

August 22, 1970

Dear _____:

The summer of 1970 will soon be coming to a close, but as we view the past several months, I hope we can safely say that some milestones have been reached--in the growth of political awareness in each of us; in the number of new contacts made in the Asian movement here and elsewhere; and in the feeling of relating to the struggles in the Third World and the Third World peoples' struggles here.

Each of you are responsible for what has been accomplished. The warm spirit and cooperativeness of all of you have developed the kind of brotherhood-sisterhood that MUST continue to grow.

In behalf of Triple A, my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your varied help, concern, and enthusiasm, especially during the preparation for Hiroshima-Nagasaki Week.

Some special thanks are in order: To Rocky Chin for chairing the Asian Coalition; to Corky Lee for spreading the word in the Two Bridges area; to Harold Lui, doing the same at Hamilton-Madison House; to Mary Ikeda and Kazu Iijima, for mailings; to Min Matsuda, for the art-work, poster-paper, and treating out-of-town visitors; to all the Iijimas, Beverly Falk, Aiko Abe, and Bob and Joanne Miya for putting up visitors and for the use of their apts.; to Bob and Joanne again, that their apt. has been the summer's Asian club-house; to Hun-wa Chang and Irene Chun for reaching AAPA people; to all the 1 Wor Kuen for sparking interest in and around China-Town; to Kazu Obayashi for putting up posters up-town; to Alan Okada for acting as liaison with the Buddhist Church and Collage; to Tak Iijima for continuously using his car picking up people and equipment; to Steve Louie and Terry De Fee, making extra trips all the way from Boston; to Taxi Kusumeki for plugging movement activities in the Nichibei; to Charles Yen for his generous donation to defray expenses; to Ti-Hua Chang, Tsi-wen Lau, Chris Iijima, Lillian Ling, Arthur Sata, Don Yee, Lisa Abe, Keiko Matsumoto, Tom Tam, Shinya One, Liz Feng, Jerry Zahn for leg-work, phone-calls; and leafletting; and last but not least, to indispensable Glen Omatsu, quiet, modest, hard-working brother from New Haven, Connecticut, who came to New York for the summer just to devote his time in helping to build the Asian movement here. To all of you, and many, many more--a huge thanks with a yellow-fisted salute!

Yes, summer is ending, and hope all of you can enjoy a few week's respite before pushing on again.

Joanne Miya and Chris Iijima, Triple A's two dynamic and talented "emissaries" now in demand on the West Coast, will be giving a two-man show here on Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. at the Buddhist Church, to raise expense-money to make the fare out. Their trip will be two-fold--to play for the benefit for the Evelyn Okubo Memorial Center and represent Triple A at the home-coming birthday party for Ranke Yamada in Los Angeles. Evelyn, 17, from Stockton, was the young sister whose life was snuffed out in the unexpected tragedy at the JAACL convention in July. Ranke, close friend and room-mate of Evelyn, was the one who survived a like terrifying ordeal.

The shocking and harsh catastrophe was a crushing blow, not only to all who attended the Chicago convention, but as the news spread to Asian readers across the country. The sorrow that cut into the movement, however, also drew movement brothers and sisters into a closer-knit unity in the need for one another, and in understanding the reality and political implications of this society. As Warren Furutani and Ranke, herself, said: "The killer is not the problem; but the society that molded him and forced him in that direction. He represents the product of an insensitive society that imbruted him."

Ranke's remarkable and courageous reaction and response to the reality of what took place is exemplary. Her concern for others, her minimizing her own suffering, and emerging unshattered by the impact of the incident—should be the incentive for each of us to emulate. Evelyn, too, in the few days that we—from New York had the opportunity to become acquainted with her, will not forget her quiet but intense attentiveness to what was transpiring around her. She was like a lovely, diminutive bud.....blossoming. She did not have the chance to flower to her fullest, nor to see the effects of her involvement and growth.

And so it is, and has been, with movement people. Struggle is never-ending. It must go on and on, no matter what. Each plays a part and passes the baton to the next runner. Ideas worth fighting for and the spirit of the people never die. (Our thanks to Chicago-ans, Sasha Hohri and Paul Hashiguchi, keeping us abreast of happenings there).

As we view panoramically the struggles all over the Third World, how many thousands whose energies were being utilized the year before are no longer here. Southeast Asia is a classic example; also Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Black and Brown struggle here.

That the Asian movement also has political prisoners, and that there will be more, is something we cannot dismiss from our mind. One of our own, here...from New York, well-known and well-loved...has just begun a 5-months stint. Letters are booster-shots to anyone incarcerated. WRITE! WRITE! WRITE!.....to:

SHINYA ONO H-3, #7008674
Cook County Jail
2600 S. California Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60608

As a last item, but important, is a reminder about dues. Because of the expenses accrued through the summer's mailing and contact-work, and because only a handful of people have been carrying the financial burden for Triple A, we are asking all Triple A members, participants, and interested people, that monthly dues (\$5.00) or whatever you can send, will be greatly appreciated in alleviating debts. The money should be sent to: Treasurer Tak Iijima, 900 W. 190th Street, Apt. 9G, New York, New York.

Again, thank you for your interest, participation and spirit!
Brother and sister-Asians! Tuen jet chi lai! Min-nade Aruke! And don't forget: Support the Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano and Indian movement! Third World Unite! Gum Yu Dao Jung! Gum Yu Sing Lay!

For the struggle...and in unity...

Mary Kichijima