old JAPAN and is incompatible with democracy. The Emperor's war responsibility and his abdication is now being discussed abroad. This problem, however, should not be solved by foreigners, but by the Japanese themselves.

Vice-president MATSUMOTO Jiichiro, of the House of Councillors, expressed the most definite opinion on this problem. According to him, the proceedings of the Tokyo Trial proved how weak the Emperor is and it is undesirable that he should remain on the throne as the symbol of the State. OZAKI Gakudo, on the other hand, believed that since the Emperor is merely a symbol of the State, he is no different from an abdicated emperor, and the emperor system should be maintained because of the current chaotic situation. The former is a negative attitude, and the latter is utilitarian.

Such an utilitarian idea is not confined to OZAKI Gakudo alone, but is generally true with persons favoring the emperor system. They are intending to make the emperor system the barrier against a violent revolution. Such an idea, however, must be abandoned if JAPAN's democratization is to be achieved successfully.

Of the Japanese opinions favoring the emperor system, the most overwhelming is the opinion based upon the people's sentiments regarding the Emperor as God. Since such sentiments are deeply rooted in the people's mind they cannot be wiped out in a day. Because of such sentiments, the people feel that the problem of the Emperor's war responsibility should not be discussed by the Japanese. However, the people must have definite recognition of this problem, if they are to understand the Japanese political structure under the new Constitution providing for the emperor as the symbol of the State.

What idea should we have on the Emperor's war responsibility and how should we cope with the problems of abdication and abolition of the emperor system? A separate opinion on the court's verdict stated by Tribunal President Sir William WEBB gives us a clue. He says the difficult position of the Emperor during the war can be understood. However, this does not reduce his responsibility.

Furthermore he says, "I do not suggest that the Emperor should have been executed. That is beyond my province. His immunity was no doubt decided upon in the best interests of all Allied Powers."

Only when we grasp the real meaning of his statement, can we draw a reasonable conclusion from the standpoint of a Japanese on the Emperor's responsibility, his abdication, and the abolition of the emperor system.

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ITEM 6 Emperor Believes Duty Is to Stay on Throne - Shin Yukan - 24 Nov 48. Translators: N. Tachibana and B. Ishibashi. (DD)

4+2

Full Translation:

According to a foreign dispatch Chief Prosecutor KEENAN said, "There is not enough evidence against the Emperor to indict him... The Emperor as a constitutional monarch had the obligation of accepting his advisers' advice, but did not attempt to hide behind it."

The Emperor's position in the Tokyo war trials was delicate. On the occasion of the Mukden Affair the Emperor charged Premier TANAKA with his responsibility. However, the Emperor says, even now, "I had no right to charge him from the viewpoint of constitutional government." But he still continues to believe that his own viewpoint was correct.

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ITEM 6 (Continued)

The Emperor opposed the cabinet decision to secede from the League of Nations following the Manchurian Incident. He thought that JAPAN should accept the League of Nations' proposal on condition that certain revisions be made. He asked the opinion of Prince SAIONJI. The prince answered, "The Emperor's view is correct, but he should approve the decision of the responsible Government as this is a serious matter. That is how a constituional monarchy operates."

Thus, the Emperor did not modify the cabinet decision although he wished to. Prior to the important council in the Imperial presence on 6 Sep 41, the Emperor learned that the Government had determined its war-first principle. At that time he said to Premier KONOYE and Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal KIDO, "I think that the negotiation-first principle should be adopted. May I express my opinion in the council?" This wish was denied him, and all that he was able to do at the council was to present a poem by Emperor MEIJI (TN The poem expresses a wish for the universal brotherhood of man.)

Thus, the Emperor as a pacifist was, in effect, isolated by the militarists. Up to this time many of his important ministers had been killed and oppressed especially in the 26 February Incident and the militarists had emerged as the dominant influence.

On the occasions of the Changkufeng Affair (TN: The Manchurian Border Incident between RUSSIA and JAPAN) and the Axis Agreement, War Minister ITAGAKI tried to get Imperial approval by making false reports. HIRANUMA, KIDO and KONOYE also worked to persuade the Emperor, although they knew that it would be difficult, and asked for his official sanction, despite the Emperor's known wishes in this respect.

Emperor Always a Pacifist

The Emperor always adhered to pacificism. Even TOJO, as premier, once yielded to the firm determination of the Emperor and promised clearly, at least verbally, that he would adhere to the negotiation-first principle and reject the decision of the September 1941 council.

The Emperor, who was almost isolated, offered particular prayers before the three shrines within the Imperial Palace on 17 October 1941 in his sincere desire for peaceful settlement of the US-Japanese negotiations. Even after the Pacific War broke out he eagerly hoped for peace. Six months before atomic bombs were dropped on JAPAN he began to fight against the military with a determination to end the war.

At the time of the surrender the cabinet opinion was divided equally between continuing war and making peace and the final decision was made by the Emperor. This was the first time that his own will had been expressed. This failure by cabinet ministers to advise the Emperor and the fact that the Emperor was required to make the decision was an inconceivably grave issue in JAPAN's history of consitutional government. However, it is said that the Emperor's decision proved a great consolation to the people.

Since the surrender, the Emperor has been exerting himself toward the reconstruction of JAPAN under occupation policies, and he has made it his prime responsibility to fulfill the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration.

Meanwhile, he has been wrestling with his conscience for his war responsiblity. On one occasion he revealed his mental anguish by saying to those close to him, "If I could only answer for all war responsibility with my life." It can be conjectured from this that he intended to designate himself a war criminal.

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POLITICAL

ITEM 6 (Continued)

In the days immediately following the surrender, when the problem of the Constitutional reform and the New Year's Imperial Rescript were weighing heavily upon him, he spent sleepless days and nights seriously thinking over his war responsibility. On 28 January 1946 he heard a lecture on UDA TENNO's abdication. Although the circumstances are different there is no doubt that he then considered abdication.

The revised Imperial House Law covers succession only in case of demise. It is believed that the period when the revised law was still being drafted was the final opportunity for the Emperor, if he so desired, to assume his responsibility through abdication. But it appears that the decision he finally reached was that his responsibility to the nation could best be fulfilled by staying on the throne and working for the nation's reconstruction rather than by resigning.

When false abdication reports were circulated recently officials concerned stated: "The Emperor has more positive ideas about JAPAN's reconstruction than abdication. He is working hard to console and encourage the people so that the Japanese race may rise. He is striving to establish the future role of the Imperial Family in accordance with the new Constitution and for the purpose of building up a democratic and prosperous JAPAN".

