

# **NORTHERN REGIONS JOURNALISTS MEETING**

SAPPORO, FEBRUARY 1979

**Executive Committee of the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting**

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**Purpose**

Hokkaido is a cold and snowy area, quite different from other areas in Japan in respect to its natural environment and climatic conditions. In view of this, we are making efforts to improve our daily life and culture by promoting mutual understanding among other northern countries with similar climatic conditions and by exchanging information and views.

This is the conception of the northern regions, where exchange of information is actively underway in such areas as life, culture, sports, science, and economy.

This "Northern Regions Journalists Meeting" promotes the conception of the northern regions. Well-informed journalists from nations in the northern regions meet to deepen mutual understanding and exchange suggestions and views on life and culture in the countries and areas of the north, whose similar climatic conditions create many natural bonds.

Theme 1: Subjects relating to life and culture of tomorrow

Theme 2: Promoting exchange of information

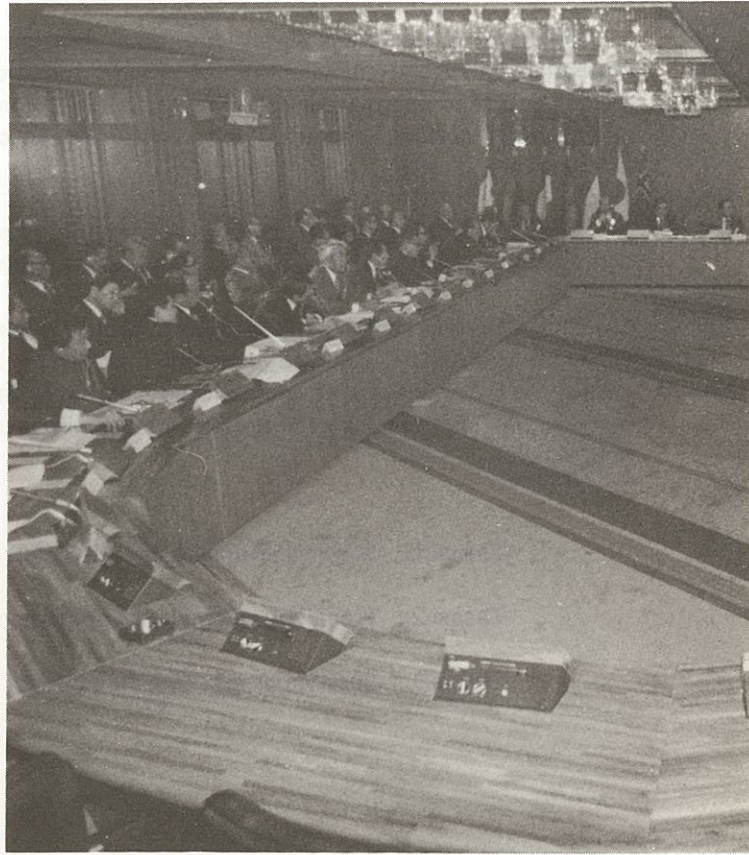
Theme 3: Suggestions regarding the future of Hokkaido

Place: International Conference Room  
Hoppoken Center / Northern Regions Center  
The Hokkaido Government Annex Bldg. 12F  
Nishi 7-chome, Kita 3-jo, Chuo-ku, Sapporo

Sponsor: Executive Committee  
of the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting

Supporters: Government of Hokkaido  
City of Sapporo  
Foreign Press Center, Japan  
The Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association







Executive Committee Members of the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting

	President:	Toshio Kamiseki President The Hokkaido Shimbun Press
Vice Presidents:	Shuji Tanuma Director General NHK Hokkaido Headquarters	Takei Tojo President Hoppoken Center / Northern Regions Center
Toshiro Ohta		The Hokkaido Shimbun Press
Junji Minami	Teruzumi Fushikida	The Hokkai Times
Masao Okemoto	Jun Nakano	Asahi Shimbun Publishing Company, Hokkaido Branch
Yasuo Nara	Isao Miyajima	The Mainichi Newspapers, Hokkaido Branch
Kanae Mishina	Atsuyuki Mitsuhashi	The Yomiuri Shimbun, Hokkaido Branch
Shoji Takahashi		The Nihon Keizai Shinbun Co., Ltd.
Toyonobu Ichinohe	Yoshio Hayashi	The Muroran Minpoh Co., Ltd.
Hajime Sumitani	Shigemi Misawa	Press, Tomakomai Minpoh
Mutsuzo Katayama	Hiroaki Fujii	Kushiro Press
Katsumi Hayashi	Masahiro Hayashi	The Tokachi Mainichi Newspapers
Takashige Otsuka		Kyodo News Service, Sapporo Office
Yoshinobu Taniguchi		Jiji Press, Sapporo Office
Katsusuke Nagano		(NHK) Japan Broadcasting Corporation Hokkaido Regional Headquarters
Hiroshi Akiyama	Masayoshi Tanabe	(HBC) Hokkaido Broadcasting Co., Ltd.
Tatsuo Yamamoto	Takeshi Miyasaki	(STV) The Sapporo Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd.
Osamu Iwasawa	Shonosuke Inada	(HTB) Hokkaido Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd.
Masato Nodaira	Tatsuo Nakano	(UHB) Hokkaido Culture Broadcasting Co., Ltd.
Zen-ichiro Watanabe	Kimio Kizakai	Hoppoken Center / Northern Regions Center
Naobumi Tatebe		The Hokkaido Shimbun Press
Takeyoshi Morihana		Hoppoken Center / Northern Regions Center

Participants at the "Northern Regions Journalists Meeting"

U.S.A.	Los Angeles Times	Mr. Samuel J. Jameson
	UPI	Mr. Frederick Marks
	AP	Mr. Roy K. Essoyan
Sweden	Veckans Affärer	Mr. Lennart Utterström
	Svenska Dagbladet	Ms. Marie H. I. Söderberg
U.S.S.R.	Novosti Press Agency	Mr. Alexei Panteleev
	Tass	Mr. Guennadi Rakhovetski
Canada	Embassy of Canada	Mr. Jack Derksen
Norway	Embassy of Norway	Mr. Kåre Hauge
U.K.	Reuters	Mr. James Foley
Federal Republic of Germany	German T.V. Network	Mr. Peter R. Krebs
	NDR	Mr. Hans Kirchmann
	Welt der Arbeit	Ms. Ariane Detloff
German Democratic Republic	Horizont	Mr. Gerhard Lerch
France	AFP	Mr. Pierre Brisard
Poland	PAP	Mr. Janusz Golebiowski
Hungary	MTI	Mr. István Flesch
Switzerland	Swiss Broadcasting Corp.	Mr. Helmut Rack
Yugoslavia	Tanjug News Agency	Mr. Drago Buvac



Participants at the "Northern Regions Journalists Meeting"

The Hokkaido Shimbun Press	Mr. Toshiro Ohta Mr. Toshio Asano
The Hokkai Times	Mr. Teruzumi Fushikida Mr. Kiichiro Sugiyama
Asahi Shimbun Publishing Company, Hokkaido Branch	Mr. Jun Nakano Mr. Toshio Sugita
The Mainichi Newspapers, Hokkaido Branch	Mr. Isao Miyajima Mr. Yoshihiro Kajii
The Yomiuri Shimbun, Hokkaido Branch	Mr. Atsuyuki Mitsuhashi Mr. Saburo Oshima
The Nihon Keizai Shinbun Co., Ltd.	Mr. Shoji Takahashi Mr. Norio Osawa
Press Sankei, Sapporo Branch	Mr. Tomihisa Kaji
The Muroran Minpoh Co., Ltd.	Mr. Kaoru Kitagawa Mr. Yoshio Hayashi
Press, Tomakomai Minpoh	Mr. Hajime Sumitani Mr. Katsutoshi Tsuda
Kushiro Press	Mr. Mutsuzo Katayama Mr. Hiroaki Fujii
The Tokachi Mainichi Newspapers	Mr. Masahiro Hayashi Mr. Takahiro Tomioka
Kyodo News Service, Sapporo Office	Mr. Takashige Otsuka
Jiji Press, Sapporo Office	Mr. Yoshinobu Taniguchi
(NHK) Japan Broadcasting Corporation Hokkaido Regional Headquarters	Mr. Katsusuke Nagano Mr. Hisashi Kusaka
(HBC) Hokkaido Broadcasting Co., Ltd.	Mr. Masayoshi Tanabe Mr. Masayasu Fukuda
(STV) The Sapporo Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd.	Mr. Takeshi Miyasaki Mr. Keishi Katsu
(HTB) Hokkaido Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd.	Mr. Shonosuke Inada Mr. Minoru Kikuchi
(UHB) Hokkaido Culture Broadcasting Co., Ltd.	Mr. Tatsuo Nakano Mr. Masaaki Saito

MEETING SCHEDULE

February 4, Sunday

19:00	Opening Ceremony	Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Tsuneo Yanai (NHK)
	Opening Address	by Mr. Toshio Kamiseki President of the Executive Committee of the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting
	Participating members introduced	
19:20	Chair members elected	Proposed by Mr. Toshiro Ohta Executive Committee Member
	Greetings by the chairman	
19:30	Congratulatory speeches	by Mr. Naohiro Dogakina Governor of Hokkaido
		by Mr. Takeshi Itagaki Mayor of Sapporo
		by Mr. Kinji Kawamura Managing Director of Foreign Press Center, Japan
		by Mr. Susumu Ejiri Managing Director The Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association
	Congratulatory messages	by Mr. Jack Derksen First Secretary of Embassy of Canada on behalf of Ambassador of Canada
		by Mr. Kåre Hauge First Secretary of Embassy of Norway on behalf of Ambassador of Norway
19:55	Meeting closed	
20:00	Reception Party	Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Tsuneo Yanai (NHK)
	Opening Speech	by Mr. Takei Tojo Vice President of the Executive Committee of the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting
	Greetings by the representative of the foreign correspondents	by Mr. Pierre Brisard (AFP)
21:30	Closing Speech	by Mr. Shuji Tanuma Vice President of the Executive Committee of the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting



February 5, Monday

= Meeting at the International Conference Room =

10:00 Opening Address by Mr. Toshio Kamiseki  
President of the Executive Committee  
of the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting

10:10 Reports

Theme 1: Subjects relating to life and culture of tomorrow

\*Role of Recreation and Importance of Tourism  
by Mr. Drago Buvac (Tanjug News Agency)

\*Housing in Hokkaido by Mr. Teruzumi Fushikida (The Hokkai Times)

\*Civil Life in Major Cities of Northern Poland  
by Mr. Janusz Golebiowski (PAP)

\*Winter Life in the Regional City of Obihiro  
by Mr. Masahiro Hayashi  
(The Tokachi Mainichi Newspapers)

\*Utilization of Snow by Mr. Isao Miyajima  
(The Mainichi Newspapers, Hokkaido Branch)

\*Energy-saving in Swedish Homes by Miss Marie H. I. Söderberg  
(Svenska Dagbladet)

Theme 2: Promoting exchange of information

\*Exchange of Information for the Future Development of the Northern  
Regions by Mr. Frederick Marks (UPI)

\*Possibilities for the International Exchange of Regional Information  
by Mr. Katsusuke Nagano (NHK)

\*Desire to Create an International Information Center  
by Mr. Toshiro Ohta (The Hokkaido Shimbun Press)

Theme 3: Suggestions Regarding the Future of Hokkaido

\*Cultural Relations between Hungary and Hokkaido  
by Mr. Istvan Flesch (MTI)

\*On the Current Situation and Outlook for the Area around BAM  
Railway by Mr. Alexei Panteleev  
(Novosti Press Agency)

12:10 – 13:30 Recess

13:30 Meeting resumed

Film introducing Hokkaido (25 minutes)

14:00 Discussion

15:00 – 15:30 Recess

15:30 Discussion resumed

16:30 Concluding Comment by Chair Group

16:55 Meeting closed

17:00 Dinner Party

18:30 Concert by Sapporo Symphony Orchestra  
(at Hokkaido Kosei-Nenkin Hall)



OUTLINE REPORT ON THE PROCEEDINGS

The Northern Regions Journalists Meeting was held at the International Conference Room of the Hoppoken Center for 3 days from Sunday, February 4th through Tuesday, February 6th, 1979.

There had been a request among Hokkaido journalists working in the fields of newspaper, T.V., Radio, etc. for a meeting to exchange ideas and informations on northern regions. After several discussions it was decided to hold the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting, and the Executive Committee (President: Mr. Toshio Kamiseki, president of the Hokkaido Shimbun Press) was established on September 25th, 1978. Executive Committee Members included 18 newspaper & broadcasting companies as well as Hoppoken Center.

25 foreign correspondents of 25 companies from such northern countries as the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R., Sweden, Finland, Canada, Norway, Denmark, and their neighboring countries like the Netherlands, U.K., Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Switzerland and Yugoslavia were invited. Most of them expressed their favorable attitude toward the Meeting, and 23 journalists wished to actively participate in the Meeting. However, as some could not participate because of their reporting schedule, the final number of foreign participants was 19, from 13 countries including 2 press attaches from the Embassy of Norway and Embassy of Canada. There were 33 participating Hokkaido journalists from 18 companies, making a total of 52.

The purpose of this meeting was that journalists of the northern countries and their geographic neighbors could get together to deepen mutual understanding and exchange ideas and informations on how to improve their life and culture. Reporting and discussion were conducted on the themes of; 1) Subjects relating to the life and culture of tomorrow; 2) Promoting the exchange of information; and 3) Suggestions regarding the future of Hokkaido.

On the first day, Sunday, February 4th, foreign correspondents could not come on time due to heavy snowfall which obliged a partial modification of the original schedule. But the opening ceremony started at 7:00p.m. with the commencement address of President Kamiseki and the introduction of each participant. Then distinguished guests such as Mr. Naohiro Dogakina, Governor of Hokkaido, Mr. Takeshi Itagaki, Mayor of Sapporo, Mr. Susumu Ejiri, Managing Director of the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association, and Mr. Kinji Kawamura, Managing Director of the Foreign Press Center of Japan delivered their congratulatory speeches. And the congratulatory messages of the Ambassadors of Canada and of Norway were read by their representatives.

Then the following chair members were approved:

- Mr. Takashige Otsuka, Manager of Sapporo Regional Office, Kyodo News Service
- Mr. Jun Nakano, Chief Editor of Hokkaido Branch, Asahi Shimbun Publishing Company
- Mr. Masayoshi Tanabe, Executive General Manager of T.V. & Radio News Bureau, HBC
- Mr. Roy Essoyan, Chief of North Asia Services, AP
- Mr. Pierre Brisard, General Manager for Japan & Korea, AFP

The first day schedule was finished with a reception party following the opening ceremony.

On the second day, Monday, February 5th, the Meeting opened at 10:00a.m. with the opening address by President Kamiseki. After that 6 foreign correspondents and 5 participants from Hokkaido made reports on Themes 1, 2 and 3. In the afternoon discussion was held on the reports made in the morning session. Topics of discussion included housing, heating, airport and snowfall, transportation problems, tourism, preservation of the environment, regional independence, the exchange of information, etc. from various points of view.

On the third day, Tuesday, February 6, public lecture started at 10:00a.m. An audience numbering approximately 200 enjoyed the lectures by Mr. Kiichiro Takahashi, Sapporo novelist, on "Thoughts on a northern country" and by Mr. Eiji Tokura, former Ambassador to Norway on "Civil life in northern Europe".



## GREETINGS

Mr. Naohiro Dogakinai  
Governor of Hokkaido

Good evening, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Dogakinai, Governor of Hokkaido.

The fact that the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting is being held in Sapporo today is an extremely significant and epoch-making event to those of us in Hokkaido who have always been anxious to promote exchanges among northern regions. I would like to express our appreciation and respect to its organizers and particularly to you ladies and gentlemen of the press from 13 foreign countries. May we extend our warmest welcome on behalf of the 5.5 million people of Hokkaido for coming all the way here during this coldest season of the year.

We are in the midst of the regional winter festivals, for example, the Snow Festival here in Sapporo and elsewhere. Our land of Hokkaido is located in the northernmost region of Japan. The island makes up 22% of the area of Japan, and is a source of provision for the Japanese people, as represented by our high percentages of agriculture and fisheries. With five national parks and fourteen prefectural parks we are blessed with the beauties of nature.

