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Japan Report

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JAPAN REPORT

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POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

CURRENT OF THE TIMES EXAMINED

JSP, a "Coalition" Party

Tokyo SEKAI in Japanese Mar 80 pp 202-206

[Article: "JSP Changes Its Tune"]

[Text] The Concept of Two Stages in Government

The JSP included a two-stage concept of government in its proposed 1980 campaign policy for the first time, and presented this proposal to the general meeting of the party which opened on 8 February. The first stage in this concept is called a "reformist coalition government" and is projected for the first half of the 1980's. The special feature of this first stage is that it excludes the JCP from the power base which is to make up the coalition.

The only concept of a coalition government which the JSP has explicitly included in its campaign platform was the "National People's Coalition" in 1973. This was based on an "Antimonopoly National Front" composed of all non-government parties and proletarian groups and was given the status of the government for the period of transition into socialism. The immediate reason for this idea being changed to the second stage of the concept was the "concept of a JSP-Komeito coalition" which the JSP and Komeito agreed upon on 10 January. The two parties decided on excluding the JCP from the main strength of the coalition and explicitly stated this in the text of their agreement. The JSP accepted this idea and went through the procedures for creating a paragraph to confirm this as party policy and incorporating this paragraph in the draft campaign platform. Nevertheless, the fact that the JSP has shelved the longstanding idea of a front of all non-government parties as an "objective to aim at" will have great political impact. This development has been compared with the West German Socialist Party's separating itself from Marxism and breaking with the National People's Party in the Bad Godesberg platform in 1959. The move represents such an important change of course that the comparison is not necessarily an exaggeration.

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Exclusion of the JCP

It was, however, due to a simpler motivation that the JSP began consultations on the concept of a coalition government with the Komeito after last year's general election. The JSP wanted to get the cooperation of the Komeito in the Upper House elections expected in early July. This was also the motivation of the Sohyo, which took the initiative in calling for a Socialist-Komei line and presented itself as a strong driving force to bring this about. The JSP-Sohyo bloc had thrown its whole strength into last year's general election but was unable to brake the long-term trend toward the bloc's decline. The bloc was made to realize its own limitations. In the meantime, cooperation on the election by a combination of local labor unions of the Sohyo and the Komeito had produced results. Moreover, the Komeito and the DSP, both middle-of-the-road forces, had already agreed on the concept of a centrist coalition government and, with increasing closeness, had begun to work on the question of cooperation in the Upper House election. It is only natural that the JSP felt a sense of crisis in the Upper House elections. With the JSP in this position, the Komeito demanded agreement on the broad outline of a concept of government as the precondition for cooperation in the election. In particular, the Komeito presented "exclusion of the Communist Party" as a political principle and a line on which the Komeito could not make concessions.

The executive department of the JSP, motivated, in part, by the strong wishes of the Sohyo, wanted by all means to realize cooperation in the Upper House election where reversal of non-government party status hangs in the balance. It is unthinkable, however, that the Socialist Association which holds to the idea of a united Socialist-Communist front would easily accept exclusion of the Communist Party. There was concern that, depending on how this question went, it could develop into an intra-party struggle once again. In some respects this sort of situation within the party had gradually changed the meaning of consultation on a socialist government. The situation inside the party was also projected in the fact that Chairman Hasukata frequently spoke in favor of maintaining a line calling for all non-government parties in the face of criticism from the Sohyo and the faction pressing for Socialist-Komei cooperation.

In fact, the deciding factor in suppressing the dissatisfaction of the left-wing forces was the practical advantage to be gained from cooperation in the coming election. With this background situation in mind, the delegates from various regions at the Komeito general meeting which opened on 17 January one after another expressed concern that "once the Upper House election is over the Socialists will return to their original idea of all non-government parties." The JSP has a "record" of having repeated the pattern of drawing close to the Komeito at election time and going back to the all non-government parties line when the election is over. It is not strange that there should be distrust of the JSP within the Komeito.

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Becoming a Governing Party

In the recent rapprochement between the JSP and the Komeito, however, there was a hidden motivation which was completely different from this sort of "tactic" of cooperation in an election. This became the driving force which brought about JSP-Komeito consultations with greater speed than had been expected. The faction favoring a JSP-Komeito axis aimed to use this agreement between the JSP and the Komeito as a mechanism for further reducing the power of the faction favoring the Socialist Association. This was a struggle for a party line calling for changing the basic nature of the JSP from a "party of protest" aiming for socialism to a "governing party" aiming to form a government. This was the other purpose in having clearly specified exclusion of the JCP in the JSP-Komeito agreement and then having included it in the draft campaign platform.

In addition, there is a sense of a danger of a conservative-reformist coalition. It is well known that as the trend toward decline in the LDP progressed a move toward coalition with the DSP had risen pretty much to the surface. The fact that in their agreement on a concept of government the chiefs of the Komeito and DSP confirmed that they "would not join with the LDP as it is today" was, conversely, a proof that the possibility of a conservative-reformist coalition had existed. In such a political situation the JSP, in concluding an agreement with the Komeito, was also aiming to draw the DSP away from the LDP. The left-wing faction was also in favor of this idea and it was another reason for the left wing not directly opposing the JSP-Komeito agreement. It is probably safe to assume that the import of the "reformist coalition government" which was incorporated in the JSP's draft campaign platform is to be found in this point.

"Better Government"

The "Reformist coalition government" was described as "a government prior to a national people's coalition regime" and the objective given for the "reformist coalition" is "to solve the immediate pressing national problems." This can probably be stated as "better government." Considering that "formation of an antimopolistic national front is difficult" because of the long-term trend toward decline of the JSP and proliferation of non-government parties, the power base for the regime was described only in terms of concentration of reformist forces. On the grounds that the JCP has abandoned the "better government" line and has taken an opportunistic stance, the JSP excluded the JCP from the base of power in this regime. In addition, the JSP gave a rationale for excluding the JCP by presenting such views as (1) that the JCP is driving the centrist forces toward the conservative side by attacking the JSP and the Sohyo and (2) that since there is unreconciled confrontation between the Komeito and JCP it is not possible for those two parties to stand in agreement in a governing force. On the other hand; the position which the JSP took regarding the DSP was that "in criticizing erroneous political positions and policies and making clear the anti-LDP direction of their policies they will have concern not to drive support for the DSP in organized labor and the working masses toward the conservative side."

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The attitude toward formation of a JSP-Komeito-DSP bloc can probably be called cautious. However, considering the relationship of "familial malevolence" which has existed between the parties in the past, wording has been used which has paved the way for a "JSP-Komeito-DSP system" in the future. On the other hand, the JSP criticized the JCP in sharper tones than ever before and made it clear by giving reasons that the JCP is to be excluded from the power base in the "reformist coalition government" for the present.

Historic Change of Course

Three years ago Saburo Eda, who was advocating a Socialist-Komeito-JSP line, was not accepted within the party and ultimately broke from the party and turned to the formation of a Socialist-Democratic Socialist union. A year ago Chairman Hasukata perceived the political situation in the 1980's in a schema of confrontation between a "conservative coalition" and a "reformist coalition" and directed stronger criticism at the centrist forces.

The JSP seems to be completely transformed as though it had been struck by a sudden storm. The agreement in the JSP-Komeito political consultations moved realization of a JSP-Komei-DSP system one step closer and clearly seems to have been a major move toward a "historic change of course" in the JSP.

Let us consider the background for this decision by the JSP on a major change of course.

Shifts in factional strength within the JSP and the wishes of the Sohyo were the governing factors in the decision on taking a line favoring a JSP-Komeito axis. The people who played leading roles in the recent JSP-Komeito consultations were Vice-chairman Shimohira and Kitayama and Central Executive Committeeman Soga, who is in charge of planning, all of whom belong to the old Sasaki faction. The old Sasaki faction is the core of the left-wing JSP and is the "mainstream" of the unified JSP. In the past it played the central role in criticizing Mr Eda's argument for structural reform and even wrote the scenario for Mr Eda's downfall. In the recent struggle between the Socialist Association and the anti-Association faction, the old Sasaki faction moved toward the anti-Association faction and caused the strength of the Association's forces to decline greatly. This is a group which has always been deeply involved with the policy line of the JSP. Now, the former Sasaki faction has adopted the theory of a JSP-Komeito axis. The strength of the opposition force quite naturally fell to minority faction status.

The Former Sasaki Faction

The leader of the Sohyo faction which promoted JSP-Komeito cooperation is Director General Tomizuka. This man has now adopted a two-front strategy involving the question of unification of a labor front and cooperation in the Upper House elections. His strategy is to achieve a definite success

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in the Upper House election by realizing cooperation with the Komeito on that election and, at the same time, by drawing in the Komeito, to put the brakes on the move to reorganize labor through the popular advances of the DSP-Komei bloc. It was for this reason, too, that he applied various kinds of pressure on Chairman Hasukata. Mr Tomizuka is known as a flexible person, but in the past he was the leader of the strike for the right to strike, and in the JSP he belongs to the leftist faction.

Even though the faction close to Mr Eda which favored a JSP-Komei-DSP line took the lead in calling for a JSP-Komeito axis, they were not strong enough. The fact that the old Sasaki faction took the initiative can probably be counted as a major factor in the recent success of this move. Moreover, the move also had the complete backing of the Sohyo led by Mr Tomizuka, who is close to the old Sasaki faction,

There were also facets of the stance taken by the Communist Party which lent impetus to rapprochement between the JSP and the Komeito. Recent relations between the JSP and the JCP have been strained because of such things as the JSP's cooperation with the centrists in the gubernatorial elections in Kyoto and Osaka. The JCP took a position as "the sole reformist party," and their attack on the JSP from this position was violent. They consistently expressed distrust of Chairman Hasukata. The JCP also adopted a strategy which maintained, "As long as the JCP does not become larger and acquire strength equal to the JSP we will not draw them back to our side" (Chairman Miyamoto). This also seems to have stirred up the JSP. With the Socialist Association in the minority on the JSP central committee and relations between the JSP and JCP in a state of tension, even the Socialist Association could be said to have been in an environment in which it was difficult to voice strong criticism of the exclusion of the JCP. In an atmosphere in which the voices on the left cannot be heard, the JSP has been turned upside down.

After the Upper House Elections

The strategy of the Socialist Association seems to be aimed at changes in the situation following the Upper House elections. In the party's general meeting the agreement between the JSP and Komeito was limited to the immediate situation, and the Socialist Association is prepared to suppress the "ambitions" of the JSP-Komeito axis in debate by eliciting an executive division view that there has been no change in the line which calls for inclusion of all non-government parties.

