



photo by UPI



Ted Shimizu

Dateline: Tokyo "Yankee Go Home!"

By TED SHIMIZU
'57journ
United Press International

TOKYO—It was like a battlefield in front of the Japanese Diet (Parliament) across from the moat-surrounded Imperial Palace in downtown Tokyo in June. Angry tens of thousands of college students and unionists shouted anti-American slogans and demanded the resignation of pro-Western Premier Nobusuke Kishi.

For successive days these people gathered there chanting "Yankee Go Home," "Ike Don't Come to Japan," "Resign Kishi" and Dissolve the Diet." There also were several placards signed in English: "Ike Go to Hell."

The demonstrators turned into irresponsible rioters as they skipped their classes or workshops and rallied around the usually

quiet and impressive granite Diet building.

It looked as if a revolution would come at any minute in Japan. Yet, strangely, in the Ginza entertainment district just a few minutes ride from the noisy Diet area, there were joyful, happy people walking in the streets—people who apparently cared nothing about anti-American demonstrations and seemed content with breathing the early summer air.

The massive demonstrations in June were, in a sense, the closing chapter of a series of "protest rallies" sponsored by the leftist "People's Council Against the U. S.-Japan Security Treaty," a so-called civic organization established by "ordinary people" concerned with the future of Japan

but in reality operated by professional political "lobbyists."

I followed the chain of developments that began with a small number of leftists denouncing the Kishi government for trying to revise the old security treaty with the U. S. Their campaign later expanded to denounce "American imperialism" in Asia and "U. S. plots to conclude a military alliance" with Japan.

The so-called "people's struggle" against America subsequently led to a fight against the scheduled visit of President Eisenhower, who was to make a tour of Japan in connection with the centennial celebrations of the opening of diplomatic relations be-

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"Yankee Go Home!"

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tween the U. S. and Japan.

The demonstrations did not end until Kishi had finally bowed to demonstrators' demands to cancel Ike's visit and to announce his own resignation. The series of demonstrations was indeed a costly one.

On the night of June 15, a university coed was killed, trampled under the feet of her fellow demonstrators who had smashed the gates of the Diet, set afire two police riot cars and stormed into the Diet compound.

I was at the scene of the bloody riots, and I had never seen such an awful bloody mess in my life. I could hardly believe that the youths, who supposedly were receiving higher education, would dare do such "uncivilized, barbarous acts."

But they did them. I only pray now that they would not do them again.

At any rate, now that these turbulent days are over and Japan and the United States, at least superficially, are bound closely with ratification of the controversial new security treaty, I hope everybody in Japan will regain his common sense.

Kishi, the major target of the demonstrators, now has resigned and retired to semi-seclusion. And he is probably thinking, as many of his fellow countrymen are, how to restore Japan's prestige in the eyes of the world.

The demonstrations certainly did not benefit the United States or Japan. Only the Communists probably are happy because their "comrades" showed unexpect-

ed, gallant fight against "American imperialism."

Many Japanese people who have studied in the United States and know the country and its people well now are wondering why the American government did not pay attention to this small part of the Japanese population who had staged such massive anti-American demonstrations. In retrospect, they believe such riots could have been averted had American authorities fully explained the merits of the new U. S.-Japan security treaty.

Strangely, the anti-treaty demonstrations were sponsored by the Socialists, who were the "brains" of the People's Council Against the Treaty, who had earlier advocated revision of the original pact. The old treaty was signed in San Francisco in 1951 and was much more favorable to the American government. Now, the new treaty puts the two nations on equal footing.

But the Socialists and so-called intellectuals, including college professors, had never mentioned this throughout their campaign against the treaty. They denounced the treaty as a U. S.-Japan "military alliance," the same theme echoed by Moscow and Peiping.

Were those who actively took part in the bloody riots really anti-American? Did they honestly believe what Communists called American imperialism in Asia? Why did they demonstrate?

In order to find answers to these questions, you must first understand that there

were very few persons who really wanted to demonstrate.

The Zengakuren students federation, which became known throughout the world as a result of the riots, is an extreme leftist organization. It was so radical that the Communist party had publicly disowned it and purged its leaders.

