

Open Letter to Olympic Athletes From Youth of Japan

WELCOME TO JAPAN

We youth of Japan are determined to see the world different. We are not going to tolerate things as they are. We believe that humanity has the right to live in a world that is clean, free and united.

Our generation can run faster, jump higher, throw farther than any others in history. We know how to race a rocket to the moon and to sail a ship under the icecap. No era in history has been more adventurous and crammed with change.

Yet in Asia alone there are more than 800 million people who do not have enough to eat. Millions more are threatened with the loss of their independence and liberty.

We want to change the world. We can and we must build a world where everybody has enough to eat, enough to wear and work to do regardless of class, colour or race.

NOT LEFT, NOR RIGHT BUT STRAIGHT

Western Democracy is not giving us an aim big enough for humanity. Out of the West have come two world wars, Colonialism, Fascism, Nazism and the poverty in plenty which has given birth to Communism. We are grateful for the generous aid. But money and material alone is not answering corruption and division. We need a purpose and discipline for our countries.

Communism is not giving an aim big enough for humanity. We admire the passion and dedication of the sincere Communists but any idea which excludes any class or race is too small in this atomic age. It will inevitably lead to disaster.

We need to answer the selfishness, greed and bitterness in men that destroys our effort to build a world that works. We need a total revolution—change in men and society.

JAPAN AND THE WORLD

300 years ago Japan isolated herself from the world. 100 years ago a handful of young men decided to open Japan's doors to the world. They went abroad to study. They returned to lay the foundation of modern Japan. They gave the nation a common goal. The result was a miracle of industrialization and modernization.

Japan seeks an aim that will unite the peoples of Asia and the whole earth; a theme that will lead humanity forward into the next stage of history.

YOUTH MARCHES

Half the population of the earth is under 21. What the youth decide today the world becomes tomorrow. For the lack of a purpose youth are in revolt the world over. But there is an answer.

Youth on every continent are enlisting for the moral re-armament of their nations.

In India Rajmohan Gandhi, 29-year-old grandson of the Mahatma, is leading a peoples' movement to create a clean, strong and united India. Multitudes of Indians look to him for new leadership. Students and youth in India are working with the masses of peasants to clean up corruption in their country and give the continent of Asia a new aim.

In America 2,400 youth were trained in leadership this summer. They are working now across the continent to give America a new direction. In Britain, Scandinavia, Germany, Italy, South America and Africa a force of responsible youth is rising and building a new world.

In Japan youth from North to South are on the march to give direction to the nation, with mass meetings, street demonstrations, plays, books and films.

In the past year the musical drama, "Beyond Communism to Revolution" was presented in 45 cities, in the camps of nine Divisions of the Self Defense Forces, for miners and factory workers, on the campuses of five universities and in countless schools.

We have trained hundreds of youth in six training camps in Honsu and Hokkaido.

THE FUTURE

We are determined to build a world where nobody is discriminated against because their skin is black, brown, red, white or yellow. No one is exploited because their class is high or low. We are determined to build a world where everybody has a fair chance in life, where labour and management work together and where families and nations learn to live together; where Peking, Moscow and Washington change and together meet the needs of the human family.

We know that if we want to change the world the best place to start is with ourselves. We have decided to change and apply the atomic power of absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love to our national life. We have decided to make what is right, not what we want, the guide line to the future.

In every human heart there is the desire to live for something great. Not every athlete can win Gold Medals but all can show the world a new type of man and woman. The skill, energy, determination and self-sacrifice of Olympians could lead the youth of the world to create a society where men no longer hate, exploit, insult or worship their fellowmen. We can change the course of history. This is the Olympian task in this Olympic year.

Signed on Behalf of Thousands of Youth

Saburo Hatanu (19) Student, Musashi Engineering University, Tokyo
Yuriko Ishizuka (19) Secretary, Hokkaido
Kiyoshi Kikara (19) Farmer, Sado Island
Keiko Miyamoto (22) Student, Hosei University, Tokyo
Masatake Sakamoto (24) Factory Worker, Osaka
Yoshie Tsuyuki (17) Student, Jyuto High School, Odawara
Ryohji Wada (19) Band Leader, Tokyo

Atsuko Watanabe (17) Student, Girl Scout Leader, Tokyo
Masahiko Watanabe (24) Journalist, Tokyo
Hiroko Yagi (19) Student Leader, Hokkaido
Haruki Yamamoto (20) Student, Kitamatsushima University, Kyoto
Kazuko Yokoyama (17) Student, Kawan High School, Sapporo
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P. S. For further information write to Moral Re-Armament, 19 Azabu Fujimicho, Minato-ku, Tokyo. Contributions towards the financing of this page and this action in Japan are needed at the above address.