The trend toward decline in the LDP, the intensification of infighting inside the LDP, and the frequent occurrence of scandals involving money politics and corruption in the LDP will also have a heavy effect. The day has come when it is possible to feel that a coalition government is a realistic idea. Unless the JSP prepares immediately for a coalition, the party may well come under criticism from the people. Furthermore, if the JSP does not prepare for a coalition and the LDP breaks down, it is highly probable that there will be conservative-centrist government. The DSP has clearly set forth its

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position. With the JSP-Komeito agreement, the LDP and JSP have gotten into a tug of war over the DSP, and a situation has been created in which it is strategically necessary to strengthen the bonds to the Komeito.

Acceleration Toward a Coalition Government

It can be said that the outlook for the future depends entirely on the results of the Upper House elections. It is certain that the JSP, Komeito and DSP will be able to cooperate to a fairly great extent in the elections. The key to the future lies in whether or not this cooperation produces successful results. If the cooperation is successful, the formation of JSP-Komeito-DSP bloc will progress rapidly. If the cooperation fails, a roll back from the left will start and the possibility of a conservative-centrist coalition will probably become stronger than the possibility of a JSP-Komeito-DSP government. Of course, the movement toward a coalition government would be suddenly accelerated if a reversal in roles of the government and non-government parties were to be realized. Left in an isolated position, the JCP has responded to this situation with bitter criticism. The JCP has charged, "The agreement between the JSP and the Komeito is a striking of reformist colors; it is a historic turn toward the right which begins the movement toward a great coalition with LDP; it will be a lasting blot on the history of the JSP" (Secretary General Fuha). This criticism was probably intended to stir up the leftist forces in the JSP.

The JSP is a "coalition" party formed by uniting left and right. Even its party platform has turned to the compromising term "class party of the masses" and has been the target of malicious gossip about "the dual socialist party." In fact, up to now the party has spent a great deal of effort on internal struggles between the left and the right, and as a result has moved along the road toward decline.

Although the relative strengths of the sides shifted, the party convention which will begin on 8 February will open in a pattern of confrontation between rightist and leftist factions just as usual. Without a doubt, sharp disputes will develop. Even though this general meeting has been arranged according to the wishes of the executive division, the Upper House elections are coming up and there will be questions of revision of the "platform" and "the road toward socialism in Japan." Whether party reform aimed at a JSP-Komei axis makes headway or whether the left again begins to work, the road ahead for the JSP is steep.

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Business Leaders' Position

Tokyo SEKAI in Japanese Mar 80 pp 207-210

[Article: "Business Leaders Lean Toward Promoting 'Comprehensive National Security'"]

[Text] Colored by Political Questions

It is no exaggeration to say that topics of conversation at the regular New Year's party of the four financial groups (the Federation of Economic Organization, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Japan Federation of Employers Associations, and the Japan Committee for Economic Development) held on 7 January 1980 was colored more by political questions than by economics.

When Prime Minister Ohira rose to say a few words, he bowed low and said, "I wish to ask your complete cooperation toward victory in the Upper House elections in July this year." The substance of Prime Minister Ohira's earnest request was, for the most part, concentrated in nuances asking for cooperation in financing; but, because it came after the LDP's heavy loss in the general elections last fall this talk had enough to it to be taken as something more than a pro forma greeting.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, recent developments in the Iranian revolution and the outcome of the U.S.-Iranian dispute brought on by the holding of U.S. Embassy personnel as hostages in Iran vied with this prospect in the domestic political situation to elicit great concern from the people attending the party. The leaders of the business world were at this party, of course, but the leaders of the LDP, Prime Minister Ohira, Foreign Minister Okita, Finance Minister Takeshita and others were all present. A great number of high-ranking bureaucrats also participated. The scene was like a showing of all stars in the complex composed of the government, business and the bureaucracy.

The fact that interest in such a forum as this was concentrated on politics rather than economics provides a very strong suggestion for figuring how the business world will try to get through the 1980's.

Move Away From the LDP?

Still, the business community was surprisingly calm about where domestic politics are heading. Of course, this is not to say that business is not nervous about the direction the Upper House elections this summer might take. Business, however, does not now give such thought to the LDP that it considers victory for the LDP a categorical imperative. The business community is gradually putting some distance between themselves and that way of conceiving things which they had in the Tanaka era and which saw a direct link between "Protecting the free society" and "Victory for the LDP." Consequently, they have even lost that generosity in making political contributions which they once had.

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People like Takeshi Sakurada, the honorary chairman of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations, feel that if the LDP is going to be absorbed in internal disputes, it would be better for the party to break up. This is to say that what the business community demands in domestic politics is stability, and to the extent that confusion and instability continue, business no longer feels the appeal for maintaining an exclusively LDP government which it felt in the past. In other words, this is evidence that business feels that shifting from an exclusively LDP government to a right-center coalition government is unavoidable. In fact, when the Japan Committee for Economic Development sent a survey questionnaire to managers of companies in June 1978, about 67 percent of these people felt that breakdown of the exclusively LDP government would occur within 10 years (about 8 percent predicted this would happen within 2 years). Furthermore, if the people who answered that they "could not say one way or the other" are included, about 30 percent felt that breakdown of the exclusively LDP government would not affect operation of business. What these figures show is that there is a growing number of managers who are psychologically prepared to remain calm even if a coalition government is formed.

Speculation on a JSP-Komeito Coalition

Consequently, in regard to the ideas of JSP-Komei and Komei-DSP coalitions which have surfaced at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, not a few of the top people in the business world have let it be known that they would "like to nurture these ideas of a coalition to maturity." Because the concept of a JSP-Komei-DSP has two ideas, (1) exclusion of the JCP and (2) continuation of the U.S.-Japanese Security Agreement, in common with the conservative line, it seems to the business community that it is not greatly different from the LDP line in policy and ideology and is actually a conservative concept. In reality, at heart the business community feels a sense of relief at the appearance of such a coalition of non-government parties which is practical and leans toward the right.

In view of this background situation, even though the business community at this New Year's party had sharpened interest in politics, the source of their uneasiness was the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and Iran rather than domestic politics. The significant point about the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan is that it represents a shift to a new stage in the U.S.-Soviet confrontation. On the other hand, the Iranian revolution and the dispute between Iran and the United States has caused increased anxiety over guarantees of oil. Furthermore, as United States President Carter recently pointed out in his state of the union message, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is itself "a threat to the supply of oil from the Middle East."

Tilt Toward Comprehensive National Security

A point which must not be overlooked is that the business community is rapidly turning toward comprehensive security guarantees as the medium and long term strategy for dealing with the 1980's which have begun with this kind of worsening tension and confrontation. One of the mainstays of this strategy is defense and the other is promotion of solidarity in the Pacific basin.

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As is commonly known, the concept of comprehensive national security which comprises defense, economics and diplomacy as a single system was brought out clearly at the time of the election for LDP president when, in October 1978, Prime Minister Ohira emphasized, "We will try to provide comprehensively for Japan's security by maintaining a policy of combining the United States-Japanese Security Treaty with a moderate, high quality defense capability and complementing this by providing a domestic policy over a broad range including the economy, education and culture and by increasing necessary diplomatic efforts in economic cooperation, cultural diplomacy and so forth." (taken from "General Data on the Policies of Masayoshi Ohira")

In fact, however, in June of 1978, the Kansai Association for Economic Development, which is a gathering of business people from the Kansai area, sent a "Survey Team on Popular Awareness Concerning National Security" to six Western European countries and put together a report titled "Considering the Security of Japan." The organization pointed out, "In order to provide for national security and stability it is indispensable to establish a comprehensive security system which strikes a balance over a range of areas such as demonstrating excellent diplomatic capability, maintaining an appropriate defense capability, strong economic power, building social and capital stock for national security, stability in the social system, the North-South problem and relations with the free world bloc."

Defense Issues in the Forefront

Following this chronological sequence, the Committee for Economic Development, which is a group of Tokyo business people, in its outlook for 1980 titled "The 1980's: New Responses Demanded in the Midst of Upheaval" which was released on 18 January emphasized the importance of comprehensive national security and put defense questions in the forefront. The outlook pointed out:

"Since a confused political and economic situation will continue in a world fraught with potential crises, it is necessary for Japan to build a new order in which she can respond to violent change. Japan must do this through strengthening a comprehensive national security system founded on the spirit of international cooperation. This will be the national task for the 1980's.... As a national task for the 1980's there should also be broad debate and efforts to form a consensus on the defense issue which is part of a comprehensive national security policy."

In addition, moves in the role of pressure group for increasing defense capability have been conspicuous recently on the part of the Defense Industries Committee (chaired by Fumihiko Kono, a consultant for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries) which is known as a hawkish entity within the Federation of Economic Organizations, the main group in the business community. This, however, is only natural since it is the nature of this committee to represent the thinking of the weapons industry. For example, in the process of forming the government's budget for 1980, it was the Defense Industries Committee which played a major role behind the scenes in

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guaranteeing a 0.9 percent ratio of defense expenditures to the GNP. The committee did a tremendous amount of preparatory maneuvering aimed at the government and leadership of the LDP.

Furthermore, it is already known that United States Secretary of Defense Brown, who visited Japan on his way home from the PRC in mid-January, requested an increase from 0.9 percent to 1 percent as the ratio of defense expenditures to the GNP. It is said that prior to Brown's visit to Japan, executives from the Pentagon and the Defense Industries Committee were in contact, and the Defense Industries Committee insisted strongly on the necessity for an increase to 1 percent. In short, it could be said that the source of Brown's statement requesting an increase in Japan's defense capability was actually the Defense Industries Committee of the Federation of Economic Organizations.

What should probably be noted is that in this process even the Committee for Economic Development, which is known as the dovish wing of the business community, has pushed the defense issue to the fore as part of comprehensive national security. It is an important point that the business community in Kansai first raised the matter of the necessity of comprehensive security before the formation of the Ohira government, and moreover, that the Committee for Economic Development, which had intentionally avoided the defense issue up to now, has finally ceased to regard the question to taboo.

Renewed Economic Friction Between Japan and the United States

The 1980's have also been called an era of renewed economic friction between the United States and Japan. At present storm clouds are gathering over the auto industry, but Honda Giken and Nissan have already announced they will move capital into the United States and Toyota intends to follow them. If these capital inroads are a help in resolving domestic unemployment within the United States it will not be so difficult to quench the fuse of renewed friction. Although sources of friction in the area of United States and Japanese advanced technology in individual industries such as the electronics industry will not disappear, the business community is not so seriously concerned about this. Rather, with the justification of avoiding friction between the United States and Japan, they want at this time to bury all at once the lack of defense efforts by Japan, which has long been a deep-rooted rationale for criticism in the United States. After Brown departed from Japan, Prime Minister Ohira and Foreign Minister Okita took up the slogan of Pan-Pacific solidarity and went off on a round of visits to Australia, New Zealand and Papua-New Guinea. This could have been thought of as a diplomatic pilgrimage to divert attention when there was pressure for answers on the tension in the Mid-East and Japan's response to the tension. The business community however, saw a clear-cut direction in this move.

