

Japan: ^{GH} Discussion with Dan Dickeson, Dec. 1977

There are about 300 in JRCL; 800-900 in youth

about 300 are in Tokyo; the Tokyo organization is young and inexperienced

150 in Osaka

400 in the north; Sendai, Akita and other cities

(the entry in the SP was most successful here)

100 in Fukuoka (in West)

smaller numbers in other cities; mostly youth

Organized by cell structure; cells are about 20 comrades in big cities

in theory, the cells are the basic unit; but meetings are only once a month or less. The weekly meetings are fraction meetings which generally deal only with a limited area of intervention

There is great heterogeneity from city to city. There is not much mobility in Japan as a whole, since wages, job categories etc. are based on local seniority type system. So comrades tend to ~~stay~~ stay in one place. In many areas there is a ~~comrade~~ comrade who is the main leader, long-established as such and looked to for guidance on all questions.

there is not much rotation of assignments among rank and file

There is a weekly paper, with circulation of about 8,000. Most copies are sold by the party and youth comrades to ~~people~~ people they know personally (there is little hawking on streets) or through bookstores.

There is a quarterly magazine, a printshop and a publishing house.

There are many full-timers, perhaps 80 (1/3 of them in the branches), ~~but~~ but this figure may be temporarily higher than usual because people went on full-time around the airport struggle

The cc meets around every two months for about 3 days. There are 25 on the cc. Branch organizers attend cc meetings.

About 20 internal bulletins were published in 1977. Most of them contain reports from cc meetings and from leaders on various points. There is some international translation. The ~~rank-and-file~~ rank-and-file comrades are not really participants in the discussion.

There are very few women comrades (there is great difficulty in Japan for women to be politically active). One comrade on the cc of 25 is a woman. The section publishes a women's magazine, which was initiated by women comrades. The women's magazine is least affected by ultra-leftism.

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Only a few comrades know English. There is not much that is translated. Sakai has a near monopoly of information. There is hardly any international discussion in the party. There is an international commission of the Political Bureau. This was one area of work where the door was not open to Dan.

Sasaki wrote a report on the SWP convention that was printed in the JRCL ~~newspaper~~ newspaper. Some comrades on the international commission objected to the article as being too favorable to the SWP.

Sakai position on the dissolution of the LTF was that it was a declaration of defeat by the LTF.

The JRCL has not grown appreciably since 1972 in numerical terms. But there has been a big strengthening of its internal organizational norms.

After the Lockheed scandal the leadership proposed to orient towards calling for a CP-SP government. This provoked a big internal discussion in 1976. Many comrades resisted this, reflecting opinions widespread in the ultraleft milieu. Comrades in Osaka were best on the CP-SP government slogan.

In face of the internal opposition, Sakai and Kihara backed away from the CP-SP government slogan. Oda (Kojima), originally from Sendai, led a small minority that wanted to keep CP-SP government slogan. The discussion on this was reflected in the interview sent to IP and Inprecor earlier in 1977.

Afterwards, a much further backsliding on this and other general questions of political approach developed around the airport campaign. The section tried to outbid the other ultraleft groups in the airport actions. Made a complete retreat from participation in elections. Argued explicitly against mass action in favor of confrontations.