For the further development of Hokkaido many large scale development projects are being undertaken. May I particularly note the Seikan Undersea Tunnel which has been constructed and planned for completion by 1982. The total length will be 54km which will connect Hokkaido with the mainland of Japan. At the same time, the Shinkansen Bullet Train is in the planning stage. When completed, the distance between Sapporo and Tokyo will be collapsed to about one third of the time required today, making the inter-city connection only 6 hours. Also in the course of this year Chitose Airport will begin to function as an international airport, which will facilitate communication and traffic between Hokkaido and other northern regions. In the area immediately east of the city of Tomakomai, the Hokkaido Government has acquired an area of 10,000ha, 40% of which is a green zone and hence an ideal region for industrial development.

This year marks exactly the 111th year since the original settlement and colonization of Hokkaido. We feel that for Hokkaido to really become the most promising region of Japan, we must combat and in fact conquer snow and coldness and harmonize the natural conditions of the island with our way of life. This demands that we actively exchange our knowledge and information with the people in similar northern regions elsewhere in the world, so that we may learn from each other in terms of living style, culture, science, and industry. It is from this perspective that we chose this theme of northern regions exchange as the first priority theme of my government, and that is why in 1974 we convened the first Conference on the Human Environment in Northern Regions in Hokkaido.

The image of a northern country like Hokkaido is symbolized by snow and coldness. It is not necessarily a bright picture. But we are not in winter all the time; we have spring, summer and autumn. Those changing seasons give imagination, excitement, and vitality to the peoples who live here. I believe that the world of the future can discover infinite possibilities in northern regions. And I am sure that with our wisdom and efforts mankind can extend its sphere of living. The 21st century may certainly be called the century of the northern regions. May I express our sincere hope that particularly those of you who represent foreign countries will kindly tell your peoples about our meeting today and that you will aid us in our desire to facilitate further exchange among northern regions? And to our fellow countrymen from Hokkaido, may I ask you to do your best to benefit from the company of these foreign friends?

I wish to conclude by expressing our deep appreciation to Mr. Kamiseki, President of the Executive Committee, and the other members of the Executive Committee for their tireless efforts in planning and organizing this conference. I sincerely hope that our journalists meeting will be very productive and fruitful. Thank you very much.



GREETINGS

Mr. Takeshi Itagaki  
Mayor of Sapporo

Thank you for your introduction. I am the Mayor of the city of Sapporo. My name is Itagaki. It is my great pleasure to witness the opening of this Northern Regions Journalists Meeting in the city of Sapporo where the Snow Festival is being held. We would like to welcome to this city all of the participants from overseas.

It was once said that cold and snow-bound areas are unsuitable for human habitation. But thanks to the communication and exchange of knowledge, this concept has been largely changed. The prefecture of Hokkaido, due to the accumulation of such wisdom and, as a matter of fact, by the sweat of our own forbears, has been turned into a promising area. As Japan internationalizes, Hokkaido is placed in an important geographical location as a center for interchange among the world's northern regions. The city of Sapporo would like to respond to that mission positively by strengthening its function as a center for interchange among northern countries in the areas of economics, academics, culture, sports, etc. Thus we are trying to become a core city of the Hoppoken, that is, the northern regions. As a core city of the northern region of Japan, we, the city of Sapporo, believe we must foster a unique mode of living and a unique culture. We stand on the unique features of northern regions by drawing upon the legacies of our forbears. And we believe it is our duty to create a unique way of life which is suitable for better winter living. We believe that in taking this opportunity we shall be able to learn a great deal about human life in such cold and snow-bound areas as your respective homelands.

We would like to strengthen the feeling of solidarity amongst the northern regions and hope that this conference will be a useful meeting for the further interchange of information amongst the northern regions of the world.

Thank you very much.

This year marks exactly 100 years since the original settlement and colonization of Hokkaido. We feel that the Northern Region is really the most promising region of Japan, we must cherish and in fact we should cherish and harmonize the natural conditions of the island with our way of life. We believe that we should actively exchange our knowledge and information with the people of other regions wherever in the world so that we may learn from each other in terms of culture, science and industry. It is our firm belief that we should give priority to the exchange of information as the first priority theme of any government, and that is why in 1974 we convened the first Conference of the Mayors of Northern Regions in Hokkaido.

GREETINGS

Mr. Susumu Ejiri  
Managing Director  
Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association

Thank you. I am somewhat surprised to be given the floor. I did not know I was supposed to speak so I am totally unprepared to take the floor.

But I am impressed by this splendid facility of the Hoppoken Center. I am very much surprised to see this expression of your enthusiasm in creating it. You have staged a magnificent scheme of convening this meeting and it was a good public relations undertaking, too. May I express my sincere respect to you for this undertaking? I think this is an excellent opportunity for all of us to associate with internationally-influential journalists from the rest of the world. They represent the nations of northern regions for outstanding people in this profession, and through these people I sincerely hope that our endeavor may be better understood and contribute to the future development of Hokkaido.

In fact we are different nations with different life styles and philosophies and ideologies. Yet at the same time there are a great many things that we have in common. So it makes good sense for us to get together and talk about things that unite us to share our knowledge and wisdom and to improve our mutual understanding. I am convinced that it is in and of itself a very meaningful enterprise. It is often said today is the day of mutual dependence, interdependence and the age of communication in the world. It is my sincere hope that opportunities like this one that we share today may greatly contribute to further communication and understanding among northern regions, journalists and residents of northern regions.

I sincerely hope that this event be a successful one, and may I conclude by expressing my congratulations and respect to all of you for making this a reality. Thank you.



## GREETINGS

Mr. Kinji Kawamura  
Managing Director  
Foreign Press Center of Japan

Thank you. My name is Kawamura. Here in this Hoppoken Center both Japanese and many overseas press people have gathered together, and I am very much delighted to finally see this event.

When I represent the Foreign Press Center, it sounds somewhat western and exotic to some of your people, so may I explain it a little bit? This is an organization established to further facilitate the communication between Japan and rest of the world. The foreign press people have often encountered troubles and difficulties and inconveniences in their activities in Japan. Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association, Keidanren, and the Government of Japan got together in creating this organization in October of 1972 as a special non-profit foundation, providing facilities and conveniences to the members of the foreign press in Japan.

When this Northern Regions Journalists Meeting was proposed to take place in Hokkaido, I was not quite sure how many foreign press people would even be interested in this kind of undertaking. As I am from the southern region of Japan, it somehow did not strike me as interesting at first. But come to think of it in our own Foreign Press Center, as you know, we often conduct domestic tours for foreign press people at the rate of about once a month. We have had two tours to Hokkaido; one was on the subject of defense, visiting defence institutions; another tour for the foreign press concerned the fishery activities of Japan. Those tours were fully booked. By this experience I am very happy to see so many foreign journalists coming to Hokkaido, showing your interest in this northern part of Japan.

In fact we are different nations with different life styles and philosophies and ideologies, yet at the same time there are a great many things that we have in common. So it makes good sense for us to get together and talk about things that unite us, to share our knowledge and wisdom and to improve our mutual understanding. I am convinced that it is in and of itself a very meaningful enterprise. It is often said today is the day of mutual dependence, interdependence, and the age of communication in the world. It is my sincere hope that opportunities like this one that we share today may greatly contribute to further communication and understanding among northern regions journalists and residents of northern regions.

I sincerely hope that this event be a successful one, and may I conclude by expressing my congratulations and respect to all of you for making this a reality. Thank you.

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

by Mr. Jack Derksen,  
on behalf of the Ambassador of Canada

Your Excellency, conference organizers, and distinguished journalists.

Countries in northern areas are faced with special problems: the development of resources in ecologically fragile environments, the utilization of large amounts of energy in an effort to carry on up-to-date living styles and to maintain transportation and communication networks, and so on.

At this time Canada in particular is confronting major decisions involving resource development in the Arctic, including the exploration and transportation of Arctic gas and oil. This location encourages study of life style of the native people who have traditionally inhabited the area. Since these decisions will have such an extensive social and environmental impact, the media must play an essential role in informing our citizens of the range of factors involved in order to ensure that the right decisions are made.

It is in this context that I particularly wish to congratulate the Northern Regions Center for providing this forum in which information on the north can be exchanged. Furthermore, this exchange of information will also encourage the international exchange of personnel in such fields as culture, science, and athletics that is so essential for developing a common basis of understanding.

Hokkaido and Canada in particular have worked very hard at establishing this relationship on a personal level. And it is my desire to see this relation continue to expand in the future.

Thank you.



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

by Mr. Kåre Hauge,  
on behalf of the Ambassador of Norway

The Ambassador of Norway asked me to say a few words, especially to the representatives of Hokkaido. As some of you will know he has been to this island and to the city of Sapporo many times. I think I can say that he has fallen in love with this island which reminds him and all of us from the northern regions so much of our own countries.

We all look upon conferences like this as very useful for people from different countries and different professions to meet each other and exchange information and news.

Let me just conclude by saying, on behalf of my Ambassador, may this be a very successful undertaking. Thank you very much.

Opening Address

Toshio Kamiseki  
President of the Executive Committee  
of the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting

I would like to extend my heartiest welcome to all of the 19 journalists from 13 countries to Sapporo and would like to hereby officially open the "Northern Regions Journalists Meeting".

As Hokkaido has a rather short history of development, as a matter of fact, we have just celebrated our one hundred and tenth anniversary last year, this is the only time that an international event participated in by representatives from this many foreign countries has been held in Sapporo, with the exception of the Olympic Games in 1972. And this kind of journalists meeting, I believe, is the first one in the world. For this reason I sincerely hope that the meeting will produce successful results to ensure a tie of friendship and mutual understanding among the active journalists in the northern regions. I attach great significance to this meeting as it provides a good opportunity for the people of Hokkaido to receive useful information and suggestions for the progress and development of our land from the foreign correspondents who have kindly come to Sapporo to attend this meeting.

Japan shares with the rest of Asia common problems due to an ever-changing world situation. The young land of Hokkaido is situated at the northern tip of the Japanese archipelago, and differs from your native lands which have traditional customs and long histories which you can be proud of. I believe Hokkaido is one of the few regions in the advanced countries of the northern hemisphere that is yet to be developed and has few traditional customs of its own.

Now I would like to go back in history to the year of 1869. This was the year when the Suez Canal was opened, bringing Asia closer to Europe. In the U.S., President Grant was re-elected to the presidency, and the Women's Suffrage Act came into effect in the state of Wyoming. In Russia, Dostoevski wrote his famous novel, 'The Idiot'. The transition to the "modern" period was slowly taking place in North America. However, Hokkaido was at that time still covered by primeval forest and untouched by civilization. Finally in August of that year, a new government headed by Emperor Meiji established the Kaitakushi, the Colonization Commission. The population in Sapporo at that time was 7 in 2 households. These 7 pioneers had cut down branches of trees one by one with an ax, initiating the construction of a road to Sapporo. This may sound a little sentimental to you but what I want to mention here is that the sound of their ax cutting those trees still remains fresh in the memories of the people of Hokkaido, which again points to the shortness of our history.

The start of the Hokkaido Development Plan also reflected the beginning of the abolition of the feudalistic way of life and initiated an influx of people from Honshu to the new land of freedom. These early settlers were engaged in ranching, mining, construction of railroads, education and city planning, and their efforts have successfully developed Sapporo into the modern city than it is today.



The Kaitakushi was aided in its efforts to develop Hokkaido by a group of 40 foreign advisors, led by an American and consisting of other Americans as well as Europeans. They referred to this new land of promise as a "frontier" and the early Japanese settlers as "pioneers". Our pioneers endured severe hardships in the undeveloped land of Hokkaido above all for the purpose of enjoying a sense of freedom.

I have talked briefly about the history of Hokkaido and Sapporo in order to demonstrate that we have been gifted with this sense of freedom to encourage us to endure through hardships, that we are proud of our short history, and that we have, fortunately, been familiar with internationalism since frontier days. It is my earnest wish to preserve these wonderful gifts from our forefathers and at this meeting I would like to call for your assistance in making this possible. In order to preserve the memories of frontier days fresh and vivid in the minds of the people of Hokkaido in this modern age of transition, we must constantly try to learn from our history and treasure the wisdom of our predecessors to direct us in the future.

Because we vigorously hastened the development of our land, it took us only a little over one hundred years to hold this international meeting with you today to consider our future. Although we have enthusiasm in our blood, we are searching for the wisdom which can help us make decisions. And we must start by collecting all sorts of up-to-date information. Thus, we attach great significance to establishing the Hoppoken Center / Northern Regions Center in Hokkaido so that we, Hokkaido residents, can preserve the sense of freedom and the excellent natural environment characteristic of a new land yet to be developed.

However, we have one disadvantage due to our location. Since Sapporo is situated on the northernmost island of Japan, it takes a little longer for the information necessary to foster a spirit of internationalism to reach us. We can overcome the disadvantage, however, if we look at Japan width-wise, that is from east to west, instead of north to south. From this point of view Hokkaido is situated at the closest point to the other northern regions of the world. This is how we conceptualize the Northern Regions. We journalists can unite ourselves under the new concept of the Northern Regions and can contribute to finding new directions to take in the future through an active exchange of information and suggestions.

I believe that not with guns but only through speech and writing can we create future prosperity for mankind. In concluding my speech, I sincerely hope that this meeting will produce fruitful results in promoting friendly relations among journalists in the northern regions.

I would like to thank the Government of Hokkaido, the Municipal Government and the staff at the Hoppoken Center / Northern Regions Center for their cooperation in holding this unique and significant meeting in Sapporo.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the participating members for their attendance at this meeting.

## REPORT

### The Role of Recreation and the Importance of Tourism

by Mr. Drago Buvac  
News Agency "Tanjug"

Yugoslavia is certainly better renowned among foreigners as a southern country, with its clear and warm Adriatic Sea, than as a northern region. But the criterion by which you have invited participants to this Northern Regions Journalists Meeting in Sapporo is not wrong in the case of my country. Formally, situated in the Balkan Peninsula between latitudes of 40° 51' and 46° 53' N, Yugoslavia actually lies to the north of Hokkaido. Three fourths of Yugoslavia is covered by mountains and highlands with a continental climate, and there are many places where the winters are long with abundant snowfall.

Yugoslavia is among the most developed tourist countries in Europe, thanks mainly to its Adriatic coast which is considered to be one of the loveliest in the world. But, at the same time, Yugoslavia offers good winter tourism, and is now especially interested in improving it.

It is needless to speak here about the significance of tourism for human recreation, culture, contacts among peoples, and exchange of ideas. By the way, Yugoslavia is today an opened country, and visas are not necessary for tourists from a large number of countries, including Japan.

However, tourism is for Yugoslavia a very important economic activity. Tourist facilities include a total of about 800,000 beds, of which 450,000 are located in modern hotels and motels which have been built since the war. There are 300,000 in private establishments. Over 6 million foreign tourists visited Yugoslavia in 1978, and the foreign exchange earnings from tourist services amounted to about one billion dollars. The income from tourism is very important for Yugoslavia as a developing country.

We have learned through our own experience that industrialization is not the only way to a higher standard of living. For example, our coastal Adriatic regions were economically underdeveloped and without natural resources. But thanks to tourism there are now small towns and villages there with a per capita income much higher than in the major industrial centers. A housewife who rents the rooms in her private establishment to tourists could earn a higher annual revenue during the four months in the summer season than a worker in a textile manufacturer. At the same time we are protecting the Adriatic Sea from industrial pollution.

Japan is not the only country which is criticized for her agrarian protectionism. Yugoslav agriculture has the same kind of remarks on protectionism for the developed west European countries. But tourism is the best way to export agricultural products to foreigners from developed countries — that is, through Yugoslav hotels.



There are many mountainous regions in Yugoslavia in which it is also unprofitable to develop the industry on a large scale — but they are very convenient for winter tourism. We have already renowned tourist places in those areas, with modern hotels, motels, cable cars and ski-lifts.

Fortunately, many of our winter tourists places are situated near the Adriatic. Only 40km south of Alpine ski slopes in Slovenia lies the Adriatic. The uplands of Gorski kotar, with abundant snow, lie 30km from the modern hotels of the well-known sea resort Opatija. It offers possibilities both for stays along the Adriatic in a mild climate with swimming in sea-water pools of modern hotel — which they are cheaper than in the crowded summer season — and skiing and other winter sports in numerous winter resorts.

For the future development of winter tourism we are looking forward to the Olympic Winter Games to be held in Sarajevo in 1984. Sarajevo is the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovia, and is famous for its valuable cultural and historical monuments and heritage. Not far from Sarajevo, about 20km, is situated Mt. Jahorina, an international winter sport center with beautiful snowscapes where snow is abundant and lasts from November to May.

