

JAPANESE WOMEN SUPPORTING

WWII SEXUAL ENSLAVEMENT VICTIMS

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PREFACE

The sovereign people of Japan wish to express their deep sorrow to the victims of war crimes committed by the Japanese military during World War II. Of particular concern is the very serious sexual exploitation of the so-called "comfort women" by the men of the armed forces. It must be recognized that those women were conscripted as military sex slaves. This fact has long been hidden from us, but it has recently surfaced into open discussion, often argued as an issue of foreign policy between governments. As a result of these recent findings, the problem is now drawing an international attention.

The members of the Association of Anti-prostitution Activity have been dealing with the problem since the very beginning. This association succeeded in pressuring the government to enact the current anti-prostitution legislation, and its members have been concerned with the problems of prostitution in Japan as well as so-called "sex tours" and the many hardships faced by poor foreign women living in Japan.

Due to lack of funds and technical expertise in communication, we have thus far limited our appeals to the domestic media in Japan. We are increasingly aware, however, that it is shameful if we neglect our responsibilities to communicate our concerns, to express our feelings of sisterhood and solidarity, and to extend the range of our activities to a larger international audience. Therefore, we have decided to publish an English-language pamphlet about the concerns of the Association.

The Japanese government, worried about rising of public opinion and consciousness at home and the international reaction, seems to be re-thinking its responsibilities. The government may have reached some decision by the time this small pamphlet reaches you. In order to pressure government to decide in a responsible way in this matter, we ask for your support by way of speaking out and making your thoughts known on every possible occasion.

Thank you.

March 20, 1993

Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity

- 1 AKEBONOKAI
- 2 THE SALVATION ARMY
- 3 NEW JAPAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
- 4 NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REGIONAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS
- 5 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMAN'S CONSULANT
- 6 THE COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTE FOR EX-PROSTITUTION IN JAPAN
- 7 TOKYO YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
- 8 TOKYO SOCIETY OF SOCIAL WORKERS FOR WOMEN CLIENTS
- 9 JAPANESE NURSING ASSOCIATION
- 10 NATIONAL CHRISTIAN IN JAPAN
- 11 JAPAN WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION
- 12 JAPAN WOMEN'S COUNCIL
- 13 THE FEDERATION OF JAPANESE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS
- 14 THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF JAPAN
- 15 JAPANESE WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Activities by Japanese Women

- Speech made at the "Asian Conference for Solidarity
on the Women Drafted Sexual Slavery by Japan" -

August, 1992, Seoul

I am reporting on the activity of Japanese women in regards to the issue of "Military Sex Slaves." I report this with a heavy heart and grave sense of responsibility as a citizen of the guilty country, Japan.

In April 1988, a conference on "Women and Tourism" was held in Seoul sponsored by Korea Church Women, United. There, I met Ms. Yun Jun-Ok. a Professor (now retired) at Ehwa Women's University in Korea and a pioneer researcher and activist on the issue of "Military Sex Slaves." Meeting with Professor Yun was our first encounter with the issue of "Military Sex Slaves." Upon returning to Japan, I sent the book "Military Sex Slaves" (Jugun Ianfu) by Kako Senda to Korea, as this book had caused the issue to be raised in Japan. Later, when Professor Yun visited Japan, we organized a small meeting inviting Mr. Senda too. Together with Professor Yun, we visited Kanita Women's Village in Tateyama, Chiba prefecture. In this, the Village women planned and built a monument dedicated to "Military Sex Slaves." We also met with Reverend Fukatsu, the principle of the Village, and his wife, and visited the monument. We continue to send books and other materials related on the issue to Professor Yun.

In 1990, we helped the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Sexual Slavery by Japan (KCWDSSJ) (Professor Yun is one of its co-chairpersons) to submit an open letter dated October 17 to the Japanese government. Following that, on December 1, we held a meeting.

entitled "A Meeting to Consider Human Rights and War - Korean Forced Laborers and "Military Sex Slave"" at the Tokyo YWCA Hall, inviting Professor Yun as a guest speaker. The hall was packed with people concerned with the issue and we believe that we could contributed to raising some important questions.

