

# 'calamus gladio fortior'

# Impression of Refugee Camp

REPORT FROM LAOS BORDER BY EIBU SUZUKI

From April 23 to 30, I went to the line between Laos and Thailand, as a member of the Japanese Children Goodwill Cruise Association.

#### General background of the camp

BAN VINAI REFUGEE CAMP. PACKHOM DISTRICT, LOEI PRO-VINCES IN NORTHEASTERN THAI-LAND is 12 kilometers south of the Mekong River border between Laos and Thailand. The 280 acres of land where the camp is built, is divided into eight centers to shelter a recently estimated population of 33,799, including approximately 8,000 refugees approved for U.S. resettlement.

Most of the displaced persons in the camp are hill tribesmen called Hmong from the area of Phu Bra Mountain, the highest in Laos at nearly 10,000 feet. Although the nationality of Hmong people is Laotian, officers of the Thai government clearly distinguish Hmong and Laotians. Hmong means "wild cat" in Thai, an object of contempt. Hmong people, however, are independent, hardworking, clever and quick to learn.

Generally speaking, "the two big waves" of displaced persons in 1975 and 1979 are common features in all Indo-Chinese countries, Laos, Viet Nam, and Cambodia. Among refugees from these countries, only Laotian people have not been the focus of the world's attention, have not appealed their existence. So they've received less voluntary assistance than refugees from Viet Nam and

## Administration of the camp

The camp is under the jurisdiction of the Royal Thai Government Ministry of Interior in agreement with the UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR). I was surprised that the refugees had the perfect self-governing system. A Displaced Per- day under the burning sun, are generally pliances, electronics, precision mason's Committee, under the authority of much poorer than the displaced persons chinery and automobiles. The textile, the Thai commander, assists the camp who scarcely produce anything. But metal working and shipbuilding indusauthorities in routine administrative these Thai citizens do not receive the tries, which have been considered the work such as food and relief supplies same large-scale assistance program. This leaders of structured depression due to distribution, volunteer labor and communication with camp residents. The committee is composed of a chair- Our activities in the camp man, three deputies and the chiefs of each of the camp's eight centers. Each Children Goodwill Cruise Association and ing thirty people in the technical and ment. center is divided into 3-4 quarters each of which has a quarter chief. Each Bangkok on April 23 at night. Relief though the numbers could change acindustries such as Daiei will be for the quarter consists of about 16 long-style goods including 2000 pieces of cloth- cording to business fluctuation. housing units, each with a building ings, 3000 towels, school goods, etc.

Facilities and voluntary activities in permission. the camp

include: schools for children and adults the city in the evening. where an estimated 40 Thai teachers are appointed by Thai government to teach Thai language, mathematics, social studies, science and so on; a vocational training and handicraft center; a community development center; a Hmong temple, Catholic and Protestant churches; a soccer field; a supplemental feeding program for children; a hospital that has 6 voluntary doctors, four wards for 140 patients and a special ward for lepers and an outpatient clinic.

Voluntary agencies in Ban Vinai involved with development projects and direct relief include World Vision, Food for the Hungry and Christian and Missionary Alliances. A special ESL and orientation program began March 15, 1980 for refugees approved for U.S. resettlement.



Children at the camp

Around the camp

Northeastern Thailand, where the understanding.

president Miss Nobuko Iwaki, arrived at twenty in the administration field, chief. All chiefs are elected by the could pass the customs without any under the influence of the shipbuilding ous and its demands large, the fields inspections with the Japanese Embassy's depression and had abstained from where we can play active parts are wide.

Early next morning, we left Bangkok

Ban Vinai refugee camp on the border- better than I had expected. Facilities for Vinai refugee camp, 800 kilometers wooden desks surrounding us. We got physical and educational development away from Bangkok by bus and reached very nervous because of the great audi-

> On the morning of the 25th, we met more than 5000! the vice-governor of the province and got the permit to pass the military guard children's songs with harmonicas and stations freely and to enter the refugee

> of the camp were better than we had of the children with vital power. After expected. As I mentioned earlier, they that we danced some folk dances, for had houses to live in, hospitals, and example, Jenka, Let's Kiss, Meime schools. They had at least escaped the Meime, and Tanko-bushi together with state of starvation. Refugees, however, the children. wore ragged clothes and no shoes and lived in dirty houses. Although it was during our stay in the camp said, "We better than what we had expected, the heartily appreciate your kindness of situation there was still miserable.

the chairman, and deputies, who were refined gentlemen of the Displaced sense of friendship with you." Person's Committee and asked them to

the soccer field, crowds of children people.

