

### **3rd Plenum of the Central Committee: National Rally for Victory in the General Election Executive Committee Report by Chair Tamura**

The following is the report given by Tamura Tomoko, Chair of the Executive Committee of Japanese Communist Party (JCP), at the 3rd Plenum of the Central Committee of the JCP on September 30.

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Good afternoon to all the Central Committee members and to those of you watching online across the country. I would like to express my sincere respect for your hard work day after day.

Before reporting, we would like to express our deepest condolences to the victims of the Ishikawa/Noto torrential rain disaster and our heartfelt sympathy to those affected by the disaster.

The people of the Noto region have suffered great physical and psychological damage due to an unprecedented series of catastrophic disasters: earthquakes and torrential rains. It has been pointed out that the delay in recovery from the earthquakes has contributed to the heavy rain damage. The national government bears an extremely heavy responsibility, and it is imperative that it immediately provide support measures that will help people to have hope in living in Noto, as well as to hurry up with the disaster recovery efforts.

The JCP will engage in support activities in the affected areas and strongly urge the government to fulfill its responsibilities. We express our determination to do our utmost for the recovery and reconstruction from the earthquake and torrential rain disasters.

I will now present my report on behalf of the Executive Committee.

The Liberal Democratic Party's presidential election has concluded with the election of Ishiba Shigeru. Mr. Ishiba has reportedly decided to hold the election for the House of Representatives on October 27. Although it is unforgivable to hide the allegations, hide the issues, and engage in too much party politics, let us do our utmost to make a breakthrough in the upcoming dissolution of the Diet and the general election. We are standing at a historic time when every day from now on will directly affect whether or not we can win the election. The purpose of this meeting is for all party members, together with our supporters to make a collective resolution for victory in the general election.

#### **I. Election as an Opportunity for the JCP to Make a Breakthrough - Basic Stance in Fighting the General Election**

##### **The Current Status of Political Parties and the Japanese Communist Party: A Chance for a Breakthrough, Depending on Their Efforts**

In relation to the current situation of the political parties, I call on you to grasp the fact that the upcoming general election is an opportunity for the JCP to make a breakthrough in the following three areas, depending on how hard you work from now on.

The first is that the deadlock in LDP politics is extremely serious. Prime Minister Kishida's ouster was a result of the public's criticism of LDP politics, including the lack of reflection on the slush fund issue, inaction on the people's suffering, and a massive military buildup that destroyed the Constitution, all of which have driven the LDP into a corner.



(Photo) Chair Tamura Tomoko, reporting at the party headquarters on September 30.

However, the new president, Mr. Ishiba, has not been able to demonstrate how he will break the deadlock. He has refused to reopen the investigations into the slush fund issue and his cozy relationship with the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (Unification Church), and has shown his unwillingness to get to the bottom of the matter. In the area of the economy, he has indicated that he will continue the economic policies of the Kishida administration, but this is tantamount to a declaration that he will continue his economic ineptitude. In the area of national security, the administration has declared a dangerous policy of military expansion that exceeds that of previous administrations, with a “NATO for Asia” and “nuclear sharing,” the strengthening of military alliances, a massive military buildup, and the revision of Article 9 of the Constitution. Even if the cover of the administration is changed, it will not be able to restore the people’s trust, meet their earnest demands for living, or respond to their wish for peace, and the contradiction with the people must widen.

Second is the decline of forces that complement LDP politics. Complementary forces such as the Japan Innovation Party (JIP) and the Democratic Party for the People (DPP) have played a role in promoting LDP politics by strengthening the Japan-U.S. military alliance, expanding the military, waving the flag for constitutional reform, and restarting and building new nuclear power plants. In the last general election, these forces cheated their role in the name of “reform,” and the JIP absorbed some of the criticism of the LDP, helping to prolong the life of the LDP government.