As you know, Sapporo was recently the most serious competitor to Sarajevo for the Olympic Winter Games in 1984. Now our competition is over, and it is time for cooperation. Your city has had a rich experience in the organization of the Olympic Winter Games in 1972, and the Japanese people are also interested in tourism and winter sports. Japan and Yugoslavia also have examples of successful friendly relations among cities: the sea ports and big industrial centers of Kawasaki and Rujeka, for instance, are sister-cities. Maybe we, as journalists, could also contribute to the future closer cooperation between Sapporo and Sarajevo as Olympic Winter Games cities.

## Housing in Hokkaido

by Mr. Teruzumi Fushikida  
The Hokkai Times

I'd like to speak to you about "housing in Hokkaido". It has been 111 years since the Meiji Central Government located its Commission of Colonization here in Sapporo. Looking back at the short but eventful history of Hokkaido, I'd like to present some aspects of Hokkaido's housing situation. Particularly I'd like to bring out its characteristics through the policies of two governors — Mr. Kiyotaka Kuroda, the first governor who is known for contributing to the founding of Hokkaido, and Mr. Naohiro Dogakinai, the present governor of Hokkaido, who's making efforts to take Hokkaido into the 21st century.

At the beginning of Hokkaido's settlement, even government office buildings were first built in Japanese style, and building materials were brought in prefabricated from the mainland, Honshu. Although we had plenty of wood here, it all had to be sawed by hand, and that would have resulted in higher costs. When Governor Kuroda ordered sawmills from America and set them in Sapporo, it became possible to build many European-style buildings.

Governor Kuroda showed a very positive attitude toward accepting advice from a foreign technical advisory group, especially from Mr. Caperton. Mr. Caperton's most significant suggestion was to replace paper-and-wall building materials with hard wood and stone materials. Since 1872, the 5th year of the Meiji period, most of the important buildings have been built in a European style, partly because it was thought that European style buildings were most fitted to the severe weather conditions of Hokkaido, and partly because it was necessary for the Meiji Government to adorn one of its most important policies, the colonization of Hokkaido, with a symbolically new style. How important they considered this policy can be seen in the fact that, although in 1873 the population of Hokkaido was only 120,000, 0.36% of total population of Japan, 37% of the National Budget designated for local district use was assigned to Hokkaido.

On the other hand, he was regretful that few people understood how his European-style government buildings improved life for the residents there and opened a road toward new, improved housing in Hokkaido; nevertheless, he continued to propose further housing improvement. He was worried that residents might lose hope in the future of Hokkaido while they were shivering in temporary shelters or huts. He also hoped and expected that children would be taught about housing improvement in school.

Governor Kuroda also made efforts to try to benefit from the experience of Russian people who live in cold areas. He called three carpenters from Kolsakov in Sakhalin, and let them build three model schools in order to popularize the 'Izuba', a Russian-style log cabin, and also 'Izuba' style barracks, introducing the 'pechka', a Manchurian type of stove. Although these were all planned carefully with many conveniences, they were dissimilar from their Russian versions because the budget for them had been cut down.



Concerning house heating, it was ordered that each government office building should replace charcoal braziers with stoves, and that these should also be distributed among the residents of Hokkaido.

He sought models for housing in the styles of various foreign countries. The opening of the Hakodate Port in 1859 promoted inflows of European culture and practical ideas, and in the beginning of Meiji Era Hokkaido was a testing area for European culture, since Hokkaido had a frontier spirit willing to accept innovations from abroad.

Unfortunately, as Governor Kuroda had regretted, westernization of government building progressed but there still remained many crude Japanese wooden houses, because the houses of the ordinary people had to be built by themselves. In short, through a noble frontier spirit existed the economic reality of poverty hindered Hokkaido's development.

Now that one century has passed in the history of Hokkaido. Mr. Dogakinai is 39th Governor of Hokkaido, and the children upon whom Governor Kuroda placed his hope are already in their 3rd or 4th generation.

At this point I wish I could be proud of our housing of Hokkaido having improved so much, but it is very regrettable to say that, according to specialists, we have few things to be proud of concerning cold-area housing. We would like to learn many more things from your countries and make use of them in the development of Hokkaido life.

Governor Dogakinai regards international exchange among the northern regions as one of his basic policies toward the development of Hokkaido. From a spiritual point of view, he is trying to stimulate a mental attitude encouraging a free and generous spirit which has been cultivated during the history of colonization and by the natural feature of Hokkaido. Hokkaido's housing is expected to make valuable progress with the acceptance of this attitude.

In 1952, among 720,000 houses in Hokkaido, only 6.6% of them were equipped cold-proof modifications. In 1953, laws to promote the construction of cold-proof houses in Hokkaido were passed in the Diet and at the same time the Hokkaido Institute for Brick Construction and the Hokkaido Institute for Construction in Cold Areas were established. Since then they have been contributing to the improvement of housing, which is the basis for establishing a comfortable way of life in the northern regions.

Adiabatic materials provide a good example of the kind of improvement that has occurred. After the petroleum crisis, the thickness of ordinary adiabatic materials was increased from 50mm to 100mm, and it was only one year before change was widely accepted.

The Hokkaido Development Project (1978 - 1987) places the improvement of already existing houses as one of its most important policies, and it is estimated that 800,000 houses are under consideration for renovation among the 1,700,000 existing houses. According to this improvement plan, floor space, which was an average 114 square meters in 1977, is planned to be enlarged by another 25%, compared to that of 1975, and finally it is planned that there will be one room for each family member in addition to one family room by 1987.

In northern Europe and North America, 100% of all newly-built houses have all of their rooms heated the whole day either by central heating or district heating, but here in Hokkaido a majority of houses have only one room heated, and popularization of district heating is a future necessity.

So far I have been talking like a public official. That is because I would like you to know a part of the housing situation in Hokkaido, and realize the importance of the conference today. Temperatures in Sapporo span a wide range, from that of Spain to that of northern Europe, and Hokkaido is, of course, situated at the northern end. The 460km distance between North Japan and South Japan means drastic changes of temperature. At present 52% cold area allowance is added to the salary of a public officer living in the north above that of one living in the south.

Historically Hokkaido has an interested attitude toward the northern region countries and we have been learning many things from them. Furthermore, at my newspaper, 'The Hokkai Times', we consider it our duty to 'realize a welfare state which is even better than that of the northern European countries'. In Hokkaido, as I said before, based on the past one century's history we have been building a new spiritual framework and trying to create a stable way of life for the people and a rich regional society. This means 'Freeing Ourselves from Japanese Uniformity' to create a new 'northern culture' which is in harmony with the variety of natural conditions in Hokkaido.

The future of housing in Hokkaido naturally comes along these lines toward a new culture, and its driving force is the international exchange with other northern regions. At the beginning of the Meiji Era, one of the forms of guidance that the technical engineers of construction of the Commission of Colonization made use of were books from America and European countries. The Hokkaido University Library still has about forty books on buildings, and it is doubtless that various materials and information which will be gathered hereafter at the 'Hoppoken Center/Northern Regions Center' will be very helpful for the guidance of Hokkaido in the future.

From the point of view of construction, the earnest desire of the first Governor, Mr. Kuroda, to educate the people with regard to housing is now coming true in the sense that construction is now being carried out mainly by those people who were brought up and educated in Hokkaido. And I believe all of these people will do their best to promote exchange with foreign countries, and will in turn bear the fruit of such exchange.

Hoping that the day will come when all of you attending the meeting today will value the meaning of this conference, I'd like to conclude my report.



## Civil Life in Major Cities of Northern Poland

by Mr. Janusz Golebiowski  
(PAP)

When I was approached with a proposal to write a short paper on Polish towns for the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting, I had certain doubts as to whether my country really belonged to this group.

Temperatures then fell to  $-35^{\circ}\text{C}$  in some regions. The entire country was blanketed by a thick layer of snow, which for several days paralyzed road and railway transportation in many areas and cut off a number of localities from the outside world. In Warsaw and some other towns a state of natural disaster was declared. After three days of blizzard and freezing temperatures the public transportation system in the city collapsed. The struggle went on to keep power and heat generating stations running despite delays in fuel supplies which threatened normal operation of the boilers. My earlier doubts as to whether Poland could rightly be considered a "northern country" faded away.

The history of the oldest Polish towns dates back to the 10th century A.D. Their development took place during the reign of King Casimir the Great who went down in history as the ruler who "inherited a Poland of wooden huts and transformed it into a country of brick houses". The history of Polish towns provides a mirror for Poland's national history itself, with its ups and downs, wars and invasions ravaging the country in every century, and partitions which put limits on the development of towns for many decades. Poland lost her independence in 1795 and was partitioned by Russia, Prussia, and Austria. It did not regain its independence until 1918, after which a rapid expansion of towns took place despite the lack of economic stability and relatively meager business activity. The expansion was due in large part to the unification of Polish territories into one economic organization. In 1939 Warsaw had a population of 1.5 million. Five years later the number dropped again to a mere 200 thousand.

The Polish and Soviet troops which entered the city on January 17, 1945 faced a sea of ruin. The total destruction of Warsaw by the Nazis during World War II far exceeded the damage suffered by other European towns. Between 1939 and 1945 over 6 million Poles perished or were executed. The country's towns suffered the most. The losses suffered by Polish culture were so immense that it is too difficult to even estimate them. In Warsaw alone the Nazis destroyed some 80 per cent of all architectural monuments: churches, palaces, houses, libraries, museums and archives — monuments for centuries — national treasures. In light of the terrible damage which embraced the whole of the urban infrastructure and industry, the idea of moving the capital of Poland to some other town and of giving up Warsaw's reconstruction altogether was contemplated. It appeared that the costs and the scale of the undertaking would be too big for the war-damaged economy.

Warsaw was reborn of the Polish people's own accord. Polish government, convinced of the political and social meaning of such an act, made the decision to reconstruct Warsaw a number of days before its liberation. The mass return of its citizens, who in January 1945 despite

frosty weather and a terrible shortage of technical equipment undertook the removal of rubble and the reconstruction of power stations, water supplies, sewage systems, and city transportation systems, confirmed the viability of this decision.

Foreign architects and town planners invited to participate in Warsaw's reconstruction planning were surprised to find out that the rebuilding of historical monuments was given priority. For us, the construction of a renovated buildings in their place would mean the moral and cultural defeat of the city despite the military collapse of its enemy. The rebuilding of the most important areas of the city in their historical form had a meaning that extended beyond that of a mere symbol. Reconstruction conceived in that way was a real, spiritual victory for those who were killed and for those who endured. The bringing back to life of historical interest was indispensable for the restoration and maintenance of the social, historical and cultural continuity of Poland's Capital and her nation.

The Paris Daily Le Monde has recently published a number of articles devoted to the world's largest cities. Reading these articles is a frightening experience. I can only say that as citizens of a country in which the biggest city numbers not more than 1.5 million inhabitants, we Poles receive it as yet another warning against the excessive growth of cities which ever more frequently escape our control. The upper limit of development in Warsaw has been set at no more than 3—4 million inhabitants. We are now in the process of setting the growth limits of other towns. Here we can see the value of long-term planning.

Poland has always been a country of small towns backed by a few bigger centers where links of political, administrative and economic distribution are concentrated and which fulfil a significant role in the spheres of culture and education. This tradition has found a reflection in the so-called moderate polycentric concentration which forms the general principle of national physical planning. Ten selected agglomerations constitute the basic chain in the country's regional planning. On this basis, depending on the availability of mineral resources, industry, manpower, water, agriculture, etc. and on the current state of investment projects, the development of the remaining towns is taking place. The number of these towns, according to data from the end of 1977, is 808.

In the mid-1960's a new problem of unprecedented scale came to the fore — the problem of housing for the generation born in the post-war baby boom. The demand for new living quarters in the cities was aggravated by the constantly increasing migration from the countryside stimulated by rapidly-expanding urban industry. It was then that the decision was made to build several prefabrication plants. "The era of the apartment" — the construction of a "second Poland" has become the most significant task of socio-economic planning up to 1990. Numerous warnings concerning the dangers of blindly applying a technological monoculture which will change the landscape of our towns and render them totally homogeneous have so far not been taken into consideration. In Poland some 170 prefabrication plants are already operative. New housing estates in Warsaw resemble those constructed in Katowice, Kielce or Cracow like two drops of water. It looks as though all the towns were wearing garments sewn by the same tailor cutting clothes from the same piece of fabric. Even apart from that, technology applied on mass scale has proved to be more expensive than had been expected, and this in turn has contributed to the increasing cost of newly constructed living quarters. A few years' experience has shown that architecture from the factory line guarantees only a sporadic fulfilment of plans.



The historical architectural complexes of the urban centers may perhaps somehow counter-balance the monotonous and barrack-like housing estates of the suburbs. On the credit side, of course, one can also note the creation in all big towns of district heating and hot water supply systems operated by power plants. In Katowice, the coal mining center, a Park of Culture was created on the former excavation sites and heaps of waste rock. The park, which spreads over an area of around a thousand hectares, has vastly improved the sanitary conditions of the entire agglomeration.

On the other hand, neither Poland's capital nor any other town has an underground railway network, which, in the face of the approaching boom in private car ownership, spells serious traffic problems. Ninety-eight per cent of the urban population avails itself of the municipal water supply system, ninety-seven per cent of the sanitary system and eighty-three per cent of the gas lines. Still, a majority of towns lack sewage-treatment plants. We boast the world's most beautiful thoroughfare constructed in Warsaw beneath the architectural complex of Old Town, but the waiting period for a housing unit in the capital runs up to around 10 years while a telephone takes up to eight.

In many cities work has begun on the expansion of tourist facilities, yet in Warsaw, for instance, there is only one multi-storied public parking lot. Despite numerous shortcomings of which we are well aware, and which aid us in defining our necessary goals, we do feel satisfaction in realizing that we have managed to avoid many of the problems and difficulties of moloch cities against which no successful remedy has so far been found.

In conclusion, I would like to take advantage of our stay in Sapporo to devote some words to the town to which I often return in my mind. I am thinking of Zakopane — the "winter capital" of Poland, a town located at the foot of the Tetra Mountains whose climate and atmosphere very much resemble those of Sapporo. Seven years ago during the Olympic 90-meter ski-jumping event in Sapporo Poland's Wojciech Fortuna won the gold medal. Zakopane is again seeking to organize the international FIS world championships in Nordic skiing. My country is said to be famous for its hospitality. If a Japanese competitor wins the ski-jumping championship in Zakopane we will regard this as a magnificent revenge for the previous Olympiad in Sapporo.

## Winter Life in the Regional City of Obihiro

by Mr. Masahiro Hayashi  
The Tokachi Mainichi Newspapers

The city of Obihiro, located in the middle of the Tokachi Plains in the eastern part of Hokkaido, is an important city with the seventh largest population in Hokkaido. The population of Obihiro reached 150,000 on December 28, 1978. Surrounding the city are 19 towns and villages whose inhabitants total about 200,000. Thus, the Tokachi district, of which Obihiro is the center, is inhabited by a total of about 350,000 people.

Geographically, the Tokachi district forms a basin surrounded by mountains on three sides, facing the Pacific Ocean to the south. It has an area of about 9,025 km<sup>2</sup>. In this district a large-scale agricultural production is centering around dry-field, and dairy farming is the key industry and the mainstay of the economy. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the district had its largest-ever harvest of staple crops such as wheat, azuki beans, and soybeans last year, adding a new page to the history of agriculture in the Tokachi district. In a rural atmosphere, Obihiro has been growing as a major distributing center for such cold-region crops as beets, potatoes and beans. In 1982, Obihiro will commemorate the centennial anniversary of its founding.

Climatically, Obihiro lies in the sub-frigid zone, which is exclusive to the northern hemisphere. Spring and fall are short and the summer is relatively warm. In winter, distribution of atmospheric pressure tends to be high in the west and low in the east because of massive cold high-pressure fronts from Siberia. From November through February, north-west winds rage and severe cold weather prevails. However, the Hidaka mountain range to the west provides a natural barrier, and Obihiro has less snow depth than similar areas on the Sea of Japan coast and has more days of fair weather. In the winter season the period from late January through February is the coldest. The average temperature of January and February for the last five years was a little over -14° C. In 1977, record cold waves hit Obihiro, with the temperatures in 35 years. The lowest temperature ever recorded in Obihiro was -38.2° C on January 26, 1902, while the highest was 37.8° C on July 12, 1924, which is also the record for all of Hokkaido.