Since then, more people have started showing concern about this issue, and one result has been a book published by Korean women residents in Japan. Many times, Professor Yun has been invited to Japan to give lectures at various places, and on March 19, 1991, she attended the General Meeting of the National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ) and addressed the issue; her speech deeply moved the attendants. Through this meeting, the NCCJ adopted a resolution that the Japanese government should acknowledge its responsibility, apologize and compensate the victims. Also, the NCCJ, in the resolution, acknowledged that they were partly responsible for not being able to stop the crime, and pledged to document the issue for future education. During this visit, Professor Yun visited Matsushiro, Nagano Prefecture, where there still remains the underground tunnel dug by Koreans forcibly brought to Japan and the brothel where several Korean women were forced to give sexual services to Japanese and to those Korean laborers working at the tunnel. Now, there is a movement to preserve these two places.

Various organizations have made requests to the Japanese government. On December 1, 1990, we, the members of Association of Anti-Prostitution Activities (AAPA) visited the Prime Minister's Office with an appeal adopted by all the participants at the rally being held that day (the whole text of the appeal is attached to this report), and on June 6, 1991, we visited the Director-General of the Asia Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, and handed over an appeal, and on July 3, 1992, we visited

Mr. Kakizawa, the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Foreign Ministry and made an appeal. On April 7, the Liaison Group for the Implementation of Resolution from the International Women's Year Conference of Japan, which is an umbrella organization of as many as 51 organizations, made an appeal to the Cabinet Councillor's Office on External Affairs. The representatives of the Activity Network for the Issue of Military Sex Slaves (the coalition of 16 organizations which was formed immediately prior to Prime Minister Miyazawa's visit to Korea), visited the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary and since then has frequently visited the Cabinet Councillor's Office on External Affairs with the letter by KCWDSSJ. I am sure there are many more such activities by individuals and organizations that have not come to my attention.

Also, prior to the Prime Minister's visit to Korea, Asahi Shinbun (Asahi Newspaper) reported that a document indicating the Japanese Imperial Army's involvement in the Military Brothel had been found. As a result, Chief Cabinet Secretary Mr. Kato announced that the Japanese Government had changed its stance and had admitted the Japanese Imperial Army's and other public powers' involvement and apologized. The Activity Network was organized, and "Military Sex Slave Hot Line" was set up for three days, resulting in 235 calls, the result of which was compiled and published. Also, six other prefectures (Saitama, Osaka, Kyoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka, and Nara) conducted hot line services.

Pressure has been put not only on the government but also on the Diet (Japanese Parliament) to "admit Japan's involvement, apologize and compensate the victims, and set up a committee to address the issue." (Japanese Constitution Article 41 stipulates that "the Diet is the highest organ of the state power.") With the Activity Network as the core of the movement, an appeal drive has begun. As one such activity,

the APAJ sent an appeal to the Chairpersons of both Upper and Lower Houses, and to all the female Diet members of all parties. Also, we printed appeal postcards and delivered them and urged all the participating organizations to send the postcards to their locally elected Diet members. The Japan Woman's Christian Temperance Union sent a letter to all the Diet members, demanding compensation for ex-military sex slaves. They sent the letter to all 750 Diet members, but received only three replies.

Civic groups (with their members being mostly males) organized various rallies everywhere and started applying pressure for prompt Diet resolution for war responsibility. In August, which is the month for many civic peace rallies (because the atomic bombs were dropped in Nagasaki and Hiroshima in August 1945), many civic rallies were held to persuade the government to recognize our war responsibility. Many such rallies all over Japan took up the issue of "Military Sex Slaves," and Professor Yun visited here again to give lectures at many of them. Also, civic groups started showing a Korean television documentary program called "Bitterness of Silence" (Chinmoku no han) produced by KBS (Korean Broadcast System). The documentary was mostly based on Professor Yun's research in many Asian countries and it was filmed all over Japan, including Kanita Women's Village in Chiba Prefecture.

