

## Diplomatic Blue Book

The 1984 Blue Book on Diplomacy, issued by the Foreign Ministry, regards a positive contribution to world peace and prosperity as the basic aim of Japan's diplomacy. As concrete measures, the book cited 1) efforts to promote peace and disarmament, 2) contribution to the sound development of the world economy, and 3) cooperation to assure the stability and advance of developing countries.

In view of the current tense world situation, the annual report called for promotion of a dialogue and negotiations on disarmament between the United States and the Soviet Union.

While noting that Japan's relations with the Soviet Union are "strained," in view of current East-West tensions and the northern territorial issue, the blue book referred to the Soviet Union as "an important neighbor" and stressed the importance of relations with the Kremlin.

It discussed Japan's determination to continue efforts to improve relations with the Soviet Union to pave the way for settlement of the northern territorial issue and conclusion of a peace treaty.

## Reference Books Published

Aware of the importance of institutional measures for facilitating import market access, the Intra-governmental Council on Standards and Certification Systems has published a 440-page handbook explaining the 25 most important laws and how they are applied. With text in both Japanese and English, it includes outlines of the regulations, procedural flowcharts, explanations of the paperwork involved, addresses for whom to ask about what, and a product index for quick reference. Available for ¥3,500 at leading bookstores.

Part of the Japanese government's effort to improve market access for imports involves acceptance of foreign test data. Now JETRO has published in Japanese and English its 70-page *Guidelines for Acceptance of Foreign Test Data in Japanese Standards and Certification Systems* to guide foreign exporters on what kinds of test data MITI will accept and from which testing organizations. Two thousand yen at leading bookstores.

## Protection of Semiconductor Copyright

MITI has formed a special subcommittee to study a Semiconductor Chip Law (provisional name) for protecting the intellectual property right of semiconductor chip layouts.

In the United States, the "Semiconductor Chip Protection Act" was passed by Congress last November 9.

MITI established the "Subcommittee on Legislative Problems concerning Semiconductor Chips" October 24 in the belief that legislation was necessary in Japan for the sound development of the semiconductor industry. MITI will use the subcommittee's report to draft a bill for submission to the Diet, hopefully during the current session.

Existing laws, including the Patent Law, do not adequately protect the rights of developers of semiconductor chip layouts. A company with sophisticated technology can analyze the layout of any chip and quickly imitate it. American semiconductor makers have complained that the company that develops a new chip is at a cost disadvantage because the imitating company does not have to bear R&D costs.

The MITI bill is expected to have basically the same concept as the act passed by the U.S. Congress. Once the bill clears the Diet, both Japan and the United States will have adequate rules governing the development of semiconductor chips for the first time.

MITI in principle welcomes the U.S. move to protect the interests of semiconductor chip developers, and will work to enact a law to protect their rights in Japan as well. MITI officials say they will closely watch the effect of the American act.

## Meeting on Investment Exchange

MITI held its first meeting recently with representatives of main foreign chambers of commerce and industry in Japan to exchange views on investment interchange and to hear the opinions of foreign businesses operating in Japan concerning their investments. At the Oct. 29 meeting, the foreign businessmen pointed out some general problems involved in Japan's investment climate, including complicated procedures to obtain official permits, unclear practices in applying laws and insufficient information on corporate activities in Japan such as data business opportunities. The foreign businessmen also showed interest in several other problems, including Japan's immigration controls, education, medical care and income tax systems. These will be discussed separately at coming meetings. The next session is expected in January or February 1985.

## Promoting "Horizontal Trade" with Asian Nations

A research arm of the business community has proposed that Japan promote "horizontal trade" with growing economic powers in Asia such as Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia to help foster their economic development and reduce the country's trade surplus.

The Japan Economic Research Institute recommended in its report "Development of Intra-industry Trade in Asia and Role of Japan" that horizontal trade with the rest of Asia be promoted through division of labor in particular industries and technology transfers. As reasons for growth rates close to double-digit figures in Asia's newly industrialized countries, the institute cited rapid industrialization and export expansion based on cheap labor of good quality, and improvement of domestic capital formation through increased investments in capital goods and technology financed by export earnings. These two factors have led to stronger international competitiveness of their products, again resulting in more exports, according to the institute. As a result, trade with Japan is transforming into a horizontal pattern involving mutual supply of industrial products. The institute attributed Japan's structural trade surplus partly to a low level of horizontal trade with neighboring countries as compared with West European nations.



## White Paper on Women at Work

The Labor Ministry has issued a white paper on working women for 1984, showing that their number is steadily increasing.

The annual white paper said women in full- or part-time employment in 1983 totaled 14,860,000 or 35.3% of the work force. The figure was 680,000, or 4.8%, higher than the previous year. Both the year-to-year increase and the percentage increase exceeded comparable figures for men.