Obihiro is characteristic of continental climates in that it has the widest range of temperatures in all of Japan. There are four distinct seasons. The Tokachi-Obihiro district is one of the coldest areas in Hokkaido and winter here is exceptionally severe and cold. On the other hand, it is very hot during the day in the summer, but coolness in the morning and at night helps to keep off the heat and adds a special comfort. Obihiro is one of the cities with the most sunshine in all of Japan and the total annual sunlight duration is close to that of Kagoshima in southern Kyushu. Obihiro has only half as much rainfall as the Rumoi district, which is the rainiest area in Hokkaido. The people of Obihiro are proud of having the bluest sky and air and the cleanest water in Japan.



Despite these favorable natural conditions, however, life here is not necessarily well-adapted for winter in this snowy, cold area. When we think about life in the winter in Obihiro, the first thing that comes to mind is the problem of housing. Most of the houses are made of wood and mortar, while those of costly concrete block and steel-framed ferro-concrete structure are very few in number. Increased use of adiabatic material (glass wool) in recent years has enabled us to better maintain the airtightness and constant temperature of our rooms. We have just begun to adopt warm-air heating and central heating systems using hot water. In most homes, we still use kerosene stoves as a main source of heat.

Since Obihiro is included in the Chishima Volcanic Zone, it has frequent earthquakes. In building new houses, making them earthquake-proof is a necessary consideration. However, most new houses continue to be made of wood and mortar. Under the special climatic conditions of the Tokachi district, where the variation of temperature between winter and summer reaches 50 degrees, we have to make efforts to improve the quality of houses themselves through fuller consideration of the above conditions. Research on the use of solar heating has recently been undertaken by business corporations, taking advantage of Obihiro's exceptionally large amount of sunshine. The construction of houses utilizing underground space is only in an experimental stage. Much more basic research is necessary before the level of the advanced north European countries can be reached in this area.

The city of Obihiro has a sister city relationship with Sewerd, Alaska. Also, exchange programs with Edomonton, Alberta in Canada are now being promoted. At present, a joint exhibition of art work done by children in Canada and Obihiro is being held under the sponsorship of the Alberta Art Commission. Furthermore, the city of Obihiro has recently sent youth representatives twice to northern European countries to do extended research on life and culture in countries such as Finland, Sweden and Denmark. This can be considered a manifestation of our positive desire to learn about how people really live in these areas. Ikeda, a town adjacent to Obihiro and well-known for wine production, has a sister city exchange program with the Canadian city of Penticton in British Columbia.

Through these recent exchanges with other countries, the Tokachi district centering around Obihiro has begun to see what education and culture in the northern regions should be like. The 350,000 inhabitants have given their support to the idea of founding an academic research community and of welcoming the United Nations University, which will be built on the spacious, wide virgin land of Tokachi, with the aim of stimulating the Tokachi region's second century of development.

The New Obihiro Airport to be completed in 1980 will be an air gateway as a quasi-international airport indispensable for exchanges with the rest of the northern regions. The development of the "Obihiro Forest" the concept of which is based on the "Vienna Forest" is being carried out as a long-term (one hundred years) project to fill the whole city with verdure.

The people's old life-style of confinement to homes during the season of snow and cold temperature has recently changed to that of enjoyment of outdoor activities. The skiing and skating population has steadily increased and people of all ages - - - from elementary school students to the aged, frequently in family groups - - - have come to love winter sports. During the past few years, "cross-country skiing", which is popular in northern Europe has flourished with the improvement of ski equipment, interesting ski events are now often held. Furthermore, such events as the Ice Festival and the Winter Festival put on by the inhabitants have also taken root. As people tend to spend more time outdoors, their clothing, which has not always been completely suitable for cold weather, has been improved in such a way as to increase its protectiveness against cold through the use of more wool and fur. Some efforts to form the new northern mode in clothing are being made, but further effort and creativity are called for.

Eating habits have recently become more like those of Western countries, based on the consumption of a solid amount of meat, vegetables, oil and fat, and other forms of protein. Still, much room is left for improvement.

Despite of all the efforts to learn from the experiences of the advanced northern European countries, further improvement and more research is called for in the field of agricultural management and industrial conditions, and an overall effort for improvement and for minimizing waste in consumption and production is essential. The reason why these problems must be raised at this moment is because, while the people of Hokkaido are fully aware of their climatic and natural features, they still rely to a certain extent on ideas and customs brought from Honshu, which has much warmer and milder climate.

Benzo Yoda, a great pioneer of Obihiro as well as one of the most well-known and representative pioneers of Hokkaido, came to settle here in 1883 from Izu in the warm Shizuoka Prefecture. He engaged in the arduous development work with a noble frontier spirit. He left the words "At the beginning of the pioneering work, a pot had to be shared even with pigs.", which describes how hard and severe the struggle with mother earth was. The frontier spirit has been passed down to us as spiritual nourishment. Although these great pioneers have left innumerable achievements, they did not go so far as to establish a basis for the development of food, clothing and housing suitable for living in this northern region. That is, these pioneers came from Honshu seeking a new frontier in Hokkaido and they brought with them their modes of living from Honshu without questioning their applicability to the new climate. That is why they are badly in need of re-evaluation at this time.

In summary, we have a very important mission in creating our own culture and life-style which are genuinely and firmly rooted in the climate of Hokkaido, with a full understanding of the cultural heritage of the aboriginal Ainu people and of the severe hardships that our predecessors, who took over the Ainu heritage, experienced during their pioneer days. To fulfill this mission it is vitally necessary for the people living here to pool their wisdom and knowledge. For the solution of our problems, ideas and kind advice from those journalists who are present at this meeting are sincerely solicited and will be appreciated.



## Utilization of Snow

by Mr. Isao Miyajima

The Mainichi Newspapers, Hokkaido Branch

### Attitude Toward Snow

As in all northern countries, Hokkaido has a lot of snow during the winter. Some areas get much more snow than others, but it generally snows from about the end of November to mid-April. The average number of snowy days in Hokkaido is 130, that is, about one third of the year. Sapporo is known to have much snow compared with other large cities in the prefecture; its average snowfall for the period of January and February is 70 – 80cm.

One cannot talk about winter life in Sapporo without having to mention something about snow. Unfortunately, the people of Hokkaido tend to consider snow as troublesome, useless, and unwanted. They often make comments such as "If only we didn't have snow in Hokkaido." or "If only the winter wouldn't come."

No one can deny that snow can close mountain roads, completely crush houses, make fields useless overnight, obstruct traffic flow and do other things to disrupt the life pattern of the people of the north. Moreover, the death toll in Hokkaido due to accidents caused by snow amounts to 40 per year. These are, of course, the unpleasant aspects of having snow.

It is impossible to change the weather with our present knowledge of science. It is still far beyond our powers to alter the providence of Mother Nature. This being the case, the change must be made on our part. We should change our attitude toward snow and look for ways to utilize snow to our advantage. In this manner snow will become a valuable part of our lives. In order to do this, everyone must be aware of the qualities of snow and how they can be used in our daily lives.

### Snow as a Natural Resource

First of all, we must not forget that snow is a form of an important natural resource, water. The difference in its form occurs due to temperature. Annual precipitation in Hokkaido is 1,200mm, of which 50% is in the form of snow. Because of the low temperatures in winter, snow can be preserved on mountains and fields for up to six months. In the spring, it gradually melts and can be used for water supply, hydro-electric power, agriculture, and various other purposes.

Let us suppose that the cost of water per ton is 80 yen (the average for 6 major cities in Hokkaido). It is estimated that the total yearly snowfall in Hokkaido amounts to 9 billion tons (equal to 1.5 billion six-ton dump trucks, which linked together would encircle the world 200 times). The total value of this quantity of snow is about 720 billion yen. Of course, the amount we actually use is very small, but just think that this much snow is worth 720 billion yen! Now no one can seriously think of the existence of snow as something useless.

### Snow as Soundproofing

Now I'd like to talk about the sound absorption and insulation properties of snow. It is said that of all natural phenomena, snow has the highest sound-absorbing power. According to study conducted by the Institute of Low Temperature Science at Hokkaido University, if 1 is equal to the acoustic absorptivity of an object absorbing a sound which has traveled a certain distance, the acoustic absorptivity of marble is 0.015, glass 0.02, wood 0.08, a curtain 0.45, and a soundproofing material 0.90. The acoustic absorptivity of fresh snow is 0.98 and 0.91 for hardened snow. Snow can overwhelmingly absorb sound.

This explains the stillness of a night when it is snowing. You cannot carry on a conversation if you have a snow wall standing between you and the other person. You can easily test this yourself. Lovers can exchange sweet whispers of love in a snow hut knowing that no one can overhear them outside. It follows that winter is the time when we are least bothered by noise around us. It's the best season to enjoy reading and contemplation. Such incidents as the murder which occurred in the mainland due to the playing of a piano next door cannot possibly happen here in Hokkaido.

### Snow can give warmth

Now I'd like to discuss the heat insulation property of snow. Snow itself is cold when you touch it since its temperature is much lower than our body temperature. However, it can give warmth in the open air of winter. If the outside temperature is  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and there is a snow accumulation of 30cm, the snow will prevent the ground from freezing. Even at the beginning of February, the coldest month in Hokkaido, if there is a snow accumulation of 50cm on the ground, the underground temperature at one meter below the surface will be  $3.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

In previous times, the people of Hokkaido used to store their vegetables one meter underground with hay covered by the earth of their backyards which was in turn covered by snow. It was an ingenious way to preserve food at a time when such modern appliances as refrigerators were not available.

A few years ago, mountain climbers survived a snowslide by living in a snow hut for 2 days. One newspaper in Hokkaido entitled the article about them "Returning Alive From A Cold Snow Hut". I would have called it "Returning Alive From A Warm Snow Hut". These climbers were able to survive 2 days of frigid temperatures because the snow hut had protected them from the cold. If the writer had been more knowledgeable about the properties of snow, he might have seen it from a different point of view.

The majority of houses in Hokkaido are built of wood and are zinc-roofed. The amount of heat which escapes from the roof in the coldest time of winter is 40 kilocalories an hour per one square meter. However, if the roof is covered by 50cm of snow, the amount of heat escape will be reduced to 14 kilocalories, about a third of the original amount. Thus, snow on the roof can prevent heat escape from your houses.

If only people know how snow could be used to their advantage, they would not spend substantial amounts of money to get the snow off their roofs at least two or three times a winter. Unless you live in a house that is not fit to live in even in the milder seasons, the weight of snow on the roof should not worry you.



Even if we calculate the weight of snow during the maximum snowfall ever recorded in Sapporo, 50cm of snow on a 50sq. m room will weigh only 7.5 tons. This is below the standard weight specified in the Building Standard Act.

Since we have tended to regard snow as useless, we have gone to great efforts to take snow away from our houses, completely ignorant of its valuable properties. If you will allow me to make a suggestion, why not pile up the snow around the walls of your houses instead of shoveling it away? It will prevent quite a bit of heat escape from your homes, and since it is also soundproof, you can spend peaceful, warm and comfortable days throughout the winter.

We can enjoy snow

I'd like to remind you that we can enjoy snow. It can magically change discolored mountains and fields and the muddy streets of a city into a world of silvery snow overnight. Nothing else possesses this magic power.

Several years ago, when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs used a collection of winter scenes to advertise Japan in foreign countries, they found the advertisement very successful. One of the main reasons for this is that these pictures presented foreign people with a sharp contrast to the purely industrial country they had imagined Japan to be.

The current Sapporo Snow Festival is an example of how we can utilize snow for our enjoyment. The festival invites people into a world of beauty and fantasy where they will surely be impressed by the mightiness and preciousness of snow. It effectively negates the idea that snow is useless and unwanted. These snow and ice festivals throughout Hokkaido in mid-winter are comparable to the flower festivals held elsewhere, and I hope they are not merely temporary events.

If we truly wish to display the beauty of snow, we can create a "Snow Appreciation Park". Such a park would display the beauty of natural formations which cannot be equalled by any artificial means. Even the people of the snow countries would deepen their appreciation of snow in this "Snow Appreciation Park".

Snow as part of our life

It is needless to say that winter sports could not exist without snow. In the winter we are gifted with a seemingly unlimited amount of snow. Snow can create a peaceful world, enable us to enjoy beautiful winter scenes, and also keep us warm. We must learn to adjust and live with snow as a necessary and desirable part of nature. We will then truly enjoy winter life.

## Energy Saving in Swedish Homes

by Miss Marie H. I. Söderberg  
(Svenska Dagbladet)

After listening to Mr. Fushikida's report about the heating of houses in Hokkaido, energy saving might seem strange. You seem to save energy by heating only one room in a house; as Mr. Fushikida said, only 10% of newly-built houses have all the rooms heated. In Sweden, I think that figure is about 90% and it's difficult to change as people are used to that comfort. So our energy problem is probably a different one from yours.

All through history I think Swedish houses have been quite reasonably insulated. But recently there's a new reason for insulating them well. For the Swedish individual it has become a question of money. As all the prices have been rising during the seventies it's just too expensive to keep our houses warm. If you don't have double windows and good insulation, most people prefer to have their ventilation and their heating system checked rather than paying the money for the warm air that disappears through the chimney. Even today 75% of Swedish houses are heated by oil.

However, although money might be one reason why people's interest in saving energy in heating their houses has increased so dramatically, the basic question is how we are dealing with our energy resources. Energy is a very big question in Sweden. It was one of the main reasons why Sweden after 40 years of stability experienced a change of government a few years ago and also why the same government had to withdraw less than 6 months back. Energy questions are widely discussed today among the politicians, and also among housewives and school children.

Sweden has adopted an ambitious program according to which national energy consumption must not increase more than 1% every year. And during the eighties we will have no growth of energy consumption at all. This, of course, means that a lot of saving has to be done by industries and government authorities. Private homes only account for 25% of total energy consumption. But when it comes to such individual energy saving, the heating of houses is a crucial question.

Heating alone occupies 60% of the energy consumption in the home. Nowadays there is a lot of research being done on alternative methods of home heating. The government wants to get away from the dependence on oil, and instead develop systems in which solid fuel like coal, and peat is used. A lot of experiments are also being done with solar heating.

Since the recent oil crisis there has been a big energy saving campaign in Sweden. The standards for how well insulated new houses should be have been adjusted. As I hear in England they still have to pay luxury tax if they build houses with double windows. In Sweden we no longer build only with double but with triple windows. And if your house is not going to be well-insulated you will have trouble in obtaining government loans.



The standards of new houses are usually good, but of course all houses are not new ones. Most of them were built before the oil crisis. To help the houses to become better insulated the government has been providing subsidies and also loans with good conditions for energy saving measures. If you rebuild your house or apartment to save energy, subsidies are given to cover 35% of the cost. The maximum amount of money you can get in this way is about 150 thousand yen. However, if the rebuilding is going to be so big that will cost you more than 1,250,000 you can get subsidies to pay part of the rent.

Of course, energy saving measures do not always have to be as big as that. In the campaign that has been going on in the Swedish Government's Special Energy Saving Committee, people have been encouraged to do a lot of small simple things like seeing to it that windows are tight enough or have somebody check the ventilation on the heater of your house.

When it comes to apartment buildings, a common system is one with central heating in which all the people living in a building share the costs equally. This has now been changed in some houses so that a meter is installed in each apartment and every family only pays for what they are using. This has been found to lower the energy consumption considerably. Open fireplaces have again become popular, and are not torn down when old houses are rebuilt. In the country side this is a good solution, but in Stockholm the price of wood has been rising considerably.

A most remarkable thing is also that doctors have suddenly discovered that the 22°C or even above that at which we used to be living before the oil crisis is bad for health. And not only to your own health but for your dog and your flowers, not to mention furniture, carpets, other textiles which will quickly be destroyed if the room is so warm that it becomes drier. The present campaign makes it look like a big mystery how you and all your belongings could have survived the sixties. Now they recommend 20° C during day time and 18° C during the night time. There is even regulation which says no government offices may be heated to more than 20°C.

Energy saving pamphlets that have been distributed in Sweden tell you things like that if you put on another sweater it's the same thing as rising the temperature about 2°C in the room. They also publish a lot of calculations on what some particular saving will mean. For example, if we lower the temperature by only 1°C at home, we will save 6% of energy used for heating. If all Swedes did this, we would save an amount of oil which, if calculated into money, would be enough for 10 thousand new day-care centers for children.