Japanese YWCA and Female Korean residents in Japan started publishing many books and journals on the issue, which were widely introduced by mass media and have contributed to the expansion of the movement. Ms. Yuko Suzuki, a researcher of the history of women, published a booklet on the subject which has been reprinted many times since. A letter written by the KCWDSSJ to the United Nations accusing the Japanese Government has been translated into Japanese and is being used for the

campaign.

Several Korean groups came to Japan to mourn the victims of World War II and to mourn those who perished as sex slaves. On these occasions, we held rallies which were reported by newspapers and television. Also, lawsuits were brought by Korean victims of World War II, as well as ex-military sex slaves against the Japanese Government for compensation, and when both groups of plaintiffs came to Japan, they drew a lot of attention. Especially the testimonies given by the ex-military sex slaves shook people deeply. In December 1991, the AAPA started a fund raising campaign to aid in the expense of the lawsuits. We were overwhelmed and touched by many short letters of encouragement sent to us along with donations. The New Japan Women's Association started both signature collection and a fund raising drive at the same time, which greatly influenced many grassroots groups to start acting. In Fukuoka, a military post office deposit account book belonging to Ms. Mun Ok Ju was found. Ms. Mun is an ex-military sex slave. But, her attempt to withdraw the money was refused because of the Japan-ROK Basic Relations Treaty and relevant laws. Now, a movement had begun, demanding the payment of Ms. Mun's money. In Okinawa, the sites of military "brothels" are being examined again. The movement is expanding as many small groups all over Japan begin activities and the reporting by mass media is increasing.

However, in spite of these rigorous efforts on our part, the majority of the Japanese people do not believe that the issue of military sex slaves is an issue of Japan's war responsibility on that we should apologize and compensate for the crimes committed by Japan. For example, an argument is going on in a popular magazine called "Bungei Shunju" and by some conservative women opinion leaders (they are mostly

writers) in which an attempt is being made to discredit the plaintiff's claim by pointing out small mistakes or discrepancies and consequently trivializing the issue. To such a media backlash, we are not given a chance of contradicting or pointing out their mistakes. The Japanese Government, by using the reactionary side of the Japanese media, even after admitting the involvement of the Japanese Imperial Army, claims that no evidence of forced draft is found in the document released on July 6. Thus, they still refuse the demand for compensation to the victims individually. Nor is there any activity to form a special committee or to make a Diet resolution on this issue. We sent out a questionnaire to all the candidates for forthcoming Upper House election, but we received not a single reply from the ruling party, the Liberal Democratic Party.

Still, we are gaining more supporters on our claim. After having seen the Korean documentary 'Bitterness of Silence' an elderly woman in Tohoku, a northern part of Japan, said that she didn't know about it, and expressed her wish to apologize to the Korean women who were forced to become sex slaves. She also said she wanted to convey her feeling to the Korean people and Japanese Government. The women of Sapporo Chapter of the Japan Woman's Christian Temperance Women saw the documentary and decided to join the Korean women to demand the Japanese Government for compensation. Another elderly woman said that, "What our Government is saying today is different from what they said yesterday, and hides the truth. I don't understand why they are like that, and I am ashamed of it." The Japanese Government is made up of high ranking bureaucrats, and with the support of people who hold negative views on this issue, they try to maintain "the national interest" in its most narrow sense, damaging the reputation of Japan as a nation, while many of us, who are conscientious and have a proper sense of justice, feel ashamed of the

government's attitude. Nevertheless, the current situation of the government is a reflection of the mentality of the Japanese people in general who were not even able to stop passage of the bill allowing Japanese Defense Force to be sent to a United Nations Peace Keeping Operation in Cambodia.

What the Japanese government should do regarding the issue of "military sex slaves" is to acknowledge that it did happen, apologize, compensate, and set up a system to educate the public so that this kind of crime will not repeat itself in following generations. Justice must be done. In the past, Japan invaded Asian countries. Now, Japan is a economic giant but with the poor soul. It is time that we should work to rebuild Japan's soul by working together with the sisters from the victim countries of World War II.

Kikue Takahashi
General Secretary,
Association of
Anti-Prostitution
Activity

Activities since August 1992

1992

- * September 16: Held a meeting to report about the conference in Seoul on August 12, 1992, with attendance of the Korean women plaintiffs who were in Japan at that time for lawsuit.
- * Helped to sell a publication of the conference report compiled by three Osaka groups.