Third, under these circumstances, the JCP stands out for its pioneering position in promoting major reforms that will fundamentally change the two distortions in LDP politics: the prioritization of the interests of the business world and large corporations, and the absolute support of the United States and the Japan-U.S. military alliance. The JCP is the only political party that is tackling grassroots movements in every corner of the country to confront the autocratic government and its complementary forces head-on. If the JCP does not win more seats in the Diet, what will it do?

### **Basic Stance in Fighting the General Election: “Focus on Proportionality,” and Make Sure to Make Progress in Party Building**

In order to turn this historic opportunity into a realistic breakthrough for the JCP, we call on you to maintain the following basic stance.

The first is to keep the “proportional blocs” as the axis. Let us aim to obtain “6.5 million votes, or more than 10% of the vote,” and to win seats in all proportional blocs and increase the number of seats. In the single-seat constituencies, let us make sure to defend the “treasured seat” of “All Okinawa” in Okinawa’s 1st constituency. Let us aim for victory in all of the constituencies we field our candidates, in which we currently have 209 members, and let us make a breakthrough in proportional representation elections the centerpiece of our primary election campaign, and strive with all of the party’s strength.

Second, we must make this general election an election in which we fight together with the people and make progress in party building. In the general election, we will reach out to the public in the broadest possible manner. If we make this election an election in which we fight together with the people, and if we pursue our own expansion of the party, we will be able to make the party stronger and bigger during the election campaign. Let us not let go of our grip on the goal of expanding the party’s strength, which was decided at the Party Congress, even during the election campaign, and let us challenge an unprecedented struggle to win the election and build a strong and large party in an integrated manner.

### **II. The National Significance of JCP’s Breakthrough: Let us Move on from Our Demands and Speak Up in Our Own Words**

What does the JCP’s breakthrough in the general election mean to the people? Starting from the sincere wishes of the people, it will be important to speak out in our own words about the national significance of the JCP’s breakthrough. Here are some of the key points.

## **Clean Up Corruption and Restore Trust in Politics**

First, the JCP's breakthrough will be the most solid force for cleaning up corruption and restoring trust in politics.

The LDP under the new Ishiba administration has kept a lid on the slush fund scandal and its cozy relationship with the Unification Church, and is clinging to corporate and group donations that are at the root of corrupt politics. It is already clear that not a single millimeter of "reform" of corrupt politics can be expected from this party.

Let us appeal to the role of the JCP in this issue in two ways.

One is that it was the JCP and "Shimbun Akahata" that exposed the slush fund issue, pursued it in and out of the Diet, and brought the LDP to its knees. The Japan Congress of Journalists selected the Akahata Sunday edition's scoop on slush funds as the winner of this year's JCJ Grand Prize, citing as the reason for the award that the Shimbun Akahata "steadily accumulated information from a vast number of publicly available political fund reports, one by one, and linked them to the investigation by the prosecutors, revealing them to be a major political crime." The LDP's "major political crime" was revealed. Let us be proud of the role of the party and the Shimbun Akahata in revealing the "major political crimes" of the LDP, and let us appeal to the public that we can cut the roots of corrupt politics by strengthening the party.

The first is that the JCP is the only party that has consistently advocated and practiced a ban on corporate and group donations, which are at the root of corrupt politics. 30 years ago, when "political reform" was called for in the midst of a series of money corruption cases, the other parties at that time shifted the issue to the introduction of a single-seat constituency system and preserved corporate and group donations. The JCP was the only party that insisted on a total ban on corporate donations. However, as the party has consistently advocated this position and has continued to submit bills, the ban on corporate and group donations has now become the public opinion of the majority of the Japanese people and has spread to other opposition parties, with only the LDP opposing the ban. It is the JCP that has driven this issue to this point.

Let us appeal that the JCP's breakthrough is a solid force to break the roots of corrupt politics and to correct the dirty money-driven politics.

## **Changing Politics from Favoring Big business and the Rich to Prioritizing People's Livelihoods**

Second, the JCP's breakthrough is the best guarantee to change politics from favoring big business and the rich to prioritizing people's livelihoods.