A business man pointed out that "this is a Mid-East policy." Why is a visit to Australia and New Zealand meaningful as a policy to deal with the Mid-East? Aside from the political agreement between the Japanese and Australian leaders that "the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan is a violation of

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international law," the significance of the visit is in guaranteeing energy. Along with the threat of oil posed by the intensification of tension in the Persian Gulf, the need for Japan to have diversified guarantees for energy has become more urgent.

The Energy Question

Diversified assurances means, on the one hand, reducing excessive reliance on the Middle East for oil and, on the other hand, looking to sources of energy other than oil. Looking at the oceanic region from this angle, one notes that Australia in particular is rich in uranium, natural gas and coal. Furthermore, there are hopes for oil fields on the ocean floor. It goes without saying that the real purpose for Prime Minister Ohira and company taking up the slogan of Pan-Pacific solidarity was to reconfirm assurances of a stable supply of these resources. The business people's common perception of Prime Minister Ohira's recent visit to Australia was that "it had not one bit of specific substance other than this,"

Business based support for Prime Minister Ohira's Pan-Pacific concept comes from the Pacific Economic Committee (President of the Tokyo Kyuko Railroad Noboru Goto chairman). This committee was founded in 1938 and at present it is lead by Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand with participation by South Korea, Indonesia, the Philippines, Peru and Chile. At the 12th general meeting in Los Angeles in May last year the chairman made a speech titled "The Significance of a Pacific Bloc for the 1980's." In this speech he advocated founding a Pacific Economic Community and forming a system which would join the advanced countries and the developing countries together in transfer of resources, capital assistance, transfer of resources, capital assistance, transfer of technology and shifting of labor within the community. In short, he called for a break with the old emphasis on exchanging ideas.

Another thing which must be pointed out in connection with Pan-Pacific Solidarity is that from the viewpoint of guaranteeing safe transport routes for resources the business community is very interested in (RIMPAC) (Pan-Pacific Joint Exercises) in which the Japanese Self Defense Forces are participating. They are particularly interested in the results on anti-submarine tactics. In any case, the business community is one with the government and, aside from how effective it will be as a policy for dealing with the crises, has begun anxiously pursuing the establishment of a comprehensive security system as the strategy for the 1980's. It must not be forgotten that supporting this from the rear on the domestic political scene is the concept of a JSP-Komei-DSP coalition which is leaning sharply toward a practical line which amounts to the same policy.

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The Defense Issue

Tokyo SEKAI in Japanese Mar 80 pp 211-214

[Article: "New Prospects in Defense Industries"]

[Text] As though in response to the sharp confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan at the end of last year and other radical changes in the world political situation, business circles became active with statements and moves in connection with the defense issue.

Chairman Fumihiko Kono of the Board of Trustees of the Federation of Economic Organizations (he also serves as chairman of the organization's Defense Industries Committee and is a consultant to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries), at the 20 November meeting of the Board of Trustees, "predicted" international tension centered on the United States-Soviet confrontation. He said, "in the 1980's insuring national security with emphasis on national defense will become even more important." After the beginning of the year, the outlook for the year by representative executive Naoru Sasaki of the Committee for Economic Development took up the defense issue for the first time since the founding of the Committee for Economic Development. His call was that "as a national task for the 1980's broad discussion should be held and effort made to form a consensus." Because of its youth as a group of business people and because the leaders of consumer industries and peacetime industries which introduced the post war high growth rates have a comparatively strong voice in the Committee for Economic Development, it has been called the representative of the dove faction by way of comparison with other groups such as the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations and this means that the Committee has become more hawkish with age.

Furthermore, it has been reported that a "defense Technology Association" will be inaugurated this April. This is to be a think tank aimed at promoting research for defense technology. It will be started at the initiative of the defense industries and "old boys" in defense research lead by pioneers in the development of postwar technology such as Soichiro Honda, chief consultant to Honda Giken Industries and (HIROSHI) Ibuka, honorary chairman of Sony.

Shift to an Ideologic Offensive

The fact that business people have begun openly making statements on defense issues is inseparably related to recent developments both at home and abroad. There have been reports that since last year Soviet ground forces have been deployed in the Kurile Islands for the first time in 18 years, and that Soviet Far Eastern naval power has been augmented by the deployment of the aircraft carrier Minsk and other such moves. Because of such reports the people have been freshly impressed with the existence of the Soviet Union as a "hypothetical enemy." Because the series of developments from December into January of this year such as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the

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incident of Soviet spying within the Defense Agency, an environment has been created which the non-government parties and labor unions can only accept without protest even though the business community calls for building up an independent defense capability.

It can be safely assumed that the business community is consciously encouraging this crisis situation in Japan which has been brought on by international tension and that the business community intends to use the crisis to end the people's disinterest in and antipathy to defense issues. Coming into the low-growth era, business was put on the defensive on the defense issue and the defense budget which, in a sense, "substantized" that issue. Business managed a comeback by arming themselves with the unique weapon of the economists' concept of "thoroughly implementing economic efficiency, even in defense." Now it can be said that business is moving into a ideologic offensive in which they insist on building up defense capability for self-defense.

In a Low Growth Economy

The fact that the business community was put on the defensive as far as the defense issue was concerned after the low growth period began is directly demonstrated by the changes in percentages of the defense budget accounted for by capital outlays for purchase of weapons, aircraft, ships and so forth which directly provide profits for the defense industries. In 1973, the second year of the Fourth Defense Plan, capital outlays amounted to 278.4 billion yen or 29.8 percent of 935.5 billion yen in defense related expenditures. The percentage however, dropped rapidly from this peak and fell to 19.6 percent in 1976. This was due to the fact that in the wild confusion of prices brought on by the first oil crisis ordinary expenditures, including outlays for personnel matters and food for self defense personnel, swelled and ate into outlays for equipment.

In 1973, outlays for personnel and food were 45.7 percent of defense related expenses, but in 1976 these outlays rose by almost 10 points and reached 55.1 percent of defense costs. Since defense industries rely completely on orders from the Defense Agency, their rate of operation dropped and their profits deteriorated rapidly. However, both aircraft and tanks employ advanced technology which cannot be redirected to civilian life and, consequently, if production systems were curtailed and research teams disbanded, it would be difficult to pick up this technology if the time should come for restarting production of military items. Many manufacturers kept defense related sectors going when profits were difficult even though operations were being reduced in the civilian machinery sector. Another blow to the defense industries was the fact that after the Fourth Defense Plan the method of forming the defense budget became a single year system and it became easier for the outlays in orders for equipment to be governed by the year-to-year fiscal situation. This is extremely inconvenient for manufacturers who set up their production systems both in terms of plant investment and investment in personnel after making long-term assessments.

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"Money for Equipment"

In 1976 the defense industries began to try to effect a reversal of the difficult situation in which they had been placed. In May of 1976 the Defense Industries Committee of the Federation of Economic Organizations released "Our Views on the Issue of Providing a Defense Capability." Their thinking was in line with the government's basic defense policy of "providing a basic defense capability for exclusively defensive purposes" and "defense related expenditures within 1 percent of the GNP" and is indicated in their demand that within this framework "corporate concepts be introduced in the Defense Agency and operational efficiency be pursued--priorities set and productivity raised--as its management theory."

The defense industries voiced the criticism that "merely feeding poorly equipped self defense personnel is like operating a project to counter unemployment and is the same as having troops armed with sticks." The industries proposed that "it would be more efficient to reduce personnel expenses and raise the equipment ration just as a civilian firm would do using the same budget." It can probably be said that the intent was entirely to "bring more money to the defense industries which are in distress," but in emphasizing that they had not asked for increased defense expenditures but had only mentioned the use of the money, and that the taxpayers would generally welcome making the budget effective, the industry was aware of the critical eye the people keep on defense build-ups.

The business community's thinking gradually penetrated the Defense Agency, and when inflation subsided and the growth of food and personnel expenses was held down, capital outlays, mainly for equipment, began to increase conspicuously in 1979. The total for capital outlays in the 1979 defense budget was 473.4 billion yen, an increase of 84 billion yen over the previous year. In 1979 the percentage recovered to 22.6 percent. In the government's proposed budget for 1980 which was decided upon at the end of last year the figure swelled to 544.8 billion yen and the percentage rose to 24.4 percent. Within this amount, equipment, related expenditures for weapons, rolling stock, aircraft, ships, etc., increased 12.4 percent as compared with a 6.5 percent increase for the defense budget as a whole. Equipment related expenditures came to 460.8 billion yen. In a time of fiscal crisis when government bonds will have to be issued in excess of 14 trillion yen, this can be called unprecedented favorable treatment.

In addition, the Defense Agency's proposed improvement program, which had been a pending issue for the defense industries, was somehow actualized last July in the drafting of 5-year medium-range project estimates for the years 1980 through 1984. Although this is internal data assembled for the purpose of budget requests, weapons, aircraft, ships and equipment with surveillance functions and so forth which will be needed in the next 5 years were made known. The assessment of the business community tells the success of their efforts to turn the situation around. They (managing director of the Federation of Economic Organizations Chiga Tetsuya) said, "To some degree our demands have been accepted; the well planted seeds have matured."

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Uneasiness About Following Along Behind the United States

If turning the situation around was the first stage, then stage two, a period of offensives by the business community seems to have begun shortly after the beginning of 1980. At a press conference on 18 January, Chairman Toshio Doko of the Federation of Economic Organizations and Vice Chairman Yoshihiro Inayama, who is regarded as Doko's successor as chairman, in speaking about the occupation of the United States Embassy in Iran and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, both insisted upon an independent response by Japan when, in reference to Japan's having been asked by the United States to cooperate by going along with economic sanctions against the Soviet Union and Iran, they said, "Cooperation with the United States is important but it is not appropriate to put Japan in the position of exercising sanctions which would clearly mark friends and foes." At that time, the topics covered included the defense question, and Chairman Doko emphasized the necessity of an independent defense capability by saying, "If Japan were in a serious situation (being invaded by the Soviet Union), I do not know whether the United States would come to help just because there is a Japan-United States Security Agreement. If we buy oil from Iran and the United States complains about it, there is no dignity in our making earnest apologies. Even if we have concluded a treaty, we cannot tie ourselves down." Vice Chairman Inayama said, "The Security Treaty means that we are under the American nuclear umbrella and seek peace in a nuclear balance; naturally, we must defend ourselves against various troubles earlier than that and we need enough of a national defense to do so."