- * September 30: AAPA submitted a letter to the Education Ministry demanding that this issue be described correctly in textbooks and that a monument be constructed for the military sex slaves. Also, sent the same letter to some textbook publishing companies and the association of trade unions of publishing business workers.
- * October 16: Professor Yun had a press conference and handed the open letter of the KCWDSSJ to the Cabinet Councillor's Office on External Affairs.
- * October 27: AAPA demanded a public hearing at both the Upper and Lower Houses.
- * November 5 and December 16: AAPA demanded that the Speakers of both Upper and Lower Houses in the Diet to set up a special committee.
- * November 6: Held a Christian women's meeting on the issue of military sex slaves by inviting Ms. Yun Ei Ai from Korea Church Women, United.
- * December 9: Helped to realize the opening of the International Public Hearing Concerning Post War Compensation of Japan.
- * Started fund raising activity in Korea to aid the lives of ex-military sex slaves.

1993

- * January 18: Representatives of the Japan Woman's Christian Temperance Union visited the newly appointed Education Minister Ms. Mayumi Moriyama, the first woman in this post, to submit the appeal paper (the whole text of the appeal is attached to this report).
- * January 26: Liaison Group for the Implementation of Resolution from the International Women's Year Conference of Japan (coalition of 51 organizations) held a meeting with women Diet members from all parties, and urged them to take up the issue of the military sex slaves.

APPEAL MADE AT THE "ASSEMBLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND WAR"

In discussions in May with Korean President No Tei Wu the issue of the forceful recruitment of Koreans by Japan has suddenly become the center of attention. Concerning the Korean women conscripted as military sex slaves, the Japanese government has taken an insincere and cynical attitude, refusing to acknowledge any responsibility. At the budget meeting of the House of Councilors held on June 6th, the Japanese government stated, "there was no evidence that either government or military organizations were involved [in the forceful recruitment of sex slaves in Korea]," which elicited well-justified anger in Korea. Japan's puritanical attitude toward the practice of prostitution and its hypocritical attitude toward both the practice and toward the Japanese government's cynical refusal to admit what was done during the war is inexcusable. The Koreans have been reconstructing the documentary evidence in spite of attempts by the Japanese military to destroy the records of this shameful history. Attempts to hide this past in this way only makes it that much more shameful. Now, thanks to some of the courageous personal testimony of women who remember the horrors of those times, and to personal records left behind by others who have passed on, some of the truth has come to light.

The Japanese military considered the soldiers' fighting spirit to be most the important factor in carrying on a protracted, far-ranging war. For the purpose of maintaining male "fighting spirit" they conscripted Korean women under the hideous euphemism of 'women volunteers.' When the Pacific War started in December 1941, more and more women were sent, some by sweet words and some forcefully, to southern islands or Sakhalin. Most of these women are believed to be from Korea. From schools, from factories, and from farming

villages young girls in their late teens were taken by force and sent to the war fronts, where they suffered hardships beyond comprehension.

It is obvious that the Japanese wartime military sex slave policy was a crime against humanity committed under the all-powerful name of "The Emperor's Army." We have empathy for the victimized Korean women and seek redress for their suffering. Thus, we will carry on our campaign to influence our government to provide redress so that these women may lead the rest of their lives in peace. At the same time we must recognize the fact that the very same root cause gives rise to the sex tour industry in Japan, where Japanese men continue to violate the human rights of women.

Thus we declare and demand, as the holders of voter sovereignty that the Japanese government:

1. Finally and truthfully admit that Korean women were forcefully recruited as military sex slaves;
2. Make a formal, individual apology to each of the women or their surviving families;
3. Justly compensate the surviving victims or their surviving family members;
4. Make the factual record of these events part of the national history education curriculum in all schools in Japan, so that younger generations may not repeat these crimes out of ignorance.

