

The Brutal Murders by Communist Radicals and the Activities for VOC

Osami Kuboki

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A grisly story of torture-murders by the desperate ultra-leftist radicals, holed up in a three-story villa in Minamikaruizawa, Nagano Prefecture, made newspaper headlines day after day.

On February 19, the five radicals all believed to be members of the Rengo Sekigun (United Red Army) seized the villa, holding hostage the woman keeper of the summer house. The five militants had four shotguns, one of them an automatic and one rifle, and were building a barricade on the veranda with empty fruit boxes. These guns were those they had seized in their gun shop robbery.

The hostage was Mrs. Ikuo Muta, 31, caretaker of the villa owned by some musical instrument manufacturing company. Using a loudspeaker, police called them to come out of the hiding repeatedly, but drew no response at all.

For about ten days, they kept holing up in the Asama Sanso lodge. Police continued their warnings to cease resistance. On the 28th, the police decided to storm into the building because their four reconnaissance missions had failed to confirm the safety of the hostage and 200 hours of confinement was believed to be wearing down Mrs. Muta.

Twenty rangers of the Metropolitan Police Department took part in the final showdown. Two police officers were shot to death and 15 others were wounded during the campaign. The murdered policemen were Superintendent Hisataka Uchida, 47, and Police Inspector Shigemitsu Takami, 42. Mr. Uchida was shot by a rifle in the left eye while directing his men near a garage adjacent to the lodge. Mr. Takami was commanding a group of riot policemen on the third floor at the lodge when he was gunned down. Police battled with the radicals for over eight hours during the day with water cannons and tear gas until the radicals stopped resisting.

Finally they were all arrested and Mrs. Muta was rescued safely. On the day when the police stormed into the lodge, millions of viewers watched the bloody drama at the Asama Sanso lodge as the nation's TV stations telecast the siege live from early in the morning. They continued relaying the scene from on the spot for more than nine hours without pause. All the regular scheduled programs were cancelled. It was the longest hookup program, followed by the four-hour live telecast made in April 1~70, when members of the Red Army Faction hijacked a JAL jet plane for the first time in Japan's aviation history.

But the dramatic story did not come to an end with the arrest of the radical students and the rescue of the woman hostage. Their cruel crimes were revealed one after another. It was proved that they were guilty of a series of robberies, a number of bombing incidents and the slaying of several policemen. Moreover, what has shocked the whole nation was the cold-blooded mass torture-murder of colleagues by other members of the fanatical radical group. One of the leaders who had directed this cruelty was a 27 year-old woman. These murders were made clear as the arrested radicals gave little by little, the details of the torture-lynchings among the group.

The first hint of the intrafactional killing came when police discovered in late February clothes ripped with a sharp instrument, apparently from a corpse, soiled with human excretion, in a hideout of the

radicals in the mountains of Gumma Pref.



Young Japanese Family members are singing and witnessing at the Shibuya Station Plaza, Tokyo, Japan

According to their confession, the police dug the holes in the forests of Gumma Pref. Bare bodies of brutally murdered young men and women were exhumed one after another. In fact, a total of 14 bodies were unearthed. They had been condemned to death in a kangaroo court presided over by Tsuneo Mori and Miss Hiroko Nagata, twin bosses of the gang, for alleged plotting to overthrow the group's setup dictated by them. Mass communication media such as TV, newspapers, magazines and so on reported this drama very sensationally, but they did not analyze as to why Rengo Sekigun (United Red Army) resorted to such brutal action and what was the origin of their thoughts.

The arrested leftist radicals proved to have good educational and good family backgrounds. One of them, for instance, entered a public high school with the best marks among the applicants. He was a cheerful student at the high school. But his attitude changed after he entered the university. He joined the Revolutionary Leftist Faction of the Japan Communist Party. Later he became an active leader of Keihin Ampo Kyoto (Tokyo-Yokohama Joint Struggle Committee Against the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty), a subgroup of the Revolutionary Leftists of the Japan Communist Party.

Another one of them, the No. 2 leader of Sekigunha (Red Army Faction), is the eldest son of a hotel owner. Teachers at the high school reportedly said that he had been just an ordinary, quiet student with interests in music and fishing. But after he entered a university, an elite university in Japan, he began to participate in a campus movement by students much more leftist than the Japan Communist Party.