Not only the leaders of the Federation of Economic Organizations but a growing number of people in industry feel impatient and uneasy that in spite of the change in balance due to the decline in United States military power and the buildup of Soviet military power the government continues its foreign policy of following along behind the United States. These people are criticizing this situation. They insist that although it is only natural to remain within the framework of the Security Treaty, increased defense capability corresponding to Japan's increased economic power is necessary and would be in line with the wishes of the United States which is asking Japan to assume an appropriate share of the burden of defense costs.

Aiming To Be a "Powerful Country"

In its yearly assessment, the Committee for Economic Development worked from the perception that in the midst of upheaval in the world political and economic situation "in the 1980's a very unstable situation will continue in which unpredictable circumstances could occur even while there is concern that the great problems which arose in the 1970's will become more serious without any way to easy solution being found." On the basis of this perception the Committee for Economic Development strongly called for the necessity of "crisis management" and gave priority to defense as part of this management. The Committee's "Views" also proposed "strengthening the prime minister's leadership by establishing a powerful assistance group which would also include civilians and which would be directly subordinate to the prime

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minister" and "restudying the election system by reviewing the simultaneous use of the system of small electoral districts and proportional representation and by taking another look at the national constituency system in the Upper House. Taking all of these things together it is possible to interpret them as aiming for a "powerful country" which could respond immediately to internal and external crises. Furthermore, on 11 January, the Round Table on Industrial Planning (TAKESHI) Sakurada, representative manager) which is a research group for the business community, released "The Second Basis for Reconstruction of Fiscal Policy." In this publication the group hypothetically suggested a rapid increase in defense spending in connection with the point that whether the level of reliance on national bonds is appropriate is decided in the relative context of the size of the national bond market. The publication said, "Suppose that at a time when the scale of the budget is 20 trillion yen an urgent defense need is felt and a 10 trillion yen national bond issue is made." It continues, "If the national bond market is functioning well, this would be all right." It is noteworthy that in back of the Industrial Planning Round Table's request for constriction of fiscal policy and fiscal reconstruction was a latently operating sense of crisis because of the feeling that with fiscal policy expanded to the full and running a deficit, in addition to the fact that mechanical business recovery policies would not be possible, "it would not be possible to expand defense preparations in time of emergency." Some leaders in the Federation of Economic Organizations have insisted that a Defense Committee should be inaugurated by reorganizing the Defense Industries Committee and combining it with the Foreign Relations Committee in order that the business community might make statements not only in the narrow dimension of spokesman for the interests of the defense industries but also from the broad perspective of how to strengthen the nation's defenses. It can probably be said that this symbolically demonstrates the business community's current intention of escalating the defense issue from the industrial dimension to the political dimension.

A New Stage in the Defense Debate

With the percentage of capital outlays in the 1980 defense budget having climbed to 24.4 percent, the Defense Industries Committee of the Federation of Economic Organizations has begun to work on the government in an effort to raise the guideline of 25 percent, the level for West Germany, during the period covered by the Defense Agency's mid-range operating estimates.

This is in line with business' longstanding demands for "constriction of personnel expenses and buildup of equipment capability," but there are many problems e.g., (1) not only would the content of the defense budget be changed but the percentage of the GNP equalled by the overall defense budget would rise to 0.9 percent, (2) a Japanese defense capability actively built up by providing equipment which makes use of advanced technology would cause new political tension in Asia, and (3) there is a danger that a military industrial complex would be built in to the design of the Japanese economy and would begin working on its own. It can be expected that when a certain amount has been achieved, difficulties unlike any met in the past will

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follow. It can probably be said that in order to overcome these difficulties the business community has begun to grapple with the question of getting away from demands for economic efficiency such as they have used in the past and moving to building up the people's defense consciousness.

At this juncture when there are signs of trouble in the international situation, a decision has been made to establish a Special Committee on Security in the House of Representatives; this is a crucial moment in the defense debate both for the business people who are planning to build-up defenses and for the peace forces who are trying to prevent this.

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POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

JCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE ENDS TWO-DAY PLENUM

OW141005 Tokyo JPS in English 0859 GMT 14 Apr 80 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 14 Apr (JPS)--The second Central Committee plenum of the Japanese Communist Party ended its 2-day session on April 12. On the final day, Vice Presidium Chairman Koichiro Ueda, chairman of the Policy Commission, explained a proposition on the "Points at Issue in the House of Councillors Election, and the JCP Election Platform--for Making the 1980's the Era of Progress and Advances of the Progressive Forces" (draft).

The plenum carried serious discussions on the introductory speech made by Presidium Chairman Kenji Miyamoto, the report (delivered by Secretariat chief Tetsuzo Fuwa), and the explanation of the proposition. Twentynine members (or alternate members) of the Central Committee spoke in the discussions in view of the nearing House of Councillors election, from the position of putting the 15th party congress decision into full practice. Presidium Chairman Kenji Miyamoto also spoke in the discussions.

The plenum heard AKAHATA correspondent Yasuo Ogata's report on his on-the-spot coverage of the Afghanistan issue.

After the discussions, Secretariat chief Tetsuzo Fuwa gave a concluding remark on the discussions.

The plenum unanimously adopted Presidium Chairman Miyamoto's introductory speech, Secretariat chief Fuwa's report on the "Implementation of the 15th Party Congress Decision, and the JCP Election Platform," together with the concluding remarks, and a report made by Vice Presidium Chairman Tomio Nishizawa, chairman of the International Commission.

The plenum reaffirmed the resolute will to tackle the immediate tasks, including setting up consultative conferences for a progressive united front, and the establishment of a class-conscious and democratic national center of trade unions, and to make every effort for the advance of the JCP in the House of Councillors election as a milestone in the implementation of the 15th party congress decision, while reckoning with the importance of all-party political and ideological preparedness as directed in the 15th party congress decision.

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POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

INCREASING JSP-JCP CONFRONTATION VIEWED

OW250536 Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 80 p 12

[Article by Minoru Shimizu: "JSP-JCP Confrontation Intensified"]

[Text] Friendly relations are developing among three major opposition parties--the Japan Socialist Party (JSP), Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP)--as evidenced by their plans to join force in several prefectural constituencies in the House of Councillors election this summer. The Japan Communist Party, another major opposition party, however, finds itself in a state of growing isolation, being shunned by the three other opposition parties. It is interesting that the relations of the JCP with these parties are now colder than with the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party.

One reason for the JCP's isolation is its confrontation with the JSP, the No 1 opposition party, taking the form of an intense political mud-slinging contest since over a month ago.

Anti-Communist Stand

The Japan's relations with the DSP and Komeito, both anti-communist, have been cold from the start, but the JSP had collaborated with the JCP until late last year, in presenting a united front in the Diet. The JSP leadership had joined forces with the JCP in the belief that it would be advantageous in a Diet showdown with the LDP if all opposition forces were unified. Therefore, the largest opposition party considered it necessary to promote a coalition of all opposition forces including the JCP. Another reason was that Shakaishugi Kyokai-ha (the socialist society), the extreme left-wing faction of the JSP which wields strong influence on party management, promoted the idea of a united front with the JCP rather than with Komeito and the DSP.

JSP-JCP relations cooled down after the JSP started talks with the centrist Komeito last November to discuss plans for the formation of a coalition government. The JCP criticized the JSP move through its organ AKAHATA. But their dispute did not grow hot immediately because the JSP refrained from accepting the challenge.

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Coalition Government

But the situation changed and their relationship soured when the JSP reached agreement with Komeito on [words indistinct] on plans for the formation of a coalition government. The JCP's attack on the JSP intensified as a result.

Chairman Kenji Miyamoto and other JCP leaders castigated the JSP, alleging that it had swung to the right and that the JSP-Komeito policy agreement represented an anti-communist and pro-LDP line. The party organ AKAHATA, which has a circulation of more than 3 million, also delivered a broadside.

What has caused the JCP to conclude that the JSP has swung to the right? Plans being promoted for a coalition of opposition parties are based on two separate policy agreements--one concludes between the JSP and Komeito and the other between Komeito and the JSP--and Komeito is expected to serve as a bridge to join the three parties in a coalition government. The DSP recognizes the Japan-U.S. security treaty and is definitely in favor of building up national defense, and Komeito also follows a similar policy since the JSP has concluded a coalition policy agreement with Komeito, the JCP no longer considers the JSP a reformist party. Top JCP leaders castigate the JSP, saying that it has, in effect, joined hands with the JSP which, in its view, follows a militarist policy.

For years, the JCP under the leadership of Chairman Miyamoto managed to maintain friendly relations with the JSP on the whole, despite occasional signs of discord, because it regarded the JCP as an indispensable partner in a possible coalition government of "democratic" forces.

'Democratic' Forces

Miyamoto did not expect the JSP to stop dealing with his party completely. The JSP's collaboration with Komeito, however, totally upset his plans for a coalition government of "democratic" forces, and, as a result, he came to have an intense hatred for the JSP. Miyamoto's wounded feelings are reflected in AKAHATA's vigorous campaign against the JSP. Since around February, AKAHATA has daily allotted two to four pages to the anti-JSP campaign which has become more intense with each passing day.

In the face of the JCP attack, the JSP decided in early March to fight back, in the conclusion that ignoring it would adversely affect its upper house election campaign this summer.

The JSP began to strike back by using its organ, SHAKAI SHINPO, and distributing handbills. It prepared pamphlets accusing the JCP of self-righteousness and of making mistakes in its postwar political tactics, and supplied these to party activists throughout the country for use in a propaganda campaign.

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JSP Claims

The JSP claims that the JCP attack is unfounded defamation which distorts the true intentions of the JSP-Komeito agreement and the JSP's basic policy. It stresses that the JCP has adopted tactics designed to attack the JSP, its old ally, in an attempt to expand its own influence.

The JSP's counterattack has provoked another JCP salvo, and AKAHATA is running a series of articles asserting that the JSP's criticism of the JCP is irrelevant. Thus, the confrontation between the two parties has developed into a propaganda war involving their party organs and magazines.

It can be said that periods of confrontation and cooperation have alternated in the history of the two parties' postwar relations. However, the confrontation this time is more intense and ugly than ever before, and their relations are unlikely to improve for the time being. Other parties are closely watching developments in the JSP-JCP confrontation which could seriously affect the upper house election this summer.

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POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL

'JPS' REPORTS JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY MAY DAY SLOGANS

OW301111 Tokyo JPS in English 28, 29, 30 Apr 80 OW

[0923 GMT 28 Apr 80]

[Text] Tokyo, 28 Apr (JPS)--AKAHATA on April 27 published May Day slogans of the Japanese Communist Party for the 51st May Day in 1980.

The following is the first part (1-8) of the slogans, which comprise 20 items.

1. End the reactionary Ohira government and Liberal-Democratic Party politics, which are subordinated to the United States, serve big business and are corrupt to the extreme. All the forces that agree on the three progressive objectives, unite widely to make the 1980's an era of progress and reform.

The political-power concept excluding the Communist Party leads to a coalition with the Liberal-Democratic Party. The working class, firmly carry on the cause of progress.