Japanese college and university students automatically become members of the fanatic Zengakuren organization by virtue of being admitted to schools. No individual student can get out of the organization but at the same time he does not have to be bound by rules and principles of the organization.

Zengakuren leaders should not be called students although they are registered as such in many colleges and universities throughout the country.

The leaders are "seasoned" agitators. They seldom attend classes. In Japanese colleges and universities, where students can graduate so long as they pass examinations, these leaders have taken advantage of such benefits and concentrated on their semi-political activities.

A great majority of students, however, seems to believe that the new security treaty is a "military alliance." Why so many students, who had never experienced a war and had never seen Americans bomb Japan during the last war, have such a belief may be explained by the behavior of their professors.

Almost all well-known professors, whose names appear regularly in weekly and monthly publications, write articles favorable to leftists. They preach the horror of war and pathetically call for the establishment of a neutralist Japan.

Many economics, political and sociology professors like to talk about Marx and Engels and evils of capitalism. They seem to ignore completely the benefits of capitalism. Students, in turn, accept the professors' words at face value and read books on the Communist theoreticians.

Japanese professors are underpaid and must write articles on subjects that would appeal to the young masses of the country. Some of the professors privately admit that they write articles against their personal beliefs.

Hearing and reading about the fine things of communism, many students become idealistic and have come to believe that if Japan becomes a socialistic (or com-

About Ted Shimizu

Ted Shimizu's acquaintance with America and things American began eight years ago when Sooner alumnus Ernie Hoberecht, '41journ, spotted him in the Tokyo bureau of United Press (now United Press International). Hoberecht saw signs of a first class newsman in the Japanese schoolboy and decided to send him to his own hometown, Watonga, Oklahoma, for a semester of high school, then on to the University of Oklahoma School of Journalism.

Shimizu didn't disappoint his benefactor. As a Sooner student, he was active in campus activities and one of the mainstays of the *Oklahoma Daily* for

three years. Returning to Japan in the summer of 1957 with a BA in journalism, he was again working for Hoberecht, now vice president and general manager for UPI and chief of all UPI business in Asia.

The ill-fated Girard case was Shimizu's first big assignment and many others have followed, but perhaps none so disturbing to him as the recent Tokyo riots.

Shimizu was married May 14 to Haruka Hirano, daughter of a professor of Japanese literature in a Tokyo university. They make their home in Yokohama, within commuting distance of the teeming Japanese capital city.

"Yankee Go Home!"

Continued from Page 20

munistic) nation, all people will become happy.

In a country where people enjoy freedom of speech, press and assembly, the Japanese government is powerless to check the behavior of leftist agitators.

Hundreds of thousands of labor unionists who also participated in the demonstrations were virtually taken to rallies because their leaders ordered them and because they thought if they did not, they would be looked down upon. Some of the workers told me plainly during demonstrations that they did not want to come to the Diet, but they did not have a choice.

I can give another example. I saw an elderly man carrying a placard saying "Crush the Security Treaty, Go Home Yankees." I asked him whether he knew the meaning of the placard or not and whether he came to the rally of his own wish. He said:

"I don't know. I just came here because my friends told me to. I have no personal ill feeling against Americans."

The demonstrations could probably have been limited to a small scale had Kishi not rammed the security treaty bill through the lower house of the Diet. But personally, I believe he had no alternative but to seek approval of it without the opposition members because his political enemies had no intention of cooperating with him.

It was unfortunate for Kishi that he never received popular support from the nation's press. He had tried very hard to become a popular premier but his background, his participation in the wartime Tojo cabinet and the fact that he was imprisoned by the Allied powers on suspicion of war crimes were disadvantageous to his political career.

At any rate, anti-American demonstrations are now over, and I hope relations between the U. S. and Japan can be strengthened in a friendly atmosphere. People of both countries now should try to understand each other more than ever.

And I sincerely hope that American authorities, taking broad-minded attitudes, will someday invite even those leftist Japanese to the U. S. in a friendly gesture to give them an opportunity to see for themselves how American people live.

An old Japanese proverb says: "It's better to see once than hearing 100 times." This would fit nicely if the American government invites as many Japanese people as possible so that many may someday come to believe that capitalism wouldn't be so bad after all.

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