Of the entire female work force, 3.06 million, up 7.7% from 1982, were part-timers. This sharp rise contributed to the substantial increase in the female work force in 1983.

The report said 55.7% of housewives aged between 35 and 44 want to work, preferably in part-time jobs which do not interfere too much with their household routines.

The ratio of women staying at home dropped to 32% of all women aged over 15 in 1983, only slightly above the 31.3% ratio of working women.

Labor Ministry officials said they expected the number of working women to continue to increase and exceed the number of full-time housewives in 1984.

## Eight Model Areas Chosen as "New Media Communities"

MITI has picked eight initial model areas for its "new media community" project. This calls for establishing a new type of community complete with two-way cable television, videotex and other sophisticated information systems linking homes, offices and public facilities. The model areas are Morioka-Yahaba-Tonan (Iwate Pref.), Takasaki (Gunma Pref.), Yokohama (Kanagawa Pref.), Nagaoka (Niigata Pref.), Nishiwaki (Hyogo Pref.), Yawatahama-Nishiuwa (Ehime Pref.), Kumamoto (Kumamoto Pref.) and Oita-Beppu-Kunisaki (Oita Pref.). Each will soon form special organizations jointly between local governments and business interests to probe the economic viability of the project, the impact on regional societies and other problems. Design and development of information systems will begin in fiscal 1985, starting in April, for operation from around 1986-87. New media communities will be classified into several categories according to their characteristics, including those featuring high technology industries (a "technopolis" type), extensive distribution networks, energy systems and urban redevelopment.

## White Paper on Welfare

The 1984 white paper on welfare, issued by the Health and Welfare Ministry, emphasized the need for everyone to make an effort if they want a healthy and financially secure life in their old age.

The annual report said the state can only back up such efforts through its public pension system, which is the main support for the aged.

Noting a remarkable increase in longevity and the resultant changes in the life cycle, the report said people must take care of their health while in the prime of life and work toward private financial security for their old age.

The white paper pointed out that the average life span jumped to 74.2 years for men and to 79.8 years for women. Forty-one percent of men and 61% of women can now expect to live until they become 80 years old.

In the aging society, it said, healthy senior citizens should actively participate in volunteer and other welfare work so that they can live a meaningful life.

The white paper also said that now that Japanese society has become affluent, people should contribute to social security according to their means. It called for a review and more efficient operation of the social security system.



**Lineup of New Nakasone Cabinet**  
(Formed on Oct. 31, 1984)

**Prime Minister**  
Yasuhiro Nakasone

<b>Prime Minister</b> .....	Yasuhiro Nakasone	66
<b>Justice Minister</b> .....	Hitoshi Shimasaki	61
<b>* Foreign Minister</b> .....	Shintaro Abe	60
<b>* Finance Minister</b> .....	Noboru Takeshita	60
<b>Education Minister</b> .....	Hikaru Matsunaga	55
<b>Health and Welfare Minister</b> .....	Hiroyuki Masuoka	61
<b>Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister</b> .....	Moriyoshi Sato	62
<b>Transport Minister</b> .....	Tokuo Yamashita	65
<i>(in charge of New Tokyo International Airport)</i>		
<b>Posts and Telecommunications Minister</b> .....	Megumu Sato	60
<b>Labor Minister</b> .....	Toshio Yamaguchi	44
<b>Construction Minister</b> .....	Yoshiaki Kibe	58
<b>Home Affairs Minister</b> .....	Toru Furuya	75
<b>* State Minister</b> .....	Takao Fujinami	51
<i>(Chief Cabinet Secretary)</i>		

<b>* State Minister</b> .....	Masaharu Gotoda	70
<i>(Director General of Management and Coordination Agency)</i>		
<b>State Minister</b> .....	Kakuzo Kawamoto	67
<i>(Director General of National Land Agency; Director General of Hokkaido Development Agency)</i>		
<b>State Minister</b> .....	Koichi Kato	45
<i>(Director General of Defense Agency)</i>		
<b>State Minister</b> .....	Ippei Kaneko	71
<i>(Director General of Economic Planning Agency)</i>		
<b>State Minister</b> .....	Reiichi Takeuchi	58
<i>(Director General of Science and Technology Agency; Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission)</i>		
<b>State Minister</b> .....	Shigeru Ishimoto	71
<i>(Director General of Environment Agency)</i>		
<b>State Minister</b> .....	Toshio Komoto	73
<i>(Director General of Okinawa Development Agency; in charge of external economic affairs and optimum use of the private sector)</i>		

\*denotes reappointment

## Profile of New Minister of International Trade and Industry



Keijiro Murata, 60, is a bureaucrat-turned-politician. He was a senior official at the Home Affairs Ministry before entering politics in 1969.

He has served as parliamentary vice construction minister and parliamentary deputy director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

Prior to the Cabinet appointment, his first, he headed the National Campaign Headquarters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.