December 1, 1990

ASSEMBLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND WAR
SPONSORED BY THE ANTI-PROSTITUTION ASSOCIATION

LETTER OF REQUEST

To Prime Minister, Mr Kaifu

Since last year the issue of the forceful recruitment of Koreans--mainly the issue of military sex slaves--has been a topic much in the news. We deplore the fact that the Japanese government has yet to respond to the open letter from the joint womens' groups, such as the Womens' Federation of the Korean Church and the Korean Women's Federation. They have already made two separate appeals for an answer.

It is nothing but shameless equivocation for the government to refuse Japanese military responsibility for the conscription of sex slaves by erecting lies such as "it was civilian brokers that made prostitutes go with the troops."

That Japanese Military forces treated those sex slaves as public prostitutes during the Second World War is a hard truth, perhaps too harsh to look squarely in the face, but look we must. As a sovereign nation we cannot modify the facts and truth at our whim. We should proceed in recognition of the facts and truth.

Responding to the initiative of the Korean womens' groups, we the members of the Anti-Prostitution Association, have held meetings and made petitions to the Japanese government. Answering the petitions of Korean womens' groups, the Korean government is now planning a commemorative monument. The Japanese government has to bear the much more onerous responsibility as the offending party. We cannot assume a non-committal attitude in this matter.

Japan should make an explicit expression of apology and provide compensation for suffering. At the same time, in order that we never again risk repeating such violations of human rights, we should include a faithful account of this part of our history in our school

textbooks.

We will have to atone for the crimes our predecessors committed. Otherwise, Japan cannot become a trustworthy member of present or future international society. We, the holders of voter sovereignty, request that the government work on the issue of military sex slaves in such a way that Japan's blame for war crimes in this matter be honestly and fully recognized and that we complete what we have to do in the way of compensation.

June 6, 1991

Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity

LETTER OF REQUEST

To Chairpersons of the two houses
To Dietwomen of each party

We, the members of the Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity, reorganized after the enactment of the Anti-Prostitution Law, have been working on the issues of prostitution. Our present activities focus on the issue of Japanese war crimes, with special reference to military sex slaves. The Council on the Issue of Military Sex Slaves has repeatedly sent open letters to the Japanese government asking for acknowledgment of the crimes and apology to the victims since last fall without yet receiving any satisfactory response.

"The Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity, too, has repeatedly sent letters of request, but the government's answer has been unvarying, namely: "Prostitutes were provided by civilian brokers,

who followed the military everywhere they went," and "The matter of compensation was settled when the Japan/Korea Treaty was signed," thus implying that the matter is closed. No matter how eloquent the government equivocates, however, the truth of the matter has been proven repeatedly by many first-hand accounts and by much personal testimony that the "recruiting" agent was, in fact, the Japanese military authorities themselves, and that young women were forcefully taken away giving the lie to the government's use of the euphemistic term "recruitment."

The National Diet is the highest legislative organ of government in Japan. We want you, on behalf of the nation, to apologize for Japan's war crimes concerning military sex slaves and to declare that we are ready to compensate. The way in which we here in Japan will deal with this matter is of great interest to the international community of nations, but most especially in Korea itself. In order for us to demonstrate international good faith and trustworthiness as a nation, we will have to pay for our past crimes. Therefore we, as the holders of voter sovereignty, eagerly urge the diet to make the only possible humane decision without further delay.

December 16, 1991

Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity

A COMMUNIQUE

We, Christian Women's Temperance Union in Japan, deeply apologize to the Asian people, especially the peoples of Korea and Taiwan, who suffered unbearably during the war started by Japan and under its colonial rule. Seriously reflecting on the past, we have engaged in this peace movement and, in recent years, devoted ourselves to the issue of forced prostitution by the Japanese military during World War II .

On the occasion of Prime Minister Miyazawa's visit to South Korea, the government of South Korea is said to be planning an official request for Japan to make clear the issue of so-called comfort women. The Conference on Anti-Enslavement in South Korea is organizing demonstrations on the street in front of the Japanese embassy, demanding compensation from the Japanese government. Though we have been making our own efforts to respond to their actions, we also hope our government will take a clear stand on the issue, at this opportune moment of our Prime Minister's visit to South Korea, and sincerely apologize for the past inhumane treatment of our Asian neighbors.