The conditions of the camp were for Loei, the nearest city to the Ban rushed around to the barricade of ence: the number of children was really

> First we played some easy Japanese flutes. They gave us thunders of applause, Everyone smiled cheerfully. We It was surprising that the conditions were pleased to find the vivid expression

> A Hmong doctor who assisted us visiting us. You are the first Japanese to At the office of the camp, we met have visited this camp. Both you and I are Asian people. We can enjoy the

Compared to the strenuous and deliver the relief goods we brought to continuous effort exerted by the Thai government, the U.N.H.C.R., World After that, our activity began. We Vision and other agencies of the U.S., were confident of our method and our activity being less than a week, may ability to teach children plays, games, have been the "Athletic Meeting". I, dances, and songs, because we are counse- however, am fully convinced that it was  $lors\ of\ Japanese\ Children\ Goodwill\ Cruise.\ \ a\ splendid\ one.\ We\ stimulated\ the\ dull$ Our activity created a great sensation in atmosphere of the camp and confirmed the camp. As we began our "show" on the real friendship with the Hmong

# Job Hunting, Optimistic?!

been said to be harder on students than is ninety technicians and thirty adminislast year. But according to Mr. Tsuchiya, the employment rate will increase, and even giving it a pessimistic look, employment will not be less than last

Looking at individual industries, refugee camps are located, is the poorest most makers are in a boom and are area in Thailand. The villagers around likely to increase their employment, the camp who work hard for the whole especially industries of electric apsometimes causes jealousy and mis- investments in plants and equipment for the past two years, are on a move to restore employment. Kyojin and Teijin We, eighteen members of Japanese already have a concrete plan of employ-

Ishikawajimaharima, which was

Employment this year seems to have employment. The frame of employment

Popular industries, like banking and trade firms, are again stable this year, and will employ about the same number as last year. Though the business is apt to be more severe with the acquisition of deposits, ten trillion yen industries like Mitsubishi Shoji and Mitsui Bussan will become even more popular for they have continued to raise proceeds and for the large part they play in Japan's economics by importing oil.

Unpopular for its hard work and vehement competition with other companies is the bond industry and they are going to have a tough time trying to capture efficient people. But they too have plans to increase their employ-

better.

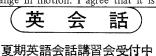
Our industrial world being prosperemploying new staff for the past two So it is necessary for us to keep our ears years, is planning to restore a three-digit peeled as sharp as possible, starting now.

On May 27th, China's chairman, Hua Guofend paid Japan the first visit ever by a Chinese head of state. This gave us an opportunity to take a closer look at China and we therefore decided to interview Prof. B. Larkin. He is now teaching Far East International Relations at Keio Univ.

Prof. B. Larkin received his Ph.D. from Harvard University and his BA is from the University of Chicago. He did his MA on East Asian Studies and his Ph.D. on political science. He is now a professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz and was the chairman of his department until March. His primary interest is China's policy

What do you think of Kissinger's visit to China?

Kissinger's visit to China yielded an agreement to establish offices in each other's countries. In turn these offices provided diplomatic relations when they were developed last year. Kissinger went to China in July of '71 and Nixon followed in Feb. of '72. In my view, this was not a decisive step for China. I believe the decisive step was the negotiation of diplomatic relations between Canada and China which occurred a year or more before Kissinger's visit. And if you look carefully at the number of countries with which China established diplomatic relations, you will see that immediately following the Canarelations, gradually many countries established diplomatic relations.



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# Tomorrow China's Interview

important thing for the world that What is the main opposing point beultimately, the U.S. and China were able tween China and the USSR? to work out ways of identifying their

Was unimprovement in people's stand- ing among the Soviets. ards of living one of the reasons China expanded her contacts with the world?

living had been unimproved for some Soviet Union in '50 and '51 were often each other and achieve for both sides years. Even greater concern, however, very difficult, none the less, the Chinese better outcomes. I think that's what base for the establishment of a truly of leader in communist initiative. But modern defensive force. They may have on something that really mattered, that worried about security issues more than is, nuclear weapons, in the end the insist everyone think about and consider the question of people's livelihood.

