CHRONOLOGY FOR 1963
(July — November)

Prepared by Kyōko Motomochi

July 1 — The Union of New Religious Organizations of Japan (Shinshūren) sent letters to leading members of the Liberal Democratic Party protesting a proposed revision of national holidays which would add February 1 (National Foundation Day) and July 15 (the Buddhist Festival of the Dead). The Union contended that such a revision would constitute an abuse of religion for political purposes. (Cf. Jan. 22 and June 26)

— The National Association of Inari Shrines (Zenkoku Inari Aai), consisting of lay and clerical representatives from throughout the country, was launched at Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto, in order to promote the faith of worshippers and develop a spirit of unity among Inari shrines estimated to total some 30,000. The Reverend Masayuki Fujimaki, chief priest of Fushimi Inari, was elected honorary president and Mr. Hajime Masuzawa chairman.

— A mutual health insurance society of Risshō Kōsei Kai, the first of such societies to be formed by religious organizations, received government approval.

— A tourists’ tax was put into effect at the temples and shrines of Nikko. However, no agreement was reached between city authorities and the shrines as to how the tax was to be divided.

July 2 — His Eminence Peter Cardinal Doi returned to Tokyo from the Coronation of Pope Paul VI.

— The Society for Shinto Culture (Shinto Bunka Kai) elected The Reverend Yukitada Sasaki, president of Kogakuin University, as its new president, succeeding the late Munenori Miyakawa.

July 6 — The Education Committee of the House of Representatives sent a letter to the chief priest of Meiji Shrine raising questions regarding the use of the Meiji Outer Garden by professional baseball teams.

July 8 — The Religions League adopted a declaration condemning the alleged political intrusion into the administration of the Meiji Shrine baseball stadium and sent letters to this effect to all parties concerned.

July 9 — The Rev. Kagamitarō Konkō was appointed patriarch of Konkō-kyō. The inauguration ceremony will take place in early August.

July 10 — The Great Sangha of the Nihonzan Myōhōji, in accordance with an agreement with the mayor of Moscow
calling for the construction of a pagoda (to be completed by next July) symbolizing the worldwide peace movement, presented ashes of the Buddha to the chairman of the Soviet Buddhist Association.

July 14—Dr. Hakuju Ui, a member of the Japan Academy and former professor of Indian philosophy at Tokyo University, died at the age of 81.

July 15—The Gion festival in Kyoto was reported to have attracted 400,000 spectators.

Ennō-kyō celebrated the 45th anniversary of its founding at its headquarters in Hyogo Prefecture.

July 21—A World Conference of Jehovah's Witnesses was held in Kyoto with 450 foreign representatives and a reported 3,000 Japanese in attendance.

July 25—The Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, (Gensui-kyō) through its executive committee, approved a statement drafted by its chairman, Kaoru Yasui, indicating a reserved welcome for the partial nuclear test ban agreement reached by the U.S., Britain, and the Soviet Union.

July 26—The Buddhist Federation (Zen-nichibutsu) sent messages of congratulation to Prime Minister Macmillan of the United Kingdom, President Kennedy of the U.S., and Premier Khrushchev of the Soviet Union, for the conclusion of the partial nuclear test ban agreement.

Aug. 6—The three-day World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, which was held in Hiroshima, ended in confusion because of a disagreement among the delegates over a proposed resolution condemning all countries testing unclear weapons. The Communists and their sympathizers wanted to condemn only the West.

Aug. 8—The 25th anniversary of the death of the founder of PL Kyōdan, Tokuichi Miki, was held at its headquarters at Osaka with an attendance of 70,000.

Aug. 15—A non-religious memorial service was held under government auspices at Hibiya Public Hall in Tokyo to honor the war dead of World War II. The Emperor and Empress, Prime Minister Ikeda, other government officials, and some 2,200 persons representing the bereaved families were present. After the ceremony fifty representatives of the bereaved families visited Yasukuni Shrine and the Tomb for Unknown Soldiers at Chidorigafuchi, Tokyo.

