



Proposed PAX ROMANA CENTRE at
Kyoto City in Japan

This Centre was on the Entraide Programme accepted by the Inter-federal Assembly of Pax Romana-IMCS, August 1958. Funds are being collected among some Pax Romana federations for this purpose.

I. Among the 1,000,000 students at different universities in Japan today there are only about 2,8000 Catholics. Most of the students are completely secularised and have only the remnants of their parents' Shinto or Buddhist faith. An increasing number are becoming communists.

II. There are, however, an appreciable number of students who practise keenly the tenets of the Buddhist Religion, and here there is a great possibility for a dialogue between Catholics and Buddhists, which will bridge the doctrinal difficulties and discover perennial spiritual values and spiritual practices (e.g. contemplation) which can be shared.

III. A proposal has been made to set up a small permanent Centre in Japan, sponsored by Pax Romana, where Catholic and Buddhist students could carry out an experiment in a common life, and study each other's finest cultural treasures.

IV. The Centre would be under the guidance of the Dominican Fathers in Kyoto, who have close contacts with all types of students at Kyoto University, and who have done excellent work in inculcating a respect for the best in Japan's traditional Shinto and Buddhist cultures, among Catholics.

V. The Centre would be run by the students themselves, and one of the principal aims would be the maintenance of close personal contacts with the Pax Romana Secretariat in Fribourg, Switzerland, and with Catholic Students outside Japan, by student exchanges, and by regular correspondence regarding the activities of Catholic Students and Graduates all over Japan, for publication in the Pax Romana Journal.

VI. It is hoped that if the Centre proves a success, it will be possible to help outstanding Japanese student leaders to continue their post-graduate studies in Fribourg, and for European students interested in the Culture and Philosophy of the Far East to stay at this Pax Romana Centre in Japan, and carry out their particular studies while living in common with their Japanese Catholic and Buddhist colleagues.

VII. In order to get the Centre going, the following things are necessary:-

1. Money to pay the monthly rental of three or four rooms in a suitable area of Kyoto, reasonably near to the National University and to the Dominican St. Thomas Institute, for Philosophical Research Work. 15,000 ¥ or S.£.180. ¥ = Yen

2. Money to buy the barest essentials in furniture, two or three low tables and a dozen "Zabuton" or cushions to sit upon, also to purchase writing paper, stamps etc. for official correspondence.

3. Books (second-hand) on cultural subjects, painting, sculpture, architecture, literature etc. of both East and West.

Donations may be sent to the General Secretariat of Pax Romana, Fribourg, Switzerland, marked "Pax Romana Centre in Japan".

Supplement to the News Service no 33.

AN APPEAL BY THE CATHOLIC STUDENTS' FEDERATION OF JAPAN TO THEIR
FELLOW CATHOLIC STUDENTS OF THE WORLD

The people of Japan have had a closer experience of the use of the atomic bomb and of the radio-active effects of H-bomb explosions than any other nation in the world.

We, the Catholic students of Japan therefore believe that we have a special responsibility to draw the attention of other people to the terrible results of nuclear weapons. In Japan today the feeling against the use of atomic bombs is shared by everyone. It goes beyond ideological or political differences.

We see with great sorrow the building up of vast stocks of atomic weapons by nations of the Eastern and Western blocs, to the extent that all mankind is now standing on the brink of an appalling problem to which a solution must be found.

We have to bring about in every individual, in every nation, an intense realisation of the basic unity of mankind, of the fact that in the Mystical Body of Christ, all men are indeed brothers.

But such an awareness is not likely to be brought about by sensational means. It will require a great deal of prayer by all men of good will; it will require a very great passion for peace and a determination to do all we can to preserve it. By continual prayer, by serious thinking and by sacrifices made by individuals and by nations, we may be able to achieve the revolution which is needed for an international outlook.

In his Spring Address this year to the youth of Catholic Action in Italy, His Holiness Pope Pius XII struck an optimistic note when he declared that mankind was in a sense awakening from a long winter, and standing at the threshold of what could be a new and wonderful springtime in Human History if only we become fully aware of our potentialities and develop in the right direction.

Catholics are fortunate in being able to take their stand on the firm basis of Love and Justice, and can therefore rise above the nationalistic or political divisions which so often separate men. It is on this basis that we Catholic Students of Japan appeal to our fellow Catholic Students that they should strongly support, within their own nations, the Movement against the use of nuclear weapons, so that it can eventually become a true reflection of world opinion. Catholic Students in Japan believe that once men of every race have understood the profound sense in which we are made one in the Mystical Body of Christ, we will indeed have reached the "springtime" of Human History of which His Holiness spoke; the period when Pax Christi will rule the world.

In order that the hopes expressed above may have concrete results, we request that the Pax Romana Secretariat make this appeal known internationally. Meanwhile, we eagerly await the response to this appeal from Catholic student federations everywhere, and we pray they may be able to give it their warmest support.

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