

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1960

(April—June)

April 1 --Plans announced for the construction of a new cathedral in Osaka near the site of the death of the famous Gratia Hosogawa.

April 5 —The Christian Liaison Committee sent a letter to Mr. Tō Matsunaga, Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's special committee on the Religious Juridical Persons Law in which attention was called to the fact that the Japan Buddhist Association, the Sectarian Shinto Federation, The Union of New Religious Organizations in Japan, as well as the Christian Liaison Committee are all opposed to granting special status to the Grand Shrine of Ise, and that in the religious world only the Association of Shinto Shrines favors it.

April 8 —His Eminence Peter Tatsuo Cardinal Doi returned to Japan.

—Buddhist leaders attended a four-day Afro-Asian Conference at New Delhi, India, on Tibet and anti-

colonialism.

April 10 —The Association of Shrine Shinto Youth of Kyoto decided to enlarge its scope to include the youth of Shinto sects.

April 13 --A new convent of the Notre Dame Sisters in Kusatsu was blessed. This is the first mission parish work to be undertaken by this group.

April 13 —The executive committee of the Tokyo Association of Buddhists met to discuss problems raised by the Ministry of Welfare notice of March 8th., regarding the interment of ashes without religious rites prescribed by the temple concerned. (see p. 91)

April 14 —Risshō Kōsei Kai opened a new branch in Osaka.

—Myōchi Kai celebrated the 60th anniversary of the founder, Mrs. Mitsu Miyamoto.

April 16 —The executive board of the Union of New Religious Organizations in Japan discussed granting special status to the Grand

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Shrine of Ise.

April 17 —Goodwill Athletic Meet in Kansai sponsored by the Union of New Religious Organizations in Japan.

—The National Christian Council executive committee voted to approve special status for Yasukuni Shrine on condition that it be divested of its religious character.

April 19 —Sōka Gakkai executive board selected Mr. Daisaku Ikeda (32) as its president.

April 20 —A new college offering courses in domestic science was opened in Tokyo by the Salesian Sisters.

April 21 —A round-the-world Catholic Relief Services party composed of eleven monsignori, six priests, and four laymen arrived in Japan for a four-day inspection of Catholic relief work in Japan.

April 22 —The Association of Supporters of the Grand Shrine of Ise (Jingū Hōsan Kai) elected Mr. Kiyoshi Tanaka associate chief priest of the shrine, as chairman of the board of directors.

April 24 —Over one thousand Catholics, clergy and laity, gathered at St. Ignatius Church in Tokyo

to honor Japan's first cardinal. Dr. Kōtaro Tanaka, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and a number of members of the diplomatic corps were present.

April 26 —According to *Jinja Shimpo (Shrine News)*, eleven prefectural assemblies and 545 local councils have passed resolutions requesting the granting of special status to Yasukuni Shrine.

—The National Association of Shrine Shinto Women, of which Mrs. Yasuko Takatsukasa is president, held its eleventh central committee meeting at the Ōmi Shrine. The association has branches in thirty-six prefectures.

—Shikoku District of the United Church passed a resolution against the US-Japan Security Treaty.

—Nishi Chūgoku District of the United Church passed a resolution against the US-Japan Security Treaty.

May 1 —The Union of New Religious Organizations in Japan inaugurated radio "evangelism" in Osaka. The P L Church is on the air on Monday mornings and the Ennō-kyō on Wednesdays.

May 3 —The twenty-second

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general assembly of Sōka Gakkai approved the election of Mr. Daisaku Ikeda as its third president.

—The Chūgai Nippō conducted a conference on the graveyard problems.

—Christian rally against ratification US-Japan Security Treaty held at Shiba Public Hall in Tokyo, 800 attended. (Similar rallies were held in Osaka (18th), Kobe (22nd) and Kyoto (22nd), attendance 300.)

May 5 —Myōchi Kai inaugurated a national youth organization.

May 6 —The following persons were appointed by the Minister of Education as members of the Religious Juridical Persons Council: Prof. Rokusaburō Nieda (Waseda University),

Prof. Junshō Ōta (Jōdo Shin)

Rev. Zenta Watanabe (United Church of Christ--Protestant)

Mr. Hideo Takeshima (Association of Shinto Shrines)

Rev. Shundō Kurimoto (Jōdo Sect)

Mr. Arata Furuya (Association of Shinto Shrines)

Prof. Yoshio Kobayashi (Sophia University—Catholic)

Mr. Kenzō Ahara. (Former member of the Religious Affair Bureau,

Ministry of Education)

Rev. Ryūden Abe (Shingon Sect)

Prof. Hideo Kishimoto (Tokyo University)

Rev. Tokuchika Miki (P L Church)

Mr. Juichi Shimomura (Former chief Religious Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Education)

Rev. Kenichi Shishino (Fusō-kyō)

Mr. Keigorō Moroi (Tenri-kyō)

Rev. Kankyō Mochizuki (Nichiren Sect)

May 8 —Bishop Dominic Noguchi of Hiroshima was consecrated in Rome by His Holiness Pope John XXIII.

