



# NCRR AND NAACP PROTEST JAPANESE OFFICIAL'S REMARK

By TAKESHI NAKAYAMA

Asians and African Americans protesting Japanese Justice Minister Seiroku Kajiyama's recent remarks comparing American Blacks to prostitutes picketed Monday in front of the Kajima Building in Little Tokyo, where the Los Angeles Japanese Consulate General's office is located.

Protesters demanded the resignation of Kajiyama, who created a stir last week while speaking at a news conference after the arrests of foreign women allegedly working as prostitutes in Tokyo.

The Cabinet minister said prostitutes settling in a neighborhood spoil its atmosphere, "Like in America when neighborhoods become mixed because Blacks move in, and Whites are forced out."

"We're here to protest Japanese Justice Minister Kajiyama's statement in which he equated the movement of prostitutes into an area of Tokyo as being equivalent to Blacks moving into a White neighborhood, and he tried to identify with the way that the Whites feel at being forced out of their neighborhood. It's very offensive to use a racist approach to do government business," stated Joe Duff, spokesperson for the Los Angeles branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), at the noon rally.

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kind of racist views."

Resignation would be a firm demonstration of Japan's commitment to educate their people against racism, Duff suggested.

An estimated 50 picketers chanted and held signs and placards announcing "Stop Japanese Government's Racism," "Sorry Is Not Good Enough," "Racism Against One Hurts Us All," and "Apologies Are Not Enough."

The picketing, initiated by the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRR) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), also had the support of the Japanese American Citizens League Pacific Southwest District Committee on Civil Rights and others.

"We hope to make a statement here today, with Blacks and Japanese American groups standing together, to indicate that this kind of statement of the Japanese government must stop," Duff said. "What you see here today is a coalition of Blacks, civil rights groups and individuals, and Japanese Americans working together."

Jerry Yu, representing the Korean American Coalition, said, "Korean Americans are offended by the Justice Minister's statement. He's the same person who was carrying out the Alien Registration Law against foreigners in Japan—mostly Koreans. It really doesn't surprise us, the kind of attitude he has, it just shows how these people think."

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**DEMONSTRATION AGAINST RACISM**— Members of the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRR), representatives of local branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and other concerned individuals (above) picket in front of the Kajima Building, site of the Japanese Consulate, on Monday, to protest Justice Minister Seiroku Kajiyama's remarks comparing prostitutes to American Blacks. At left, Joe Duff of the Los Angeles NAACP meets with Japanese Consulate Public Affairs Officer

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The Japanese Embassy said Kajiyama earlier this week apologized, calling the remarks inappropriate. He has also called on U.S. Ambassador Michael Armacost to reiterate the apology and ask the ambassador to convey it to the American people.

"I retract the remarks and deeply apologize to those concerned," the newly-appointed minister said. He had previously served in two other Cabinet posts.

Duff said the apology is an inadequate diplomatic response.

"For this kind of statement to come from a government official of such standing, it simply is not enough for him to offer a personal apology," Duff continued. "The government must speak to this issue so that the American people know that the (Japanese) government does not harbor these same

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Yu, whose organization is working to ease tensions between Koreans and African Americans in Los Angeles, said this kind of statement "doesn't help anything. A lot of people look at Koreans and other Asians, and think we're all the same."

Kathy Masaoka, co-chair of the NCRP, comparing the World War II concentration camp experience of Japanese Americans to the current situation between the Japanese government and African Americans, stated, "... just as we feel, as Japanese Americans, that an apology... from the U.S. government to say they were sorry for the camps was not enough—we asked for monetary compensation and we won—by the same token, it is not enough for the Japanese government to say they're sorry... and leave it at that. They must do much more than that to ensure it doesn't happen again."

The Japanese government must



educate their leaders, Masaoka said, although she admitted, "It will take a long time."

Among other leaders of the Japanese American, African American and various other communities in attendance at the demonstration were Evelyn Yoshimura of NCRP; Dick Osumi, vice president of Japanese American Bar Association; Mike Murase of the California Rainbow Coalition; Gilbert Sanchez, representing MeCHA; Willie Curry of the Compton NAACP; Davis Rogers of Watts NAACP; Diane Tan, secretary of JABA; Ernestine Peters of the L.A.

NAACP; Antoinette Adams of the Beverly Hills/Hollywood branch of NAACP.

After the demonstration, representatives of NCRP and NAACP went up to the 15th floor office of the Consul General, Kiyohiko Arafune, to demand an appointment to meet with him regarding the Justice Minister's statements. With Consul General Arafune absent, consul public affairs officer Naoharu Fujii met the demonstrators and told them Arafune's schedule is "very tight" and a meeting would be difficult to arrange, but he told the protesters he would convey

**RACISM—**Members of the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRP), representatives of local branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and other concerned individuals (above) picket in front of the Kajima Building, site of the Japanese Consulate, on Monday, to protest Justice Minister Seiroku Kajiyama's remarks comparing prostitutes to American Blacks. At left, Joe Duff of the Los Angeles NAACP meets with Japanese Consulate Public Affairs Officer Naoharu Fujii (right), as other representatives of the coalition protesting Kajiyama's statements look on at the Consul General's office in Little Tokyo.

—Photos by MARIO REYES

their message to the Consul General.

Duff and Yoshimura told the consulate staff member that Arafune should make time to meet with the protesters.

"We'd like not to have to demonstrate again. We want to meet with him (Arafune)," added Duff.

"I share your feelings," said Fujii. "Japanese Americans are upset, and many people in Japan are upset and concerned about human rights issues... We are trying to promote better relations, but our efforts are being damaged by this kind of statement."