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Jan. 5 —Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, noted Christian leader collapsed in Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture in Shikoku. (He remained bed-ridden throughout the year.)

Jan. 6 —The Reverend Akira Ebizawa (75), former General Secretary of the National Christian Council (Nihon Kirisutokyō Kyōgi Kai) and outstanding Christian administrator and leader, died in his home. He was posthumously awarded the Fourth Order of the Sacred Treasure.

Jan. 8 —Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab on his ten-day goodwill visit to Japan as an official guest of the Japanese Government presented the World Peace Memorial Cathedral in Hiroshima with sixteen stained glass windows.

Jan. 13 —Miss Michiko Shōda, fiance of Crown Prince Akihito received instructions at the Imperial Palace on the “Rites and Ceremonies of the Imperial Court.”

Jan. 16 —The Rev. Hariuchi Yonemitsu, priest of the Saga Gokoku

Shrine, departed for a three-week visit to Japanese communities in South America as Shrine Shinto's first goodwill ambassador to South America and to conduct memorial services for Japanese pioneers and war-dead.

Jan. 25 —Miss Michiko Shōda received instructions at the Imperial Palace on “Rites and Festivals of the Grand Shrine of Ise.”

Jan. 29 —The Executive Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party appointed a special committee to study the question of giving the Grand Shrine of Ise a special legal status and possibly revising the Religious Juridical Persons Law. (Shūkyō Hōjin Hō) (In 1956 the then Minister of Education, Ichirō Kiyose, submitted the question of revising the Religious Juridical Persons Law to the Religious Juridical Persons Council and during the course of its study the problem of giving Ise and other shrines a special status was raised but the Council failed to make a favorable recommendation).

—Pursuant to a Ministry of Education notice of August 28, 1958, the National Christian Council

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asked the Christian Liaison Committee (Kirisutokyō Rengō Kai) to study the problem of holding public school-sponsored athletic events and meetings on Sundays.

Feb. 1 —The Honorable Nobusuke Takatsukasa, chief priest of Meiji Shrine and president of the Association of Shinto Shrines (Jinja Honchō) died.

Feb. 3 —The Association of Shintō Shrines celebrated its 13th anniversary.

Feb. 4 —The Maebashi District Court ruled that a chief priest had no right to dis-inter an urn from the temple graveyard because a former adherent, converted to Sōka Gakkai, no longer desired to have the temple conduct memorial rites of the ancestor involved. (See note at end of this chronology.)

Feb. 9 —Former Minister of Education, Tō Matsunaga, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's special committee on revision of the Religious Juridical Persons Law addressed the second general meeting of the All Japan Religious Political Association (Zen Nihon Shūkyō Seiji Remmei). (He pointed out the special relationship existing be-

tween the Imperial Family and the Grand Shrine of Ise, and the fact that Yasukuni Shrine is devoted to the veneration of the war-dead of the entire nation. The address resulted in a heated discussion, pro and con, in the vernacular press.)

Feb. 11 —The enthronement of the first Emperor, Jimmu Tennō, was observed at a special public meeting held in Hibiya Hall in Tokyo and at many shrines and in many communities throughout the country.

Feb. 11 —Tokyo District of United Church of Christ in Japan (Nihon Kirisuto Kyōdan) issued a statement opposing special status for Ise Shrine.

Feb. 12 —Representatives of the Liberal Democratic Party met with National Christian Council to discuss proposed special status for Ise and other shrines especially related to the Imperial Family. (Subsequently other meetings were held with no conclusive results.)

Feb. 16 —The Vatican Radio inaugurated a Japanese-language broadcast beamed to Japan three times a week.

Feb. 27 —Executive Committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan issued statement opposing

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special status for Ise Shrine.

Feb. 27 —Dr. Hidenobu Kuwata, president of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, contributed an article to the newspaper Asahi in which he argued the religious nature of Ise and other shrines and pointed out the dangers of granting special status to the shrines.

Mar. 1 —Tenkōkyō made its Los Angeles branch, founded in 1958, its headquarters in America.