May 10 —An Association of Outcasts (Dōwa Kai) was organized in Tokyo with Mr. Nobuo Sugimoto of Nishi Honganji as Vice President. (There are approximately three million former outcasts, of which an estimated sixty-five percent are adherents of the Nishi Honganji Sect. Discrimination persists in spite of its legal abolition.) —A ground-breaking ceremony was observed for a new high school in Higashi Muroran, Hokkaidō, to be conducted by the Benedictine Sisters.

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May 13 —The International Catholic Migration Commission opened a liaison office in the National Catholic Committee building in Tokyo.

May 14 —The first volume of the Taishō edition of the Mahayana sutras will be reprinted this summer. The complete set of eighty-eight volumes will be published during the next seven years.

May 17 —Mr. Giken Itō, President of Buddhist Democratic Party announced its opposition to the new US—Japan Security Treaty on the grounds that it (1) violates the Constitution, (2) is a military alliance, and (3) subjects Japan to the will of the United States. However, the resolution embodying this opposition, admits the necessity of the Self Defense Forces.

May 18 —Buddhist temples in Tokyo organized a special committee on the graveyard problem.

May 21 —The advisors of the Association of Shinto Shrines held a conference to promote special status for the Grand Shrine of Ise and the re-establishment of February 11 as National Foundation Day.

May 23 —The executive commit-

tee of the Tokyo District of the United Church of Christ in Japan, having learned that World Vision is an organization which draws support from donors of many different denominations, decided at a two-day conference that member-churches, if they so desire, should feel entirely free to cooperate in the proposed 1961 Tokyo Crusade.

May 26 —The 48th annual meeting of the Association of Christian Schools met for a two-day session at Kobe College. Mayor Gizō Takayama of Kyoto, a Christian, was the guest speaker. Prior to the meeting the executive committee met at Kansei Gakuin on the 25th and representatives of forty-two member-schools that are affiliated with the Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan met at the Takarazuka Hotel under the chairmanship of Dr. Ganjō Kosaka, former president of Aoyama Gakuin.

—Ninth general meeting of the Association of Shinto Nursery Schools and Kindergartens was held at the headquarters of the Association of Shinto Shrines.

May 27 —Two young Japanese

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Catholics attended the first world congress in Lourdes, France, of the Catholic International Farm Youth Movement.

—Sōka Gakkai is reported to have set as its goal the conversion of three million new families during the next four years. The believers of Risshō Kōsei Kai, also a Nichiren-related faith, are its special target.

—Eleventh annual meeting of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies opened at Waseda University.

May 29 —Eighth annual meeting of the Japan Buddhist Federation opened at Kanazawa. Special consideration was given to (1) relief for Chilean earthquake sufferers, (2) US-Japan Security Treaty and (3) the graveyard issue.

—The Kōdō Church, a modern Buddhist sect which has its headquarters in Yokohama, plans to construct a pagoda at a cost of more than \$400,000 during the next seven years.

May 31 —The Myōshinji Sect of Rinzai (Zen) Buddhism is planning to open thirty-three propaganda centers in the United States.

June 1 —The Risshō Kōsei Kai has changed the manner of writing its name in Japanese. The name is now 立正校成会, instead of 立正交成会.

June 4 —Twenty-eight leaders of the Union of New Religious Organizations in Japan met with Prime Minister Kishi and leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party and assured them of their support as well as their willingness to cooperate in welcoming President Eisenhower.

—Five hundred people gathered at the Tōjō Hall in Tokyo to celebrate the 82nd birthday of Dr. Frank Bookman, founder of MRA.

June 5 —According to newspaper reports, 260,000 people worshipped at the Atsuta Shrine in Nagoya where the sacred sword, one of the three Imperial Regalia, is enshrined.

June 6 —The Tokyo YWCA executive board decided to hold nationwide noon-time prayer meetings and urged the 15,000 members of city and school associations to protest against the "illegal" action of the Diet on May 20th. After the meeting most of those present

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joined demonstrators at the Diet building.

June 7 —Ten teachers of Toyo Eiwa Girls School drafted a protest against ratification of the US-Japan Security Treaty and sent the same to all Christian schools in Japan requesting that signatures be collected for it.

June 8 —One hundred sixty-two professors of Aoyama Gakuin Girls Junior College signed a statement protesting against the Kishi administration and calling for a dissolution of the Diet.

