

# U.S. Ban on 16 as War Crimes Suspects

U.S. government had steered clear of these controversies.

Deep anti-Japanese sentiment still exists in China, South Korea, Taiwan and other Asian nations, and much of that sentiment is traced to forced sex slavery and Japan's vicious treatment of prisoners of war. Unlike Germany, Japan has never fully acknowledged its role in the war, and Asian neighbors who were victims of Japanese atrocities are still angry toward what they see as an unrepentant Japan.

Before and during the war, thousands of Chinese, Filipino, Korean and Taiwanese women were forced to provide sex for Japanese soldiers. Prime Minister Nakasone sent written orders to the government, and the government paid almost \$20,000 for medical and welfare.

that the "comfort women" were not voluntarily—prosper new group formation of "comfort women" textbooks.

and Tetsuya Chikuma-mentator, saying the country's war, the U.S. action

its laboratory in Manchuria, stand atrocities in histo-

y. The unit's team of doctors conducted extensive research into chemical and biological weapons, as well as the limits of the human body's endurance, on live subjects.

At least 3,000 Chinese and Soviet citizens died in the camps. Many were dissected alive or killed after being used for "practice surgery." Some were injected with horse blood to determine how their bodies would react; others were placed in pressure chambers to see how much pressure they could stand before their eyeballs exploded. Many of the subjects were children.

At war's end, the United States declined to prosecute the officers of Unit 731 as war criminals, and many of them went on to successful medical careers. One official involved in Unit 731, Eiichi Naito, was the founder and, until his death in 1982, chairman of the Green Cross, a major Japanese pharmaceutical company, according to Keiichi Tsuneishi, a historian who has studied the unit.

The U.S. government has never offered a clear explanation of why Unit 731 officers were not prosecuted as war criminals. Critics have alleged that Washington covered up their crimes in return for the information gathered in their research.

"After the war, they were not punished, so why is the U.S. government dealing with this problem now?" said Masao Okonogi, professor of political science at Keio University in Tokyo.

Tsuneishi, the historian, said he "respects" the U.S. decision.

"However, the United States gave a full pardon to the officers of 731, so how do they feel about that?" he said. "Without that answer, this is a one-sided, self-righteous action, and the truth will never be known."

parts of the government with respect to contemporary war criminals. We refer, of course, to the butchers of Bosnia, the mostly Serb criminals who raped and tortured and whose names and records unlike in the Japanese case—became known almost immediately. NATO forces in Bosnia, under U.S. leadership, have chosen not to arrest these men. The overall message seems to be that Bosnia's rapists and torturers have nothing to fear unless they live another five decades—in which case we might not be around.

and there was virtually no punishment in Japan. So the attention to Japan is belated, as some critics have charged.

But that is no reason not to act. The Justice Department does not release the names it has added to its watch list—it would rather have every war criminal wonder and worry—but it said that the 16 either experimented on human prisoners or forced Korean, Filipino and other captured women into prostitution. For both programs, the word "heinous" is the human ex-

and there was virtually no punishment in Japan. So the attention to Japan is belated, as some critics have charged.

But that is no reason not to act. The Justice Department does not release the names it has added to its watch list—it would rather have every war criminal wonder and worry—but it said that the 16 either experimented on human prisoners or forced Korean, Filipino and other captured women into prostitution. For both programs, the word "heinous" is the human ex-

and there was virtually no punishment in Japan. So the attention to Japan is belated, as some critics have charged.

But that is no reason not to act. The Justice Department does not release the names it has added to its watch list—it would rather have every war criminal wonder and worry—but it said that the 16 either experimented on human prisoners or forced Korean, Filipino and other captured women into prostitution. For both programs, the word "heinous" is the human ex-

See JAPAN, A33, Col. 1