However, it is reported that even at present his mentality has undergone no change in respect to war responsibility. According to some persons close to him, he believes war crime is not something that can be determined simply by judgment as in criminal cases in general. Thus, persons close to him say that he would have abdicated, if he had so desired, regardless of the judgment by the Tribunal to answer for his responsibility.

His abdication can be realized through enactment of an independent law. However, unless either the general public demands it or the situation changes so that abdication comes to be considered beneficial to the majority of the people, the question of enacting such a law will not arise, it is believed by some.

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ITEM 11 Jap Paper in Russia Tab Emperor Top War Criminal - Provincial Paper: Yukan Okayama (Okayama) - 30 Nov 48. Translator: Y. Terasawa and Mitsuhashi. (TK)

402

Full Translation:

OKAZAKI Tetsuo, 29, of OKAYAMA Shi, was interviewed after his return on 24 November internment in RUSSIA. A member of a Manchurian border garrison unit during the war, he and several others were captured in HULIN-TING in July 1945 after a Russian mechanized force attacked and annihilated his unite. Subsequently, interned at a camp in KHABAROVSK, he worked as one of the editors of a Japanese-language camp newspaper which was published for the

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ITEM 11 (Continued)

enlightenment of the Japanese prisoners.

OKAZAKI spoke on the domestic Japanese situation and the international situation as seen through the eyes of this Japanese-language camp newspaper as follows:

"The Japanese language paper is being published in KHABAROVSK under the free hand of the Japanese, but it of course, conforms to Marxism and Leninism, and is from the standpoint of the Russians. The newspaper is distributed to all the internment camps in SIBERIA by airplane and motor-car. The staff is comprised of an editor-in-chief, who is a former Asahi Shimbun reporter and a son-in-law of OGATA Taketora, wartime president of the Information Board, about five or six members of the editorial staff, and a shop crew of about 20 experienced members. The paper is a four-page tabloid and carries editorials by a Russian analyst, news received from the Tass Agency, commentaries on the domestic Japanese and the international situations, conditions in the SOVIET UNION, and camp news.

"The views taken by this paper recently regarding JAPAN are:

1. The Showa Denko case and many other scandals are a natural result of capitalism, and capitalism will inevitably collapse in this way. It is natural that ASHIDA, a tool of the reactionary bourgeois, resigned as premier, but the people were wrong in choosing him in the first place.

2. The Emperor is the top war criminal as well as the symbol of imperialism. The threat of a third world war remains as long as the Emperor exists. His exemption from the Tokyo Trials is due to a political reason requiring the preservation of the Emperor System to oppress the people.

3. The revision of the National Public Service Law is a revival of fascism.

4. The peace treaty for JAPAN should be concluded as soon as possible, but a separate peace is undesirable. Peaceful industries in JAPAN should be expanded without any restriction.

5. Democratization in JAPAN made progress for the first one or two years after the war's end, but, recently, the reactionary capitalis capitalists are on the offensive and the Potsdam Declaration is being violated.

6. If the Soviet influence becomes stronger, the Potsdam Declaration can be truly enforced.

7. The Chinese Communists will soon unify all of CHINA. When they take over the reins of government, they will naturally assist the democratic revolution in JAPAN.

8. The Korean people trust the North Korean government. Riots in SOUTH KOREA occurs because the people's livelihood are not guaranteed there. (Riots in NORTH KOREA are not reported).

9. The SOVIET UNION will positively help the independence movements of the Burmese, the Malayans, and any other race, as well as the labor movements. The various races within the SOVIET UNION are devided into 16 republics and nearly 60 autonomous states, and they have been given their independence.

"With articles and commentaries in this vein, the ideological propaganda for Japanese captives is thorough. Since racial discrimination is punishable by law in the SOVIET UNION, the Russian authorities did not regard the Japanese prisoners with contempt. Further, since jobs, housing, and clothing were assured, there were about 20 to 30 Japanese in each internment camp seeking Soviet citizenship.

"Publication of literature is in the hands of the State, and there is no trash literature based on eroticism. Books by PUSHKIN, GORKY,

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POLITICAL

ITEM 11 (Continued)

GOGOL, TURGENEV and CHEKHOV are popular. The works of DOSTOEVSKI are unpopular. Speech is controlled by the State. At one time, all newspapers throughout the nation used the full front page for the introduction of LENIN's complete collection. The level of Soviet motion pictures is said to be the highest in the world. Their themes are connected with revolutions.

"When I went to KHABAROVSK in 1945, I was surprised to see a Japanese girl wearing the long-sleeved kimono. It seems that many Japanese captured in the Nomonhan Incident are residing in various places of the SOVIET UNION."

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ITEM 22 Tokyo Trials and the Emperor - Tokyo Mimpo - 17 Nov 48. Translator: H. Akutsu. (JJY)

402

Summary:

Now that the judgment has been passed on the war criminals including TOJO who dragged this country into the aggressive war, everyone will probably begin to think of the position of the Emperor. The International Military Tribunal for the Far East did not place the Emperor under trial. Frankly speaking, however, no one, not even the extreme supporters of the Emperor System, can declare that the Emperor was completely clear of responsibility for the war.

Though this country was ostensibly a constitutional monarch before the war, the Diet practically had no power, being simply a speaking organ. The judicial, administrative, and legislative powers were administered under the name of the Emperor. Despite his absolute power he was not obligated to assume any political responsibility because of the provision "the Emperor is sacred and inviolable" in the old constitution. For the foregoing reason, it cannot be denied that he assumed the highest political responsibility.

The Imperial Rescript declaring war on the Allies was issued under his name; and it was because of this fact that the national wartime structure was set up so easily. The Imperial Rescript declaring the termination of the war, said that the war was being ended because the situation was unfavorable to JAPAN. His idea of war at the war's end was the same as at the beginning. It is because he had such an idea that he has not abdicated nor tried to reflect on his past actions. It is surprising that he does not show any indication of abdicating as has been expected by some people following the conviction of the war criminals.

According to a UP dispatch, Sir William WEBB, president of the IMTFE, after passing judgment on the war criminals, said that, since the Emperor elected to play the part of the constitutional monarch, he accepted ministerial and other advice for war, most probably against his better judgment. And also that if he acted on advice it was because he saw fit to do so but that does not limit his responsibility.

In this connection, the NEW YORK TIMES editorially said there was a conspicuous absentee among the war criminals at the Tokyo Tribunal; it was Emperor HIROHITO.