According to police the "Red Army" still has a membership of about 300 and "Keihin Ampo Kyoto" about 50 in Japan, even after the arrest of their top leaders following a 10 day seizure of a central Japan mountain lodge.

The Sekigunha and the Keihin Ampo Kyoto joined forces to form the Rengo Sekigun (United Red Army) last year. Before joining, the Sekigunha had been a purported Trotskyist group seeking simultaneous worldwide revolution. The Keihin Ampo Kyoto had trodden the paths of Maoism. The Japan Communist Party asserted that they had no connections with the Rengo Sekigun. However, when we retrace origin of the existence of the Rengo Sekigun, no doubt it came from the Japan Communist Party (JCP). They are "badgers in the same hole" that they both believe blindly Marxism and Leninism as truth, and are aiming to communize Japan. What is different from each other is that the JCP, believing that the internal and external situations of Japan are not ripe for liberation, so they are now strengthening their position by a so-called peace strategy. Rengo Sekigun and other radicals think that they should carry out violent revolution right now.

The investigation by police has revealed that the Rengo Sekigun had plotted to stage a concerted armed revolt and made preparations to this end. The radicals apparently intended to kidnap VIPs and attack police. Their "troops," armed with guns, had conducted military exercises in mountains. The group of about 30 members constructed hide-outs and secret bases deep in the mountains. Their arsenal included 10 shotguns, one rifle, one revolver and a number of homemade bombs. Chemicals and electrical components have been found in their hideouts indicating that they were also manufacturing bombs. The discovery of empty cartridges in the neighborhood of the hide-outs also proves that the group practiced shooting, police said.

On the other hand, the Japan Communist Party has been adopting a platform of so-called "peace policy" during these years. Many Japanese people, who are essentially peace-loving, are easily deceived by the JCP's propaganda skillfully made under the disguise of its beautiful slogan, "For Peace and Democracy."

When the shocking incident of murders by the United Red Army was exposed this time, the JCP

immediately started a campaign in defense of itself severely blaming the actions of the Rengo Sekigun group. However, it is the very fact that the real cause of this horrible incident lies in the theory of Marxism-Leninism with which the JCP equally shares. Since its establishment, the JCP has, in fact, caused a lot of violent actions and murders. JCP Chairman Miyamoto committed terror and lynchings in his twenties. In 1932 the JCP members plainly resorted to violent revolutionary tactics and killed many people. After a short period of the "peace-policy" following World War II, the JCP resumed the violent revolution tactics, causing so-called "Molotov Cocktail Struggle" in 1952. At that time the JCP's attempt totally failed and it lost the support of the public. So, the JCP changed its policy to the "Smiling-tactics."



Japanese Family singing and witnessing at the Shibuya Station Plaza, Tokyo, Japan

At present the JCP has hidden its cruel history, pretending that it is a peaceful party. At the same time, the JCP gives pressure on the mass communication media that try to report the true history of the JCP. The mass communication media is so leftist-slanted that they are apt to avoid reporting news which are detrimental to the JCP. Thus, it is now very difficult to make the people understand the fallacy of Communism and the true intention of the Communists by means of mass communication media. Under such regrettable circumstances, the activities for victory over Communism have been made by the members of the IFVC (International Federation for Victory over Communism).

Especially on the occasion of the United Red Army incident, we of the IFVC challenged the JCP. We delivered a total number of 140,000 leaflets disclosing the essential similarity between the JCP and the leftist radical group. We also displayed 400,000 advertising posters of a similar kind. At the same time the IFVC members appealed directly to the public from microbuses on the streets and in the squares. These activities had a public response and were well supported by people of good sense. District centers of IFVC received many cheerful telephone calls. For instance, some company president telephoned directly asking us to deliver more handbills in front of a certain station near his company. Seeing IFVC activities, Japan Communist Party got very angry and censured our activities in their newspapers, Akahata (Red Flag), day after day.

In this way our theoretical fight with the Communist became more intense than ever. We of the IFVC are firmly determined to dauntlessly continue our fights with the JCP. We are sure that we will win. We have powerful weapons on our side-the Theory of Victory Over-Communism and the fighting spirit of our dedicated members. We fight not because we hate the communists but because we love them and want to make them understand that the communist philosophy is fallacious. We are confident that the final victory will surely be ours.