Mar. 2 —Risshō Kōsei Kai established a Hawaii branch.

Mar. 4 —Special meeting of the Christian Liaison Committee to hear report from the Rev. Keitarō Nishimura on the Feb. 12th conference between representatives of religions and Liberal Democratic Party leaders regarding the Religious Juridical Persons Law.

(The Committee voted to oppose granting special status for Ise Shrine and revision of the Religious Juridical Persons Law.)

Mar. 10. —National Christian Council annual meeting: Dr. Takeshi Mutō elected chairman, Bishop

Hinsuke Yashiro, vice chairman. A resolution was passed opposing special status for Ise Shrine.

Mar. 12 —His Eminence Gregory Peter XV, Cardinal Agagianian, Pro-Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, arrived for a two-week visit. On the following day he was received in audience by His Majesty, The Emperor.

Mar. 27 —In commemoration of the 2,500th anniversary* of the Buddha, a four-day celebration (*Jayanti*) was held in Tokyo under the auspices of a specially created committee and financed by a grant of ¥30 million from the Japanese Government. (Forty-four foreign guests representing eleven countries attended. These were: Burma (6) Cambodia (3), Ceylon³ (4), Nationalist China (4), India (5), Laos (3), Malaya (2), Pakistan (4), Sikkim (1), Singapore (2), and Thailand (6). At a symposium conducted as a part of the program the following subjects were discussed:

1. The idea of peace in Gautama's teaching and how to attain it.
2. The teachings of Gautama and Industrial Civilization.
3. The Significance of Gautama's teach-

* Due to differing chronologies it is not clear precisely what is being commemorated. The first 2,500th anniversary of the Buddha was celebrated in Japan in 1934.

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ing in contemporary world thought.)

Mar. 30 —Mr. Naotake Satō, president of the Association of Ise Shrine Supporters (*Jingū Hōsan Kai*), gave a press conference at Ise City in which he outlined the reasons why Ise should be given special legal status. (He contended that the pilgrimages of the Emperor to the Grand Shrine of Ise should be regarded as public acts, and that the sanctuary and grounds necessary for the Emperor in performing rituals and paying homage should be state property.)

Apr. 1 —The Japan Buddhist Federation met for four days in Kyoto with most of the foreign guests to the Tokyo *Jayanti* present.

Apr. 2 —The national headquarters of the Good Neighbor Movement contributed ¥5 million to Ceylon to assist in an English translation of the Buddhist sūtras.

Apr. 5 —Dr. Sokyō Ono of Koku-gakuin University (Shinto) contributed an article in the *Shinshūkyō* (New Religious Organizations) Newspaper in which he reviewed the history of the Ise Shrine and argued in favor of returning some of the sanctuary to the Imperial Family. (However, Dr. Ono is opposed to having shrines given a special status

outside the Religions Juridical Persons Law.)

Apr. 6 —The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend and Right Honorable Geoffry Francis Fisher, arrived. The following day he was received in audience by His Majesty, the Emperor.

Apr. 7 —A week-long celebration of the centennial of the Anglican Episcopal Church of Japan was opened with a mass meeting at the Tokyo Municipal Gymnasium attended by many foreign dignitaries of the Church.

Apr. 10 —The wedding ceremony of Crown Prince Akihito and Miss Michiko Shōda was performed at the Imperial Palace Sanctuaries.

(This is the first ceremony at these shrines since the end of World War II to be regarded as an official act of the state. The couple paid respects at the Grand Shrine of Ise on the 18th., the tomb of Emperor Jimmu on the 19th, and the tombs of Emperor Taisho and Empress Teimei on the 21st.)

—His Holiness Pope John XXIII sent a radio message congratulating the Crown Prince on his marriage and expressing his wishes for the spiritual progress and prosperity of the entire Japanese nation.

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—Religious organizations generally sent congratulations in connection with the wedding of the Crown Prince and Princess Michiko, but there was some criticism of this to the effect that it was flattery unworthy of religious bodies.