2. Oppose the anticommunist, right-leaning reorganization of the labor front, which corresponds to the change into a new ruling party on the political front. For class-oriented and democratic establishment of a national center which is independent from capital, and a political party which is able to defend the workers' interests and unity.

3. Oppose all hegemonism, defend the right to national self-determination. Oppose Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. The Soviet troops must be withdrawn immediately.

Oppose the policy of military bloc and Carter's "policy of strength." Never allow the U.S. imperialists' policy of war and aggression and policy of global domination.

For solidarity with all the peoples in the world, struggling for social progress, peace and national self-determination.

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4. Oppose to have Japan turned into a base for U.S. military intervention in the Middle East. Oppose the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. joint operational setup, Japan-U.S. joint military exercises and the reinforcement of the Japanese Self-Defense Forces.

Abrogate the Japan-U.S. security treaty, for a non-aligned, neutral and self-defensive Japan.

5. Thoroughly investigate the cause of irregularity and corruption, including the aircraft scandal, the Las Vegas gambling case, the KDD bribery, and the buying [as received] of the bill for the revision of the certified tax accountants law. Each party should make public the truth concerning suspected Diet members of each respective party. Prohibit political fund donations by enterprises and organizations, and realize clean and fair politics.

6. Defeat the plot of malrevision of the public offices election law, which aims to suppress the freedom of speech, and which is being promoted through collusion by the Liberal-Democratic Party and the anti-communist opposition parties. Never let pass the plot of the introduction of a single-member constituency system which destroys parliamentary democracy. Oppose the revival and strengthening of militarism through such channels as the introduction of emergency (wartime) legislation, the enactment of a secret protection law, the revival of a conscription system and the maneuver to lift the ban on the export of arms. For allout implementation of the peaceful and democratic clauses of the constitution.

7. For signing of an international agreement banning the use of nuclear weapons and an international agreement on a total ban on nuclear weapons. For the legislation of an N-bomb victims relief law. Legislate the "three nonnuclear principles" and internationalize them. For a grand national unity of the movement for banning A and H bombs. ("Three non-nuclear principles": not to possess, not to manufacture, and not to allow the entry of nuclear weapons into this nation.)

8. Demand the Soviet Union to immediately return the Habomai and Shikotan islands, part of Hokkaido. Abrogate the Chishima renunciation clause in the San Francisco peace treaty, conclude a Japan-Soviet peace treaty and realize the return of the whole of the Chishima (Kurile) Islands.

[OW301113 0908 GMT 29 Apr 80]

[Text] Tokyo, 29 Apr (JPS)--9. Recover the worsened working conditions due to big businesses' arbitrary "management by cutting down the costs." Change the industrial and economic policy toward the policy serving the people, and realize democratic reconstruction of the Japanese economy by means of increasing the people's purchasing power and expanding public investment to projects closely linked with improving the people's living.

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10. Reexamine the rises of electricity and gas charges. Oppose the raise of public utility charges including the national railway fares, postal charges, rice price for consumers. Curb the raise of prices by big enterprises on the excuse of the rise in oil price, and stabilize prices.

Oppose big tax increases on the people. Reduce tax for the working people and smaller enterprisers. Revise the unfair tax system which is beneficial to the big enterprises and the propertied class. For democratic reform of the national budget by a big reduction in military costs and by other means.

11. Oppose restriction wages. For active wage increases so that living conditions be improved. Establish a national standard minimum wage system. For extension of the age limit without a cut in wages and working conditions. Increase jobs by restricting overintensive labor and by cuts in working hours. Extend the term of payment for the unemployed, and reestablish the system projects to deal with unemployment.

12. Oppose anticonstitutional company-involved electioneering, oppose forcing workers to "support a specified political party" through compulsory decision by trade union organs. Eliminate discrimination by thoughts, creeds and sexes. Freedom and democracy for every workshop. Completely restore the fundamental labor rights to the government and public enterprise workers, including their right to strike.

13. Oppose the allout malrevision of the health insurance system and the change in making medical treatment for the aged chargeable. For democratic reform of the medical system. Oppose the dragging of the first payable age of the welfare pension to 65 years. For a big improvement of the pension system and guarantee for the living of the aged.

Nineteen eighty-one is the "International Year of the Handicapped." Guarantee the living and rights of the handicapped.

14. Oppose the malrevision of the labor standard act. Establish a legal system to guarantee equality of men and women in employment, and expand protection for motherhood. For immediate ratification of the United Nations treaty for abolishing discrimination of men and women.

Guarantee jobs for youth, which are suitable to their ability and aptitude. Realize the right to election to those over 18 years old.

[OW301115 0902 GMT 30 Apr 80]

[Text] Tokyo, 30 Apr (JPS)--15. Oppose expansion of import of agricultural products. For multifaceted development of agriculture and for the improvement of the self-sufficiency ratio of agricultural products, by

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preparing conditions for voluntary change of planting. For democratic reconstruction of fishery by stabilizing the prices of materials, including fuel, and prices of fishes, and arrangements and developments of fishing areas.

16. Restore and expand the right to local self-government. Don't shift the burden of financial bankruptcy caused by LDP politics on to local self-government finances. Eliminate the violence and pursuance of privileged rights by the Asada-Matsui group of the "Buraku (unlawfully discriminated hamlets) Liberation League," and establish equitable and democratic dowa (assimilation) administration.

17. Institutionalize a school class of no more than 40 pupils by a 5-year plan. Oppose the government plan to postpone its implementation until 12 years later. Carry out educational reform so as to raise academic standards, build physical strength and foster sentiment of children. Build more senior high schools, fill gaps between the universities, and relax the entrance examination hell. Oppose education of prejudice, discrimination and selection, which includes praise of the prewar "Imperial Rescript on Education" and the use of the song "Kimigayo" (Imperial Rule For Ever).

18. "No" to all forms of hegemonism in the world; "no" to misgovernment by the LDP; and "no" to the conservative supplementing line of the anti-communist bloc of the socialist, Komei and democratic socialist parties. Make "one choice" to seek progressive unity. Make rapid JCP advance in the House of Councillors election to open the road for progressive change in national politics in the 1980's.

19. Support for the JCP, the progressive party at all times in all places and the genuinely patriotic party.

20. Long live the 51st May Day. Workers of all countries and oppressed people, unite.

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MILITARY

'JAPAN TIMES' VIEWS DEFENSE DEBATE IN COUNTRY

OW261903 Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES in English 25 Apr 80 p 14 OW

[Article by Kiyooki Murata: "Defense Debate"]

[Excerpts] Recent developments in and outside Japan--the Afghanistan situation, the espionage case involving a former Self-Defense Force (SDF) general, Rim-Pac to name a few--have aroused interest in defense and defense-related matters.

A specific instance that nearly stirred up a hornet's nest was a statement made on Feb. 7 by Hosai Hyuga, president of the Kansai Federation of Economic Organizations (Kansai Keidanren). Addressing a businessmen's seminar held in Osaka, Hyuga suggested that it was perhaps "necessary to study the possibility of adopting a conscription system for meeting an emergency."

Subject Taboo

The suggestion triggered a chain reaction of critical comments. Surprised by the lively response, Hyuga defended his position by saying that the letters he was receiving ran 60 to 40 in his favor. But many of his fellow Osaka business leaders were embarrassed by his touching on a subject that had long been taboo.

To the popular mind, suggesting that Japan should have a compulsory SDF service amounts to advocating militarism. Even though Hyuga's notion may have nothing to do with militarism as such, it can conceivably serve the leftist forces in Japan as a powerful weapon with which to attack the establishment.

And a professor of international politics spoke on behalf of millions when he publicly commented in mid-March: "The conscription idea is not likely to be accepted unless the advocates are willing to be conscripted--or at least their male offspring are."

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Then came another breaking of a taboo--also by a businessman, this time in Tokyo. Shigeo Nagano, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said at the chamber's general meeting held on March 19: "It is time that we tried to build up a national consensus on our defense by stirring a nationwide debate."

Weasel-Worded Statement

With this as a preface, Nagano introduced his message: "As a resourceless country, Japan can survive only by fostering superior brains and developing highly advanced technology. We ought to actively promote development in this area and export production in response to international demand."

At a press conference on the same day, Nagano explained what he meant by his deliberately weasel-worded statement. By "highly advanced technology" he meant know-how for manufacturing weapons and by "exporting products in response to international demand" he meant selling made-in-Japan armament abroad.

"The production of weapons is the motive force for the progress of technology. It also stimulates the brain," he elaborated.

As an illustration, Nagano cited the fact that Japan became the No. 1 shipbuilder after World War II because of the naval ordnance technology developed before the end of the war.

Why is advocating the export of made-in-Japan weapons a taboo? The SDF is equipped mostly with domestically manufactured weapons, including the highly-rated Type-74 tanks. There is no specific statute prohibiting the export of weapons.

Definite Government Policy

There is, however, a definite government policy that practically makes it impossible for a Japanese manufacturer to export weapons or anything related to them. In 1967, the Sato cabinet established a policy of not authorizing "in principle" the export of weapons to three areas: (1) communist countries, (2) areas to which the export of weapons is banned by a United Nations resolution, and (3) parties to an international conflict or areas that are feared to become parties to a conflict.

More guidelines were added to this policy in February 1976 under the Miki cabinet.

Officially, no change is likely to come for the foreseeable future--despite its recent advocacy by Nagano. For, questioned about the issue, Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira said in the Diet last month that he contemplated no change.

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In the business world itself, however, Nagano's views have found more sympathy. Among those who agreed with him was Fumihiko Kono, adviser to Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and chairman of the Defense Production Committee of Keidanren. At a meeting of the newly created Select Committee on Security of the House of Representatives, Kono urged "a thorough debate on the merits and demerits of exporting weapons."

Economic Argument

His argument for lifting the ban is based partly on a simple law of economics. If the defense industry of Japan, which now manufactures munitions for the SDF and police, were to have a larger market, it would mean less expensive products and subsequently great economy for the national treasury. It is said that a machine gun, for which domestic demand comes only from the SDF, costs the SDF several millions of yen because the industry receives orders for no more than 100. If, however, the order should be for tens of thousands (including exports), the per-unit cost of production would be reduced to a fraction of what it is now.

Even among Tokyo business leaders, however, Nagano is not without critics. One of them is none other than Toshiwo Doko, president of Keidanren. He says that the promotion of the munitions industry does not necessarily stimulate the development of technology though the reverse may be the case. There are also some even within the Liberal-Democratic Party who are skeptical of Nagano's way of thinking. With what Japan can manufacture in terms of armament today, they say, it would be rather difficult to enter the world market, 80 percent of which is dominated by the Soviet Union and the United States with the remainder held by France, Britain and West Germany.

