

The Peacemaker

VOLUME V

DECEMBER 6, 1954

NUMBER 12

Japanese Pacifist Reports on Growth of Gandhism in Japan

By Yoshiko Hoshimo

Having returned home after a year's tour in India to study Gandhism, I feel some obligation to report the growth of Gandhism in Japan in the meantime. When on board ship sailing back to Japan with my mind full of impressions of the work carried on by Gandhi's followers in India, I was not sure that I would find persons or organizations in my country that would hear with pleasure about my Indian experience.

But coming back home, to my pleasure and surprise, I was welcomed by the Ahimsa Association. This association was organized by Mr. Nishizawa and Mr. Miyazima, secretaries of the World Federation movement. The World Federation movement is a worldly-prosperous movement, has large funds and can mobilize famous personages. But the youth from the countryside who gathered to attend its meeting were not satisfied with the official meeting, and sought some guidance with a deeper idea. Thus they came to talk with Mr. Nishizawa and Mr. Miyazima, and have formed the Ahimsa Association (Nonviolence Association—Ed.) When I was invited by them, it was their 98th study meeting. We can see from this fact how strong their faith is. In their study meetings they use Gandhiji's articles as texts.

Next I was welcomed by the Ashram of the World Government, . . . founded by Dr. Ozawa, who has been residing in Calcutta since last year. This ashram adopts vegetarian food completely. . . . Youngsters, educated by Dr. Ozawa, are endeavoring to learn the essence of Gandhism. About thirty people are residing in the ashram.

The Peasants Organize

Next I came in contact with an interesting peasant association named the Ai-no-kai, which means association of those who love agriculture. Although other peasant organizations have lost their vitality, this Ai-no-kai, started by seventeen young peasants, has organized 70,000 members, and educated 7,000 active members. It inaugurated its first training Ashram this April. . . .

This association has started its work for the improvement of agricultural techniques. Its motto is to bring together such comrades who have a genuine love for cultivation and for the earth. Its members claim that the reason why all other peasant organizations have failed is due to lack

of love for actual cultivation among their organizers. They emphasize that their work should be done without any help from the government or capitalists but only with the help of true peasants. So their idea has already come very near to the Gandhian attitude. . . .

Religious Groups

The leaders of the Nichihonzan sect, which is Buddhist, visited India many years ago and were much influenced by Gandhiji. It was through their initiative that the World Pacifists Conference was held in Japan in April this year. This conference was a huge demonstration of Gandhism in Japan, because the conference moved daily from one city to another and thus practically went round the country. The merit of the Nichihonzan for the propagation of Gandhism in Japan is really incalculable. . . . As a matter of fact, in all important religious sects we have persons deeply influenced by Gandhi. Mr. Paul Sekiya, a highly esteemed Christian minister and president of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (F.O.R.) is working hard for peace. He was deeply impressed, when he visited India in 1948, and came in contact with the comrades of Sarvodaya. . . .

Gandhi and Socialists

But the most important matter for the development of Gandhism in Japan, and at the same time the most important prerequisite for the emancipation of the Japanese people is to establish a secular group of Gandhists and to sponsor a deep and wide social movement guided by its principles. From this point of view, I feel a remarkable resemblance between the Socialist Party in Japan and the Indian National Congress as it was before India's independence, or before Gandhiji's mar-

(Continued on Page Four)

Send Second Copy to a Friend

Two copies of this issue of the *Peacemaker* are being sent to each subscriber, in order that he may send one on to an interested friend.

This is a way that every subscriber can help expand and improve the *Peacemaker*. By increasing circulation, the valuable news published by the *Peacemaker* will reach more people. With more financial resources, the *Peacemaker* balance sheet will be in the black, and we can bring you a bigger and better paper.

So don't forget to send on that extra copy!

5000-Mile Pilgrimage Planned by Peace Pilgrim

Peace Pilgrim will soon start a five thousand mile pilgrimage for world disarmament beginning in California on January 1, 1955 and expecting to walk at least 100 miles in each state of the U. S.

She will undertake this pilgrimage as a prayer and a penance for world disarmament, and as an opportunity to discuss this urgent problem with her fellow human beings. As on her previous peace pilgrimage, Peace Pilgrim will walk until given shelter and far until given food. She will use money given her to help spread the peace message.

In announcing her dedication to the cause, Peace Pilgrim said, "My personal prayer continues to be, 'Make me an instrument through which only truth can speak.' The better world we all want will only come into being if we help to build it."

She will meet with groups and speak with audiences any place on request.

* * *

The Peacemaker wants volunteers in each state to watch for Peace Pilgrim and to report the highlights of her sojourn in your state. Send us your name immediately so we will know that someone is covering the pilgrimage from your area. We will then furnish you with some idea of her itinerary.

Also we hope that individuals and groups will join Peace Pilgrim for a few steps or a few hundred or thousand miles. We wish her God speed.

Report on Resistance to Red Regime in Albania

Albania is the subject of the latest in a series of reports released by the Committee on Foreign Relations of the U. S. Senate. The reports, prepared by the Library of Congress, deal with tensions in the Russian satellite countries. As in other countries, there is resistance of interest to pacifists.

It was reported that a Mihal Vrano was serving a life sentence for urging the peasants to refuse to deliver products to the government.

Efforts to arouse the enthusiasm of the youth have been unsuccessful. In 1946, 14.3 per cent of the party membership was made up of students but in 1948 only 1.3 per cent were students. Efforts to recruit youth into youth organizations met with a cold reception.

In speaking of worker resistance, the report says, "Antipathy to the regime leads to passive resistance, to indifference, slow-downs, and sabotage. The Albanian workers persistently refuse to pay Communist union dues. Some in desperation flee from their jobs—a violation of law. Manpower

(Continued on Page Four)