We can not ignore the fact that China Chinese. was not on as good terms with the

I am not a Soviet specialist but mutual interests. I completely agree, but people who know the Soviets well tell I think that even if Nixon had done me that there is a deep rooted personal nothing, China would still have emerged feeling among many people of the stan will be as important as Czechoon the world in this decade as much as Soviet Union who simply fear the slovakia in confirming China's suspicion Chinese as too numerous, as incompre- of the Soviet Union. hensible. There is a greater ethnic feel-

was the fact that they had not created a looked upon the Soviet Union as a kind Soviet Union was reluctant to help the

Then in 1959, the Soviet Union Soviet Union as she used to be. There removed their technicians who were history in the sense that it's important were slashes in March of '69, and more helping in the development of Chinese to keep alive in everyone's mind politifollowed in the summer. So the Chinese nuclear weaponry. I think the Chinese cal tragedies and how easily they come dian-Chinese negotiations of diplomatic were interested in how they could expand their contacts with the world. In long-time superiority over China and in not to slip into loose language and talk that sense one can not argue that there Soviet eyes, China would be a depend-about interests that are real but not I think it is that event that set the was a new readiness to deal with the ent state as long as the Soviet Union vital, raised by loose thoughts and loose change in motion. I agree that it is an U.S. that had not been present before. could ensure that. I think the Chinese talking

leadership decided that Soviet Union did not trust them enough to help them develop nuclear weapons and wanted to have superiority over them.

Is there any possibility of China's reconciliation with the USSR?

I think you must have a twodimensional sense of it. That is both the possibility of some reconcilation and the quality of that reconcilation. I think it would be of China's interest to establish better relations with USSR but China is very suspicious and will remain suspicious of the Soviet Union especially after the Afghanistan affair. Afghani-

However distant they may be from each other, there are forms of practical On the Chinese side, I think they cooperation which now they engage in, believe that the Soviet Union was not like trade for example. Nations should sincere in discussing relations in the always seek common interests, try to There is no doubt that the level of 1950's. Though the discussions with the find those ways in which they can help politics is all about.

What can we do for world peace?

how to act toward nuclear weapons and threats caused by chemical weapons. The second thing is to teach and learn

#### The Memoirs Sōkei-Sen o f

U. and Waseda U. This is one of the most enjoyable events for both schools.

On May 30th, students of both schools lined up early in the evening to obtain better seats for a better view at the Jingū Stadium. Seems like a headache to both schools' students, but to tell the truth, they would rather enjoy the night by drinking and singing than watching the game the next day.

Some drank so much that they began quarrels. Others suffered from the effects of alcohol and some students

In April after being enlivened by the even lost consciousness. Thus, that night

Both teams have cheering songs too. entrance ceremonies, starts the new was "living hell". About thirty ambu- Keio has the repartee of "Dash Keio" school year. Then comes the Tokyo lances actually came, and about ten and "Wakakichi" just to mention a few. Six-University baseball league season! students were taken to the hospital. At Waseda has the "Combat March" and To decorate the finale, is the "Sōkei- around four o'clock, students sober up "Konpeki-no-sora" and many others. Sen" which is the game between Keio and began to stand in orderly rows. We sing them loud with hopes of win-



Waseda-Keio Baseball Match

hard rain, the game schedule for that day was unfortunately put off.

The next day, June 1st to be exact, the first game between these schools was played at one thirty. Before the game we cheered our rivals and our own, and sang some school songs by turns, as it has become the custom to do so. This is how we students cheer. The Keio students wear two sharp caps, one blue and the other red, for they are the school colors. Waseda students wear enjoy the Sōkei-sen. square caps, their colors yellow or red. Both students cheer colorfully, and there are cheer girls all to brighten up the atmosphere.

again. Entrance time was ten, but due to ning, along with the music played by the school orchestra. We combine shoulders, we wave caps and when we get points we jump for joy and sing the school song on our feet. So we are quite busy throughout the game. But again these are all for the pleasure and delight of student life.