The Japanese people must solve the problem of the Emperor for the best interests of the country.

ITEM 1 The Emperor's Mental Attitude and the People's Resolution - TOKYO SHIMBUN 25 Nov 48. Translator: H. Arai. (JTK)

102

Summary:

The International Military Tribunal's final decision against the Class-A war criminals was rendered today. Since the 25 defendants had resigned themselves to their fate, they might have, in a sense, felt great relief. Judging from the fact that they abstained from appealing for mercy, we believe their minds are at peace. They will outwardly be freed from all responsibilities by serving their sentences, though criticisms from the moral point of view may remain. This freedom from responsibility does not apply to the people.

Although the International Military Tribunal did not specify the responsibility of the people, we must perform all necessary duties such as the payment of reparations imposed upon the defeated nation. The same thing can be said of the Emperor's mental attitude. On the belief that abdication does not justify exemption from war-guilt, he is said to be desirous of working for reconstruction.

General MacARTHUR said that if the Emperor had stood at the bar, he would have assumed the whole responsibility for the war disregarding his own interests. We think this is a clear expression of the Emperor's mental attitude. The Emperor has made a tour of apology throughout the country.

We Japanese have many hardships ahead. By the conclusive decision of the Allied Military Tribunal, we must straighten ourselves out and, at the same time, feel sympathy for the Emperor and for ourselves.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 4 The Emperor and Christianity (By INAHATA Taro) - Provincial Paper: Miyako Shimbun (Kyoto) - 14 Oct 48. Translator: S. Yokoyama. (TK)

402

Summary:

The deep understanding of the French people is the result of their experience from the Great Revolution. Under the old monarchy the king was vested with devine rights and the people pledged complete obedience.

As the result of the Revolution, the new bourgeois class emerged and material equality which was the catchword of the revolutionists was not realized. However, the significance of the French Revolution must be sought in the fact that individuals became awakened to the new ideas of freedom, fraternity, and spiritual equality, which gave great impetus to the European people in general.

In JAPAN, both the Meiji Restoration and the recent defeat might be called bloodless revolutions. However, the Meiji Restoration is different from a bourgeois revolution in that it only contributed to the rise of the bourgeois class and the importation of some European ideas, but had nothing to do with the recognition of the individual. Consequently, even at present, the people lack fundamental understanding of the present ciritical situation. As a result, the political parties have no sincere desire to overthrow the feudalistic and bureaucratic setup in the nation's politics, and a few dictators seek to seize the reins of government.

Under the present circumstances, there is no better way for JAPAN than to maintain the old system of mysticism. It is indeed outrageous in this connection that some people advocate the abdication of the Emperor, disregarding the actual situation of the nation. There is no denying that the Emperor is responsible for starting the war. However, we must not overlock the fact that the Allied Powers have not demanded the Emperor to assume the responsibility and retire.

In this connection, it must be deplored that the Emperor lacks wise advisors and also that the people generally lack a clear understanding of Shintoism which has a close relationship with the Emperor. Needless to say, religious oppressions against Shintoism should be restricted. But the authorities must not overlook the fact that Shintoism as a national religion is quickly losing its raison d'etre, and must also remember that national religion changes with the period.

If it is the will of the Emperor, he should unhesitatingly become a Christian. His conversion to Christianity will mark the starting point of a new era for the Japanese. If the Emperor confesses his past sin before the Almighty, it will do much to save the Japanese from their present despair.

ITEM 10 The Emperor and the Verdict (Sub-Editorial) - Kokusai Times - 27 Nov 48. Translator: M. Ohno. (TK)

402

Full Translation:

With General MacARTHUR's final review of the war crimes sentences upholding the decision of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East on the Class A war criminals, each defendant will suffer his fate as pronounced by the tribunals.

What are the feelings of the Emperor who issued the Imperial Proclamation and ordered the people to war? There are abdication rumors in the light of his moral responsibility. Yet it is reported that he chose to remain on the throne for the sake of the nation's recovery.

A recent newspaper picture showed the Emperor holding an umbrella against the rain, talking to the drenched coal miners. No doubt "gracious words" were spoken to the miners. The people still deify the Emperor. The YOMIURI reported that he made a tour of apology to the people in the local districts. Considering the expenses imposed on local taxpayers by such tours, we can judge whether the purpose was to make an apology or maintain the Emperor System.

The collapse of monarchy throughout the world since the war-end indicates the course of history. Kings and emperors who were deprived of their crowns under the democratic revolutions are increasing in number. In what country will they find refuge? In JAPAN the Emperor who was deprived of all his mystic authority over the nation cannot continue to conceal his responsibility for the war crimes.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 3 The Emperor's War Responsibility - Provincial Paper: Higashi Shinano Shimbun (Usudacho, Nagano Ken) - 18 Nov 48. Translator: W. Hayashi. (DD)

Summary:

If man lives by theory alone, he will lead a prosaic life. MATSUMOTO Jiichiro, vice-president of the House of Councillors, recently declared, "Despite the fact that the Emperor had the authority to prevent the war, it was launched in the name of the Emperor. From this point of view, it is a wonder that he was excluded from the trial. The fact that the Emperor was a weak-minded man was proven by the record of the Tokyo trial. It is dangerous for such an incompetent Emperor to remain on the Throne as the symbol of the State. I think that the Emperor System is unnecessary for postwar JAPAN."

His assertion may be theoretically correct. However, it must be recalled that the Emperor is not a divine being but a human being. If Vice-president MATSUMOTO of the Upper House lived in the Showa Era, perhaps he might have been able to prevent the foolish and barbarous war. What a pity!

It is the noblest expression of man to love his parents. Only the scum among men would cast aside his parents on the accusation of being led into poverty. JAPAN was defeated because there were thousands of such abnormal people.

We would only like to suggest an important step to be taken by the Government. That is that the Emperor should abdicate in favor of the Crown Prince and thus apologize to the people and speed the recovery of a peaceful JAPAN. It is indisputable that the Emperor himself is also responsible for the war.

Tribunal President WEBB stated, the Emperor should have asserted his authority if he did not want war. The excuse that he might have been assassinated if he had opposed the war cannot be accepted, as all leaders must take the same risk.

"No ruler can commit the crime of launching an aggressive war and then validly claim to be excused for doing so because his life would otherwise have been in danger. His immunity from the trial was, no doubt, decided upon in the best interests of all Allied Power. In short, justice requires me to take into consideration the Emperor's immunity when determining the punishment of the accused found guilty."