The widening gap between rich and poor in Japanese society is extremely serious. On the one hand, wages and pensions have not kept pace with soaring prices, and according to a government survey, as many as 60% of the Japanese people complain that they are having a hard time making ends meet. On the other hand, large corporations and wealthy individuals have accumulated unprecedented wealth. This is a "man-made disaster" caused by the LDP politics, which has promoted "monetary easing of a different dimension," expansion of non-regular workers through deregulation of labor laws, tax cuts for large corporations and the wealthy, and consumption tax hikes.

Only the JCP has revealed a comprehensive policy to rebuild the economy by changing the preferential treatment of big corporations and big money and prioritizing people's livelihoods. In the general election, the "Economic Revitalization Plan" -- (1) wage increase and shortening of working hours, and reform of work styles that value people; (2) consumption tax reduction, enhancement of social security, and reduction of the burden of education expenses; (3) reform for a sustainable economy and society; -- Let us make these three points the basis of our appeal and speak freely and openly about our hopes for realizing the earnest wishes of the people.

We will then report key points on several new issues.

## **Let us talk a lot about shortening working hours in tandem with raising wages--starting from the wishes of the people**

On September 20, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) announced “Shortening Working Hours in Conjunction with Higher Wages,” in which it advocated a “bill to promote shorter working hours to expand free time.” This is a major upgrade of the “reform of work styles where human beings are valued. I urge you to speak out in the general election. In discussing this new policy, please keep the following points in mind.

One is to make a firm appeal for “shortening working hours with wage increases.” On this issue, our party has called for a policy to raise the minimum wage to 1,500 yen per hour by imposing a temporary tax on the increased retained earnings of large corporations and by providing fundamental support to small and medium-sized enterprises. The appeal for shortening working hours will come alive only if we emphasize that the minimum wage is to be raised in tandem with the increase in wages. I hope you will grasp this.

One more thing: Regarding the shortening of working hours itself, it is important to make an appeal starting from the people’s earnest wishes. Compared to Europe, Japan’s working hours are about 300 hours longer per year, and “death by overwork” and “mental illness” threaten the lives and health of workers. The cry for “more free time” is a very urgent demand, both for workers who are exhausted by long working hours and for working women who have to work, do housework, and raise children, all of which cut into their sleep time. Shortening working hours is indispensable in order to change the “men work, women do housework” mentality and to promote gender equality.

The “bill to promote shorter working hours to expand free time” requires, first, that the government take measures to support small and medium-sized enterprises and to address labor shortages in fields such as nursing care, education, transportation, and construction in order to shift the legal working hours to “7 hours a day, 35 hours a week.” Second, to immediately improve the current situation in which even the “eight-hour work day” has been broken, we are calling for the strengthening of overtime regulations and the eradication of “unpaid overtime” and other illegal and evasive working hours.

The new appeal for “shorter working hours in combination with higher wages” is a proposal that will further enrich the policies of our party by asking the question, “What is a truly affluent life for human beings?” A truly affluent society is one in which working people can enjoy leisure time and hobbies, acquire a rich culture, enjoy time with their families, and have “free time” to engage in various social activities, in addition to having “income” to lead a humane life. Let us build such a society together with the JCP. Let us make this appeal freely and boldly.

## **Urgent proposals for pensions, long-term care, and medical care: Overcoming social fragmentation and protecting the human rights and dignity of the elderly**

On September 26, the JCP released an “Emergency Proposal to Stop Pension Cuts, the Long-Term Care Crisis, and Medical Care Reforms, and to Protect the Human Rights and Dignity of the Elderly.”

We have released this “Emergency Proposal” in light of the serious “collapse” of the infrastructure that supports the lives of the elderly, including the “diminishing” of pensions under soaring prices, the inability to receive nursing care services, and the increasing burden of medical costs that threaten the lives and health of the elderly.

The “Emergency Proposal” calls for “raising pensions to a level appropriate for rising prices,” “increasing the national treasury’s share by 10% to stop the collapse of the nursing care infrastructure,” and “stopping the bullying medical cost increases for the elderly and reducing the burden on them.”