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MILITARY

ARMS INDUSTRY GROWS INCREASINGLY VOCAL

Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 21 Feb 80 p 8

[Text] With events like the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and a buildup of military power as the situation grows tense, there has been increasingly more debate in financial circles about Japan's defense capabilities. Those with the greatest reason to be pleased are the manufacturers of arms. Until recently, any statements of a political nature have been entrusted to the Defense Production Committee of Keidanren (Federation of Economic Organizations). Fumihiko Kono, a consultant for Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, is head of this committee. The arms industry has traditionally maintained complete silence, but now feels that the time is ripe to speak out. Many of their statements have been strong indeed.

One example is the current arms embargo. Mr Kenji Ikeda, a managing director of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, has declared that we must give practical consideration to how and with what equipment we could protect a defenseless Japan if the United States were to carry out its swing strategy (quickly move its Asian forces to a conflict in some other area).

Another example is a statement by Mr Iwao Shibuya, a managing director of Fuji Heavy Industries. He feels that even if the government is reluctant to lift the embargo on export of arms, it could at least permit their joint development.

These statements may seem mild in comparison to those of Mr Hosei Hyuga, a chairman of the Kansai Federation of Economic Organizations, who went so far as to speak out in favor of instituting conscription. In a pacifist nation, however, where the arms industry has remained outside the mainstream, they are very outspoken.

It is only natural that the manufacturers of arms be pushing in this direction. Mr Ikeda of Mitsubishi says that the mood is good right now. U.S. Secretary of Defense Brown has urged Japan to increase its defense budget, and surprisingly enough, with the exception of the Communist Party, even the opposition did not touch upon military expenditures at budget revision time. They have traditionally been very hostile to anything concerning the defense budget.

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The arms industry has been awaiting its chance to step up production but its biggest barrier of all is the government's policy to maintain an arms embargo. The most modern F-15 fighter planes and anti-submarine warfare P3C planes are presently being manufactured in Japan but this is under a licensing agreement with the United States. All technology is furnished by the United States and according to domestic producers, this humiliating form of production under license is because of the embargo policy. Because of the policy, orders are limited to within Japan. Volume is therefore low and the companies are unable to keep costs as low as they could if they manufactured in large quantities. They are simply not able to compete with U.S. manufacturers.

The Defense Agency's budget is small, so it remains in favor of purchasing from the U.S. because of the lower prices offered. Therefore what the domestic manufacturers can do best is to go along with this licensing arrangement somehow.

Japan's technological ability to produce military aircraft such as the P3C is in no way inferior to that of the United States. In the international market there has evidently been friction with the American companies. It is a fact that the 74 model tank developed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries was well regarded abroad. When Mr Ezaki, the former Minister of International Trade and Industry, visited the Middle East last year, he received requests for these 74 model tanks in every country he visited.

The arms industries have amassed a considerable store of technique. Present day warfare is "electronic warfare" so the most modern electronics are employed in the development of new weapons. According to Mr Teruaki Yamada, a director of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, fighter planes and other arms are a "bundle of electronic equipment." This technology being developed in the arms industry can also be very useful in the civilian sector. In fact, even people at MITI are saying that the accumulation of technology within the arms industry plays a very important role as other industries build up their store of knowhow.

Most Japanese seem to feel that the ban on exporting arms is not likely to be lifted in the immediate future. The manufacturers of arms, however, feel that whether right or wrong the fact that the Committee on Defensive Arms Production of Keidanren plans to propose a Japan-American joint arms development agreement to the National Defense Council is one step towards helping to break the taboo of anything related to weapons.

The Defense Agency, however, appears to be maintaining a cool position. Former U.S. Under Secretary of State, George Ball, recently made some specific proposals in the Washington Post. He suggested that Japan immediately construct two large aircraft carriers and lease them to the U.S. Navy. This idea has also been a subject of discussion among members of the U.S. Congress. But aircraft carriers are an offensive type of armament and unsuited to Japan's particular defense needs. Leasing the carriers

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would amount to the same thing as exporting them. Mitsubishi Heavy Industry feels that this is a political question but that the Japanese arms industry nevertheless has more than adequate capacity to construct the carriers. Construction costs could amount to 4 billion dollars and would give the shipbuilding business an excellent opportunity to extricate itself from the present recession.

In contrast to an increase in assertiveness on the part of the arms industry, the all important Defense Agency is not presenting itself too aggressively right now. This could be due in part to the recent scandal involving leaked military secrets. But the arms industry feels that the Self-Defense Forces and the staff at the Technical Research Development Institute know all too well that defense capability is weak and they therefore sympathize with the impatience expressed by the industry.

At present the annual earnings of the arms industry amount to nothing more than 400 billion yen--about the same scale as sales in the ice cream industry--but the business is booming and it now has the capability of becoming an industrial wizard.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MANUFACTURERS BEGIN DEVELOPING 'SUPER-COMPUTERS'

OW191259 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 18 Apr 80 Morning Edition
p 7

[Excerpts] It has been made clear that two leading Japanese computer makers--Hitachi, Ltd and Fujitsu, Ltd--are independently developing super-highspeed computers (commonly known as "super-computers") for scientific and technological use. Characterized by their computing capability dozens of times faster than ordinary super-large general purpose computers currently in use, the "super-computers" have lately been in great demand--mostly in Western Europe and the United States--for their capacity to process complicated calculations needed in atomic energy development, defense research, meteorological analysis and other areas.

Some Japanese firms, such as the Mitsubishi Research Institute and major computer centers, have started introducing these computers but, since there are no domestically produced super-computers available yet, they are relying on those imported from the United States which cost about 1 billion yen each.

Hitachi and Fujitsu are speeding up the development of super-computers believing that their demand will increase also in Japan as it advances in the level of atomic energy development and defense research. Thus, Japanese made super-computers may possibly make their appearance within this year, putting an end to U.S. monopoly in the field.

The super-computers being developed by Hitachi and Fujitsu are dozens of times faster in making calculations than ordinary super-large units currently in use--Hitachi's "M-200H" and Fujitsu's "M-200." Both companies are making haste with the development of new units in both hardware and software areas; and if everything goes smoothly, Fujitsu is scheduled to announce its success within this year and Hitachi next year.

Explaining why they are developing the super-highspeed sets, the two companies say, "These computers are in great demand by users and it will be advantageous to us makers in receiving orders for bigger systems to add them to the line of products." (As told by Katsumi Fujiki, director of Hitachi, Ltd and chief of the Hitachi computer project center.)

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The Ministry of International Trade and Industry and software makers have been calling for the domestic production of super-computers, noting the fact that these super-highspeed systems have become an indispensable tool for mapping out defense, atomic energy, development and other important national strategies.

Meanwhile, hardware makers have decided to develop them, believing that the demand for super-highspeed systems will steadily increase--mainly in major computer centers, research institutes and universities.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY BOOMING, ROBOT PRODUCTION TO SOAR

Tokyo NIHON KOGYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 26 Feb 80 pp 30-31

[Text] The machine tool industry's improvement in productivity is showing amazing development. This industry has been going into all our promotion of unmanned production processes and automation as the countermeasure to the increasing cost of manpower. Parallel to the development of new and powerful machines has been the active investment in facilities by the automobile and electrical machine industries, while the technological front has seen the introduction of electronics in the creation of "unitized machine-electric" concept which is seeing the expansion into new areas which have created active demand for accelerating the need for higher productivity. The situation in the machine tool industry and industrial use robot industry is particularly outstanding.

The machine tool industry is experiencing increased orders mainly along the lines of machining centers and NC tool machines, such that the production volume for JFY 1979 is expected to be 400 billion yen or more, which will be the highest in history. Machining centers and NC tool machines are now being acquired by medium and small industries. At the same time, the machining centers and NC tool machines of Japan are ahead of other countries in the matter of cost and technology, as a result of which foreign industry is clamoring for these items. These are the factors responsible for these orders. As a result of this situation, the various tool machine makers are in full operation trying to keep up with these orders. Machining centers and NC tool machines, which are the elite of the machine world, are being scrambled for by the people in charge of both domestic and export business companies, according to the news. An industry which only yesterday had been beset with all kinds of troubles is now enjoying unbelievable prosperity. In another direction, the machine fabrication makers who introduced machining centers and NC tool machines are employing increased productivity and cost down as well as rational policies, and have achieved considerable success. On the other hand, electric power, gas, specialty steels, and transport costs are all expected to increase, and the factors for cost increase are expected to become more and more severe in the future. The machining center and NC tool machines, which are the trump cards for rationalization and labor saving measures, are expected to see more efforts to produce machines of lower cost and increased unmanned operation. The various machine tool makers are complying with these users' demands by concentrating their technological strength

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on serializing established lines of machinery and promoting development of new machinery, which will enhance productivity even more. It is said that some of these machines will be displayed at the tool machine display city which is expected to be opened in Tokyo this fall. The account that follows will describe directions in rationalization measures taken by the tool machine industry and users and the development situation of new machines for the future focusing mainly on machining centers and NC tool machines.

Production Sustained by Trend to Energy Conservation Will Hit Maximum of 400 Billion Yen (JFY 1979)

Orders for tool machine hit bottom in JFY 1975, from which time they have been increasing, and it was about the spring of JFY 1978 that each company began to sense the boom in orders. It is said that the tool machine industry suffers long periods of recession, and there was some feeling that "maybe we are gradually encountering a boom" was being created, but this trend to increase in orders did not experience a downward trend even when this new year was entered, and any pessimistic feeling about the boom seems to be disappearing.

Looking at the trend in orders received by the major 68 companies as compiled by the Japan Tool Machine Industrial Association, the peak in orders in the past occurred in 1973 when they totaled 239.5 billion yen, from which there was a decline, and this total dropped to 157.38 billion yen in JFY 1975, or about half the peak value 2 years before.

Fortunately orders bottomed out in JFY 1975 and then turned upward and totaled 270.58 billion yen in 1977, which represented an 11.8 percent increase over the previous year and then rose to 325.9 billion yen in JFY 1978, which was an increase of 20.3 percent over 1977. The orders in JFY 1979 up through September totaled 358 billion yen, which was an increase of 42.3 percent over the same period for the preceding year, and the rate of increase is becoming greater by the year.

Tool machines, which are often called mother machines, are part of an industry that is readily controlled by the trends in the business environment and are said to experience boom periods which last not more than a year. The present boom is now approaching close to 2 years, and there seem to be no signs of its abating. The role of the sharp increases in orders for machining centers and NC tool machines as the chief sustainers of this boom cannot be overlooked.

A NC tool machine is comprised of the three items of machine main body, servo mechanism, and numerical control (NC). The necessary tools, point of operation, separation, selection of tools, and exchange steps are placed in the memory through punch cards, punch tapes, or magnetic tapes, and the machine reads this information as it automatically performs its fabrication operation. This enables speedup of the fabrication process, high efficiency, and high precision in product quality, and it does not require highly experienced operators. At the same time, process control is readily exercised among its many advantages.