The so-called comfort women are nothing but the victims of abduction, sexual abuse, and rape, approved and executed by governmental authority that brought the prostitution system into the military institution, shamefully testifying to Japan's lack of concern for human rights.

Unless Japan learns the lessons of the past and takes sincere steps to compensate and apologize for the wartime aggression, it will lose any possibility of winning the

public confidence within the international community today.

On the occasion of the Prime Minister Miyazawa's visit to South Korea, we, the sovereign citizens of our nation, strongly call on the Diet to apologize to the people of Asia and compensate them for the damage done by the war, for which Japan is responsible.

January 13, 1992

Woman's Christian Temperance Union

**LETTER OF REQUEST ON THE ISSUE OF RECRUIT
OF KOREAN WOMEN AS MILITARY SEX SLAVES
To Prime Minister Mr Kiichi Miyazawa**

More and more demands have come from the people of the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and other Asian countries to find out what actually happened, who was to blame, and how to arrange compensation for Korean women conscripted as military sex slaves for the Japanese troops during the Second World War.

In a recent visit to Korea, Prime Minister Mr Miyazawa acknowledged for the first time, in response to these demands, that the Japanese military was responsible. On that occasion he made a formal apology. We see the apology as a step forward, as a positive change from the government's past vacillation and equivocation on the issue.

Yet, as to the matter of compensation, we see no improvement. The government adheres to its claim that "the negotiations are already settled." Making an apology was the final step, in their view. We regret that this is the stance taken by our government. Since it has been made known that the nation was responsible for the violation of human dignity and rights, the proper course for us to take now is to compensate the individual victims.

The government of the Republic of Korea has announced its intention to investigate thoroughly and disclose the facts, coupled with requests for compensation. The Council on the Issue of Military Sex Slaves has decided to send delegates to the UN Human Rights Commission to bring the matter to the attention of the international community in hopes that that additional exposure would serve as a driving force to realize justice.

Concerning these matters, we Japanese women, in sympathy and solidarity with our Korean sisters, urge the government of Japan to do as follows:

1. Thoroughly investigate the conscription of Korean women as military sex slaves, making the relevant documents publically available;
2. Make sincere apologies to the victims, where possible, or surviving family members living in the Korean peninsula or in Japan;
3. Enact the Compensation Law as soon as possible;
4. Make it an important topic in history and social studies education so that no such crimes should be repeated in ignorance of the past.

April 7, 1992

Liaison Group for the Implementation of the Resolution
from the International Women's Year Conference of
Japan

Managers: Kii Nakamura, Mitiko Nakamura,
Miwako Matuura

LETTER OF REQUEST

To Prime Minister, Mr Miyazawa

We, the members of the Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity, have worked long and hard on the issue of "military sex slaves". We have campaigned vigorously, encouraging the government and all diet members to make a decision in the matter of compensation for the victims.

Since Prime Minister Miyazawa's visit to Korea, the whole situation seems to have changed slightly. Yet The prime minister's non-committal attitude—he expressed his apology but made no mention of compensation—demonstrated only his lack of sincerity to those working on the issue in Korea. Testimony to this state of affairs was given on a visit to Japan in February by two Korean women who shared that sad history.

We hear that the government is not interested in making compensation to individuals. Rather, it is planning to adhere to the Korea-Japan Inter-governmental Agreement by paying the Korean Government a lump sum. We are resolute in rejecting this plan as an end to the matter. By way of a better example, we point to the U.S Government's payment of individual compensation for wartime

imprisonment and property loss to Japanese Americans. Further, the U.S. Government apologized to each one of them for what had happened. We too should sincerely apologize to every victim, and in token of our repentance we should pay them decent compensation, in hopes that we can atone materially for the suffering and loss we have caused them. If our compensation procedure is flawed and inadequate, nothing but harm is likely to come of it, and Korean people everywhere, not just the victims, will surely reject our hollow gesture. If, instead of some system of individual compensation, the government is planning to establish a fund from which compensation might later be paid, it would be helpful if stewardship of the fund should be not only with Korean government, but also with some civil organizations such as the Council on the Issue of Military Sex Slaves.