Apr. 17 —The National Council of Tibetan Problems was organized by leaders of the Buddhist Political Council (Bukkyō Seiji Kyōgikai), and the Buddhist fellowship (Bukkyō Dōshi Kurabu), etc., in connection with the escape of the Dalai Lama from Tibet.

Apr. 25 —Chūgai Nippō reported the attitudes of religious leaders and scholars on the question of the state wedding and the Constitution in relation to the principle of the separation of church and state.

(This subject was somewhat widely discussed in the religious and secular press.)

Apr. 26 —Tenth anniversary of the International Buddhist Association (Kokusai Bukkyō Kyōkai) at Honganji temple in Tsukiji, Tokyo.

Apr. 29 —The Japan Baptist League (Nihon Baputesuto Dōmei) composed of American Baptist-related churches, was organized.

May 2 —Under the title “Is Shin-

to a Religion?” the Chūgai Nippō published a series of statements from its readers. (Most comments favored a special status for shrines because they constitute the basis for Japanese tradition and the Japanese national spirit. However, some criticized the proposal to give Ise Shrine special status because of its relations with the Imperial Family. They argued that this would be contrary to the spirit of the Imperial Rescript of January 1, 1946, and do damage to the efforts to develop a democratic country.)

May 5 —Kanda Dera (temple), center of the Truth Movement, completed a translation and publication of 1,000 copies of the Lotus Sūtra in Braille. An Association for the Blind was organized which will publish Buddhist scriptures and a periodical in Braille, establish a tape library, and train volunteer workers to assist the blind.

May 8 —Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies (Indo Bukkyō Gakkai) received grant of ¥950,000 from Ministry of Education for the publication of an index for the Taishō Edition of the Tripitaka (Taishō Shinshū Daizōkyō).

May 12 —The Osaka Christian Crusade (May 12—June 1) under leadership of Dr. Bob Pierce at the

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New Asahi Festival Hall was opened. (Estimated total attendance, 100,000; total cards signed, 7,500)

May 15 —The Rev. Reiji Ōyama special missionary of the Japanese Evangelical Overseas Mission returned from a five-month tour of the Philippines.

May 15 —On the ground of alleged pro-communist affiliation, the Union of New Religious Organizations of Japan (Shin Nihon Shūkyō Dantai Rengōkai) withdrew from a Conference of Religionists (Shūkyō-sha Konwa Kai) affiliated with the Japan Council against A—H Bombs and decided not to participate in the World Conference against A—H Bombs sponsored by the Japan Council in early August.

May 17 —National Rally of Shinto Youth was held at Ise. (Moved by the experience of being permitted to worship within the outer enclosure of the Inner Shrine, the youths vowed loyalty to the Emperor and the ideals of the Japanese nation, and decided to organize an association for youth at each shrine throughout the country.)

May 23 —The Executive Board of the Association of Shinto Shrines, with Princess Kitashirakawa, Honorary President, and fifty-six

representatives of prefectural boards in attendance, voted to seek revision of the Religious Juridical Persons Law, the enactment of a special law for the Grand Shrine of Ise, the granting of a special legal status to all shrines, and the erection of a Shrine Shinto Representatives (*ujiko sōdai*) Center.

May 24—26 —Executive Board of the Association of Shinto Shrines elected new officers (Honorable Yukitada Sasaki, former chief priest of the Grand Shrine of Ise, was elected president) For the first time in the history of Shrine Shinto two laymen became members of the executive committee of the Board.

May 25 —The Nagasaki Diocese became a Metropolitan See; Archbishop Paul Yamaguchi was named first archbishop.

June 2 —The known religious affiliation of successful candidates in the election for the House of Councillors was as follows: Buddhist (Jōdo Shin) 4, Christianity 4, Shinto 8, Sōka Gakkai 6. (The successful election of all six candidates of Sōka Gakkai created a national sensation. Its nine members constitute the

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fourth largest group in the House. Three of the four Buddhists, one of whom is a prominent priest, belong to the Liberal Democratic Party. The other is a Socialist.)

