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 noontime rally.

The minister's remarks triggered a furor, with a similar protest staged in Washington on Friday. That protest, however, called for a boycott of Japanese business.

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."

Yu, whose organization is working to ease tensions between Koreans and African Americans, said, "We're here to protest the Justice Minister's remarks comparing Japanese with American Blacks."

At left, Joe Duff of the Los Angeles NAACP meets with Japanese Consulate Public Affairs Officer Hiroshi Udagawa.
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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.

"Refract the remarks and deeply apologize to those concerned," the newly-appoint minister said. He had also called on U.S. Ambassador Michael Armacost to reiterate the apology and ask the ambassador to convey it to the American people.

Duff said the apology is inadequate. "This is an inad-quate 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 government does not harbor these same emotions."