The Korean Government has already had every local government open a section to deal with claims. Further, if Japanese embassies in Asia listen to each victim and investigate the actual situation during the war, it would be helpful to learn the truth. We, as holders of sovereignty and as taxpayers, request that the Japanese government, which claims to represent us, exercise its power in accordance with our requests here. We request that the government deal with the issue of compensation for military sex slaves in an open and sincere manner. We believe that only by being sincere in dealing with this issue might we be able to overcome the disgraceful nicknames of "economic animals" and "sex animals." Thank you.

July 3, 1992

Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity

REQUEST TO THE EDUCATION MINISTER HATOYAMA

We, the Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity, have recently been working the problem of military sex slaves. On August 10th and 11th, seven members from our Association attended the Asian Solidarity Convention on the Problem of Wartime Volunteer Corps held in Seoul and listened to the voices of people from many Asian countries.

The question of military sex slaves has already become an international issue. In the United Nations Human Rights Commission, Professor Theo Van Boven was appointed a special reporter on the issue. And the issue is most likely to be placed on the agenda in the United Nations Women's Convention to be held in Beijing, 1995.

In order to take the responsibility for its wartime misconduct, Japan should confront the issue of military sex slaves seriously. It is indeed necessary for Japan to acknowledge its militarist past, and make apologies and compensation for the sufferings of Asian people. State education can also play an important role to prevent future generations from repeating the same mistake again. We hear that in Germany school textbooks are written in collaboration with historians from countries which were attacked by Germany. In Japan, there is only one textbook that refers to military sex slaves and, in general, our textbooks do not have enough descriptions of the facts of military invasion and forced labor.

When the eyes of the world are turned on Japan's moral response to the issue, the government's state education policy will decide Japan's place within the international

society. Therefore, we call on the Ministry of Education to implement effective measures of public education such as a thorough revision of the content of textbooks, and the founding of a War memorial.

30th September, 1992

The Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity

REQUEST TO THE DIET

We, the Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity, have been seriously dealing with the issue of military sex slave in World War II. On Dec. 16, last year, we submitted a letter requesting a Diet resolution concerning this issue. The 50th anniversary of the Pacific War last year witnessed a move among the Diet members toward an anti-war resolution, which remains, however, unrealized to this day.

The question of forced prostitution during World War II has become a major moral issue in South Korea and other Asian countries, the Netherlands, and the United Nations Human Rights Commission. We now call for the problem to be solved by efforts not only of the various government agencies but also of the Diet, the supreme organ of state power. In other words, we consider it essential that the Diet urgently

organize a special committee to seek concrete measures for compensation. This should be readily carried out by the government.

At the Asian Solidarity Convention on the Problem of Forced Recruitment in World WarII held in Seoul last summer, there was a manifest fear for the passing of the PKO bill along with a loud cry for Japan's apology and compensation, making us realize again Japan's heavy responsibility for wartime brutality. If Japan is to occupy what the Japanese Constitution says is "a respectable status within the international community," it is absolutely necessary to compensate the suffering of those unduly treated by the Imperial Japanese Army.

We, as the sovereign of a nation, call on the Diet to take responsible actions for political reform and compensation for wartime crimes against human rights.

November 5th, 1992

The Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity

A JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The question of Japan's war reparation to Asian countries, which has been confronting the Japanese for the past few years, has now become a vital issue within the international community. The shocking testimonies from former "comfort women" and the various lawsuits demanding Japan's compensation are shaking the conscience of the people both domestic and abroad. It is needless to say that Japan must give compensation for all damage done to our neighbors during the military invasion. Without historical reflection on its war responsibility, it is impossible for the Japanese to create a truly amicable relationship with people of the countries occupied by the Imperial Army. Without moral response to the issue, it is also impossible for Japan to play a truly constructive role in the post Cold War era of international cooperation.

The problem demands urgent solution. In view of the advanced age of the victims throughout Asia, the Japanese government should no longer postpone its relief measures after more than fifty years of willful neglect. Their demand for compensation is only an exercise of their inalienable right as human beings and any delay in reaching a solution is itself a further violation of human rights.