June 14 —The Cultural Interchange Institute for Buddhists (Bukkyō-to Bunka Kōryū Kyōkai) made a sociological survey of temples in Tokyo and Osaka, *Social Functions of the Buddhist Temple (Toshi Jūn Shakaiteki Kinō)* with the cooperation of thirteen Buddhist colleges and Universities.

June 15 —Tenth anniversary of founding of International Christian University was observed.

June 22 —Professors Daisetsu Suzuki, Shōson Miyamoto, Hideo Kishimoto, and Hajime Nakamura represented Japan at the Third East-West Philosophers Conference held for five weeks at the University of Hawaii.

June 25 —Buddhist members of the House of Councillors, other than members of Sōka Gakkai, held a meeting under the auspices of the magazine, Sekai Bukkyō (World Buddhism) to discuss religion and politics. (In the opinion of the participants, their activity results in the incorporation of the religious spirit into

politics and this is regarded as useful for the realization of a truly peaceful society. They said that their participation transcended both sect and party and was different from representatives of Sōka Gakkai, which they believed violated the principle of separation of church and state and religious freedom.)

July. 3 —Re-establishment of Jingū Kōgakkai at Ise was decided at a meeting of seventy political, business, and Shrine Shinto leaders, including former prime minister Shigeru Yoshida and Tadashi Adachi, President of the Japan Chamber of Commerce. (Until 1945 the Jingū Kōgakkai was a government seminary for shrine priests. It was ordered closed by the Shinto Directive, December 15, 1945.)

July. 9 —Forty-two members of the Lacour Centennial Evangelism Team arrived for two-month service with the churches.

—Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi, was received in audience at the Vatican.

July. 25 —The Vicariate Apostolic of Hiroshima was raised to a diocese.

Aug. 3 —A "Peace Evening" (Heiwa no yūbe) as a non-political demonstration against A—H bombs and the Eighth anniversary of the

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establishment of the Union of New Religious Organizations of Japan (Shin Nihon Shūkyō Dantai Ren-gōkai) were observed at a mass meeting at the Tokyo Municipal Gymnasium.

Aug. 24 —The Association of Shin-to Shrines announced that 370 women, 76 of whom are chief priests, are serving as priests of shrines throughout the country. (Most but not all of them are in relatively unimportant shrines. One is vice chief priest of a former national grade shrine.)

Sept. 26 —Typhoon Vera (No. 15), the most disasterous typhoon in Japanese history swept the Ise Bay-Nagoya area with an unprecedented loss of life and untold property damage, including the Grand Shrine of Ise and many temples and churches. (In the relief effort that followed most of the religious organizations of the country raised contributions of material and money, and many of them organized relief bodies to assist in the rehabilitation of the area)

Sept. 30 —A conference on the Ise problem was held with representatives of the Japan Protestant Council (Nihon Shinkyō Remmei), an organization of conservative

churches not affiliated with the National Christian Council.

Oct. 1 —The centennial of Protestantism was commemorated by a month-long series of special evangelistic campaigns conducted in the six centers—Sendai, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka-Kobe, Okayama, Hiroshima—sponsored by conservative churches and missionaries not related to the National Christian Council. Dr. Oswald J. Smith of Toronto, Canada, was one of the principal speakers.

Oct. 4 —Enshrinement service for Princes Yoshihisa and Nagahisa of the Kitashirakawa family at Yasukuni Shrine, in the presence of Princess Fusako Kitashirakawa, High Priestess of the Grand Shrine of Ise. (This was the first enshrinement of an Imperial prince.)

Oct. 5 —Six-day convention sponsored by a specially organized Japan Protestant Centennial Committee opened at the Youth Hall in the Meiji Shrine Outer Gardens.

Oct. 12 —Evangelical Missionary Association of Japan-sponsored two-day nationwide strategy conference "to discuss the effective covering of Japan in our generation with

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the Christian message" opened in Tokyo.