Aug. 19—The Youth Association of the Union of the New Religious Organizations of Japan sent four representatives on a good-will tour of South East Asia under the leadership of the Association for the Study of Youth Problems in Japan (Nihon Seinen Mondai Kenkyū...
Kai).


Aug. 24—The Eleventh World Conference for World Federation was held at the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan attended by 2,000 Japanese and 150 foreign delegates.

—The Society for the Commemoration of the Centennial of Swami Vivekananda was launched at the University Club in Kanda, Tokyo, with Dr. Hajime Nakamura of Tokyo University as president.

Aug. 26—A hundred people from ten religious organizations cooperating in the Japan Peace Conference marched to the South Vietnam embassy in Tokyo to hand a declaration to the South Vietnamese ambassador regarding the alleged violation of human rights and religious freedom in South Vietnam. The group also gave encouragement to a Vietnamese student-monk on a hunger strike in front of the embassy.

Sep. 6—The Buddhist Federation held a meeting of the board of trustees to elect new officers. The Rev. Rōsen Takashina of Sōtō-shū was elected president.

Sep. 7—The Youth Association of the Union of the Now Religious Organizations of Japan held its third seminar for youth leaders for two days at Kyōiku Kaikan in Osaka, with 166 participants from twelve organizations present.

Sep. 14—A party of twelve religionists and seven associates started on a world trip to express appreciation for the limited test ban, and to promote world peace. They were: Dr. Masatoshi Matsushita, president of St. Paul’s (Rikkyō) University and a member of executive committee of the National Christian Council (Nihon Kiristokyō Kyōgikai), the Rev. Rōsen Takashina, president of the Buddhist Federation and Chief abbot of Sōtō-shū, the Rev. Gyōin Hashimoto, chief priest of Hosso-shū and abbot of Yakushiji, the Rev. Fujimaro Tsukuba, chief priest of Yasukuni Shrine, the Rev. Nariaki Takashina, vice chief priest of Kashiwara Shrine, the Rev. Shūsen Noma, chief abbot of Myōken-shū, Mr. Nikkyō Niwano, president of Risshō Kōsei Kai, Mr. Takeyasu Miyamoto, general secretary of Myōchi Kai, Mr. Masakazu Fujieda, superintendent of Sekai Kyōsei-kyō, The Rev. Zenno Kifune, priest of Reiu’in of Sōtō-shū, the Rev. Junko Sase, priest of Shogenji in Shimane and former general secretary of the Japan Buddhist Federation, and Mr. Toyokatsu Tsukumo, scholar in the
field of folk religions.

Sep. 20—The Fourth Conference on Spiritual Civilization was held at Tokyo Bunka Kaikan under the auspices of the International Organization for Spiritual Civilization (Mr. Yonosuke Nakano of Ananai-kyō, president) with 150 participants from 17 South East Asian countries in attendance.

Sep. 25—Three officials of Sōka Gakkai left on an eleven-day trip to the Soviet Union.

Sep. 27—A Japanese Buddhist delegation, consisting of representatives of the Japan Buddhist Federation and the Japanese-Chinese Society for Cultural Exchange (Nichū Bunka Kōryū Kyōkai) left for communist China on the invitation of the Chinese Buddhist Association to attend the ceremonies commemorating the 1200th anniversary of the Buddhist priest, Ganjin.

Sep. 28—Pope Paul VI appointed the Most Rev. Francis E. Tanaka as the first bishop of the Diocese of Takamatsu, which formerly was the Apostolic Prefecture of Shikoku.

Sep. 30—The Second Peace Conference of Japanese Religiousists was held at Zojoji, Tokyo, with 150 delegates present.

Oct. 1—Konkō-kyō held a two weeks' celebration commemorating the 80th anniversary of its founding. The total number of participants was estimated at 80,000.

Oct. 3—The centennial of Swami Vivekananda, founder of the Ramakrishna Society in India, was commemorated by a three-day series of lectures on the theme, "My Faith and Present-day Society."