As long as the Emperor of JAPAN is also a human being, it is only natural for him to make mistakes. However, he should not make a mistake this time in deciding his attitude.

ITEM 3 The Ties between the Emperor and the People (Sub-Editorial) - Chuka Nippo - 26 Nov 48. Translator: H. Furukawa. (RAI)

402

Full Translation:

While the abdication of the Emperor is widely rumored here, it is reported that the birth of a new prince is being celebrated with greatest rejoicing in LONDON. Since the English people believe that their king is as permanent as the kings of playing cards, the birth of a new prince must bring the greatest joy to all the people of the British Empire.

The two world wars drove the kings of many countries from their thrones; the close bond between the King of ENGLAND and his people is unequalled. There is no doubt that the ties between the English King and the people are attributable to the King's direct contacts with the people on the streets.

When the city of LONDON was on the brink of ruin under the fierce attack of the German air forces, the King and Queen personally inspected the air-raided areas and encouraged the citizens. The English people were greatly impressed by the picture of Their Majesties inspecting the ruined areas.

In JAPAN, the Emperor has already disclaimed his divinity. However, those who are nearest the Emperor, the leading politicians, and the press seem to be making frantic efforts to retain the divinity of the Emperor. That the Government and the Democratic-Liberal Party are advocating the dissolution of the Diet under Article 7 of the Constitution indicates one of those efforts. Big newspapers still use feudalistic honorifics in the wording of their articles about the Emperor.

We believe that the people would be drawn closer to the Emperor if he would release his spacious palace as a recreation center for the people by transferring his official residence to the Akasaka Detached Palace.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 4 Ishikawa Poll Favors Retention of Emperor - Hokkoku Mainichi (Kanazawa) - 24 Nov 48. Translator: K. Yasutake. (SS)

107

Full Translation:

Along with "the judgement of the century" passed on TOJO Hideki, and the other 24 Class A war criminals, the question of the Emperor's responsibility is being argued, both at home and abroad. Prosecutor KEENAN has said that the Emperor was not prosecuted for "political reasons of the victor nations."

Sometime ago, the opinion that the Emperor should abdicate the throne out of his moral responsibility was advocated by some scholars and educators such as President NAMBARA of Tokyo University and Dr YOKOTA Kisaburo. Recently, this question has gradually come to be discussed on every level of society. In view of the fact that this question is closely and concretely related with the people's sentiments, the Hokkoku Mainichi conducted a public opinion poll during the three days (15, 16 and 17 November) directly after the IMTFE verdict pronouncement. on how the people here in ISHIKAWA Ken felt about the Emperor's abdication.

The adults of the prefecture were divided according to district, occupation, age, education and sex. 143 sample men and women were selected and were personally interviewed by our staff and by several members of the Hokkoku Public Opinion Scientific Research Institute on whether the Emperor should abdicate or continue as before.

Generally speaking, the overwhelming majority answered in favor of continuing with the Emperor unchanged. There was a relatively large number of people in large cities like KANAZAWA and KOMATSU, who have had more schooling, doctors, lawyers, journalists, high-school instructors and salaried men who believed the Emperor should abdicate.

1. For abdication	14.6%
2. For the status quo	72.8%
3. Do not know	12.6%

By Occupation

	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery	Comm. & Industry	Salaried workers, Laborers	Civil Workers, self-employed	Unemployed
	%	%	%	%	%
1. For Abdication	11.8	6.5	25.0	50.	10.5
2. For the status quo	69.5	93.5	62.5	50.	79.0
3. Do not know	18.7	--	12.5	--	10.5

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POLITICAL

ITEM 4 (Continued)

By Sex

	Male	Female
	%	%
1. For abdication	24	5.5
2. For the status quo	69	76.5
3. Do not know	7	18.0

By Age

	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-
	%	%	%	%
1. For Abdication	25.7	21.0	3.6	7.0
2. For the status quo	61.5	72.9	85.6	74.4
3. Do not know	12.8	6.1	10.8	18.6

By Education

	University's and College Graduates	High School education	Primary School education
	%	%	%
1. For Abdication	33.3	14.0	12.1
2. For the status quo	66.7	77.5	71.4
3. Do not know	--	8.5	16.5

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ITEM 12 Flood and Emperors (Tamura, Eitaro) - Magazine: Kagaku To Gijutsu (Monthly) - Oct 48. Translator: M. Takagi. (SS)

Summary:

There was little flood damage in the Kanto district up to the middle Shogunate period, the reason lying in the fact that EDO (the old name of TOKYO--Translator) had not yet fully developed as a city. That is to say there was no need for reckless deforestation.

In the Kansai district, the fear of floods has been much talked of since olden days. Deforestation on a large scale did not take place along the River KAMO until before the Heian Era, but deforestation in and around ASUKA during the Nara Era resulted in such damage to the River ASUKA that it is the cause of floods even today.

In the Omi district, railways are seen running under rivers, whose beds have been raised by sand drifts due to reckless timber cutting for the reconstruction of Buddhist temples and other purposes. Castles and Buddhist temples were built in the Kansai district for the pleasure of the Emperors and today the people are still suffering from floods as a result of deforestation even after one thousand years or so.

The deprivation of forests through the land-tax reform in the Meiji Era caused heavy flood damage throughout the country. The land-tax reform eliminated all communal ownership systems, and established private ownership, but actually the majority of communal forests were taken over by the Emperor through this reform. Originally, there were only a few forests untouched by human hands, and forests located several Ri (One Ri is 2.44 miles.) away from every village were owned by the people and managed through their labor and by their expenses.

"An argument on the Forest System Reform", published in the 30th year of the Meiji Era narrates, "The Government by mistake appropriated a vast area of forests which belonged to the people, nationalized them, separated the people from forests and even recklessly laid water-shed forests waste." The farmers thus deprived of forests ran short of fuel and were unable to live without felling trees in national forests. In this way, further damage was done. The people, however, are not responsible; the Government which deprived them of forests must be blamed for this.

In 1886, river banks collapsed at 41,312 places, the heaviest damage recorded in the whole history of JAPAN. TAKAHASHI Takuya in "Forestry Law" attributes the cause of this flood damage to bribery of officials of the forestry stations.

Once an attempt was made to cover the enormous expenses for the Imperial Household with the profits made out of crown forests. Nay, something more than this was attempted. In 1896, IWAKURA Tomomi advocated the transfer of all national forests to the Imperial Household and attempted to make the Emperor hold a greater area of land than that possessed by the whole people, saying, "If we wish not to lose the stability of the supreme power, there should be no great difference between the people's property and that of the Imperial Family."