This proposal of the JCP addresses the fact that the government and the business world have repeatedly revised the social security system, while repeatedly stirring up “intergenerational conflicts” such as “preferential treatment of the elderly.” We have countered this campaign by stressing that “the dysfunction

of pensions, nursing care, and medical care is also a serious situation for the younger generation.” This is a proposal that only the JCP can make, and I encourage you to make a strong appeal for it.

### **Let us not allow tuition hikes, and let us aim for “zero tuition,” and step up efforts to lower tuition prices**

With tuition hikes becoming a major issue, the JCP plans to issue an urgent appeal on this issue on October 2.

The LDP government has been shamelessly promoting tuition hikes on the grounds of “ensuring the quality of education” while slashing university budgets. Let us stand in solidarity with the students and young people who are now raising their voices in opposition to the tuition hikes, and let us strongly demand that the tuition hikes be opposed and that the tuition be cut in half immediately with the goal of “zero tuition.”

### **Rice shortage and price hike—Let us stretch the JCP and protect the source of life for the people**

Rice shortages and soaring prices have become a social problem. It must be said that the LDP’s agricultural policy of abandoning the goal of improving food self-sufficiency, pursuing the path of import liberalization, imposing rice production reductions, and leaving agriculture to the market is an extremely serious responsibility.

Let us fight for the protection of the source of life of the people only by confronting head-on the LDP’s ruining agricultural policy, improving food self-sufficiency, stopping the path of import liberalization, protecting food sovereignty, and expanding the JCP to create sustainable agriculture through price guarantees and income compensation.

### **Stop the Creation of a “War State” Based Absolutely on the Japan-U.S. Military Alliance and Create Peace Through the Power of Diplomacy**

Third, the JCP’s breakthrough is the most powerful force to stop the creation of a “war state” based absolutely on the Japan-U.S. military alliance and to create peace through diplomacy that makes the most of Article 9 of the Constitution.

### **Is it okay for politics to blindly follow the three words “Japan-U.S. Alliance”?**

During this period, the government has been forcing through one after another what had been considered “impossible” under Article 9 of the Constitution, such as allowing the exercise of the right of collective self-defense, deployment of long-range missiles that can attack the territory of other countries, massive military expansion to 2% of GDP, lifting of the ban on arms exports, and unification of command and control between Japan and the United States. Under the new Ishiba regime, there is a danger that this runaway expansion will accelerate.

The single biggest “reason” for this is the “strengthening of the Japan-U.S. alliance.” The politics of the “Japan-U.S. alliance” is so pervasive in Japanese politics that when the three words are uttered, people just stop thinking. The only country to have suffered from the atomic bombings, Japan has turned its back on the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and has adopted a posture of reinforcing nuclear deterrence. The “Japan-U.S. alliance” absolute politics is also at the root of the country’s moral corruption, which has forced the construction of the new Henoko base, trampling on the will of the Okinawan people and covering up the sexual assault of a young girl and other sexual crimes committed by U.S. soldiers. Let us make this election an opportunity to ask the question of whether or not this is the right course of action.

Strengthening military alliances will lead to a vicious cycle of military-to-military confrontation, tearing the world into opposing blocs. The people of the world will be forced to live in a world of endless military

expansion and the danger of war. Peace can never be created on this path. The JCP is firmly opposed to the strengthening of military alliances, which it regards as “sacred and inviolable.

Let us work together as JCP in order to make a breakthrough and stop the creation of a “war state” that threatens peace and people’s livelihoods by destroying the Constitution through an absolute military alliance.

### **Let us expand the Japanese Communist Party, which is spreading solidarity for peace in Asia and Europe**

Looking at the world at large, there is a movement to create peace through diplomacy, without relying on military alliances. In cooperation and solidarity with such future-oriented movements, the JCP has devoted its energies to activities to create peace in Asia and the world.