The government is reported to be considering "measures close to compensation." As mentioned earlier, nothing is more important than solving this problem as soon as possible. But, whatever measure is finally decided should be such as to truly respond to the heart-felt demands of the former "comfort women." If the "measures close to compensa-

tion" either rules out the possibility of actual payment of compensation or aims at a partial solution of the issue, it will obviously run counter to their essential demands for justice. To be more specific, the Japanese government must not separate the issue of "comfort women" from the equally important issue of the forced recruitment of slave labor, a long-pending question which the government should not be allowed to ignore any longer.

It is time for the Diet to pass a resolution for apologies and wartime compensation. And the government should make every possible effort to organize both a special committee in the Diet and a ministerial bureau to investigate and deal with all unsettled problems squarely.

Without showing a truly sincere attitude about past aggression and the compensation issue, the views other Asian countries have of Japan's conduct today, including peace-keeping operations, will be different from what the government expects from them.

December 8, 1992

- *The Citizens Group to Support Korean Atom Bomb Victims
- *The Task Group to Support the Lawsuit by Kim Kyong Sook
Against Japan Steel Company
- *Liaison Committee for Japan's Postwar Compensation
- *Citizens Conference on Korean Atom Bomb Victims in Japan
- *Group for Postwar Compensation for the Korean Residents in
Japan
- *The Task Team to Support the South and North Koreans Living
in Saghalien Island
- *Signature Campaign Requesting Public Apology and Remuneration
in Relation to the Japanese Colonial Rules in the Korean
Peninsula
- *Japanese Woman's Christian Temperance Union
- *The Task Team to Expose Japan's War Responsibility
- *The Task Team to Support the Exoneration of BC Class Korean
War Criminals in WW II
- *The Executive Committee To Maintain the Remains of the Korean
"Comfort Women House" in Matsushiro
- *Task Team Demanding the Payment of Japanese Military Postal
Savings to Moon Ok Chu

R E Q U E S T

The Honorary Ms. Mayumi Moriyama
Minister of Education

January, 18, 1993

Congratulations on being the first woman to be appointed to the position of Minister of Education. We hope that you will consider and take action in order that the following requests may be realized.

1. The historical reality of the so-called "comfort women" issue has been exposed as sex slavery imposed by Japan's Imperial Army and the international community is keenly watching the Japanese government's response to the issue.

The Japan Woman's Christian Temperance Union has been involved in actions concerning these problems in solidarity with the "Comfort women" Drafted for Sexual Service by the Japanese Military in the Republic of Korea. The Japan WCTU, as a member of the Association of Anti-Prostitution Activity, requested that Mr. Hatoyama, when he was the Minister of Education, make the fact of the compromised human dignity and sexual enslavement enforced by the Japanese military, a part of the educational curriculum materials in the schools. This has also been the strong request of the constituents of "Comfort Women" Drafted for Sexual Service by the Japanese Military.

2. We believe that the establishment of a memorial museum which would seek and collect resource materials related to the "comfort women" is a much-needed project for the Minister of Education. There are various memorial institutions concerned with war victory and glory and for the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atom bomb victims. However, it is difficult to find any national

institution offering information for future generations which reflects Japan's confession of its responsibility as the oppressor and the aggressor during war.

The government needs to discover the realities of former "comfort women" and apologize to the victims as well as offer meaningful compensation and restitution. Along with these measures, the establishment of a memorial museum is necessary. We strongly desire the realization of a memorial resource center which confesses to Japan's military invasion and oppressive occupation of other countries, which catalogues the institution of forced labor under Japan's violence enforced military authority and which memorializes those women who were sexually exploited. We support the movement to leave standing the underground military headquarters, located in Matsushiro-machi, Nagano-Prefecture, which was built by forced labor, and in relation to which the lives of the laborers were terminated afterward by the military.

We support you as you act on policies, which are born out of a perspective which does not need the validation of the male perspective on history.

Japan Woman's Christian Temperance Union

JAPANESE WOMEN SUPPORTING

WWⅡ SEXUAL ENSLAVEMENT VICTIMS

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