Oct. 6—The tenth anniversary of the Japan Buddhist Women's League (Zen-Nihon Bukkyo Fujin Remmei) was celebrated at the Hibiya Public Hall, Tokyo.

—The twenty-second meeting of the Japan Association for Religious Studies was held for three days at Toyama University. About 250 members attended.

Oct. 11—A thirteen-member Buddhist delegation to promote cultural interchange with Europe started for France to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Japanese Art Exhibition which was held this fall in Paris.

Oct. 11—The annual meeting of the Rotary Club in Japan was held for three days at the headquarters of Tenri-kyō with the Rev. Shōzen Nakayama as chairman.

Oct. 14—The Rev. Masaharu Taniguchi of Seicho-No-ie returned after a year's round-the-world lecture tour "to promote religious brotherhood in order to realize world peace."

Oct. 15—A five-day celebration was observed at Shitenno-ji, Osaka commemor
ating the completion of a new temple building. Prince and Princess Takamatsu and a thousand monks attended.

—The Shinto Shrine Council (Jinja Shingi Kai) consisting of thirty-five members was organized to study the problem of whether or not Shrine Shinto is a religion. Mr. Shin Furuya, secretary general of the Association of Shinto Shrines (Jinja Honchō), is chairman.

Oct. 17—The Hiroshima-Auschwitz Committee was inaugurated in Hiroshima in the presence of the Polish ambassador to Japan in order to promote world peace by supplying accurate information on the calamities which took place in those cities.

Oct. 24—The delegation of Japanese religionists returned from the world trip fulfilling its mission to promote world peace through the cooperation of religionists throughout the world. (Cf. Sep. 14)

Oct. 30—A rally to promote aid for victims of atomic bombs was held at the Social Work Hall, Tokyo, under the joint sponsorship of the Peace Council of Japanese Religionists and the Council for the Victims of A-H Bombs.

Nov. 2—29,000 youths from seven religious organizations belonging to the Union of New Religious Organizations of Japan participated in the Pre-Olympic Festival at the Jingū National Stadium, Tokyo.

Nov. 3—Sekai Kyōsei-kyō opened centers for mission work in Los Angeles and Hawaii, U. S. A.

Nov. 7—The sixtieth birthday of the Rev. Kōchō Ōtani, chief abbot of the East Honganji Sect, was celebrated at the Imperial Hotel with about a thousand guests, including Prince Yoshi, and the former prime minister, Shigeru Yoshida.

Nov. 9—The Japan Buddhist Student Self-Governing Association (Butsugakuren) held its first general conference at Honganji Hall in Kyoto to reorganize as the Japan Buddhist Youth Organization (Zen-Nihon Bukkyō Seinen Kai), consisting of Buddhist youth groups in ten universities and some individual members.

Nov. 10—The Japan Free Religious Association (Nihon Jiyū Shūkyō Remmei) held its twelfth general conference at Seisoku Gakuen, Tokyo, followed by a panel discussion on "Religion: past and present."

Nov. 11—Completion of Studies on the Civilization of the Orient in 6 vols., based on the source materials brought back by the Ōtani Expedition in the Meiji era and compiled by the staff of Ryōkoku University, Kyoto, was celebrated.

Nov. 14—A rally to promote Nichirenism (attendance 3,000) was held at the Hibiya Public Hall.

Nov. 17—The eleventh meeting of the Society for the Study of Christianity was held for two days at Fukuoka.

Nov. 21—At the invitation of the government of India, the Rev. and Mrs. Kōshū Ōtani departed for a month's trip to South-east Asia.

