

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1963

(July — November)

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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 contented 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 Kai), 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 Yukiada Sasaki, president of Kokugakuin 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 Nichonzan Myōhōji, in accordance with an agreement with the mayor of Moscow

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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 16—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 nuclear 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, Tokuchi 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 Chidōrigafuchi, 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

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Kai).

Aug. 19—The Buddhist Federation and the Japan Peace Conference sent letters to the South Vietnam Government, American Ambassador Lodge in South Vietnam and other parties concerned, demanding a peaceful settlement of the situation in that country.

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 Kyūsei-kyō, The Rev. Zennō Kifune, priest of Reiun'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

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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 (Nitchū 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 Religionists was held at Zōjōji, 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 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 commemorating

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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 Jingu National Stadium, Tokyo.

Nov. 3—Sekai Kyūsei-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 Ryūkoku University, Kyōto, 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. Kōshō 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

- Ōsaka 大阪
 Ōtani 大谷
 Ōtani, Kōchō 大谷光錫
 Ōtani, Kōshō 大谷光照
 P L Kyōdan P L 教団
 Reiu'n'in 靈雲院
 Rikkyō 立教
 Ri-shō Kōsei Kai 立正佼成会
 Ryūkoku 竜谷
 Sasaki, Yukitada 佐々木行忠
 Sase, Junkō 佐瀬淳光
 Seichō-No ie 生長の家
 Seisoku Gakuen 正則学園
 Sekai Kyūsei-kyō 世界救世教
 Shikoku 四国
 Shimane 島根
 Shinshūren 新宗連
 Shinshūseiren 新宗青連
 Shintō Bunka Kai 神道文化会
 Shitennō-ji 四天王寺
 Shōgenji 松原寺
 Sōtō-shū 曹洞宗
 Sōka Gakkai 創価学会
 Takamatsu 高松
 Takashina, Nariaki 高階成章
 Takashina, Rōsen 高階羅仙
 Tanaka, Hidekichi 田中英吉
 Taniguchi, Masaharu 谷口雅春
 Tenri-kyō 天理教
 Tōkyō 東京
 Toyama 富山
 Tsukuba, Fujimaro 筑波藤磨
 Tsukuno, Toyokatsu 九十九豊勝
 Ui, Hakuju 宇井伯秀
 Yakushiji 薬師寺
 Yasukuni 靖国
 Yoshi 義
 Yoshida, Shigeru 吉田茂
 Zenkoku Inari Kai 全国稲荷会
 Zennichibutsu 全日仏
 Zen Nihon Bukkyō Fujin Remmei
 全日本仏教婦人連盟
 Zen Nihon Bukkyō Seinen Kai
 全日本仏教青年会
 Zōjōji 増上寺