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In another direction, a machining center may be considered a type of NC tool machine in the broad sense of the term. It possesses automated selection and exchange facilities which enable the automated exchange of a number of tools so that it can perform a series of operations such as milling, drilling, and screw insertion on a single machine. A single operator can control the work of a number of machines, and it is an outstanding example of a labor saving device. Work on these NC tool machines and machining centers was begun in earnest by the tool machine makers from about 1965, but not much progress was seen until just before the oil shock.

There is the NC conversion rate (the number of NC tool machines produced divided by the total number of tool machines produced) which serves as index of the rate of use of NC tool machines, and data compiled by the Japan Tool Machine Industrial Association report a value of 1.7 percent on the money value basis for 1967 which increased yearly thereafter, but it was 1972 before this index crossed the 10 percent level. This index was only 15.6 percent in 1973 when there was sharp increase in orders. This value then rose after the oil shock to 22.4 percent in 1976 and 29.4 percent in 1978, and is expected to break the 40 percent level in 1979.

There are more than 50 companies engaged in the production of NC tool machines. Since there were about 30 companies during the 1965 era when NC machines first began to find increased use, it is evident that this increased rate of use is being accompanied by the entry of new producers.

Looking now at the order picture for machining centers, the rate of orders lay stagnant at about 10 percent before the oil shock, but this increased to 20.2 percent in 1974 and to 30.3 percent 3 years later in JFY 1977, and it is expected to hit about 45 percent this fiscal year, showing an accelerating increase.

One of the major factors responsible for this high level of growth of NC tool machine production including machining centers has been the active introduction of NC tool machines into the activities of the medium and small industries following the oil shock. Another factor is the sharp increase in exports mainly to the United States market.

The merits of NC tool machines and machining centers did not register too well on the general users before the oil shock because any increase in cost could be absorbed by increased production, and the principal users were large industries who were dedicated to mass production. Since 1974, however, operation rates were on a downward trend, while raw material prices were headed upward. The large industries, beset by these adverse conditions, in order to buffer the absorption of these increased costs, turned to the medium and small industries who supplied them for lowered costs for fabrication, as a result of which there was need for rationalization on the part of large and small industries alike. This situation was the impetus for the recognition of the need for NC type machines, and the use of this type machines spread within the course of 1 to 2 years to the medium and small industries. This is one of the major factors responsible for increased domestic demand.

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In another direction, it is clear that ever since the oil shock every maker has been actively promoting development of exports aimed chiefly at the United States, and this has been a prime contributor to increases in this area. At the same time, NC tool machine and machining center technology is now at the top level in the world. The delivery time is short and the price is low. In addition, the basic patents have run out, making for more ready export. These are factors which also contributed to this situation. In the final analysis, all the environment advantageous to the tool machine makers of Japan was present to enable this explosive expansion of the tool machine industry.

In the wake of this rationalization and labor saving efforts to the facilities used mainly by the medium and small industries and sustained by the favorable increase in exports, the tool machine industry is experiencing its best boom in history, and there is a feeling among many of the people in the know that this boom may still continue for a while.

At the present time, the small and medium industries in Japan number 180,000 with employee count between 5 and 9 and 105,000 with count between 10 and 99. Of this number of plants it is said there are little less than 90,000 machine fabrication enterprises which require tool machines. Assuming that each such plant will use two tool machines, the number of tool machines needed to fulfill such a demand will total 180,000 or so, and it is said that NC machines makes up 6-7 percent of this total.

It is said that the industry which succeeds in high additive value and high precision products which is equivalent to the establishment of a rationalized and labor saving production system will be the survivors of the 80s. Such being the case, medium and small industries which have not as yet introduced NC tool machines or machining centers will have to go into all out effort to switch over to NC type machines, and this is expected to bring further large domestic demand for these tool machines.

On the export front the American market, which is the prime target, is expected to put out considerable investment in tool machines, headed by the automobile makers who are looking toward greater production of small automobiles, and great expansions in this are expected. Technological development of machining centers has been delayed in the European countries compared to Japan, and sharp increase in exports headed for Europe is expected for the next 2-3 years.

Now, what is the counter policy of the tool machine makers in the face of such expansion in demand. When there is shortage in boring machines and NC facilities, it is not possible to simply increase production of these items. This is the feeling of the makers, and this boom in orders for tool machines is expected to last at least until 1981. At least more and more people are beginning to feel this way.

Development of Competition on the Vertical Type Machines

Increase costs of electric power, gas, and specialty steels were announced with the ushering in of the new year, and all the associated materials are

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also experiencing increase in cost. The world of users of these machines such as transport related machines, electrical machines, general machines, precision machines, and agricultural machines are experiencing great difficulties in just how to absorb these cost increases.

Even assuming that part of this increase in cost will be accounted for by a slide in product cost, the greater part has to be absorbed by rationalized countermeasures. As a result, there is increasing awareness on the part of the tool machine industry for the need to develop new NC tool machines which can absorb such costups.

Where the machining center is concerned, a single unit presently costs 25 million yen or more, which is a steep price which serves as a mighty barrier to most medium and small industries. This is why the question "is it possible to lower this cost below 25 million yen" is being heard from mainly the medium and small industries as the main stream of the users' complaints.

In another direction, the large companies which already have a considerable number of machining centers on hand have established production systems in which a single worker handles four or five machines and even as high as eight machines, and they have succeeded in introducing rationalization and labor saving innovations into their production systems. On the other hand, the most recent offensive against the increase in costs includes a strong voice which calls for the marketing of new machining centers capable of even higher production capability which can produce products of high add-on value to enhance the position in the international competitive market. The need for such development has become one of the lines of thought with respect to users' needs.

All the tool machine makers are putting forth great research and developmental efforts in order to fulfill this enhanced demand on the part of the users.

Up to the present time, the horizontal type machining center was the main stream of this type of tool machine. This horizontal type machine can cut four planes of the object being machined, but the production is very complex, and that is why a single unit costs over 25 million yen. In another direction, the vertical type is devised to cut only 2 planes, so it is cheaper to produce, and it can be marketed for about 10 million yen. This vertical type machining center is the direction which is being promoted for the medium and small industries.

At the present time, there are 13 makers of horizontal type machines and 6 makers of vertical machining centers. Of these companies three produce both horizontal and vertical types. The tool machine makers who presently are limiting their production to only horizontal type machining centers are engaged in feverish developmental competition to promote their entry into production of vertical type machining centers. It is said that if all goes well, vertical type machining centers which the medium and small industries can afford will appear in the market this fall.

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One other users' need is the demand for development of new machines which produce goods with high add-on value and high productivity, and this need is expected to become particularly strong on the part of airplane makers who must make some major outlays in funds during 1982 and 1983. Japan's airplane engine makers had participated in the production of the American Boeing Company's "767" plane, and they were reported to have stated their desire to introduce advanced machining centers and NC tool machines for parts production of these new airplanes. The tool machine makers look upon the aircraft industry as one of their promising markets of the future, and the companies which are producing these machining centers and NC tool machines are forming project teams and are putting forth great efforts in the development of new machines to match the needs. It is possible that even more new and higher level machining centers and NC tool machines will make their debut within 1 or 2 years when the investment by the aircraft companies will actually be made.

In addition, attention is being directed at the development of a group control system which will involve centralized control of NC tool machines and machining centers through computers and bring to materialization the unmanned plant. Research and development on this system was initiated in 1965 at the time the NC tool machines first began to be introduced, but its use has been limited to but a very few of the large makers because of the costs involved. On the other hand, it is said that the situation in the 80s will be one in which even the medium and small makers will have to employ well grounded and rational policies, otherwise they may not survive, and this is one of the main reasons why this group control system is being given such close attention.

In any event, the tool machine industry will be unveiling a series of new machines these next few years. These new NC tool machines and machining centers are engaged in a marketing struggle that may light the fuse to the explosion that will be the second order boom for tool machines.

Expect To See Leasing Companies Expand, Start To Be Made in April.

The industrial use robot industry has designated JFY 1980 as the "first year for the popular acceptance of the industrial use robot," and all efforts are being promoted to make it so. Considering the orderly increase in production as attested by the 25 billion yen production of 2 years ago and the 30 billion yen production of last year, it is thought that the robot has finally found its niche in this world. There has been the highly optimistic prediction that robot production in 1985 will be the "300 million yen" which will be 10 times the 1979 production (Japan Industrial Use Robot Industry). There are people who claim the production may reach 90 billion yen in 1980, indicating the very optimistic mood of the industry. Certainly the improved productivity, enhancement of labor saving innovations, and pursuit of lowered cost are giving the various industrial sectors renewed expectations in the performance of robots. It is said that Japanese robots are the tops in the world from the technological viewpoint, and this is an item that promises to become an important export to the Western world.

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Unmanned Robot Plant

The industrial use robot leasing company which the industrial use robot industry had been feverishly awaiting will finally be set up on 1 April. This new company is aimed at promoting the popular use of industrial use robots, and it is a joint effort of 30 companies which comprise the Japan Industrial Use Robot Industry Association (president, Shinichi Matsuda) with capitalization of 100 million yen. It will start operations with 2 billion yen, half of which will be advanced by the Development Bank. Specific activities will involve purchase of industrial use robots which users wish to lease from the makers and lease them for 5-6 year periods. This system is expected to enable medium and small industries which heretofore had been unable to use robots because of financial reasons to avail themselves of the benefits of robot involved production. In another direction, it is the robot industry's hope and expectation that these smaller industries will avail themselves of this service.

Since the establishment of this leasing company is contingent on funds from the Development Bank, funds have been provided in the government's budget for JFY 1980. In addition there are two more preferential measures in the JFY 1980 budget proposal for industrial use robots which are 1) industrial safety use robot financing system available from public finance companies and private finance companies and 2) special fund for industrial use robots from the important composite machine special amortization fund. This preferential treatment policy is being incorporated under these three approaches despite the fiscal policies of the Ministry of the Treasury which favors reconstruction plans, and it may be said that there is no doubt that the industrial use robot has arrived. Put in another way, this is proof of the great expectations of the different sectors in the performance of the industrial use robot. All this is the result of today's Japanese industry being aware of the fact that the industrial use robot is an indispensable item for improving productivity and promoting labor saving innovations.