Floods in the Meiji Era were brought about by such an anti-democratic feeling. Floods, indeed, are the products of anti-democracy.

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ITEM 16 The Responsibility of the Emperor - Provincial Paper: Shin Nippon (Osaka) - 8 Nov 48. Translator: T. Horikawa. (DD)

402

Summary:

Commenting on the verdict of the Tokyo War Crimes Trial, the New York Times questioned, as any average American may, the propriety of the Emperor's exemption from the trial.

The answer must be sought in the fact, as revealed in the lengthy trial, that Japanese militarists arbitrarily ignored and trampled upon the peaceful intentions of the Emperor. From time immemorial our emperors have loved peace. Despite the possession of absolute powers constitutionally, the Emperor was not able to reject the militarists. Herein lies the problem.

The Emperor was deified only to be "made a prisoner of the militarists," as the Americans would say. He was forcibly estranged from the people, who essentially loved peace and, therefore, worshipped the peace-loving Emperor. Taking advantage of this national feeling, the militarists dragged the people to war claiming that it was a divine order. They called the China Incident a "holy war", for they knew that the people were against aggression.

We were stupid to have been deceived for so long. No medium for fair judgment was made available to the people except the one-sided government propaganda, unlike the US where freedom of speech is guaranteed. The Japanese fought blindly believing that they were fighting a holy war.

Had the people realized that the Emperor was a figure-head prisoner of the militarists who thus sought to imprison the people, they would not have acted so loyally and might have started a revolution and rescued the Emperor, as has been done in our past history.

As a law-abiding people, we do not attempt to evade lawful judgment. However, the basic principle of law calls for non-punishment of those acting in good faith. It is contrary to the spirit of law to condemn innocent prisoners. From this viewpoint the Emperor should not be judged. That he was not arraigned before the Tokyo Military Tribunal from the beginning bears witness to the fundamental fairness of the trial. It was not for "expediency" as the New York Times commented, but because the Tribunal found the Emperor not responsible in view of the circumstances, of that time.

Even as a matter of national sentiment it would be unbearable for the people to have our beloved sovereign tried, though we know that law does not recognize sentiments. We are today convinced, not emotionally, but reasonably, that the Emperor should not be accused. That he was not, attests to the fairness of the Tribunal.

ITEM 13 The Emperor's Abdication - Magazine: Minshu No Tomo (Monthly) - Nov 48.

402

Summary:

Worries of the Emperor

His Imperial Majesty was not in very cheerful humor; he was moody, but not just because the Empress drank her nightly cup of beer or sake (SHINSO, Aug 47). The problem of whether to abdicate or not was worrying him.

Despite the fact that KANEMORI Tokujiro put the words "The Emperor shall be the symbol of the State" into legal form, voices demanding his abdication have been heard here and there. Why, he didn't even have time to build a statue for KANEMORI! No wonder he was worried.

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 1 What Does a King or Emperor Symbolize? - Magazine: Sekai (Monthly) - Nov 48. Translator: K. Hirayama. (RL)

402

Summary:

The general public still tends to look upon an emperor or a king as a glorious symbol of the race, just as they have for the past several thousand years. However, many kings who have appeared in recent headlines have been far from "glorious symbols". At times, they can even be considered as symbolizing the loss of the independence of a race, as in the case of the wartime emperor of MANCHUKUO.

Take, for instance, the Balkan countries. These countries were subjugated by Nazi GERMANY during the war, yet their monarchial systems were maintained through German support. When GERMANY was ousted, their independence was restored and their monarchs disappeared. In short, the independence of a race is not a problem of form alone, but is one of substance.

There are many cases today where a country, outwardly independent in form, is a colony or a semi-colony; that is, there is no set form in ruling over a colony. As the point is the domination of other races, either a governor-general or a faithful puppet government will do so long as it facilitates this domination. The latter, if anything, is better because it serves to alleviate the antagonism between the ruler and the ruled. In this case, the greater the spritual authority wielded by a puppet government over the ruled, the more convenient it is to the dominating power. Therefore, sagacious rulers utilize the medieval authority of an Emperor or a king.

For instance, FRANCE after the war set up Emperor BAODAI as her "ace-in-the-hole" to oppose rioters in INDO-CHINA, who established the VIET NAM REPUBLIC in defiance of French colonial rule and declared its independence. This Emperor is worth several army divisions. He is not, however, a symbol of independence, but of suppression. If we reflect deeply on FUKUZAWA Yukichi's words that "a nation cannot be independent before its people become independent", it will help us appreciate modern history.

ITEM 6 On the Abdication of the Emperor - Provincial Paper: Kobe Shimbun - (Kobe) - 25 Nov 48. Translator: S. Yokoyama. (DD)

402

Summary:

The abdication of the Emperor has been rumored in some quarters since the International Military Tribunal rendered its verdict. This is natural in view of the fact that KIDO, who was an adviser to the Emperor, was sentenced to life imprisonment for his stand of not opposing the war, although he was anti-Army. It is quite natural for the people to presume that the Emperor might give up the throne, assuming moral responsibility for the war.

Even those who are close to the Emperor prefer immediate abdication to ensure the Emperor System, if the feeling becomes general and strong. However, it appears to be the Emperor's intention to remain on the throne and atone for his war responsibility by future endeavors.

The crown prince is still very young, and the selection of a regent is difficult because both the Empress and the Empress-Dowager would be unsuitable for the post. Also, objections are sure to rise against Princes CHICHIBU and TAKAMATSU for their military service in the past. Therefore, it is most natural and appropriate for the Emperor to remain on the throne for the time being; all the more so since it has been clarified that the Emperor struggled against the militarists more strongly than has generally been believed. However, there is danger that the reactionary forces will seek to utilize the situation if the Emperor remains.

It is true that the emasculated Emperor System can do no harm to the nation. Yet there is great possibility that the System may be utilized as a bulwark against the extreme leftist movement for a bloody revolution. It is reported that 60 percent of public opinion in the UNITED STATES was opposed to the Emperor System immediately after the war. The Emperor System was retained by the Allied Powers because its immediate abolition would cause social confusion and pave the way for a bloody revolution. If the Emperor System is retained only because it serves as the best preventive measure against the possible danger of a leftist revolution, it will lose its raison d'etre as soon as such a danger becomes nonexistent. The Japanese should sincerely reflect upon this point.