Mass media has played a great role in the energy-saving campaign in Sweden. There are thousands and thousands articles about alternative ways of heating your house and how to get it better insulated. I think that we, as journalists from northern regions, are all interested in the heating of houses, and perhaps this will be a question we can discuss later this afternoon.

## Exchange of Information for the Future Development of the Northern Regions

by Mr. Frederick Marks  
(UPI)

First, let me thank the organizers of this conference for inviting me not only to attend the meetings, but for the opportunity to share some thoughts with you on the exchange of information among northern regions like Hokkaido.

It goes without saying, I think, that in the past there has been little or no exchange of information between Hokkaido and other areas with a similar climate and geography. I know that in the United States, and very probably Europe, there is only a vague awareness that there is a place called Hokkaido. And while this situation is regrettable, it is - - really - - natural. After all, traditionally, any form of communication is focused on one central area. In the case of Japan, that would be Tokyo. In the United States it would be New York on the east coast, and Los Angeles on the west coast. In Europe there are such central communication hubs as London, Paris, Bonn, and Moscow. It is, perhaps, the fate of more outlying areas to be remote from communications and, as such, lacking in exchange of information.

But all that may be changing. With the advent of modern communications, including satellites, data speed circuits and huge computers, we are finding that the old concepts such as jamming all our communications - - and thus the focus of information exchange - - into one city, like Tokyo or New York, are just not necessary. In UPI's case, for example, we presently have under construction in Dallas, Texas - - of all places - - a new communications center. This will be the heart of UPI's worldwide communications network and many of our people who formally lived in New York will be moving out to Texas.

That is all very interesting, you may say, but how does that affect areas like Hokkaido and other northern regions around the world. Well, the point is, I think, that with the diffusion of people from the traditional hubs of communication we will find that there will be less interest focused on those central areas. And, it follows, if there is less interest in places like Tokyo or New York, there will be more interest on places like Sapporo here in Hokkaido.

Of course, there will have to be more things of interest in places like Hokkaido, but I think that people in northern Japan are going to recognize the opportunity they have before them and make themselves more interested in the rest of the world. If more people are interested in Hokkaido, then more people will come to Hokkaido to experience the delightful atmosphere you have here. And those visitors will bring with them an awareness - - and funds - - to enable further development. It seems to me that the civic leaders of Sapporo recognize this. Certainly we would not be here today if they did not.

But we, of course, are only a few people. Nonetheless, it is a healthy sign that Sapporo and Hokkaido are aware of the opportunities at hand. The most significant sign in recent years was, of course, the 1972 Winter Olympics. I happened to be fortunate enough to cover those Olympics, and I recall the expressions of amazement that were made by visitors from all over the world over the beauty of Hokkaido, the friendliness of the people, and the superb organization of the members of the Olympic Committee. It was - - for me anyway - - an unforgettable experience and it fixed an indelible impression of Hokkaido in my mind.



And I'm sure that thousands of people from all over the world went home with equally favorable impressions of Hokkaido and that is why I'm sure that the people of Hokkaido, in the years to come, will come to recognize the 1972 Winter Olympics as a turning point in their modern development. Hokkaido is now a known entity on the map and in succeeding years there will be more events as the Olympics to enable the people who live here to communicate with their neighbors around the world.

Because, in the last analysis, the world today is shrinking. Whereas fifty years ago it may have taken days to reach Hokkaido, now it takes only hours. The printed word and the images of television can reach Hokkaido in seconds. And it should be remembered that the reverse process is also true. There will be opportunities in the years to come for you to increase exchange of information between, say, Hokkaido and Canada, or Hokkaido and Scandinavia, which should be to the benefit of all the peoples in those areas. In short, there should be exciting times ahead, and it is only necessary to move with those times in order to reap all the benefits of the smaller world we are entering.

## Possibilities for the International Exchange of Regional Information

by Mr. Katsusuke Nagano  
(NHK)

In our age it is difficult for any nation to exist in isolation — politically, economically, militarily, or in any other capacity. Interdependence and cooperation with other nations is becoming essential to the prosperity of any country. The most important tool in promoting and maintaining such relationships of cooperation and interdependence is the international exchange of information and news.

There are many levels and channels in international news exchange. There is an exchange at governmental, private and commercial levels, as well as an exchange not aimed at any particular stratum but at the general public of all regions. To make this general news available to everyone, there is no more effective means than dissemination via mass communication media. To be presented in mass communication media, news must be of interest to a majority of people. News items of important informational value may be rejected for presentation because of their lack of general appeal, or may occasionally be presented in an abbreviation form.

My theme today is the exchange of news. True exchange requires demand from both sides. Organization of mass media information channels is impossible without such demand.

In this light I would like to examine news exchange from Hokkaido's point of view. Hokkaido is the newest area of Japan. Development here began 100 years ago under the supervision of the Tokyo government. The original motives for development were political, economic and social considerations necessary to the central government and not directly related to the welfare of Hokkaido itself. Thus, Hokkaido differs from other northern countries in that, to the national government, Hokkaido's problems are merely the problems of a single district.

In other countries of the northern region, surviving the harsh conditions imposed by climate, fostering a habitable social environment within climatic restrictions, and insuring economic development specific to cold regions are problems directly connected with the continuation of national culture and, therefore, vitally important to the governments involved. However, to the Japanese government, Hokkaido's development is only important for its utilitarian value to the nation as a whole. Hokkaido would like to learn from the other northern region nations about dealing with harsh natural conditions, maintaining a good social environment, and preventing economic development from stagnating during the snow-bound season. We need a communications network to keep up-to-date on the methods, technology and know-how of northern living.

In Hokkaido, there is a great demand for all information relating to northern regions, but, in order to create a true news exchange, the flow of information must go in both directions. Now, unfortunately, there is little demand for news from Hokkaido in other northern region countries, and we have only a one-way flow into Hokkaido. Concern for this situation was a major reason for the establishment of the Hoppoken Center/Northern Regions Center in Hokkaido.



Human-interest news, however, may provide the answer. Local news is rarely presented by international news service networks. International mass communication news is usually concerned with world politics, international economics and national security.

Human-interest news is the exception, and, in my opinion, is of symbolic significance. A recent news story about monkeys in a remote corner of the Philippines who attacked a police station may have given the public an insight about the Philippines that would not have been shown by stories of more political significance, such as the Philippine—USA negotiation to revise the base agreement or President Marcos' public statement. Another news story is about President Idi Amin who jumped in the swimming pool in his pajamas. It is the local human-interest stories that give the public a true feeling of what distant places are like.

Stories of a similar scope could arouse public interest about Hokkaido. Stories about the Japanese GNP, the Yen-Dollar exchange rate, and Prime Minister Ohira's Asian policy, all tell something about Japan. Still, they are, after all, dry facts, and do not provide insight into the Japanese character. If foreign journalists who live in Tokyo visit Hokkaido, they might discover why, in trade negotiations, Japan is opposed to complete removal of restrictions in the dairy products trade or why Japanese racehorse breeders have been buying up expensive studs in England. Local stories on such basic topics have human-interest value and permit the public to develop understanding of distant places and to draw its own conclusions from actual facts.

As stated at the beginning, journalism is not geared toward any particular class of people, but it is concerned with news exchange for the general public. So long as it bases its philosophy on the human mind, such an approach to international news exchange will remain important. To further mutual understanding internationally, it is a necessary form of news exchange that has up to now been taken too lightly.

My suggestions are easier said than done. The number of special correspondents in wire services, newspapers, radio and TV stations is not large enough. Since correspondents normally have to work alone, I understand the difficulties. They are formidable.

Since the present system cannot provide these services, I propose that they be enlarged as follows: First, news services must be interested in local news. Second, better ties of news exchange must be established between local news stations and international news services. Third, Japanese and foreign journalism organizations and central news agencies must take a stand in favor of the international flow of local news. These proposals must be considered for future implementation.

## Desire to Create an International Information Center

by Mr. Toshiro Ohta  
The Hokkaido Shimbun Press

I have devoted most of my twenty-odd years as a newspaperman to covering politics. In fact more than half of those twenty years were spent at the Tokyo branch of Hokkaido Shimbun. I have been continually sending reports of political occurrences to our Hokkaido readers. So the main part of my job involved politics, economics, and those sections which are usually called "Koha", or hard news pages. But still, so long was my association with the newspaper that I have had chances to write articles on other pages. But may I say that I have not yet contributed to horse racing, women's and family affairs sections. However, the three themes that have been selected for today's meeting seem to be appropriate to home affairs or women's pages. And as luck would have it, here I am today in front of you asked to talk about this very problem. I'm like a vagabond asked to give a lecture on good family life. Totally at a loss I reached for Theme 2 "the exchange of information" which seems to be a little more accessible to me than the other two.

There was a small meeting similar to this one held in Sapporo last year. I also said at that meeting that Japanese, particularly those of us living in Hokkaido in the last three decades after World War II, have brought about changes in the usefulness of the information reported by journalists, particularly information on international affairs. From war-torn Japan newspapermen were sent into the United States to recover U.S. — Japan relations. So information at that time was mainly concerned with U.S. and Japan relations.

For Japan, this was the beginning of international correspondence. This was the case until 1960. But during the nineteen-sixties, Japan's international relations began to take on a different and larger scope. Many reporters found themselves in Asia and Europe. I think most of the people who have offices in Tokyo — that is, most of you — are also covering Asia, China, maybe Taiwan, and other places. In Japan's case, we have sent special overseas correspondents to those regions. So that was the time when news of those areas started to flow into Japan. But most of those reports took the form of reportage. "Betonamu wa ima" or "Vietnam today" is one of the examples of those reportage programs that were sent in at that time. With the advent the seventies, Japan entered the full-fledged era of "Kokusaika" or "internationalism". I believe there are over five hundred correspondents stationed in other areas of the world. They have to cover more than just novel news items. They are now required to send news covering more comprehensive aspects of all changes that are taking place elsewhere. This certainly places considerable burden on the shoulders of reporters. And for any reporter, Japanese or otherwise, understanding a phenomenon that is occurring in a foreign country, with any degree of holism, is no easy task. Particularly when that foreign country happens to have a culture as different as that between Asia and Europe. I don't think there are many who can claim this except for those who are present here in this room.



Now Japanese correspondents have come to be required to assume such a job. And this is because Japan can no longer isolate herself in the complex web of international relations. The era of internationalism is already here. And this has made the change inevitable. International information that appears on a newspaper's information index alone can not satisfy the demands of readers today.

Then another problem arises. The center of Japan is where you work, Tokyo. Hokkaido is only a local area in a northern part of Japan. Our newspaper is promoting the nineteen-seventy nine campaign with the theme of "Era of Localism". We believe that in Japan's politics a stronger local autonomy is required. Our campaign support the idea that this is the way to solidify democracy in Japan. If we are speaking of domestic politics, news information is received by Hokkaido just as quickly as by Tokyo. But things are different when it comes to news of international affairs. The distance between Hokkaido and Tokyo becomes much greater. For one thing, this may be because such information is used and sought after specifically to coordinate the foreign policies of the country as a totality. But as I said before, international information has begun to take on a different form. The time has already passed when we can just sit back and accept our isolation. We take it for granted that there should not be a significant difference in the news which we receive here in Hokkaido from that which is received in Tokyo.

Shortly, international flights will be flying in and out of Chitose Airport. As our President, Mr. Kamiseki, mentioned, the time lag that comes as a result of our being situated in a northern locality can be corrected if we are tied with your countries by a shift of orientation and by looking at the lateral link or scale of "Hoppoken". I'm sure this will bring world news directly into Hokkaido. I'm hoping that a library, maybe containing such information, could be built here. And I hope this particular occasion will provide a way for widening our lines of communication, so that peoples of the northern regions will find their lives emanating with more vitality in the international community.

All these proposals may sound strange coming from a man working for a newspaper which is the very information exchange mechanism that has to fulfill this requirement. But what I am calling for here is not a collection of information to be used for political, strategic, or diplomatic policies. Hokkaido is not a republic. I am calling for a citizens' library or public library. If my wish comes true through your understanding and cooperation, I ask those ladies and gentlemen here to offer their generous cooperation.

by Mr. István Flesch  
(MTI)

I consider my invitation to attend the Northern Regions Journalists Meeting here in Sapporo a great honour and rare distinction for a Hungarian newsman. We are seldom looked upon as a Nordic people in spite of the fact that Hungary is located in a latitude slightly north of Hokkaido's. Nevertheless I am proud of this invitation because your kind attention shows the traditional warm feeling of the Japanese towards the Hungarians. I assure you that these sentiments are mutual.

A Japanese scholar has recently written that Japanese and Hungarians belong to the same Turanian-Mongolian race whose ancestors migrated from northern-central Asia. While Hungarian scholars hold that the precise origin of the Hungarian people is a matter of dispute, the fact that the Hungarians belong to the Finno-Ugrian family of peoples remains unchallenged. The exact location of the original Finno-Ugrian homeland as well as the processes leading to the separation of the peoples is still, of course, a matter of controversy. But all the theories agree on one point: during the first millenium B.C. the majority of the Finno-Ugrian peoples lived somewhere in the European part of what is today the Soviet Union, and their life was gradually transformed by contact with other peoples, such as the nomadic tribes of Iranian origin. Later, during their migration to the Carpathian basin, the Hungarians came into contact with Huns, Avars, Bulgars, Turks, Khazars and others, perhaps Japanese. We don't know. But if it is true that the Japanese have migrated from northern-central Asia as well, then at one time we must have lived very close to each other: perhaps our two peoples interacted with each other in those ancient times. Surely there are conspicuous similarities in our languages.

Even more important, however, is the fact that we maintain close and friendly relations today, first of all, on a cultural plane. We have always been very much interested in Japan. The first Hungarian to come here was allegedly a traveller in the service of Dutch East Indies, an official of the Dutch settlement on Dejima Island near Nagasaki. But speaking more to the present, in 1973 a cultural agreement was signed between our two countries, and from that time on, with the exception of Hungary's socialist neighbors, no foreign country has been visited more frequently by our musicians than Japan. And of course they came to Hokkaido, too. It would be extremely difficult to name them all, for lack of time. The State Philharmonic Orchestra, the Bartok String-Quartet, the Liszt Chamber Orchestra, the State Folk Ensemble and the Budapest Radio's children's choir have already toured this country. Also such pianists as Ranki, Kocsis and Schiff gave concerts here. In other artistic fields, too, we have much promising cooperation. Up to the present some 20 volumes of Hungarian literature and poetry were published by Japanese publishing houses in good translation. Great exhibitions of Hungarian medieval goldsmith's craft, and 19th and 20th Century paintings were initiated by Japan, and in March of this year an exhibition of masterpieces from the Budapest National Gallery and the Museum of Fine Arts will be opened in Tokyo.



For our part Hungary does much for introducing Japanese culture at home. Japanese films, primarily those of Kurosawa Akira, are very popular. Abe Kobo and Kawabata Yasunari are widely read in Hungary. We already have classic translations of both old and contemporary Japanese poetry. Japanese musicians, for instance, pianist Nakamura Hiroko and the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphonic Orchestra, have had immense successes in recent years in Budapest. And I can say that among the music-loving public the young conductor Kobayashi Kenichiro is one of the most popular man in Hungary. He won the first international TV-competition for talented conductors in Hungary. You can see his pictures everywhere in our country, even now, after his return to Japan.

And of course we have special cultural relations with the island of Hokkaido. A prominent textile-designer of Hokkaido, Mrs. Kiuchi Aya, has had a great exhibition in Budapest and the artistic value of her works was praised by all of our critics. In Asahikawa in Hokkaido the freedom of the city has recently been presented to a Hungarian painter, Bakallar. But our cooperation covers another field too, which is related to music and fine arts only indirectly: and this is grape-growing and wine production. In the vicinity of Ikeda Town, in the famous vine-lands where the Tokachi-wine is produced, Hungarian vine-branches were also used with good results, I understand. We have the privilege to receive as welcome guests study-groups of Ikeda viniculturists in Hungary every year.

#### On the Current Situation and Outlook for the Area around BAM Railway

by Mr. Alexei Panteleev  
Novosti Press Agency

Thousands of newspaper and magazine reports, and many literary works and scientific papers have been published about this unique construction project, sometimes called "the construction project of the century". We could talk about it for hours, even days. To give an account of it in 10 or 15 minutes is as impossible as it would be to walk from end to end across this huge construction site in single day.

