

CPYRGHT

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Japan Debates  
Baez Translation  
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Tokyo — Confusion grew over Japanese press allegations that the CIA had pressured a Japanese interpreter into mistranslating the political utterances of Joan Baez.

The interpreter, Ichiro Takasaki, a television producer, accompanied Miss Baez during her concert tour.

In translating her remarks, he softened or eliminated her partisan references to Vietnam and Hiroshima, surprising many bi-lingual viewers.

Why did he do it? A popular men's weekly launched the CIA allegations. After Newsweek came out with the story, the Tokyo press splashed it here.

The Asahi Evening News quoted Mr. Takasaki as saying: "Pressure was applied by a man (Harold Cooper) who said he was from the CIA."

However, he told the New York Times that "Cooper" had not identified himself as a CIA man.

"I assumed that was what he was," Mr. Takasaki said.

Later Mr. Takasaki said that any mistranslations were dictated by his own beliefs.