Oct. 23 —About 700 delegates attended the three-day 7th Annual meeting of the Japan Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai) at Chion-in temple in Kyoto. (Dr. Hideki Yukawa, Nobel Prize winner, lectured on "Science and Man." The conference was divided into three sections: missionary work and international problems, politics and economics, and social problems. The discussions centered in (1) counter-measures to combat Sōka Gakkai, (2) opposition to granting special status to Shrine Shinto, (3) the organization of the Buddhist Political League, and (4) the movement against the Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs and disarmament. The following resolution was adopted.

WORLD PEACE APPEAL

We, Buddhists, faced with an important turning point in the history of the world, hereby earnestly appeal to the world for a solution of all the problems in the world solely on the basis of wisdom and a love for mankind without resorting to violence against the course of civilization, for the simultaneous abolition of all armaments, and for the creation of a unified world welfare-state of absolute peace and lofty civilization.)

Oct. 23 —Bishop Januarius Kyunosuke Hayasaka, former Bishop of Nagasaki and first Japanese to

become a Catholic bishop, died at the age of seventy-six.

Nov. 1—8 —National Christian Council-sponsored centennial of Protestantism in Japan commemorated by special meetings, several of which were held in the Tokyo Municipal Gymnasium. (More than two hundred and fifty delegates from fifty countries, including many prominent church dignitaries, attended.)

Nov. 15 —The Rev. Ryōhachi Ikeda of Yasukuni Shrine and other priests from Japan conducted the autumn festival for the war-dead at the Okinawa Gokoku Shrine in Naha.

Nov. 21 —His Excellency, the Most Reverend Maximilian de Furstenberg, Apostolic Internuncio to Japan, was named Apostolic Delegate to Australia, New Zealand and Oceania.

Nov. 26 —Professor Charles E. Perry of Saint Paul's University died from an attack by a drunken student.

Nov. 29 —The 6th Conference of Kyoto Buddhists was held at Chishaku-in temple in Kyoto November 29th. (The discussion centered on two problems: "Contemporary Youth Problems and Buddhism" and "World

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Peace." In connection with the former the conclusion was reached that, while modern delinquent youth becomes more brutal, religious youth is inactive. Delinquency, they regarded as due to the mass communications of capitalistic society, social unrest, and the lack of a religious mind in social life rather than to a lack of love or questions of bread and butter. In this connection they felt that Buddhists "must reflect on the fact that they are lacking in a consciousness and practice of social culture. Regarding the problem of world peace, they reflected on the Buddhist tendency to escape from the actualities of life and remain bound by the vestiges of feudalism and nationalism in Japanese Buddhism. In connection with a discussion of the US-Japan Security Treaty and Communist China-Japan relations, it was felt that Buddhists should exert themselves to actively defend the peaceful Constitution."

Dec. 2 —The executive committee of the Board of Directors of the Union of New Religious Organization of Japan discussed revision of the Religious Juridical Persons Law and giving special status to Ise and other shrines.

Dec. 4 —The Reverend Tokuchika Miki, President of the Union of New Religious Organization of Japan appeared before the special committee to study revision of the Religious Juridical Persons Law of

the Liberal Democratic Party and spoke in opposition to revising the Law and giving special status to Ise Shrine.

Dec. 13 —First preparatory meeting of the National Buddhist Political League (Nihon Bukkyō Seiji Dōmei) held. (It was decided that the movement should seek to promote the well-being of the country and the establishment of a World Federation, and to combat communism. Leading Buddhist leaders are participating in this movement as a result of the advance of Sōka Gakkai in politics and the leftist character of the General Council of Trade Unions (Sōhyō). The Buddhist Political League was informally organized in July. According to its sponsors the purpose is to resolve the strain in the political and economic world by means of Buddhist thought. In some of the preliminary discussions it was proposed that a Buddhist Political Party be organized but this was rejected. The plan is to make it a league to study political problems. The movement is criticized by liberal Buddhists as being rightist and reactionary. Those that claim to be neutral politically say that it will violate the principle of the separation of church and state and the spirit of democracy and that it will fall into the same error as the Sōka Gakkai and rightist Shintoists.)

Dec. 21 —YWCA Community Christmas Pageant at Tokyo Municipal Gymnasium.