First, what kind of place is the BAM district? On the fact of the earth not a single railway has been built under as difficult conditions as the BAM railway. Observe these fact: The BAM railway crosses the permafrost region. In area, this frozen region ranks just after the Antarctic continent. The cold season is long, eight or nine months, and the temperature drops below  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$ . On top of that the temperature rises to  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$  or even higher in summer. The primeval forest, called the Taiga, is occasionally replaced by impassable swamps or sudden mountains, dotting the region and rising to 3,500 meters above sea level. One part of the region suffers from frequent earthquakes and occasionally there are landslides or rockflows. To construct a railway through such a region, scientists, investigators, engineers and builders had to solve many difficult problems.

Second, is it worth constructing a railroad in such a difficult place? The answer is, of course, yes! For such a construction project is a large national project and its significance reaches well beyond just transportation. At stake are various aspects of the complete development of a vast district with unlimited natural resources covering the 1.5 billion  $\text{km}^2$  along the BAM railway. The BAM railway passes through the Jakutsk district with coal reserves of 40 billion tons, the major part being coking coal. The industrial development of the Neryungri coalfield, with proven reserves of 500 million tons, has already begun. 80-100km from there in the Aldan district there is a large iron ore mining area. The best surveyed is the Tayozunoe mining area (iron contained in the ore 42%). Exploration for magnetite at both Pionerskoe and Shvalga has been completed. In these locations the reserves alone are in excess of 1.4 billion tons. This region has been noted for oil, gas, complex ore, salt, talc and flourite. Wood is another of the important natural resources of this region.

Third, we must consider the results achieved so far. In line with the plans, 1,400km of track has been laid, and 3,000km of roads have been constructed as of September 1, 1978. In October of the same year the 'little BAM railway', the branch line connecting Ugol'naja, Berkakit and Tynda, was completed eight months ahead of schedule. 400km of railroad has connected Neryungri with the Siberial trunkline and has opened an exit for Jakutsk coal to Siberia and the far eastern industrial zone. Along the BAM railway 46 major and minor towns have been constructed, with comfortable housing, clubs and cultural centers, schools and libraries, coffee shops and restaurants, hospitals and kindergartens. The people living along the BAM railway can watch Moscow TV directly via satellite. In other words, they can fully enjoy a completely normal life.



Fourth, the future of this district. In the places where natural resources are concentrated, local manufacturing complexes will be established. I would like to stress that the enterprises in the key industrial sectors at present under construction or in the planning stage in this region are equipped not only for the present, but with an eye to the technology of the 21st century. The USSR is giving due consideration to fulfilling the mental and physical needs of the people engaged in the fight against the severe natural conditions and development of this area. Along the 3,145km of the main and branch lines of the BAM railway, 65 towns with a population of 16,000 people and several cities with a population of 200,000 are being built. These cities are now under construction from master plans made by construction experts considering the topographical and climatic conditions. The housing, the facilities for everyday life and culture, the medical facilities, schools, homes for small children, etc. for the people living and working here are very comfortable, and when compared with the big cities in the central part are not inferior. They rather tend to exceed those levels. As explained above, the plans are huge. However, financially, scientifically, and technologically the potential of the USSR, together with its wide experiences and successes in past developments in extremely difficult regions, guarantees the realization of these plans.

Fifth, an important merit of the construction of the BAM railway and the development of the natural resources along the line, is the wide international cooperation. Said in one word, the construction of the BAM railway serves as a vehicle for the socialist economic integration of the SEV (COMECON) member countries. With the BAM railway, the vast natural resources in Siberia and the far east can be put to use in developing the national economies of the SEV countries, and in improving the living standards of the citizens in all of the countries. Japan has also shown great interest in the new development plans for Siberia. As you may know, Japan has made a credit for \$450 million available, on a compensation basis, for the development of the Neryungri coking coal project. With this, the various machinery necessary for the construction, as well as general consumer goods, can be delivered. In the near future South Yakutsk coal will begin to be supplied to Japan on a regular basis. This is expected to reach an annual 5 million tons in 1986. By looking at just this one example we can gather what benefits such cooperation brings to both sides. With the completion of the BAM railway, not a single citizen of the USSR doubts that it will result in new wide-ranging possibilities for cooperation between the two countries. My personal opinion is that in this cooperative relationship Hokkaido has a role to play.

The development of new, occasionally unique natural resources will provide a powerful prerequisite for the development of trade between the USSR and the USA and Canada. As you all know, the USSR, the USA and Japan signed a protocol in Tokyo related to cooperation between the three countries on the Yakutsk Gas Project in June last year.

Last I would like to mention that at the same time as the BAM railway makes it possible for East Siberian and far eastern new natural resources to enter international commerce, the railway also provides the shortest route from the nations on the Pacific coast to Europe, and as such assumes a heavy responsibility. When comparing the distances for freight to travel from, for example, Niigata in Japan to Rotterdam in Holland, I feel it is sufficient to point out the fact that the routes via the Suez or Panama Canals are 1.5 to 1.7 longer than that across the USSR. At present international freight is being transported in all directions on the Trans-Siberian Railway. It has now, however, become impossible to satisfy the full demand. The BAM railway will comfortably solve this problem. The BAM railway does not stop at simply shortening the distances between the countries on the continent; there is no room for doubt that it will develop friendly and neighborly relations between the nations.

## DISCUSSION SESSION

Chairman (Mr. Jun Nakano, Asahi Shimbun Publishing Company): Although it is true that we have different histories, languages and cultures, there is one thing all northern regions have in common: we all have to fight cold and snow. Until immediately before this meeting, we weren't sure whether the Snow Festival could be held or not, but all of a sudden we were blessed with a heavy snowfall. Yesterday there was so much snow that you were stranded in Tokyo for five hours being unable to come to Sapporo. I can't help feeling rather fortunate that you had a chance to experience this classic problem of northern regions first-hand, and I hope you will participate actively in our discussion with comments and questions.

I am not going to advertise Japanese technology, but this system we are using has been developed recently for international conferences and I understand that this conference is indeed the first time this apparatus is being put to use.

So we'd like to start the discussion on the theme of "Struggle with the snow and cold".

Mr. Lennart Utterström (Veckans Affärer, Sweden): I am from Sweden and of course we have many climatic factors in common. But there is one thing that really surprises me here. That is that although we have been talking about and heard about Hokkaido from various point of view, so far we have heard nothing about the Ainu. What happened to the Ainu people? How did they survive in this climate? I'd like to get an answer to the question of whether it is true that the Ainu housing system was far superior to that of the Japanese. It must have been so, otherwise they would not have survived and would have disappeared. Why didn't the Japanese immigrants under the official governmental program try to utilize the knowledge of the indigenous Ainu people living in Hokkaido? After all, they've had one hundred years of experience.

Chairman: What about you, Mr. Fushikida?

Mr. Teruzumi Fushikida (The Hokkai Times): I am not sure of the precise details of the matter, but Japanese people did come to the land of the Ainu and began living here. On that point history is of course quite clear, as I think holds true for any country. All the Ainu had submerged housing; in other words, they dug holes in the ground and they had coverings on top of those. And now we have the question of how we could incorporate this sort of style into present-day living. In the Hidaka area where I was raised there were many Ainu. They had rather simple housing in terms of insulation. It was not really favorable, I suppose, so there wasn't much for the Japanese who came to Hokkaido to learn from their style of housing.

Chairman: Mr. Utterström, are you satisfied with the answer?

Mr. Utterström: No.

Chairman: I wonder if there is anyone else who could supplement Mr. Fushikida's response on the Ainu housing question. Mr. Hayashi?



Mr. Masahiro Hayashi (The Tokachi Mainichi Newspapers): Well, I don't have much material on that, either. Of course the Ainu are the people who lived before us here and though they have a rather ambiguous myth that is called "Yukara" there is no clearly written history or legend about them. We can trace the Ainu back a mere 300 years and before that we don't know anything about them at all. But I think the Tokachi area was an isolated area which was quite heaven compared to all other regions of Hokkaido. That's all I know.

Chairman: Well, I hope you'll forgive us and release us from the Ainu question at this point. I would like to move onto another aspect of the problem.

Mr. Peter R. Krebs (German T.V. Network, Federal Republic of Germany): I'd like to make some remarks about personal observations and would like to ask you strongly to take this not as any kind of criticism or mingling into absolutely internal Japanese affairs. It's just some observations from 7 years of life here in Japan. Many Japanese, even many Japanese who are living in northern part of Japan, seem to believe that they're living in a tropical country. As if the cold season in this country is mostly some sort of accident of nature or misbehavior, or just a kind of intermission between the seasons which are worthwhile living in. To take one example, look at the heating. Japanese never invented a uniquely Japanese way of heating, although they are living in close proximity to Korea, for instance, which has invented an extraordinary method of underfloor heating called 'ondoru'. But here the only thing Japanese have invented is something which I am enjoying very, very much: the 'ofuro' (a Japanese hot bath) which is not, however, a room heater in the true sense of the word. And if the Japanese are using modern methods, they are using methods of overheating, which is again some sort of 'escapism' they use to forget the outside. It creates a new environment which has nothing to do with the outside. So this is something which I am asking myself: what's the reason why the Japanese don't really want to live or enjoy a cold season as a normal part of the year? During the Olympics in Sapporo, I was here with a camera team and I made, beside the official report, a report about heating in Japan, or rather on the amusing methods of auxiliary heating. For instance, teddy bears with a heating mechanism inside which the baby can cling to in the night and which in the daytime may be used as a normal toy. Another example are the slippers that have a heating wire embedded in the heels. I think this attitude towards living in a cold season, in my personal opinion, is hampering the development of the northern regions of Japan. And let me add one remark about the housing. A Japanese friend of mine explained very well the differences between European housing and Japanese housing. He said that in the European house people are picked up from the outside and asked to come into the home where all the important aspects of life are dealt with and executed. Here in Japan, however, the house seems in many cases much more to be what we call a 'wardrobe', a room behind a stage where change of clothes takes place in order to go outside onto the stage. The stage in this case is the outside world, and it may be the company, restaurant, or outside social life in general. This kind of concept seems to me to have its origin in an outdoor-living style of some sort of tropical region. But here in the northern areas the house has to be, for the major part of the year, the actual stage. In my opinion, freeing this areas from the Japanese notions of uniformity and uniqueness and the attempt to maintain a culture which extends from Kyushu to the northern part of Hokkaido may be one of the main visas for change here in Hokkaido.

Chairman: It sounds like criticism to us indeed. Until a few years ago, I was using an electric blanket and so on — though that was not here but in Tokyo. That is, of course, related to the questions of how houses are built and so on. You have given us various comments and I wonder if there're any remarks from the Hokkaido side.

Mr. Isao Miyajima (The Mainichi Newspapers): Indeed I think you have accurately depicted the present state. As it has been commented it's been only one hundred and ten years since the Japanese came to this island and the most of the people came from warmer areas to Hokkaido. And they have brought with them their ways of life which were geared to a warmer and more rainy climate. Thus their housing structures were oriented toward absorbing humidity as much as possible. I mentioned earlier that in Hokkaido there's about 1200mm of snow and rainfall. And compared to European countries we have a higher rate of humidity. And as regards heating, in Europe it means to warm up rooms whereas I think many people here think of exposing oneself to warmth in front of a heating apparatus. In the case of Europe all the houses are very tightly constructed, a method which would lock too much moisture into the house in the case of Japan. Although much improvement has been made more recently, the wisdom of life of the Honshuites was so strong that it was difficult for us to shift to new ideas. In other words, all the people who have moved up from Honshu and other areas of Japan to Hokkaido could not get away from their traditional ways of thinking. This is something from which we must move away. The northernmost part of Hokkaido is Wakkanai at 45°N and the southernmost island of the Ryukyu islands is at about 20°N. In other words, the Japanese islands are very long and narrow chain of islands from the south to north. For those who live in Japan, if they were given an option of living either in north or south, probably people would opt to live in the south because there would be fewer heating costs. Be it a Norwegian or someone else, I think those northern countries really do not have the option. If someone in Sweden wishes to live in a warmer area, he has to flee to some other country. Whereas in Japan I think there's a lack of feeling amongst the people that he is going to settle himself in one area. So there is a need to change that awareness as the first step.

Chairman: Mr. Fushikida, would you like to supplement anything?

Mr. Fushikida: Mr. Miyajima has just made a very perceptive remark. During the governorship of Kiyotaka Kuroda much investment was made for various construction projects. Less natural energy also led to an outflow of social energy in the form of Japanese moving into the south, into Manchuria and so on. We were left behind, I believe, with the task of establishing our own unique culture.

Chairman: I wonder if there are any questions or doubts about Hokkaido from the foreign correspondents.



Mr. Utterström: Mr. Ohta spoke about the lack of information coming from regions similar to Hokkaido. This is no doubt true, in part because there's no economy that is strong enough to send reporters from, let's say, this region to Scandinavia — particularly to Norway, Sweden, and Finland. Because of that communication gap there must be lack of understanding concerning our respective methods of heating our houses. The only contact I have had so far with the general public's opinion about Sweden here in Japan is what is called 'free sex'. Everything depends on heating systems in one way or another. Before this free sex we have to have houses heated well enough to do it in. In order to inform the inhabitants of Hokkaido how we heat up not our bodies but our houses you ought to send some technicians and journalists together to Scandinavia to see what our heating systems are like.

Chairman: We should expand the cope of discussion from just housing. Let us take up life and culture in the north as a whole. Perhaps you could present some suggestions for Hokkaido or any other kinds of comments.

Mr. Toshiro Ohta (The Hokkaido Shimbun Press): Together with Mr. Nakano we went to Chitose Airport to meet you. However, it was snowing and the plane wasn't arriving. So we waited at the airport for 3 hours and then finally gave up and came back. At Chitose Airport there wasn't much heavy snowfall but once we got back to the city of Sapporo we found it was snowing rather heavily. We wondered whether it was really impossible for airplanes to land with so little snow. We speak of having an international airport but if that's the situation we can't expect Chitose Airport to perform as an international airport. If the snow covers the runway and it can't be used, why don't we just turn the runway over just like turning a fried egg over on a frying pan and utilize the other side of the runway. But there are some airports in the northern Europe and I wonder if similar problems occur with the airports in northern Europe or not. Anyway what I felt was that we should improve the functioning of the airport here. Are airports in snowy northern European countries closed frequently?

Mr. Kåre Hauge (Embassy of Norway): I am not a big expert on the technicalities of airports but I think we are talking about 2 separate things when we discuss whether an airport remains open or not. We're talking on the one hand about visibility and on the other about technical equipment on the ground. What you can do something about is the latter. If you have the technical equipment to clear the runways fast enough, the airport will stay open even if it's snowing very heavily. But if it's blowing at the same time to the extent that visibility comes below, let's say, 200 meters, I think most airports in the world will close. That problem is very difficult to do anything about as long as you don't build a dome over the airport.

Chairman: What I hear is that in the United Kingdom there's frequent fog and therefore they have automatic landing equipment. I wonder if Mr. Foley from Reuters have anything to say about this.

Mr. James Foley (Reuters, United Kingdom): We still have to divert aircraft very often to Manchester from London or even up to Scotland. And there's a very long trip, a very unpleasant trip in fact, by train overnight to Edinborough. So you see there's no way of beating Mother Nature in this respect.

Chairman: We feel very much encouraged. Next comment, please.

Mr. Samuel J. Jameson (Los Angeles Times, U.S.A.): On the topic of airplanes, I would like to ask a question. You all know that airfares across the Pacific are much more expensive than airfares across the Atlantic. Today you can fly from Los Angeles to New York for less than a hundred dollars. That's five times the distance between Tokyo and Sapporo and yet the airfare from Tokyo to Sapporo is almost the same. Has there been any movement in Hokkaido against Japan Air Lines and All Nippon Airways to get the airfare down?

Chairman: Somebody who is familiar with the air transportation problem. I hear there's dumping done in the international flights but nevertheless the airfares are still very high. Someone on the Japanese side who is familiar with this problem?

Mr. Katsusuke Nagano (NHK): I don't claim to have a special knowledge but the passenger fares, be it ground transportation or anything else, usually decrease as the distance grows greater. If Hokkaido were to be situated 5 times more distant from Tokyo than it is at present, the prices would come down almost to the level that you have in the States. And another point, with which Mr. Jameson is familiar, is that there's a transportation system called JNR (Japan National Railways) in Japan which even though operating in the red continues to function. If airfares go much below ground transportation fares, then the JNR will be much, much harder hit. Therefore you have to look at the theory of capital. You have to try to make both parties live. I agree that the airfares are cheap in the States and that's why, as Mr. Jameson probably knows, either you have automobiles or air transportation and the railway is used mainly as freight transportation. But then people are becoming more aware again of the importance of transportation with the increased cost of oil and other fuel. But if we do not raise the charge, the industry can not continue to exist. Thinking of this fact, you may have to consider raising the airfare in the U.S.A., especially at this time of oil shortage.