June 10 —Fifty-one YWCA secretaries signed a protest against the present government calling for dissolution of the Diet and postponement of President Eisenhower's visit to Japan.

—Dr. Takeshi Mutō, chairman of the National Christian Council expressed regret for the Hagerty Incident at the Tokyo International Air Port.

—The Rev. Sen Shigenaga, chief priest of the Asakusa Honganji in Tokyo, resigned.

June 11 —Mr. Eijiun Ōtani, prominent Buddhist member of the Liberal Democratic Party withdrew

from the party because of differences of opinion over the US-Japan Security Treaty.

—Organization ceremony of the Buddhist Political League held at the Industrial Club in Tokyo.

—The Rev. Tokuchika Miki, Patriarch of the P L Church and party departed on a world tour.

—The site of a new women's dormitory for Sophia University was blessed.

June 12 —The site of a new Notre Dame College in Kyoto was blessed.

June 13 —The executive committee of the National Christian Council discussed the question of inviting a representative of the Social Democratic Party to speak to it on the current political situation.

—The National Christian Council executive committee declined to consider a petition to urge postponement of President Eisenhower's visit.

June 14 —Twenty-four Christian leaders decided in their individual capacity to welcome President Eisenhower and communicated their decision in a letter delivered to the American Embassy.

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—A two-day general conference of the Christian Social Work Association met at Kōfu, Yamanashi Prefecture with more than seventy representatives in attendance.

June 16 —In regard to the violent mass demonstration which took place on the evening of June 15, leaders of the United Church of Christ in Japan are quoted as follows by the *Kirisuto Tsūshin* (*Christian News Service*):

Dr. Michio Kozaki—"Christians are responsible for the incident, Violence must not be permitted. We must defend democracy." Rev. Kōzō Kashiwai—"I was with the demonstrators. I realize that the students have a different philosophy. We must begin a new movement of our own." Rev. Yoon Tai Ō—"I know what communism is. Japanese Christians are supporting the Communist movement." Rev. Iwao Niwa: "It is a good thing that Eisenhower's visit has been postponed. The situation would have been very grave if he had come."

—Dr. Bob Pierce of World Vision held a conference with Christian leaders at the International Kanko

Hotel in Tokyo to discuss the proposed Tokyo Crusade scheduled for May, 1961.

—Fifty-one YMCA secretaries out of 114 signed a letter requesting (1) postponement of the proposed visit of President Eisenhower, (2) resignation of Prime Minister Kishi, and (3) dissolution of the Diet.

—Ten members of the executive committee of the National Christian Council requested an emergency meeting of the Council's executive committee in order to advise Prime Minister Kishi to postpone president Eisenhower's visit to Japan.

—Three ministers of the United Church of Christ in Japan visited the Metropolitan Police Headquarters to advise postponement of the visit of President Eisenhower, the resignation of the Kishi cabinet, and to protest the alleged brutal treatment of Christians at the June 15 demonstrations.

June 17 —A special meeting of the National Christian Council executive committee decided to cable the National Council of Churches of Christ USA urging postpone-

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ment of the President's proposed visit.

—Following his consecration Bishop Dominic Noguchi of Hiroshima visited France, Spain, Belgium and Germany.

—Members of the National Christian Council executive committee met with representatives of the Social Democratic Party, Messrs. Katsumata and Kanichi Nishimura of the Lower House, to hear a report on the political situation. Forty persons attended.

June 18 —Eleven ministers of the United Church of Christ in Japan visited the chief of Metropolitan Police requesting that the police not use their clubs in connection with demonstrations by the general public as if they were dealing with bandits.

June 20 —The Japan Home Bible Society celebrated its twentieth anniversary. The society has distributed 248,000 Bibles and portions.

June 23 —More than twenty chairmen of the district Social Committees of the United Church of Christ in Japan, meeting in Hakone for two-days, adopted resolutions

calling for the immediate dissolution of the Diet and opposition to granting special status to the Grand Shrine of Ise, Yasukuni Shrine, and Meiji Shrine.

—The Christian Liaison Committee decided to establish a Christian Cemetery in Saitama Prefecture.

June 24 —The nineteenth anniversary of the establishment of the United Church of Christ in Japan was observed.

—Three hundred twenty-four poems were submitted in a contest conducted by the Committee for the Revision of the Hymnal of the Catholic Church, of which 140 passed the first screening.

June 27 —Dr. Floyd Shacklock, secretary of the Literature Department of the National Council of Churches of Christ, USA, stopped over in Japan to conduct a two-day conference at Sanmai-so in Hakone.

June 29 —The Education Association of Christian Schools held a conference of primary school teachers at Toyo Eiwa Primary School. 243 teachers of fourteen schools attended.