One is cooperation with ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), which has transformed this once war-torn region into a community of peace through a series of thorough dialogues based on treaties that provide for peaceful resolution of disputes. It further expands the peace trend beyond the region and reveals a grand vision to utilize and further develop the East Asia Summit, consisting of 18 countries, including Japan, China and the U.S., in addition to the 10 ASEAN countries, to make the whole of East Asia a peaceful region free from the threat of war. On April 17, the JCP proposed the “East Asia Peace Proposal” to promote peacebuilding in East Asia in cooperation with ASEAN, and has been promoting this proposal at home and abroad. Opposing bloc politics and developing an inclusive peace framework is at the core of our “Proposal.”

What about Europe? The invasion of Ukraine has triggered a major backlash of NATO expansion and reinforcement on this continent as well. However, there are also others who are also struggling against this in the face of great difficulty fighting the ever strengthening military alliance. From the end of August to September, Central Committee Chair Shii visited Europe and held meetings and exchanges with leftist and progressive parties in Europe, Germany, Belgium, France, the UK, Italy, Sweden, and other countries. Wherever he met with them, he found solid agreement with our calls to “oppose in solidarity the strengthening of military alliances in the east and west of the Eurasian continent” and “jointly promote the TPNW.”

Is there any other political party in Japan that is conducting peace diplomacy and expanding solidarity for peace by utilizing Article 9 of the Constitution, both in Asia and in Europe? Let us proudly claim that the breakthrough of the JCP will open up hope for peace.

### **Overcoming the Climate Crisis: Attitudes Toward Coal-Fired and Nuclear Power Plants as Touchstones**

Fourth, the JCP’s breakthrough will be of great help in protecting the survival of humanity from the climate crisis and in protecting the lives and livelihoods of the Japanese people.

The climate crisis is a challenge that the people of Japan must not wait to overcome. Extreme heat and torrential rain disasters are endangering lives and causing serious damage to agriculture and fisheries.

The touchstone of this issue is what attitude Japan will take toward coal-fired and nuclear power plants. Japan has been criticized for being the only G7 country that has not stated a deadline for withdrawal from coal-fired power generation. Despite the Fukushima disaster, Japan has been promoting a return to nuclear power, calling it “clean energy,” operating dangerous old nuclear power plants, and building new nuclear power plants.

Renewable energy, on the other hand, lags far behind, accounting for 24% of electricity. United Kingdom 45%. Germany 54%. Canada 66%. Furthermore, major electric power companies are curtailing renewable energy power on the grounds that there is “too much power supply.” It must be said that the regressive trend

of treating renewable energy as a “hindrance” in order to rely on coal-fired thermal power and nuclear power plants is very serious.

In its “2030 Strategy to End the Climate Crisis,” the JCP has announced a strategy to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 50-60% (compared to fiscal 2010) by fiscal 2030 through energy conservation and a system shift to renewable energy, and to achieve virtually zero emissions by fiscal 2050. The JCP’s policy is to “promptly eliminate nuclear power generation” and “eliminate coal-fired thermal power generation by 2030.”

The JCP’s breakthrough, which is not related to corporate and group donations from the electric power industry and the business world, and which has been cutting into the politics of special interests, will be a major force in changing the political system to one of zero coal-fired power, zero nuclear power, and a solution to the climate crisis. Let us appeal for this fact to the world.

### **Let Us Grow the JCP and Together Advance the Movement for Gender Equality**

Fifth, I would like to appeal to the public to join with us in promoting the JCP and the movement for gender equality.

During this period, a major trend toward gender equality has been spreading in various areas of Japanese society, including the announcement of the gender wage gap, the revised Penal Code that created the crime of “non-consensual sexual intercourse,” the Superior Court ruling that not recognizing same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, progress in measures to eliminate molestation, and even the Keidanren called on the government to adopt selective married couple surnames.

Under these circumstances, it has become even clearer that the biggest obstacle to gender equality is LDP politics. Despite the overwhelming public opinion for the selective surname system, the LDP has continued to put off this issue. The forces that resist this issue based on the patriarchal view of the family under the Meiji Constitution have become its biggest obstructionists. The wage gap cannot be corrected without eliminating indirect discrimination, such as discrimination against non-regular employees, many of whom are women, and the course-based personnel system. However, the LDP politics not only refuses to acknowledge the existence of indirect discrimination, but also fails to understand what indirect discrimination is.