Mr. Jameson: Just a quick comment. A 17-hour train ride is not an adequate substitute for an airplane.

Mr. Roy K. Essoyan (AP, U.S.A.): I'd like to answer Mr. Jameson. I think it's a matter of relative standards of living. Airfares here may be proportionately 5 times higher than those in the US, but rice in Japan is 5 times what we pay for rice in the US, not to mention beef which is ten times. It's just the question of cost of living of the society which we live in. The US has the lowest cost of living, that's all.

Mr. Nagano: The appreciation of the yen obviously may have affected Mr. Jameson to make this comment, but in Japan at the same time 'time is money' so I wonder what will happen in the future. JNR ground transportation fares will stay level and air transportation fares may not develop to the level that is enjoyed in the US, but still if more passengers begin to use air transportation I think the prices will come down. So why don't you just wait for a while.

Chairman: I feel we have been talking in the forum of Japan-US businessmen's conference. But let's divert the subject from economic matters and move onto next problem.



Miss Ariane Detloff (Welt der Arbeit, Federal Republic of Germany): I understand that you are trying to expand tourism to Hokkaido and of course the transportation problem is related to this, but I see another problem. What is the actual level of pollution of the air and water in Hokkaido?

Chairman: In Hokkaido an Environment Assessment Law has been put into effect recently. Is there someone who is familiar with the situation on the Hokkaido side? Who can explain? One gentleman from the Hokkaido Government who is here as an observer.

Mr. Masaaki Araya (Government of Hokkaido): I will try to answer even though this is not my area of specialization. In the case of Hokkaido, when we compare our location with the industrial areas of Honshu, we are still lagging in terms of industrial development. So, for instance, as regards atmospheric contamination, we are still better off than those congested areas of Honshu. We have relatively clean earth and remaining forests. But still the development of Hokkaido might have given you some idea that industry is going to be elaborated here and naturally this will bring to Hokkaido some of the things that are happening in Honshu. We certainly have to look at the problems that we will have to go through and try to make improvements on those matters in order to prevent pollution in Hokkaido. When we speak of natural environment we think of presenting the wild life that we have presently. In order to protect nature we have a law to maintain the beauty of the environment in Hokkaido, for instance, the forests. Thus there are some limitations cast on, for instance, deforestation. As for preserving the environment, as Mr. Chairman has pointed out, the law concerning environmental assessment was adopted last year and was made effective this January. In fact the establishment of this law concerning environmental assessment in Hokkaido was the first of its kind in Japan. Also the problem of tourism was raised. Hokkaido is one of the areas in Japan that, in terms of scale and size, has a bigger tourist attraction. But this must also be done in keeping with the preservation of environment. In particular as regards the winter season I hope that a tourist center on an international scale will be developed here.

Chairman: I'd like to change the subject.

Mr. Helmut Rack (Swiss Broadcasting Corp., Switzerland): This morning we heard some reports about the exchange of information and I'd like to add something to this point. When we think about information, we think about mass communication, news, radio, TV stations and so on. I'd like to add another point and that is that the basis of this information is the exchange of people. I mean not only the exchange of professionals but the exchange of young people - - - that is young people from Europe coming here to Japan, especially here to Hokkaido. And young people from here going abroad: by young people I mean 20 years old or so living in families. For example, foreigners come from Europe for 3 weeks or so and live with families. In the exchange, young Japanese people go abroad and live with a European family. Through this kind of personal contact we can create a substantial basis for the exchange of information. Especially in western European countries, this exchange of young people has been done between countries for many years already, and works pretty well. Here in Japan, we have 2 big problems if we take up this suggestion. One is that Japan is far away and it's very expensive especially for young people to come here. Even if they find a cheap ticket, they have to pay 200 thousand yen. This is one problem. The second is the language. Europeans do not learn the Japanese language. The students are increasing but nevertheless Japanese is not yet commonly studied. I'd like to see in the future more encouragement for those youngsters

in Europe to take up Japanese. And there should be some kind of foundation but not on a national level but here on a prefectural level. Once this initiative is taken correspondence could be initiated in other countries in order to enhance the exchange of people and this seems important to me.

Chairman: That is covered under Theme 2 and we'd like to discuss the proposal made by Mr. Rack after the coffee break.

Mr. Peter R. Krebs: I really didn't want to initiate a discussion about heating systems. I wanted to initiate a discussion on true regionalization. My question to my Japanese colleagues is how independent is it now in terms of using development funds and taxes. On your side, did you do or do you do something to create new forms of living? For instance, just to give one example, are local Hokkaido housing construction companies giving examples to the people of how they could construct with their own money a house which is fitted to this environment, or are the houses still built by companies from Honshu?

Chairman: I'm sure that point will be responded to by someone from Hokkaido.

Mr. Ohta: There are various funds injected into the economy of Hokkaido and a large portion of these is subsidized from the national government. This is one special feature of Hokkaido compared to other municipalities. There is also the Hokkaido Development Agency. Looking at this as a newspaper man I can only term this duplicate administrative system rather paradoxical. I hope that the necessity for this sort of duplicate system will disappear as soon as possible. In terms of politics, we still are a little behind. Was it last year or the year before last that our newspaper presented a problem as to how we could invest and promote the establishment of local industries based on local capital? This is a sort of question that we still have on our shoulders on a continual basis. I think these are very important problems. Your question has really pointed out the core of the issue.

Chairman: Concerning housing, too, I understand that there's a special institute or center that provides instruction. I'd like to have some other comments as well.

Mr. Tatsuo Nakano (Hokkaido Culture Broadcasting Co., Ltd.): I'd like to ask a question to Mr. Buvac. In relation to tourism you have given various remarks and have said that industrialization is not the only way to improve the standard of living. You've also stated that the income from tourism is in some season higher than that of a textile worker. When we speak of tourism, the central goal is to attract people. With what do you attract people? You may have natural scenery, historical legacy and so on. In the case of Yugoslavia, what is the attitude toward promoting tourism while at the same time conserving natural scenery or natural environment? I understand that you have many facilities for tourism but I wonder what sort of measures are taken to maintain a balance between those facilities and the natural environment. In 1984 the Winter Olympics will be held in Yugoslavia. In the case of Sapporo, because of the Olympic Games the city became modernized; in other words, the Olympic Games did not have the mere effect of attracting tourists but it also had the effect of modernizing the city and so on. In holding the 1984 Winter Olympics I think you proposed that there should be cooperation between Sarajevo and Sapporo. What sort of specific ideas do you have for cooperation toward the 1984 Olympics?



Mr. Drago Buvac (Tanjug News Agency, Yugoslavia): First about the economic significance of tourism. It is especially difficult for developing countries to encourage large-scale industry because they are short of capital — and then there's the problem of a market, and so on. But one of the reasons to develop tourism, of course, in the first phase, is that the most attractive thing for the foreigners is the beautiful nature, the clean and uncrowded sea, and so on. But on the basis, of course, it's impossible to develop mass tourism. So we started to modernize tourism with modern hotels and motels, and so on. Of course many tourists are now sorry for such development because they would like to see Yugoslavia as pastoral tourist country, but our economic situation is in the opposite direction. Of course, there are some industrial centers near the sea and these are polluted more than the other parts of the country but I don't see now big problems yet in Yugoslavia. We are aware that in the future it will be a problem and as in the other countries we also have different laws, and so on.

I am afraid I have no concrete proposal on the exchange between Sarajevo and Sapporo. It is said very often that the Japanese are people who want to learn and study from other nations. I think Yugoslavians are not superficial and we should like to study and also learn from Japan. Especially in that case, I think that organizing the Winter Olympics is very complex problem and as I said it is connected not only with the development of sports but also development of the town, and so on. It demands different organizational construction and other activities. I see in that direction you have here in Sapporo good experience and maybe some group from Sarajevo, in the course of organizing the Winter Olympics in our country, can study and learn from you. Of course, on the side of the press, it would also be very useful for us to write about your rich experience because, as it is known, Yugoslavians are not such good organizers, and we have no good management ability sometimes.

= INTERMISSION =

Chairman (Mr. Pierre Brisard, AFP, France): This is the last session. It is to be about Themes 2 and 3. However, Mr. Derksen of Canadian Embassy would like to ask a question on the previous theme.

Mr. Derksen (Embassy of Canada): In northern Canada the local governments have a great deal of difficulty in dealing with a population that goes to the north only for a short period of time, perhaps four or five years. They make a lot of money and then go back into the southern area of Canada where they feel it's more livable. I believe that Hokkaido has a similar kind of problem in that people come here for a short period of time, sent here by their head offices, but their anticipation is that they will return to Tokyo or one of the major centers in a relatively short period of time. In Canada the effect is that local populations in the north don't care very much about their community. They are more concerned with making money and getting out rather than building up a community itself. And I'm just wondering to what extent this presents a problem to Hokkaido and what the Government is doing to attempt to combat the effect of this kind of situation. Mr. Jameson has been explaining to me during the coffee break that you have a word here 'Satchon' which indicates that you are familiar with this problem of the transient laborer — in this case, the single, unattached male. I'm just wondering what the broader ramifications of this situation are.

Chairman: Does anybody on the Hokkaido side have any comment on what Mr. Derksen has said?

Mr. Atsuyuki Mitsuhashi (The Yomiuri Shimibun): I'm also a typical 'Satchon'. Two years ago I came to Sapporo. Ever since then I have been living alone. Whenever I have time I love walking or strolling through Susukino, the night-life area of Sapporo. Concerning Sapporo or, more correctly, Hokkaido as a whole, I would not consider myself a nationalist, but I do think I have some special affection for Hokkaido as compared to Tokyo, Kawasaki, or Yokohama. Rather than living in those polluted areas, I believe this city allows more comfortable living. Having come to Sapporo I feel I'm very happy. Winter is very good. And, if possible I'd like to call my family up here and settle here in Sapporo.

During the coffee break I had a discussion on the matter of housing with more experienced people and we came to a conclusion that this is something special to Japan. Having come through the ordeal of the war and a rather austere life-style, it has become one of special features of the Japanese to put up with Honshu attitudes.

Once winter passes then spring comes, and the period of spring through fall is much longer than winter alone. I agree that the climatic conditions of Japan have bred some basic features of the Japanese orientation. Of course, I'd like to live in a more modern house. The one I am living right now is a ten-story high block flat and because the wind is strong sometimes water pipes freeze, and, therefore, in the morning we cannot get water. But I believe this was built by someone with the Honshu orientation. And this sort of thing must be improved as well.

Chairman: Many people share your desires.

Mr. Kazumi Takahashi (Kushiro Press): I live in an area called Kushiro which is farther east from Mr. Hayashi's home. We have a short history of only 110 years since the island was opened. And the majority of the Hokkaidoites have come from the mainland of Japan. I think the generation of Hokkaidoites who were born in Hokkaido and have nothing against spending all their life in Hokkaido emerged only 50 years ago. Also, in my opinion, true nationalists of Hokkaido were born only after the Second World War, about 30 years ago. Thus, all aspects of culture, housing, food, and so on in Hokkaido have not been fully geared to living in this cold northern region.

As was mentioned before, I think many people have the feeling they want to make money and once they make money they will return to Honshu. I think many of the people especially before the war have that feeling. And I don't say that there is none today. There still are, I think, people whose eyes are more directed toward the central government. And whether people are aware of it or not, I think many people in this country, in this island, still lack the awareness to develop Hokkaido. So, before even coming to the question of interchange with other northern regions, I think it is necessary to foster a feeling among Hokkaidoites that once they were born on this island they must be prepared to contribute themselves to this island and die on this island. This is one of the important tasks for mass media here as well. Even if present residents were not born in Hokkaido, I hope they will work with the conviction that since they are living in Hokkaido they should work to improve this island so that they will be ready to bury their bones on this island as well. Thank you.



Mr. Nagano: Let me supplement briefly. Last year NHK carried out a nation-wide investigation of such awareness. Sorry to say that I can't report in detail but if my memory is not wrong, a question was presented to Hokkaidoites; "Would you like to settle in Hokkaido?" I think 92% or 93% or those who answered the questionnaire said "Yes, we would like to settle in Hokkaido." There was another question: "If you are going to move to some other prefecture, which prefecture would you like to move to?" And the highest ratio was Kyoto. No. 2 was Shizuoka Prefecture. I think this really indicates the mentality of the Hokkaido people. Hokkaido doesn't have a long history. Therefore they would like to go some place where the history is very long like Kyoto or some warm place like Shizuoka. And to these people, about 7% of the respondents who said they would like to move out of Hokkaido were asked the question, "Why do you want to do so?" and they said "Because it's cold."

Mr. Kaoru Kitagawa (The Muroran Minpoh Co., Ltd.): Let us look back at the history of Hokkaido Development. After the war, when the land was ravished and few resources left, the people thought that the only remaining land in Japan that could be developed was Hokkaido. So the government also stressed the development of Hokkaido and now that the other parts of Japan are developed and that there's a plenty of rice production, people have come to feel there is no need to let Hokkaido produce rice. In the minds of Hokkaidoites, there's also been this psychology that they're always looking toward the south. This kind of psychology of turning to the south, to Tokyo, is gradually fading away, as Hokkaido has established its own position in Japan. Of course Hokkaido is much colder than any other area of Japan. But when we turn our eyes to northern markets, we can find markets in Canada, in the USSR, in Sakhalin and so on. Therefore we should try to find a way to survive in the future in the northern regions. In order to liberate ourselves from this inferiority complex, I think, it's necessary for us to turn our eyes to the north — for instance, toward a conception of "northern regions" as a habitat for human life.

On the question of tourism, I would like to present a question to Mr. Buvac from Yugoslavia. Nowadays we find the expression 'productive tourism' among Hokkaido supporters. They say tourism is not simply something you show but something you produce as well. There's a location called Toyotomi on a site of 15 thousand hectares where they are raising cattle. This could be a source of very large-scale tourism, and some people may suggest that this site of productive activity could be included in tourist routes. There are also squid fishing vessels which could become a source of tourism. In other words, not simply show places but also production and tourism could be tied together. I think this is one direction in which we should proceed. I wonder what sort of views you have for this combination of production and tourism activities in case of Yugoslavia.

Mr. Buvac: I don't want you to get the impression that tourism is the only primary activity in Yugoslavia. Of course, tourism is very important, but it can encompass many other sectors as well. Yugoslavia was an agricultural country and we have many problems in exporting our agricultural products. But near the tourist resorts there are also small agricultural complexes which are being developed for supplying the resorts. Of course, then to maintain the tourist facilities is an additional job for other industries like electrical equipment, different kinds of furniture, and so on.

Finally I should like to report once more that a few years ago we were in a kind of crisis of tourism because the first resources were exhausted. Nature itself is now connected with other activities, for instance, boating which is very popular in Yugoslavia. Once again I should not like you to get an impression that it is simple. We have made many mistakes and the necessity to improve was a positive force for Yugoslavia's economic sector.

Chairman: I want to thank Mr. Derksen for the fascinating question which interested our colleagues of Hokkaido press very much. We have on subject 3 some interesting communications which pointed out the necessity of fermenting the exchange of information between Hokkaido and other regions. One of our contributors, Mr. Marks, developed an increasing interest in Hokkaido. I think we should examine now what concrete steps can be taken to increase this exchange of information.

Mr. Frederick Marks (UPI, U.S.A.): I gave my report and hoped that someone would have something to say. As the discussion progressed this afternoon, Mr. Takahashi brought up the subject of members of the Japanese press coming to Hokkaido and spending a few years. It struck me that in a discussion in Tokyo his remarks sounded remarkably similar to those of foreign correspondents in Tokyo. What I think we've got is a situation in which Japan is difficult to understand and it's even more difficult for foreigners to understand. It seems to me that by some of the remarks expressed today people in Hokkaido believe that the rest of Japan has difficulty in understanding what Hokkaido is all about.

But it gets complicated, as you see, in making these exchanges of information and other things. The thought occurred to me that one of the difficulties in Japan is that it is essentially very difficult to exchange information. What I mean by that is the Japanese are willing to exchange information but they're not willing to go the extra mile and make real exchanges with other parts of the world.