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ITEM 6 The Emperor's Abdication Issue (MORITA Sohei) - Magazine: Bungei Shunju (Monthly) - Nov 48. Translator: M.I. Suzuki. (DD)

402

Summary:

I no longer revere the Imperial Family. Instead I feel towards them, an indefinable sort of attachment. I know that this is the result of emotions which persist from the time when our leaders forced us to venerate the Emperor. It was unnecessary for the Communist Party to tell me that. The following example explains this clearly.

My wife's mother was over 70 years old when she died over 10 years ago, and because she was born and grew up in EDO, to her, the Shogun rather than the Emperor was the object of her veneration until the time she died. I was born during the Meiji Era, and consequently, find that I cannot help loving the Imperial Family. The grip of education and environment are strong.

Then, what should we do about the Tenno system? I believe that in the past the Imperial Family lost all meaning or merit once it became too weak to stand by itself. It merely became the tool of others. One example is the Meiji Restoration which was carried out by the SATSUMA and CHOSHU class by utilizing the Imperial Family. If this had been accomplished through a popular revolution, or if these two clans had not been in such a hurry to amass wealth, we might not have faced the hardships of defeat today.

How the militarists of the Showa Era abased the Tenno system is still fresh in our memories. Yet the Tenno system can be said to have been used with good effect when the Emperor broadcast to all his forces on 15 Aug 45, the demand for the immediate cessation of hostilities. Whether this influenced the result or not, the abolition of the Tenno system has been left to the Japanese people.

What should the people do with this system which can be utilized for good or for evil? Under the present conditions of Allied occupations, this system might be used with beneficial results, but once the Allied forces withdraw great danger can be seen. There is no assurance that it will not be used for purposes contrary to Allied policy.

I believe that there can be no Tenno system if the Emperor is stripped of all sovereign power, yet the potentiality exists that it can be abused. If the system is destined to be abolished, I do not want to see it exploited by Fascists again; nor do I wish to see it come to a dishonorable end. With this in mind, I sincerely hope that the Emperor will take proper steps to meet the problems concerned with the abdication of the throne.

ITEM 9 "Emperor" Kumazawa Will Run in General Election - Provincial Paper: Miyako Shimbun (Kyoto) - 23 Nov 48. Translator: A. Kido. (SS)

402

Full Translation:

KUMAZAWA Hiromichi (61), known as Emperor KUMAZAWA had in autumn of the year before last moved from NAGOYA to KYOTO and had been loudly advocating the restoration of the branch of the Imperial family which had been ousted from the throne and forced to flee to the south, and had been charging that the present Emperor was descended from the branch of the family that had been placed on the throne by the shogun. However, perhaps coming to feel that KYOTO is not an easy place to live in, he left there around 25 November and moved to a certain restaurant (a house of one of his comrades) in OSAKA.

Mr KUMAZAWA has no intention of giving up his movement, which he has continued for many years. In order to have his wishes reflected through the Diet and to loudly cry from his seat there for the happiness of the people, he has decided to run in the next general election as an independent candidate from OSAKA.

On 21 November, while strolling though the streets, Emperor KUMAZAWA said: "In the last general election, I voted for the Socialist Party, but I was utterly disappointed. If I am elected, I would like to work for a middle-of-the-road administration. Should I, however, fail in the election, I will run in the next election for three-year members of the Upper House from the national electorate.

"The desire to correct erroneous history and proclaim the orthodoxy of the southern branch of the Imperial line has been the tragic wish of my ancestors. Yet I no longer have the feeling that I must become the Emperor at any cost. Life is hard. In KYOTO, we continued a hand-to-mouth living, exchanging household goods for food. In OSAKA, my wife is scheduled to take in work, making ladies' and childrens' clothing."

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 11652 SEC. 3(E) AND 5(D) OR (E) NNDG # 775015

ITEM 12 Osaka Citizens Favor Emperor Retention - Osaka Jiji (Osaka) - 23 Nov 48. Translator: F. Noda. (JTK)

#02

Full Translation:

People of OSAKA are generally in favor of retaining the Emperor. This was expressed on radio station JOBK's "man-in-the-street" interviews conducted at 1300 hours, 22 November, on the controversial question of whether or not the Emperor should abdicate.

Favored with fine weather and the lunch hour, some 2,000 persons, including company employees, laborers and those waiting for train, flocked around the Announcer NAGASHIMA and his transcription machine in front of Osaka Station and spiritedly expressed their views.

One supporter of the Emperor system insisted that the Emperor need not abdicate because he is the symbol of the people and even if he is morally responsible for the war, if this point is pursued, it will prove that the responsibility lies with the entire nation. Another person interviewed felt that although he wants the Emperor to abdicate, the time is yet premature for such a move in view of JAPAN's present task. Also, opinions were expressed from the viewpoint of mythology and tradition. One radical person interviewed argued in favor of the Emperor's abdication on the grounds that the responsibility for war naturally lies with the Emperor, that as long as the Emperor system continues to exist, a democratic government cannot be established and that the Emperor system is serving as the foundation for the rebirth of fascistic influence. Speaking on the Emeprior system rather than on the Emperor, one participant asserted that in order to mould a truly human Emperor, the Constitution should be revised again. There were many such beside-the-point opinions expressed which ~~embarrassed~~ the announcer. Generally speaking, the opinions were more emotional than rational.

Toward the end of the interview, Announcer NAGASHIMA asked, "How many of you favor the retention of the Emperor?" Supporters of retention answered the question with thunderous applause. When the interview was over at 1350 hours, certain dissenters suddenly rushed up the platform and heatedly continued to argue with supporters of the Emperor system even starting to come to blows. However, with considerable difficulty, NAGASHIMA managed to break it up, whereupon another man started to make a political speech. But he was checked by the police rushed from the Sonezaki Police Station, and thus the interview was finally brought to an end.

Station JOBK is expected to broadcast the edited transcription of this "vox pop" program at 1230 hours, 2 December, on the Number 1 network and at 2030 hours the same day on the Number II network.

ITEM 4 Takamatsu Says Emperor Will Not Abdicate - Tokyo Shimbun - 11 Dec 48. Translator: F. Seiki. (GS)

#02

Full Translation:

Prince TAKAMATSU, in an interview relative to the 9 December overseas dispatch commenting on the Emperor, Catholicism, and the rumor of his abdication, in connection with the sentences of the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal, stated,

"There have been similar reports before to the effect that their majesties were interested in the Catholic faith and that they might be baptised. This, however, is a christian observation.