After the game Keio students go to Ginza or Roppongi, Waseda students to Shinjuku to drink the night away. Thus we Keio and Waseda students both

The results were Waseda winning over Keio in both games. The next Sōkei-sen will be played in Autumn. We hope they will be good games.



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The first conference of Inter-Design '80 is to be held in Yokohama from July 2 to 4. More than 50 artists, designers, architects, writers, scholars, and stage and film directors will discuss with students and citizens about the design of Japanese culture in the 80's. The representative of the organizers is philosopher Takeshi Umehara and the chairman will be architect Kisho Kurokawa. The theme of the conference is "Towards the Age of Symbiosis", that gives us a suggestion that the chief problem of Japanese culture in the 80's be the symbiosis of heterogeneous cultures, of nature and man, of the past and the future and so on.

By the way, Inter-Design '80 is a cultural organization which was founded chiefly by the Japanese who attended the Aspen International Conference of last year. What was picked up as the main theme of that conference was "Japan and the Japanese", because of which the conference was a great success. Kisho Kurokawa, who acted as a chairman was strongly impressed by a similar conference in Yokohama this

# July

In July, the freedom of mankind ground; the modern society, and given made rapid progress in history. People democracy by foreign countries, the searched for Truth, Reason, and Liberty sense of freedom and democracy and and rose against oppression. On the patriotism is weak and people are not fourth of July in 1776, the Declaration either trained or accustomed to the way of Independence was issued by, prima- of democratic activity and are inclined rily, Thomas Jefferson, and the Liberty to be confused about freedom and Bell was rung out clearly in the sky of democracy. Philadelphia. The fourteenth of July in By the way, when the rainy season 1789, the Bastille, which was the comes to an end, the season of play symbol of autocracy, was stormed by comes. The sky becomes clear, the the armed citizenry and the song of sunshine is too bright to think and liberty resonated loudly in the sky of work, and the sunset gives us rest.

Nowadays, however, freedom is people's heads are filled up with the choked with gigantic structures and may plans of vacation. Why don't we enjoy be on the verge of death. Nevertheless, the vacation and play? Life is short and it seems that in these countries, people but a dream. gained freedom and democracy by their own hands and they have the tradition of the civil society and the true sense of freedom and democracy, and are making constant efforts to realize it.

On the other hand, in Japan, since the institutions of the modern nation were transplanted speedily without being accompanied with their back-

#### The o f Age Symbiosis

ence was devised with reference to that the Aspen International Conference? of the Aspen Conference; positive par-Conference is a success, they will hold foreigners in Japan. similar conferences every year until Tsukuba and Nagoya,

Summer holidays are near at hand and

Then let not winter's ragged hand

In thee thy summer ere thou be

Make sweet some vial; treasure

With beauty's treasure ere it be

- Shakespare Sonnet VI —

deface

distill'd:

self-kill'd:

thou some place

The style of the Yokohama Confer- What was most impressing for you at

The Aspen International Conference ticipation by students and citizens is the has been held in America every year for essential element of it. So the Yoko- more than a quarter century. Most hama Conference will consist not only themes of the conferences had been of lectures and exhibitions but also of a concerned only with Europe and symposium making use of visual media, America, but last year for the first time a citizens' forum, an outdoor festival in its history the theme was concerned and other events. People in many fields with Japan. The theme was "Japan and wish the Yokohama Conference to be a the Japanese". I acted as a chairman in success, but there is much difficulty in it and it was a great success. There were realizing that because attempting to more than 2,000 people present. It was hold this style of conference in Japan is by far more than usual number of very unusual. The organizers of Inter-participants, 800-1,300. I was strongly Design '80 intend that if the Yokohama impressed by the increasing interests of

1989 at different cities, such as Kobe, variety of people who had gathered to Yokohama Conference will be held to discuss a single theme. I realized at endow ourselves with the opportunity For details and information on par- that time that pure specialized fields of having some serious discussions. the conference and thus decided to hold ticipation in the Yokohama Conference, have been mixed with each other and so Aspen Conferences take place only in please call the following number: problems can be solved not by experts Aspen but we will hold similar confer-03-214-4351 Nihon Bunka Dezain Kaigi in a single field but by those in many. ences in different cities.