Let us raise our voices against discrimination and injustice and together advance the movement for gender equality. Let us appeal for the JCP to make great strides in order to bring judgment on the LDP politics that hinder gender equality and to make the world a place where I can take care of myself.

In October, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will examine Japan’s report in Geneva for the first time in eight years. One of the focal points will be Japan’s failure to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It has already been ratified by 115 countries and is a major force for advancing gender equality. The Optional Protocol includes an “individual communication procedures” that allows women to report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination when their rights guaranteed by the Convention are violated, but because the government has not ratified the protocol, Japanese women cannot “report” to the UN even when they are discriminated against in violation of the Convention. Let us call for early ratification of the Optional Protocol.

### **III. Current Status of Joint Struggle between Citizens and Opposition Parties and JCP’s Position**

Next, I would like to report on the current status of the joint struggle between citizens and opposition parties and the position of the JCP. Our party has consistently made efforts to rebuild the joint struggle between citizens and opposition parties. However, in the current general election, the foundation of the joint struggle has been fundamentally undermined by the CDP.

## **If the Abolition of the National Security Law is No Longer Clear, the Foundation of Our Joint Struggle will be Fundamentally Undermined**

The biggest problem is the attitude toward the National Security Law, or the War Law. The newly elected leader of the CDP, Mr. Noda, has stated that the National Security Law “cannot be abolished immediately” and that “verification of its unconstitutional parts is necessary,” paving the way for its continued existence. However, the joint struggle between citizens and opposition parties has criticized the Abe administration’s acceptance of the right to exercise collective self-defense and its enforcement of the Security Law as a destruction of constitutionalism, and has consistently placed the abolition of the Security Law and the restoration of constitutionalism as the “top priority” of their joint struggle. The destruction of constitutionalism is a serious problem that has a different dimension from individual policy issues, and the logic of the joint struggle between citizens and opposition parties has been to first join forces to restore constitutionalism, even if our positions on individual policy issues differ. If this position is no longer clear, the foundation of the joint struggle will be fundamentally undermined.

This is not a problem of the past. The strengthening of the military alliance and the expansion of the military under the “Three Security Documents” are the embodiment and practice of the National Security Law. It must be pointed out that if we allow the National Security Law to remain in place, we will not be able to confront head-on the massive military expansion and constitutional changes that are currently underway under the new Ishiba regime.

In addition, we cannot overlook the fact that Representative Noda has stated that he and the JCP cannot form a government together. Since September 2015, when our party proposed a “national coalition government,” we have consistently emphasized the issue of a coalition government. The fact that we agreed to “limited cooperation from outside the cabinet” in the general election of 2021 has a positive significance, and in relation to the CDP, this agreement is an agreement between the public parties. It is unacceptable to unilaterally overturn this agreement and exclude the JCP from government cooperation.

Furthermore, Mr. Noda has indicated that he will pursue cooperation with the JIP and other parties. The JIP is the worst complement of the LDP, and is a party that agitates for constitutional change and even says, “I wish the JCP would disappear from Japan.” Pursuing cooperation with the JIP is incompatible with a joint struggle between citizens and opposition parties.

## **Let Us Create a New Trend of Development of the Joint Struggle between Citizens and Opposition Parties with the Breakthrough of the JCP**

We must frankly state that the conditions for a joint struggle between the two parties in the upcoming general election have been fundamentally undermined by the CDP’s rejection of the consensus reached by the joint struggle between citizens and opposition parties and by the agreement between the two parties. From this standpoint, our party will put up candidates to the maximum extent possible in the single-seat constituencies as well, and we are determined to fight hard for victory. In Okinawa, let us fight with all our might for the victory of all “All Okinawa” members. It must also be said that in some areas, we may take action based on the past history and other factors, but it must be limited.