In the field of journalism in other areas of the world, for instance, America, my own country, newspapers, radios, TV stations, news agencies, etc. have foreign people working. In my organization we have several Japanese working at our New York office. But with the exception of foreign language newspapers here in Japan, both Kyodo and Jiji have some foreign newsmen working on the translation but with those exceptions I don't know one single foreigner who works for Japanese newspaper or TV station, and so on. I wonder if this is one of the difficulties in exchanging information. Is it that we can exchange up to a point but we really can't trade experiences over a period of time by working in the Japanese environment? This could be one of the difficulties in formulating any exchange of information. I'd like to hear some comments on this from the Japanese side.



Chairman: On the Japanese side, does anybody have any comments on what Mr. Marks has just said?

Mr. Nagano: I think he's absolutely right. Almost no foreigners are working in Japanese media. In the earlier session I think Mr. Rack made a suggestion which relates directly to what Mr. Marks said right now. Mr. Rack said that the exchange of information is very important and at the same time there must be exchanges of people or interchange between peoples. Through such individual experience people must come to mutual understanding. That will provide the basis for international understanding. Mr. Rack said there's much exchange of this sort in Europe, so why is there none between Europe and Japan? If this sort of exchange could be carried out in the field of mass media, there could be important ramifications or ripple effects of this rather than having some people working in other areas like iron and steel industries. I think it would be more effective. However, as was mentioned during the morning session, there must be mutual demand in existence or we shall not have any exchange of people either. When I was living in Switzerland, I saw many Italians and Spanish around and that meant a sort of human exchange because there were needs or demands on both sides. I hope you won't misunderstand me. When we come to the question of whether such basic needs exist on both sides between Japan and Europe, I think that is rather questionable. Although both sides may have desired to do or intent to do so, when we come to organizational questions there are problems. For instance, even if I asked Mr. Marks to come and work with us I think he'd have problems with, for example, the language, with the basic differences in mentality. Especially in the case of journalism, which is based on the mentality and the traditions of a country or history of a country. There is much information we should deal with on the grounds of such tradition so I'm not trying to discourage that sort of idea, but what I am trying to say is basically that there must be mutual demand for this sort of thing.

Chairman: Mr. Marks would like to answer.

Mr. Marks: I think Mr. Nagano brought up a very vital point, of principally the language problem. We all know that that is the difficulty but in my experience language problem is becoming less and less a problem as far as the exchanges go between Japan and other countries. I perhaps belong to an earlier generation of foreign correspondents and I certainly have no fluency in Japanese but I'd estimate that these days foreign correspondents who do come to Japan do have a knowledge of language, both spoken and written. Estimates are very difficult to make but I'd say at least 60% or maybe more of the foreign correspondents in Japan now do have a working knowledge of the language. Over 10 years ago that figure may have been 20% or less. But the point is that other countries certainly recognize the importance of Japan and they need to ensure that the people they send to Japan to report on what is happening in Japan do have knowledge of the language and are in turn helping the rest of the world to understand Japan. So I think the language problem is still perhaps a problem but getting less to be a problem and I'd predict that in a very few years that there won't be any problem at all.

Chairman: I think Mr. Krebs has something to say.

Mr. Krebs: I think the difficulties in language and mentality with regard to international cooperation tend to be exaggerated a little bit. This has been my experience during the last few years, so let me talk about international cooperation in another field than journalism. Let me give an example. Right after the war we in Germany had to rebuild Berlin, as it was destroyed by the war. And a lot of public funds had been invested in the rebuilding of big apartment buildings. The city of Berlin invited architects from all over the world in some sort of competition to discover new methods in the architectural design of public apartment buildings. And these kind of buildings came out so new, so attractive, so much more attractive than traditional German ones that this was one of the reasons that people become attracted to Berlin. We had difficulty in attracting people to East Berlin because it was separated from West Germany. So let me give this as a possible proposal. Why not invite architects from northern countries other than Japan to create or help or at least to try to find new ways in constructing buildings which are fit for this weather and climate? It may come out so attractive that people will want to move to Hokkaido, being attracted by this new style of houses.

Chairman: Mr. Ohta from the Hokkaido Shimbun, please.

Mr. Ohta: I have one question and one comment on the problem of awareness. Mr. Marks, this is a question to you. You spoke about Dallas where you're going to build a UPI communication center. Would you kindly give us an introduction to this new center?

My second comment is in regard to what Mr. Rack had said about communication. I completely agree with you when we speak of exchange of information, but a mere exchange of raw information without the knowledge of the cultural background will not suffice. That's why there's the necessity for exchange of people. And the exchange of people should come before exchange of information, I believe.

In the exchange of journalists among newspaper associations, of course because of the nature of individual newspaper there may be barriers posed. But still, once one gets into living with other people then he'll start to learn and know things better. I think this proposal was very interesting, and I feel that we'd all benefit greatly from such an exchange.

Chairman: On Theme 2, I think we have made very clear the necessity of all kinds of information. In the mass media field this is the most important. We have also pointed out that there must be mutual demand for information and that it would be desirable that these exchanges should be started on the human level. We have also pointed out the difficulty in carrying out completely these exchanges of information. We are coming now to Theme 3, "Suggestions regarding the future of Hokkaido".

Mr. Ohta: I had a question in my taking the floor as posed to Mr. Marks about the Dallas Center. If it is going to be very elaborate we could find another opportunity later.



Mr. Marks: I'll be very brief. What we are finding out is that we no longer have to centralize our operations. With the advent of these extremely sophisticated communication channels including computers and very high speed circuits, up to 10,000 words a minute, we have discovered we no longer have to centralize to the extent where we have a huge New York staff. We could have one segment of our operation in Hokkaido if we wanted to, because communications are so sophisticated enough that being in Hokkaido is only a matter of being a tenth of a second away from New York or an office right next door. This is true in Japan. I know Kyodo News Agency is continuing their technological advances in computers which can automatically translate Roman letters to Chinese characters.

You can decentralize your operations. In decentralizing your operation, I believe we are going to see a de-emphasis on the main centers of communication like Tokyo or New York.

Chairman: Now we come to Theme 3 "Suggestions regarding the future of Hokkaido". We have heard on that subject why interesting communication on cultural relations between Hungary and Hokkaido and another one on the current situation of BAM Railway.

I think we could now discuss the problem of Hokkaido. In my opinion, Hokkaido has many problems but for the future it has 2 major problems; these are economic development and attracting larger population, because, though it occupies a large part of the national area, Hokkaido supports only a small percentage of population.

On the economic development I can offer the example of what has been done in France. France has a problem not unlike that of Hokkaido. It means that industry in France is heavily concentrated in the Paris area and in the north and in few other parts. And a large part of France has been and still is undeveloped economically from the industrial point of view. There's a problem in France that's been going on for at least 15 years which is designed to attract industry and industrialists to the less developed regions. Since industrialists more or less are not interested in sentimental discourse but mainly in material incentive, they are willing to build new plants and activities in the less developed regions only for monetary gain. I'll give you the gist of it. First the premium given to the industrialists who build a new plant in the region. It can go up to 25% of the cost of the new investment which is a grant from the government. It also provides fiscal privileges. One is that they don't have to pay any business tax for the first 5 years. Finally those who take advantage of the program may receive long-term loans on very favorable terms. Also those who transfer the seat of their activities from the Paris region to the less developed regions may get up to 60% of the cost of transfer from the government. Finally, those who stick to the Paris region, particularly Paris and the immediate surrounding areas, on the contrary, are penalized. If you want to build a new plant in the Paris area, you have to pay equivalent in francs 23,000yen per tsubo (3.954 sq. yds.) for any new office buildings. This might make you to think about what could be done to attract industries to Hokkaido.

Does anyone on the side of foreign press have any idea on the future development of Hokkaido?

Mr. Utterström: This is exactly the problem in Sweden. A lot of people choose to leave the country although colonization there is much older than Hokkaido. But one tremendous difference is to support or make people stay up in the north. The tax burden is generally heavy in Sweden, but people in the north have a less heavy tax burden than the people in

the middle and the south of Sweden. And there are other things as one could do in these countries, for instance, let the people that are living here year round have cheaper flights, which is being considered in Sweden, in the north, to go down south for holidays and things like that.

Mr. Nagano: I was listening to Mr. Brisard and Mr. Utterström's observations and I was very surprised. I think Hokkaido is in a sense moving backward. In the past we received a budget from the Development Agency and Hokkaido as autonomous body was only responsible for providing a low percentage of money. But starting last year, the burden on the part of Hokkaido government was increased. In that sense, we look at measures that are taken in France regarding the less developed areas as surprising. And Mr. Utterström's statement that those people living in the north have a less burden than people living in the southern part is a fresh surprise to me. The fact that I'm surprised to hear this indicates the lack of information exchange. If such things as I've been hearing are true concerning cold areas and less developed areas and if this is very common in many countries and if measures taken in Sweden and France and other regions had come to Japan long time ago then we might have been able to avoid that we have to go through in the future years.

Mr. Kitagawa: I have somewhat different opinions from Mr. Nagano. For instance, we were familiar with the special measures taken in France but it is another question why Hokkaido couldn't take similar measures. It goes back to the industrial structure of Hokkaido. If we look at machinery, we need contractors and subcontractors in order to develop a particular industry. That is to say, the Hokkaido economy has a weak point in that there is no related surrounding industry. Subcontractors and middle or small-sized industries are required, so lack of those smaller surrounding industries are the reason for Hokkaido's backwardness. That's why even if we provide tax incentives for Hokkaido, bigger companies are not willing to come here. For a long time, assistance given to Hokkaido industry was higher than those given in the Honshu area but they still did not work. The reason for companies not wanting to come to Hokkaido is basically that they had difficulty finding supporting industry.

Another problem is the lack of education facilities. People who were transferred to Hokkaido thought about the education of their offsprings and Hokkaido simply did not offer adequate educational facilities. We were behind and that's why people hesitated to bring along their families, or even themselves. That's a sort of a bottleneck in Hokkaido's development. Unless Hokkaido overcomes the handicap I mentioned to you it's not going to make any significant development. At least that's the way I feel.

Mr. Takahashi: We are speaking of proposals with regard to Hokkaido so we should just accept the proposal offered here. A gentleman from NHK said that there needs to be a demand for information exchange, if such information exchange is to be conducted. Also such information exchange should offer some kind of benefit. The fact that this kind of meeting is taking place indicates that it is only in the recent years that awareness of the people has increased to try more for Hokkaido. Since we have shows that there is in fact a demand in Hokkaido. There'll be a way naturally for us to seek more information from other areas. In that sense we'll be able to receive more openly and accept information from abroad while at the same time offering benefits in one way or another to those people in northern regions abroad.



Mr. Hauge: It is a heavy responsibility to give advice to our Japanese friends about the future of Hokkaido. When you are asked for advice, you will get different kinds of advice depending upon whom you are asking. For my part, Mr. Brisard, you will have to forgive me for disagreeing with you on some points. For instance, that Hokkaido should try to acquire a larger population. You would have to fill up Hokkaido with 4 or 5 times as many people as you now have to come up to the national average. There would be houses all over the place. But I would like to mention one other thing, too. Scandinavians at least live in their house and I have to live in my house. If we don't, we don't enjoy our life. Maybe you should take a hint from Ainu as we Scandinavians have done. We dig a basement. The basement is the cheapest part of your house. It doesn't cost anything to maintain and it costs very little to heat, because you have at least some insulation in all directions if it is dug well into the ground. Therefore in almost all regions Scandinavian houses contain basements. And you double your living space right there. But let me come to my conclusion, namely, that whether you talk about subjects relating to the life and culture of tomorrow, or the exchange of information on the future of Hokkaido, a visit of Hokkaido journalists to the northern regions of Europe and the western hemisphere seems an obvious necessity. Theoretical knowledge is one thing, but living, practical knowledge obtained through your own experience is something else. And this last is a very useful thing to have. So, let me conclude by saying that if you arrange a Northern Japan / Hokkaido Journalists Excursion to the northern regions of another part of the globe, I think you will be well received and hopefully you will have some results to bring back afterwards.

Chairman: I am sorry, but we are running out of time. So I think we will have to close our discussion. Today we have heard a lot of different points of view. We have defined a lot of problems that are facing Hokkaido. We have talked about the value of sports, of tourism, of the development of industry, of the increase in population and of the attitude of the Honshu people toward Hokkaido, and we have tried to find out how Hokkaido can attract those who come to stay. We have also talked about practical problems like how to save energy. We have talked about the necessity of making the housing of Hokkaido more suitable to the climate. And we have even at one time this morning, had a very poetic intervention by Mr. Miyajima, who tried to rehabilitate the good name of snow. I think we have pointed out what the problems of Hokkaido are. And now I think we have to find out how to solve them, which could be the theme of the next meeting, of the future meeting, because I think I speak for all my fellow foreign correspondents here when I say that we have enjoyed this meeting very much. We have enjoyed having frank talks with our colleagues of Hokkaido press and we hope we will meet again. Thank you very much.

Chairman (Mr. Masayoshi Tanabe, Hokkaido Broadcasting Co., Ltd.): I have been wanting to make my own general observations but Mr. Brisard has stolen my thunder. He said practically everything I wanted to say. But let me just make the comment that particularly among the observations by foreign colleagues there were many interesting points which interested me personally as well as as a member of the chair group. For example, Mr. Krebs from the German T.V. Network told about the homes in Europe being a sort of stage while the Japanese homes are 'gardrobe'; this is a very interesting analogy. By extension I can even say that for those who live in cold Hokkaido escape from the cold is a constant goal. But the governor, our leader of Hokkaido, I believe, should take up the theme that we should not escape from the cold. I think for us, Hokkaidoites, in a manner of speaking, this is a revolutionary conceptual change challenging our most basic orientations.

Mr. Utterström from Sweden said that free sex is only possible if the space is warmed up adequately which is very acute journalistic observation.

As regards the steep airfare we were challenged if we were not making presentations to JAL or other carriers. I think that was a very interesting point. As one of the Hokkaido journalists, I think it a worthwhile theme for us to pursue a big mass-media campaign, but Hokkaido Hosho is a private broadcasting company and ANA & JAL are our sponsors, so we have to play it sort of easily. So I am in a tough spot. But nevertheless I do understand the significance of this question.

Mr. Rack from Switzerland suggested a greater exchange of young people. I believe it's very good for young people to go abroad, see other countries, and meet other peoples. It's a great thing for improving our communication and understanding.

Then, one observation made by the Japanese side, by Mr. Kitagawa of Muroran Minpoh, that productive activity that can also be an asset for tourism.

Mr. Krebs talked about inviting architects from other northern regions to compete for building designs, architectural ideas and so on. He suggested that perhaps we could produce some interesting, innovative ideas. And the suggestion for building another communication center here in Sapporo is also interesting.

All the observations can be interpreted as worthwhile words of counsel to Hokkaido. But Mr. Brisard, in particular, told us about French Government's assistance and penalties affecting the movement of industries or building of homes and offices. They were very interesting comments.

More specifically, Mr. Hauge asked us a question about Ainu. Why don't we learn from the ancient wisdom of Ainu with their semi-underground dwellings? I think that was a very concrete and precise suggestion.



#### Concluding Comment by Chair Group

As Chairman, I would like to summarize the results of the "Northern Regions Journalists Meeting" as my closing speech.

Needless to say, we have gathered here not to form hasty conclusions among the participating members for problems shared by the peoples of the northern regions. The aim of this meeting was to offer an opportunity to journalists from countries and areas in the northern regions to promote mutual understanding and exchange information and views on the enhancement of life and culture of people living in cold climates.

In view of this, the Government of Hokkaido has taken a positive step toward the promotion of the conception of the northern region by inviting 53 journalists from 14 countries to exchange experiences, views and suggestions and to deepen mutual understanding in a friendly atmosphere at this newly established Hoppoken Center / Northern Regions Center. I am convinced of its significance, which, I am sure, is also apparent to all of the participants of the meeting.

From the comments and reports discussed at the meeting, I have learned that there remain many problems to be solved for the improvement of daily life and culture and for the future development of the northern regions. I feel that journalists have an important role to play in the exchange of concrete information both regionally and internationally, to find solutions that will contribute to a more satisfying life style in the northern hemisphere.

I sincerely hope that the success of the meeting, held in keeping with the new conception of the northern regions, will lead to a second and a third meeting of this kind to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and mutual regard among peoples living under similar northern climatic conditions.

I would like to thank on behalf of the participants, the Government of Hokkaido, City of Sapporo and Hoppoken Center / Northern Regions Center for holding this memorable meeting. Also I would like to extend our appreciation to the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association and the Foreign Press Center of Japan for their cooperation.

Thank you very much.