

*Newspapers of Japan Leaning to the Left*

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Uriel

Aside from the shocking testimony of an ex-member of the Soviet KGB, Colonel Levchenko, last December in a Senate hearing in the United States which revealed "the activity of over two hundred Soviet agents in Japan," we were at first disbelieving of his statement that "success has been achieved in turning the *Sankei Newspaper* into a mouthpiece for the left."

Even to the present, articles and reports in the *Sankei Shimbun* remain evenly divided between those which are anti-communist and those which are pro-communist. Besides, just this year the president of this Japanese newspaper company received a signed letter from President Reagan commending the *Sankei* as the prominent newspaper of Japan which held the same viewpoint as the United States government. Therefore we were unable to be certain about the statement of Colonel Levchenko.

Nevertheless, on the daily editorial comments of the *Sankei*, the writer's sentiments on some days seem to lean towards the left. Also concerning the special features of the *Sankei*, the "*Seiron*" (Just Arguments) and "*Chokugen*" (Direct Commentary) columns, instead of dismissing the blatant communist sympathizer, Kenji Suzuki, who is an announcer for the public television station NHK, Professor Tanizawa of Kansai University was dismissed. Furthermore, I was surprised by the statements of Professor Tsuneo Iida of Nagoya University featured in the *Seiron* column of January 28, 1983, which labelled Prime Minister Nakasone as a crooked politician who slighted the Japanese citizens by the singular opinion that "late Prime Minister Ohira was a real politician because he spoke of the need to raise taxes while he faced elections, while Prime Minister Nakasone is a crooked politician because he promised not to increase taxes before elec-

tions, but betrayed the Japanese people by raising indirect taxes such as commodity taxes."

Did not the great contributions of Prime Minister Nakasone to the international community and his aggressive stance towards administrative reform and educational reform enter into consideration along with the outrageous behavior of the opposition parties which became obsessive in their preoccupation about the question of political ethics causing the Diet to be dissolved because they were not about to allow the passage of important legislation such as that for administrative reform without first considering the one trillion yen tax cut bill, when professor Iida formulated his opinion? I was shocked that articles with distinctly leftist sentiments had finally found its way into the column "*Seiron*."

The leftists in Japan say that a one trillion yen tax cut is necessary without issuing more government bonds. Since the leftists strongly demanded this with a threatening attitude, the government did not increase the tax for salaried workers and instead gave a slight decrease in their tax. The price of rice was increased because otherwise the farmers' lobby would become hostile. Furthermore, was it not the over paid government workers of local governments conspired by the Communist and Socialist Parties together with the labor unions and the deficit ridden Japan National Railways which forced the government into a position of being short of the necessary budget to reduce its taxes?

This is the very reason administrative reform is being implemented, and even if slogans like "absolute opposition to any form of tax increase" are voiced, it is a difficult and impossible task from the common sense standpoint to do this when the progress of administrative reform even at the local level so slow. Has the slogan "share all the pain (of budget cuts)" been for-

gotten? Criticizing the Nakasone Administration and causing it difficulties may serve as an outlet for some petty frustrations, but I wish to hear more opinions which express sincere concern over the current state of affairs such as the words of Professor Shinichi Ichimura of Kyoto University who stated "each segment of society will have to give up part of the benefits it received from the government up until now, but unless we curb the endless growth in use of public finances to feed private interests, we will run right into the 'crisis of a welfare state'." Even though the *Sankei* newspaper may be a commercial newspaper, irresponsible criticism of the government is proof that they are part of the irresponsible mass media of Japan.

The Japanese Communist Party, on the other hand, is distributing leaflets stating lies that their Chairman Miyamoto was confined because of nationalistic sentiments, and that there was no "lynching incident." The communists criticize *both* Japan and the Soviet Union for the recent military build-up, and concerning the Korean Airliner Incident, they blame *all three countries of South Korea, the Soviet Union, and the United States. They see only themselves and their party as being free of error, and they completely separate themselves from the Japanese "Red Army" and continue to make excuses and statements which are full of contradictions. They are applying the same tactics of demagoguery as employed by the Pravda, the main news medium in the Soviet Union.*

In contrast to this, Prime Minister Nakasone has bravely criticized the leftist Teachers Union of Japan (*Nikkyoso*) which is actually corrupting Japanese society. Prime Minister Nakasone who has a candidness, conviction and boldness rare even among the past Prime Ministers of Japan, stated that if the ex-Prime Minister Tanaka were to be advised to give up his seat in the Diet, the "lynching incident" of Chairman Miyamoto should receive equal treatment. Just by the fact that opinions of a

scholar who criticizes our Prime Minister as being a corrupt politician who deceived the Japanese people appear in the *Seiron* column of the *Sankei* may well indicate that the testimony of Colonel Levchenko was in fact true. This paper even fails to report that Diet members of the Communist Party continue to be absent in Diet session attended by the emperor who is incomparably more noble and virtuous than they are.

It is now clear that all the newspapers of Japan are either gradually or quickly heading down the road towards leftist sympathies.

(January 19, 1984, Dictated to Yuko Chino through her clairaudience.)