Make Possible Automation of Multiple Product Small Volume Production

An industrial use robot may be defined in a simple manner as a device capable of multiple actions in three dimensional space. When described in more detailed manner, it is a machine with these features: 1) it possesses three dimensional degrees of freedom, 2) it possesses flexibility in its functions, 3) it possesses thinking power. It can be classified according to the drive mode such as pneumatically operated, hydraulically operated, or electrically operated. It can be classified according to the control mode such as electronically controlled mode, hydraulically controlled mode, pneumatically controlled mode, or relay controlled mode. It also can be classified according to the functional morphology such as orthogonal coordinate robot or multiple jointed robot. It can be further classified according to the information order such as repeating robot or multiple function repeating robot. In this manner, a number of classifications is possible. We will apply here an input information and instruction type classification which is often used in industrial circles. According to this classification, six classes are

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possible which are when listed from the simplest 1) manual manipulator operated by man, 2) fixed sequence robot which successively performs operations according to a predetermined order, conditions, and positions, 3) variable sequence robot in which variations from a fixed sequence can readily be introduced, 4) playback robot which puts into memory the order, location, and information related to operations which a man performs beforehand (functions performed by the upper limbs of a man) which information is then played back according to need, 5) numerically controlled robot which is given numerical orders with respect to order, position, and information, and 6) intelligent robot which possesses sensory capability and recognition capability allowing it to make decisions. At the present time, the fixed sequence and variable sequence robots make up the overwhelmingly greater fraction, comprising more than 50 percent of the total. On the other hand, there is a small but definite trend to greater use of higher level robots such as the playback robot and the intelligent robot. There will be increased demand for automation of assembly, inspection, and measurement processes in the future, and this is expected to increase the demand for intelligent robots.

In any event, the industrial use robot has made feasible the multiple product small volume production mode which heretofore had been considered very difficult, and this is expected to enable a large increase in production. At the same time, there will be contribution not only to improvement in productivity but to the welfare of the workers in the prevention of industrial injury or occupational diseases through the use of robots in hazardous operations and adverse environment operations. In this manner, the working environment will be improved, making this technology useful in improving the human welfare and safety aspects.

Annual Production of 900 Billion Yen Expected To Be Attained in the 1980's,
Improved Labor Safety

It is said that the term industrial use robot was coined in the United States sometime during the 1960s. The American companies Unimate and Barsatran which today are synonymous with industrial robots unveiled their first robots back in 1962. In Europe the Kaufelt Company of Sweden developed an instrument which would operate according to a program along about the same time. At about the beginning of the 1960s there had already been the development of the fixed sequence mode robot in Japan, while development of the playback robot was started in the latter half of the decade through self development and introduction of foreign technology. The present robot makers had entered the field by the start of the 70s and began bonafide business activities. There was the sharp increase in production volume from 1975, and this increase in production is being maintained at the present time. There are about 140 industrial robot makers in Japan, which is much more than the 40 or so companies in the United States and Europe. Even when judged from the standpoints of research and development efforts and the use situation on industrial robots there seems to be no question that Japan is ahead of the world in this area.

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It was along about 1968 that research and development and introduction of the industrial use robot became active in Japan. The playback robot had been introduced from the United States and disclosed the previous year, which greatly stimulated Japanese industry. The initial production was consigned mainly for use within one's own plant, and there were many problems which emerged with its use. This situation was compounded by the recession that was the aftermath of the oil shock, and production of robots did not increase as much as had been initially anticipated. It can be said production of robots began to show real increase along about 1975. There was an increasing trend to invest in labor saving and automated processes in order to increase productivity in the face of increasing cost of materials and labor, and this caused the turning to robots to provide this pathway. The production volume was 11.1 billion yen in 1975 which rose to 14.1 billion yen in 1976, 21.6 billion yen in 1977, and 24.7 billion yen in 1978 for an average annual rate of increase greater than 30 percent. It crossed the 30 billion yen mark in 1979. The number of units produced has grown from the 4,400 units in 1975 to 7,299 in 1976, 8,600 units in 1977, and 9,600 units in 1978.

It is thought that robot production will see sharp expansion even greater than what has been experienced in the past because of the strong demands resulting from improved productivity of the industrial world and the need for labor safety. Even the projected demand as deduced by the Japan Industrial Use Robot Industrial Association expects production volume of 87 billion yen in 1980 and 290 billion yen in 1985, reflecting the high rate of increase in production that is anticipated. Since the volume in 1979 was 30 billion yen, this means roughly a 10-fold increase during a 6-year period. Looking at these figures, should the leasing companies expected to start operations this April perform as expected, there will be expanded demand from the medium and small company area as a result of which there seems to be cause for the optimism "the day of 300 billion yen production is rapidly approaching" (Japan Industrial Use Robot Industrial Association). There are some in the industry who believe that the 900 billion level of production may be attained in the 1980s, and the picture of the robot industry in the 1980s seems to be completely rose colored.

Greater Part of Demand Volume for Automobile and Electrical Machine Applications

Looking now at the different areas in demand for industrial use robots, here again automobile and electrical industry related demands stand out, and these two industries account for more than half the total demand. Excluding the needs of these two industries, the remaining demand for industrial use robots is divided nearly equally among the other industrial areas. Some specific demand figures for 1978 show the automobile industry accounting for 35 percent, the electrical machine and equipment manufacturing industry 25 percent, synthetic resin fabrication industry 8 percent, metal products manufacturing industry 7 percent, and metal fabrication and machine production industry 5 percent. There are also the shipbuilding, bicycle, steel, nonferrous metal products, engineering and construction, and chemical industries which also avail themselves of the use of robots.

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Overwhelming Number of Welding Applications Which Will Be the Expanding New Demand Area

When classified according to applications, welding use, painting use, and machine finishing use come to mind, and welding applications are expected to become the dominant area according to present indications. Of these welding applications, spot welding in the automobile industry will account for the greater part. On the other hand, demand for arc welding increased very recently, and the field of application is surely broadening out. Since a couple of years ago all the companies developed new products along the lines of painting, and this may be considered an area where greater demand can be expected from here on. The machine finishing applications presently include relatively simple operations such as cutting and polishing operations, press finishing operations, and die cast finishing operations which account for the major fraction in this area, however, it is expected that computer controlled screw tightening, assembly, and crimping operations will become possible along with some complex assembly operations. Should the use of robots to perform such complex operational steps become possible, the demands from the various industrial areas are expected to increase more rapidly.

Looking back at the situation up to the present time, the bulk of these applications has been in the manufacturing area. On the other hand, the future is expected to see expansion into marine industry, nuclear power related activities, medicine and well being applications, agriculture and forestry applications, and construction applications in addition to manufacturing applications. Some representative applications include nuclear power plants, radioactive waste processing plants, administration to needs of physically handicapped and bedridden aged people, underwater construction, orchard harvesting operations, agricultural spray application, reinforcing steel assembly, and painting of bridges. It may be said there is no end to the new applications which are possible.

In addition, industrial use robots have good potential for being a promising export item. As mentioned before, the base technology for these robots was imported, yet Japan is now ahead of the world in the matter of practical robots such that there is little if any import at the present time. At the present time, exports account for but 3-4 percent of the total production because of the development of application technology in this country and the need to fulfill domestic demand. On the other hand, foreign demand is increasing headed by the United States and the European countries and even from the Soviet Union and the eastern European countries, and it has been predicted that "by 1985 the export ratio is expected to approach 20 percent" (Japan Industrial Use Robot Industrial Association).

Now, as the industrial use robot becomes more sophisticated and more widely used, the prospects of unmanned plants are coming closer to reality. There are no completely unmanned plants in operation at the present time, but it is said that this reality will come to pass once a malfunction diagnostic system and self running robot are developed. There are already palette stacking units and unmanned system incorporating broken tool detection devices

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in operation in the fabrication and finishing front. This system has automated palette changers and palette holders combined with MC. Means of detecting broken tools include 1) recording the current throughout the main shaft motor to detect any change from the normal running current which may arise as the result of a damaged tool and stopping the unit when there is a deviation from this normal current and 2) detecting changes in spindle head vibration patterns as indicator of damage. This system is being given special attention because it can be used for small lot operations which require many shape alterations during the day when there is personnel about and in unmanned operations at night in operations involving the fabrication of items of simple shape. In this manner, the system can be operated at the whim of the user. Many systems have been developed in the manner described above. There is already an automatic dimensional correction mechanism which has been developed, and it may be possible that a completely unmanned plant may make its appearance as early as the latter half of 1980. Once unmanned plants are developed, not only will two-shift or three-shift work systems be improved, but a great boost to productivity will also result.

In any event, the industrial use robot is expected to 1) improve productivity, 2) prevent labor disasters, minimize incidence of occupational diseases, and eliminate hazardous situations, 3) conserve energy and resources, 4) provide comfortable working environment, and 5) assure ample labor for secondary industries. There is no question that demand for these industrial use robots will continue to increase from here on. Technologically speaking, Japan heads the world. The industrial use robot may become the glamor industry which will be representative of this country in the 1980s.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CORROSION-RESISTANT CR-MN-FE ALLOY DEVELOPED

Tokyo NIKKAN KOGYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 25 Mar 80 p 4

[Text] USSR's Grozny Science Academy Metallurgical Research Institute Corrosion Test Laboratory has developed a new steel that is not only corrosion-resistant but sterile as well, and a chrome-manganese alloy entirely free of nickel. Until now, non-corrosive steel meant mainly chrome-nickel steel, but both chrome and nickel are rare metals and their value is expected to increase in the future. The two products under discussion were developed with a view to conserving these precious metals. In particular, the new steel "EP667" requires far less chrome and nickel to manufacture than the traditional variety. Moreover, it is sterile and thus it is expected to be a useful material in a wide variety of fields including food production and medical equipment.

The research institute at the Grozny Academy has been engaged in classification research of various steel components with high corrosion resistance and which requires less scarce alloy additives to manufacture. Many variations were tested and the said new steel was produced as a result.

According to the disclosure made by the institute, the said alloy requires 8 percent less nickel and 5 percent less chrome than the traditional acid resistant steel, yet it is said to have a high degree of corrosion resistance. Although it was left to the elements for 5 years without application of anti-corrosive paint and other protective shields, there was no trace of corrosion anywhere. Another experiment verified that the new steel--like silver--is sterile. This characteristic is an extremely useful feature for the food and medical equipment industries. It is reported that the vacuum steam sterilization facility using this new material has been put into operation at the pharmaceutical factory at Tbilisi.

Chrome-manganese alloy without any nickel was also developed with view to conserving the precious metal. It can hold its own in 300°C high temperature sulfate. In the case of chrome-nickel alloy, there is 100 - 150 milligram loss per square meter in an year but the tests on the new alloy revealed that there was zero loss.

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The said research institute has a long list of achievements in corrosion-resistant materials research. To cite one recent example, it discovered among the factory waste materials a property that increased the effectiveness of anti-corrosion paint, and applied this discovery to the development of a new anti-corrosion paint for vessels. At present several kinds of alloy materials intended for use for medical equipment, trains, sea water pipes, in liquid helium and in high temperature fluorine are being developed at the institute.

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