"I cannot believe that they will be converted to the Catholic faith. Likewise, concerning the question of the Emperor's abdication, although it is by no means an impossibility, it is my personal opinion that he will not abdicate."

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ITEM 10 The Emperor Should Be Tried (Translated from the TA KUNG PAO dated 22 Nov) - Chuka Nippo - 6 Dec 48. Translator: S. Yokoyama. (JTK)

4-2

Summary:

With the International Military Tribunal for the FAR EAST finally rendering its verdict on the 25 class A war criminals, the ruling that aggression and the launching of war is a crime has been firmly established. Therefore, the Emperor of JAPAN must be indicted. We demand that the Tribunal arrest and try the Emperor. Tribunal President WEBB named Emperor HIROHITO as the "leader in the crime" and said that he is still available for trial. His statement can be construed as follows: since HIROHITO is chiefly responsible for JAPAN's aggression abroad from the legal point of view, and is still amenable for trial, he can be indicted. Although Tribunal President WEBB said "the Emperor was granted immunity," he gave no explanation as to who granted the Emperor's immunity and for what reason. Both Justice BERNARD of FRANCE and Justice MEI Ju-ao of CHINA insist that the Emperor should be indicted. Justice BERNARD states, "HIROHITO must be indicted as a war crimes suspect. The 25 defendants were only his accomplices." Justice MEI insists, "The Emperor should be tried in the same way as other war crimes suspects." He added, "The Tribunal has various evidences of the Emperor's implication in the war crimes." Their opinion is based on the legal theory. Legally, the Emperor was the sovereign of JAPAN and the old constitution of JAPAN stipulated that sovereignty rested with him. Since conspiracy to conquer the world, aggression abroad, surrender, and all other criminal and aggressive actions of JAPAN have been carried out in his name, it is natural that the Emperor be called to account.

If the 25 class A war criminals are guilty, the Emperor is more culpable than they, being the leader in the crime. Under old International Law, a sovereign was immune from indictment, because his inviolability was generally believed. In fact, however, under the old International Law, no individual was held responsible for the launching of war.

After World War II, everybody recognizes that HITLER was a war criminal in a special category. Were he alive, he would assuredly have been sentenced to capital punishment. HIROHITO was in a similar position to HITLER. Inasmuch as the immunity of a sovereign has been denied by recent legal theory, there is no reason why HIROHITO should be granted immunity merely because he is the sovereign of JAPAN.

HIROHITO has been granted immunity merely for political reasons. Some people may contend that the Pacific War was launched by TOJO and HIROHITO was against it. However, who signed the rescript declaring the war? In view of the fact that HIROHITO asked the Army and Navy about the possibility of success in the course of the round-table conference held in his presence, he must have been capable of preventing the war. If he says that he could not check the militarists, how was he able to accept the Potsdam Declaration? That KIDO deceived the Emperor is not true, because KIDO was appointed as Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal in December 1940 and had no chance of deceiving the Emperor regarding the 7 July and 13 August incidents. This is obvious when we remember that the 18 September Incident was the fuse which led to the aggression. In this connection, it must not be overlooked that the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal was not so powerful as is generally believed, since the Prime Minister was recommended by the Council of Elder Statesmen and not by him alone, as when Prince SAIONJI was alive. Moreover, HIROHITO was neither a child

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EDITORIAL

ITEM 10 (Continued)

nor mentally ill. He had sufficient power to act according to his will. He cannot evade his responsibility under the pretext that he was not informed of the conspiracy. Therefore, the plea that the Emperor is not responsible for the war because JAPAN's politics was controlled by the Cabinet and the Army is groundless. According to the old Japanese Constitution, the Emperor had dictatorial rights. In fact, whenever a crisis occurred, the council was convened in the presence of the Emperor, and he used to give the final decision. Since the time of Emperor MEIJI, the authority and despotic power of the Emperor has been unprecedentedly strengthened. It was utterly impossible to start a large scale aggressive war without the Emperor's consent.

Some people contend that HIROHITO's merit in ending the war and enabling the Allied Powers to disarm JAPAN peacefully must be recognized. Such a view is purely political. In our belief, HIROHITO wanted to end the war not for the sake of the Allied Nations but merely for the interest of JAPAN. He sought to preserve the power of JAPAN and thereby contribute to its reconstruction. He is not penitent for causing the aggressive war, because his decision to end the war was nothing but an intrigue. He is urging the Japanese to revive and seek revenge in the future by interpreting the surrender as a temporary truce. This is clearly shown by the surrender rescript. JAPAN's militarism is actually on the road to revival.

For the above reasons, we demand that the Tribunal try the Emperor. If he is innocent, sufficient reason for his innocence should be given.

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ITEM 9 Democracy and the Emperor - Provincial Paper: Shin Nippon (Osaka) - 6 Dec 48. Translator: SEKI. (TK)

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Summary:

We remember a postwar picture in an American magazine of the Emperor in his study. At his side was a bronze of Abraham LINCOLN. Though we do not know how the bust came to be placed in his study, we felt that it did not look out of place.

LINCOLN is the most popular figure among the people of the UNITED STATES. WASHINGTON is respected as the Father of the country, and although he was a statesman for the people, he was not a statesman from among the people, such as LINCOLN. LINCOLN respected the common people and walked with them. His political ideal was on behalf of the common people; he never thrusted his arbitrary ideals on them. In this sense LINCOLN is beloved by the people of the US.

That the Emperor takes so much interest in LINCOLN, who is beloved by the common people, reveals his character. The Emperor is undoubtedly anxious to come into closer touch with the common people, evidenced by his choice of LINCOLN's bust in his study but even now the old traditional customs, which still survive in the court, prevent him from mingling with the populace. Having LINCOLN's bust in his study is not a gesture of friendliness to Americans.

The basic principle of democracy is the concept that government is centered around the people. The Diet is the people's Diet, the government is the people's government, and the Emperor is the people's Emperor. If this concept does not take firm root among the people, the establishment of democracy cannot be completed.

Our history of democracy is still new. It is premature to expect too much at this early stage. That a good start toward democratization has been made can be realized when we recall the totalitarianism during the war days.

It is reported that the Emperor told Mr. KEENAN of his desire to assist in the democratization of JAPAN. If the Emperor could reveal his desire directly to the people it will surely help in our democratization. It is our responsibility to create such a situation.