In this general election, let us concentrate all our efforts on making a breakthrough for the JCP with “proportional representation” as the axis, and let us unite all the people in Japan to make a breakthrough for sure. Let us appeal widely to the people that the success or failure of the JCP’s breakthrough will be the key to whether or not the LDP politics can be changed.

The JCP is a party whose Program is to advance the democratic transformation of Japanese society through a united front. From this standpoint, let us build a new trend of development of the joint struggle between citizens and opposition parties, and let us carry out this general election with the appeal that the JCP’s breakthrough will be its greatest strength.



#### **IV. Let Us Talk about the Vitality of the JCP Program and the Appeal of the Future Society**

The proportional representation election in the general election will be held under the name of a political party. In order to win the election, it is essential to make policy appeals and talk about the vitality of the JCP Program and the attractiveness of the future society we are aiming for, to increase the number of active supporters, and to expand support to us in the proportional representation elections. In this respect, I would like to emphasize that our activities after the Party Congress have created great opportunities.

#### **Let Us Join the Great Movement to Learn and Talk about “Communism and Freedom” with Ambition**

First, based on the decision of the Party Congress, a large movement to study and discuss “communism and freedom” has begun, and we are getting a sense that this theme is resonating with the wishes of the people at large.

*Q&A: Communism and Freedom* by Central Committee Chair Shii sheds light on the most brilliant aspect of Marx’s theory of the future society - “freedom of individual” and “free and full development of individual” - and changes the image that “communism has no freedom” by 180 degrees, fully revealing that “communism is the society where ‘man is truly free.’” It also emphasizes the significance of “time that can be freely spent (free time),” and sheds light on Marx’s theory that “what is deprived by capitalist exploitation is not only goods and money but also ‘free time’ and that a society that restores and expands the stolen time and guarantees sufficient ‘free time’ to all is socialism and communism.” It is important to note that this is not something that will become an issue only in a future society, but is also connected to the current struggle for shorter working hours.

Here lies a great vein for spreading the appeal of the future society that the JCP is aiming for, to many people. During this period, the entire party has been studying “Communism and Freedom,” and has begun street advertising and dialogues through sticker surveys, which have been met with fresh reactions. The “Q&A” book is currently in its 8th printing with 46,000 copies in print. If we position this “big campaign” as a strategic issue and fight the election campaign, we can expand the name of the JCP with pride and confidence, and say “the JCP for proportional representation.” Let us make this an election in which all party members study *Q&A: Communism and Freedom* and speak with ambition.

#### **Let Us Seize the Fruits of Our Visit to Europe and Use Them to Win the Election!**

Secondly, the report of Chair Shii’s visit to Europe on September 18 has helped us to grasp the positive movement toward peace and social progress in the world, and has given us great confidence in the role of the JCP in international politics and in the vitality of the party’s program line.

Party members from all over Japan who watched the “Europe Visit Debriefing Session” were full of emotion and confidence, such as “I am thrilled that the Party’s opposition party diplomacy has developed and is alive in this way” (Saitama) and “I could clearly see that the line of the Program, including the East Asia Peace Proposal and the freedom theory, resonates with global trends, and my confidence in the Program has deepened even further” (Hokkaido). Another common feature of the seminar was the dynamic expression of determination to make a breakthrough in the party’s efforts for the reform of Japan and in the general election.

I was also thrilled to hear the report. Above all, the fact that international solidarity opposing the strengthening of military alliances and promoting the TPNW is being promoted in the east and west of the Eurasian continent made me see the project of change in Japan from a more dynamic international perspective. I was impressed by the serious theoretical exchange that took place in Europe, a developed capitalist country, with a view toward socialism and communism. I was also impressed by the fact that the social rules in Europe have been established through the long-standing struggle of workers and the people, and I renewed my determination that Japan should follow suit.

It is sure to be exciting. I hope that you will spare some time to watch the “Europe Visit Debriefing Session.” I sincerely encourage you to grasp the results and use them as the power to win the general election.

V. “Focus on proportional representation elections” – Call for Operation “Must-Win General Election”  
(Omitted)