Nov. 26—The Crown Prince and Princess and about 3,000 persons, including many Japanese and foreign dignitaries, attended a mass for the late President J. F. Kennedy at St. Ignatius Church, Tokyo.
Glossary

Bunka Kaikan 文化会館
Futsugakuren 仏学連
Chidori-ga-fuchi 千鳥ヶ淵
Doi, Tatsuo 土井辰雄
Ennō-kyō 円応教
Fujieda, Masakazu 藤枝真和
Fujii, Nichijō 藤井日夜
Fujii, Nitatsu 藤井日達
Fujimaki, Masayuki 藤巻正之
Fukuoka 福岡
Furuya, Shin 古屋新
Fukushima Inari 伏見鴨神
Ginji 今季
Genzukyō 原水教
Gien 智恩
Hashimoto, Gyōin 橋本凝親
Hattori, Ryōta 羽沢良太
Hashi, a 日比谷
Hiroshima 広島
Honganji 本願寺
Horōshū 法相宗
Hyōgo Ken 兵庫県
Ikeda, Hayato 池田勇人
Jingū 神宮
Jinja Honshō 神社本庁
Jinja Shingi Kai 神社神議會
Kanda 神田
Kenroji, Osanaga 甘露寺要長
Kashiwara 櫻原
Kifune, Zennō 木幡全能
Kokugakuin 国学院
Konkō, Kagamitarō 金光家太郎
Konkō-kyō 金光教
Kōya-san Shingon-shū 高野山真言宗
Kyōiku Kaikan 教育会館
Kyōto 京都
Masuzawa, Hajime 難波一
Matsuhita, Masatoshi 松下正壽
Neciji 明治
Miki, Tokuichi 宮木登一
Miyakawa, Munenori 宮川宗德
Miyamoto, Takeyasu 宮本武雄
Myōchi Kai 妙智会
Myōken-shū 妙見宗
Nakai, Ryūzui 中井龍団
Nakamura, Hajime 中村 元
Nakano, Yonoshige 中野与之助
Nakayama, Shōzen 中山正尊
Nichiren Shōshū 日蓮正宗
Nihon Jiyu Shukkyō Renmei 日本自由宗教連盟
Nihon Kōrisutekyō Kyōgikai 日本基督教協議會
Nihon Seinen Mondai Kenkyū Kai 日本青年問題研究所
Nihonzan Myōhōji 日本山妙法寺
Nikkō 日光
Nippon 日本
Nissōren 日宗連
Nitchū Bunka Kōrō Kyōkai 日中文化交流協会
Niwano, Nikkyō 庭野日敬
Noma, Shōen 野間秀泉
Olson お盆
GROSSARY

Osaka  大阪
Otani  大谷
Otani, Kochō  大谷光徹
Otani, Kōshō  大谷光照
P L Kyōdan  P L 教団
Reiun’in  霊雲院
Rikkyō  立教
Risshō Kōsei Kai  立正佼成会
Ryōkoku  雷谷
Sasaki, Yukitada  佐々木行忠
Sase, Junkō  佐々淳光
Seichō-Noi  生長の家
Seisoku Gakuen  正則学園
Sekai Kyōsei-kyō  世界教世教
Shikoku  四国
Shimane  島根
Shinshūren  新宗教
Shinshūseiren  新宗教連
Shintō Bunka Kai  神道文化会
Shitenno-ji  四天王寺
Shōgenji  松原寺
Sōtō-shū  四湖宗
Sōka Gakkai  創価学会

Takamatsu  高松
Takashina, Nariaki  高橋成章
Takashina, Rōsen  高橋雅仙
Tanaka, Hideki  田中英吉
Taniguchi, Masaharu  谷口雅春
Tenri-kyō  天理教
Tōkyō  東京
Toyama  富山
Tsukuba, Fujimaro  筑波藤郎
Tsukuno, Toyokatsu  九十九登騏
Ui, Hakku  宇井伯寿
Yakushiji  薬師寺
Yasukuni  靖国
Yoshida, Shigeru  吉田茂
Zenkokū Inari Kai  全國稲荷会
Zen’ichibutsu  全日仏
Zen Nihon Bukkyō Fujin Remmei  全日本仏教婦人連盟
Zen Nihon Bukkyō Seinen Kai  全日本仏教育年会
Zōjōji  増上寺