When I considered how many Japanese are seriously thinking about their own culture, while so many in America are interested in it, I realized that we have to think about ourselves more. That's one reason. Secondly, I think it is necessary for people of various fields to understand each other. Thirdly, almost all Japanese who took part in the Aspen Conference asked me to hold a similar conference in Japan.

What are the main differences between the Yokohama Conference and the Aspen Conference?

The Aspen Conference is something Secondly, I was impressed by the like a festival with a discussion, but the



Symbol Mark

Thirdly, I was impressed that Japa- Please explain how you decided the ers, to assist in understanding the Japanese culture, from the point of view understanding the culture. I was glad that the foreign participants knew some



Mr. Kisho Kurokawa

nese words were referred to by foreign- theme of the Yokohama Conference, "Towards the Age of Symbiosis"?

The chairman usually decides the that knowing the language is the key to theme, so this time I decided it. Why I selected "Towards the Age of Symbiosis" as the theme is because the theme Japanese words when the conference was what I have been researching for was over.

about 20 years. In my book, "Gure no Bunka" or "The Culture of Symbiosis", I wrote about my research of symbiosis.

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15	an idol	24	reutilize			
16	petroleum	25	plant fluid			
17	sick	26	ninth month			
18	a preposition	27	trinitrotoluene (abbr.)			
19	unsuitable	28	United Automobil Workers (abb			
20	fearful Cooperation (abbr.	29	exact			
21	Organization for Asian Economic	30	European Community (abbr.)			
22	a famous American author	31	dwell or inhabit			
1	travellers across	8	to cut into thin pieces			
2	prevention or obstruction	9	to succeed			
3	fairy	10	field artillery (abbr.)			
4	of sight	11	idle or useless			
5	an atom with electric charge	12	a preposition			
6	uncle's wife	13	profound			
7	reciprocal	14	to play			
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# EDITORIAL

Recently the defense issues of Japan have been eagerly argued, and each party is enthusiastic about them in their campaign. It is important for members of the Diet to appeal to public opinion in relation to Japanese security and peace. The Diet should perform their political missions to protect our freedom. Besides, the Self-Defense Force is under it in terms of 'civilian control', not to mention problems of the constitution. It is necessary for the candidates to discuss the defense issues in the political confusion resulting from the dissolution of the Diet, and we hope it will bring some advantages for our country.

The arms balance of the two big countries, the United States and The Soviet Union, is breaking down because the former has become relatively inferior to the latter in armament. The Soviet Union steadily proceeds with her world strategy as troops advance into Afganistan. Japan, involved in the Far East area that the Soviet Union wants to control, must be on her guard. The armament in the Kirile Island by the Soviet Union is a strong psychological pressure on Japan, reminding us of the incident of Finland. The policy Japan should choose is to react to the changes in the Far East area, always serenely, realistically and reasonably. It is advisable for Japan to adopt a cooperative attitude toward other alliances, even though military contribution to them is against the spirit of our constitution.

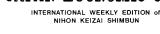
What Japan ought to do as one of the main democratic countries is not to expand armament as demanded by them, but to have a proper force, meaning neither excessive nor inadequate, of high quality for the protection of our own country. On the ground that we can't agree to strengthen armament to attack other countries, Japan makes up for that in economy, technology, and education, in order to maintain peace and security in Asia. If Japan can secure the stability of Asia, Japan's role there will be accomplished to some extent. In that way, it is possible for Japan to increase her voice in alliances and to have an influence on them.

As to this point, we can refer to our collecting information. Today, Japan's information mostly comes from the West such as the United States and England. In that sense, partial information is not good to Japan, for we may have differing views.

The fact that Japan gets information from the United States can't be denied. However, it is to Japan's disadvantage that she doesn't receive much news via France and West Germany. Japan ought to, therefore, have original sources of information and correspondence, which would be able to express her views all over the world without being exceedingly influenced by foreign countries. In other words, having it means informing the world of Japan's views and more or less informing it. In this way Japan can strengthen her right to speak to alliances once she establishes it as a base of discussion.

Japan is apt to be influenced by foreign countries, especially the United States, and to have difficulties in stating differing opinions clearly, which is incovenient to make our own situation apparent.





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