ITEM 8 Reconsider the Authority as the State's Symbol - Provincial Paper: Yukan Kyoto (Kyoto) - 9 Dec 48. Translator: I. Kuniko. (TK)

402

Summary:

In reply to a question by Socialist WADA, at a meeting of the Lower House Foreign Affairs Committee on 6 December, as to what he thought of the Emperor's message to President TRUMAN which gave the impression that the Emperor alone had any diplomatic priveleges when at present JAPAN has no diplomatic relations whatsoever with any nation, YOSHIDA, Premier and concurrently Foreign Minister, said, "any message which concerns national affairs should be sent through the Foreign Minister, but even if the Emperor did sent other messages, it was done so by the Emperor in his individual capacity, so it is no concern of the Foreign Minister"

From a democratic point of view, it is praiseworthy that such a matter was debated upon in the Diet. It had been expected that the Emperor would express his reflection and determination toward democracy in some form as soon as the Tokyo Trial came to a close. Therefore, the Emperor's message stating that he would do his utmost to promote American democracy among the Japanese people may be regarded as a fulfillment of our expectation.

It was pointed out by Chief Judge WEBB that in his opinion Emperor HIROHITO should be considered the greatest Japanese war criminal, for he had absolute authority during the war and had the power to either declare or stop the war.

On the other hand, it is also understandable why the Emperor was exempted from a political point of view, as Prosecutor KEENAN stated. Nor is there any doubt that the Emperor, as an individual, was a peace-loving ruler. But at the same time, the Emperor should suffer from a guilty conscience, not as an Emperor but as a human being, for he should be the symbol of democratic conscience, representing the people upon whom the actual promotion of democracy depends.

There is no denying that the Emperor's message was issued only in an individual capacity. However, if the Emperor as the symbol of the State dares to speak irrespective of the will of the people, the significance of his existence would be made undemocratic. Therefore, we desire the Diet to investigate carefully what political repercussions may arise in connection with the message problem.

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Allies Agree On Immunity

Ruler Seen As 'Peaceful'

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By EARNEST HOBERECHT
UP Manager for Japan

Emperor Hirohito was not tried as a war criminal suspect along with Hideki Tojo because the victor nations had agreed to grant him immunity for political reasons, Chief Allied Prosecutor Joseph Keenan told the United Press.

Keenan, who will return to Washington, D.C., next week, said that even on the basis of the evidence there was no reason to indict Japan's emperor.

The man who won convictions against all top Japanese war criminals on trial before the International Military Tribunal for the Far East said the decision to let Hirohito go was an Allied political decision to which even Russian Premier Josef Stalin reluctantly agreed.

Keenan's stand on the emperor question was in direct contrast to that of Tribunal President Sir William Webb of Australia, who issued a separate opinion at the time of the judgment, calling Emperor Hirohito "the leader in the crime."

"While the decision regarding the emperor was political and while the decision was not with the prosecution, the chief of counsel would not have included him in light of the evidence," Keenan said.

"The evidence showed the Emperor always on the side of peace. This is in the evidence.

"I wanted the emperor brought into the courtroom as a witness, if nothing more than to explain his own position.

"The British said such a thing was intolerable in view of the fact that they have a king of their own.

"General MacArthur rather substantiated the British view, probably keeping in mind the job of the Occupation.

"General MacArthur said that if the emperor was made to appear as a witness, the emperor was prepared to ignore the facts as we found them in the evidence and was prepared to take full responsibility for the government's actions. He would not have attempted to hide behind the fact that he was a constitutional monarch, as we found by the evidence and was bound by rules, regulations and obligations to take the advice of advisers."

Webb in his separate opinion said he believed the evidence did not show that the emperor was bound to accept the views of his advisers. However, Webb did say that the evidence showed the emperor always favored peace.

"The greatest surprise that I encountered was finding there was a strong force in Japan against the war," Keenan said.

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STARS & STRIPES

DIET TO PROBE HIROHITO MESSAGE

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By Associated Press

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Japanese House of Representatives demanded government investigation into a message of friendship sent by Emperor Hirohito to President Truman.

The message was carried by Chief Prosecutor Joseph B. Keenan upon his recent return to Washington, from Tokyo.

Upon the initiative of a Socialist and a Communist the committee voted to require government investigation of newspaper reports that the emperor had relayed to Truman his determination to foster "closest and most cordial relationship with the United States."

This statement was given verbally to Keenan during a lengthy audience preceding the prosecutor's departure. It is the same kind of generality the emperor has voiced before.

But Toshiaki Wada, a member of the Social Democratic party, contended in the committee that the statement implied the emperor along has the prerogative of conducting diplomatic affairs.

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"I sincerely hope that the Diet will, realizing its responsibility as the supreme organ of the national prestige, do its utmost to the direction of elevating its authority and accomplishing the everlasting ideal of the Japanese country."

* * *

By Associated Press

The vice president of Japan's House of Councillors who stubbornly refuses to wear a necktie yesterday continued his one man campaign to eliminate bowing to Emperor Hirohito.

Jiichiro Matsumoto stood in a position of honor at the foot of the gilded throne as the emperor opened the Diet yesterday. But he gave only a jerky stiffnecked nod.

Matsumoto is a rugged individualist. He is pledged to have nothing to do with tobacco, liquor and women as well as neckties and bowing.

Diet members bent from the hips and stared steadily at the carpet as the emperor unrolled a scroll and read his imperial rescript yesterday. But Matsumoto kept his eyes stonily on the exalted personage.

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STARS & STRIPES

Emperor's Message Opens Diet Session

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By United Press

Emperor Hirohito, opening the fourth regular Diet session yesterday, appealed to the Diet members as the "highest organ of state power" to redouble their efforts toward gaining international recognition of Japan as a "democratic cultural country."

The fourth regular Diet session was formally opened as former Premier Hideki Tojo and six other top war criminals were in Sugamo Prison awaiting execution for their responsibility in waging aggressive wars.

The emperor, in formal morning coat attire, spoke less than two minutes to a joint session of the House of Representatives and House of Councillors in the latter's chamber.

He spoke in plain common conversational Japanese.

A translation of his message follows:

"Today, on the opening ceremony of the fourth session of the Diet, it is my heartfelt pleasure to personally meet you who are representatives of all the people of the country.

"Ever since the Japanese Constitution came into force, the Japanese people have, in accordance with the spirit of the new constitution, been making incessant efforts towards construction of a democratic cultured state which is the ideal of people.

"However, in order that our country may occupy an honorable position in the international society in the capacity of a freedom loving democratic state, we should still continue to make more and more efforts, trying to show to the world their result as a definite fact.

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