

January 2017

Annual Report 2016

**Review and Prospects of
Internal and External Situations**



Public Security Intelligence Agency

On the Publication of the Review and Prospects of Internal and External Situations (2017 Edition)

Director-General, Public Security Intelligence Agency Seimei Nakagawa

The Public Security Intelligence Agency (公安調査庁, Koanchosa-cho; abbreviated hereinafter as PSIA) annually publishes in January the Review and Prospects of Internal and External Situations which provides a summary of the public security situation within Japan and overseas. This is a publication that summarizes the state of affairs up to the end of November, 2016.

The task of the PSIA is to ensure public security by gathering intelligence and imposing regulatory measures against subversive organizations on the basis of laws including the Subversive Activities Prevention Act and the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Committed Indiscriminate Mass Murder. In order to fulfill this mission, we have been rigorously conducting surveillance of Aum Shinrikyo which carried out attacks against the Tokyo subway system with sarin gas. We have also been working on gathering and analyzing intelligence on trends at home and abroad that could adversely affect public security in Japan, including developments in neighboring countries, international terrorism, and various domestic groups. Through these endeavors, the PSIA imposes control on the organizations and strives to contribute to policymaking through the provision of intelligence as a core member of the intelligence community in Japan.

By reviewing the internal and external situations in 2016, we recognize serious threats to the security of Japan from abroad with North Korea conducting nuclear tests twice and launching missiles repeatedly, while serious cases of international terrorism have occurred one after another, such as the series of terrorist attacks in Brussels, Belgium and attacks in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Within Japan, there are trends regarding which thorough vigilance is required in order to safeguard public security, with Aum Shinrikyo continuing to maintain dangerous characteristics and still actively operating, and radical leftist groups conducting diverse activities to expand their social influence. There is also an aggravated threat brought about through cyberspace such as the theft of important information. All of this gives us cause to state that the domestic and foreign situations surrounding Japan are still tense.

In these circumstances, the entire government of Japan is promoting various measures with the aim of establishing Japan as "the Safest Country in the World" for the purpose of hosting the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020 and other events. In order to contribute to these efforts, the PSIA is also working to strengthen information gathering and analysis as well as to establish the necessary environment.

Threats to Japan have also spread to private organizations and individuals, and the necessity of cooperation between the private and public sectors in protecting public security has further increased. In order to enhance this cooperation, the PSIA wishes to make even greater efforts to disseminate information directly to the people. We sincerely hope that you will find this publication useful and that it will provide you with a greater understanding of the PSIA's work. We thank you for your continued support.

November 2016

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Focal Issues of the External Situation in 2016



1 North Korea and Chongryon (General Association of Korean Residents in Japan)

1 — 1 North Korea stirred up the international community including Japan and the US by displaying the strengthening of its nuclear and missile forces while exploring opportunities to break out of their international isolation

North Korea displayed the rapid enhancement of its attack capabilities through two nuclear tests and repeated missile launches and threatens the international community

North Korea conducted a series of nuclear and ballistic missile test launches in 2016 and greatly increased the threat to international society including Japan and the United States.

At the beginning of the year, North Korea conducted the fourth round of nuclear tests since February 2013 at a nuclear test site located in Punggye-ri in the northeastern part of the country, and claimed that "Korea's first hydrogen bomb test was carried out successfully" (in January). Subsequently, North Korea carried out a long-range ballistic missile launch test (in February), its first since December 2012, which it referred to as the launch of the Earth Observation Satellite "Kwangmyongsong 4."

In response, the United Nations Security Council adopted a new resolution on sanctions including restrictions on the trade of mineral resources, which is regarded as the largest source of North Korea's foreign currency revenue (in March). North Korea continued its military provocation after that, asserting that "If they consider any sanctions to be effective on us, that is a thorough miscalculation." Thus, First Secretary (the title at the time; the same rule applies in all cases hereinafter) Kim Jong Un who visited the "Atmospheric Re-entry Environment Simulation Test" for the ballistic missile declared that "a nuclear warhead explosion test and a test-fire of several kinds of ballistic rockets able to carry nuclear warheads will be conducted in a short time to further enhance the reliance of nuclear attack capability" (in March). North Korea also successively conducted the first test launch of the middle-range ballistic missile "Musudan" (in April; the missile exploded immediately after launch) which is reported to have been

deployed in 2007, as well as the test launch of a Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) under development (in April; the missile flew for about 30 kilometers).

In addition, Party First Secretary Kim at the 7th WPK (Workers' Party of Korea) Congress once again highlighted the policy to continue nuclear and missile development regardless of the intensified pressure from the international community, stating that "As long as nuclear threats and the tyranny of imperialism continue, we will permanently adhere to the strategic line of simultaneously pushing forward economic construction and the building of nuclear armed forces. We will further strengthen self-defensive nuclear weapons, both qualitatively and quantitatively" (in May).

Furthermore, North Korea carried out further test launches of "Musudan" (in May and June); in the June test launch, the missiles flew into the Sea of Japan about 400 kilometers away, and North Korea boasted that it "had obtained an assured ability to attack US forces in the Pacific Operational Zone."

Later on, upon the United States' designation of Party Chairman Kim as a subject of sanction (in July) due to North Korean involvement in human rights violations, North Korea warned that it would "take further steps with extremely resolute measures to adamantly crush the hostile actions of the United States," and further hardened its attitude towards the United States, by blocking the communication channel between the US and the North through the UN representative in New York.

Subsequently, North Korea revealed that it

had reprocessed spent nuclear fuel for the production of plutonium which is raw material for nuclear weapons, and had continued production of enriched uranium (in August). SLBM test launches were also carried out, in which North Korea made a display of the strengthening of its nuclear and missile forces by having the missile fly about 500 kilometers, the longest distance yet achieved (in August).

In addition, in reaction to the press statement of the United Nations Security Council (in August) which condemned a series of ballistic missile launches in July and August, North Korea warned that it would "continue to demonstrate in many stages all the groundbreaking measures for action which will demonstrate that we are a dignified military power," launched three

ballistic missiles simultaneously that have the range to reach Japan, and had them all fall at nearly the same point within Japan's exclusive economic zone about 1,000 kilometers away in order to make a display of the improvement in launching technology (in September). Then, carrying out the fifth nuclear test in conjunction with the 68th anniversary of its National Foundation Day, North Korea asserted that "We have finally considered and confirmed the standardized and normalized structure, behavioral characteristics, as well as performance and power of nuclear warheads which can be mounted on ballistic rockets," suggesting the possibility that development of nuclear warheads were reaching the phase of completion (in September).

North Korea sought to restore relations with China and to maintain relations with traditionally friendly countries to break out of its international isolation

Concerning North Korea's relations with China, after the UN Security Council's adoption of the resolution to sanction North Korea (in March), North Korea implicitly criticized China by stating that it had "abandoned without hesitation the valuable friendship collectively achieved by shedding blood," and suggested its dissatisfaction with China, which agreed to the resolution.

However, at the 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, First Secretary Kim declared that "Since it retained the status of a full-fledged independent power, a nuclear power, the DPRK will develop its external relations in conformity with that status, showing its intention to seek improvement of its external relations, while firmly keeping its status as a 'nuclear power.'" Following that, North Korea sent Ri Su Yong, Vice Chairman of the WPK Central Committee, to China

(from May through June; Ri met with the President Xi Jinping and other high profile persons), indicating a move to seek a repair of relations with China.

In addition, while the international community had reportedly been reducing interaction with North Korea, North Korea dispatched delegates to traditionally friendly countries such as Cuba, as well as Laos and Uganda in Asia and Africa, in order to maintain relations with those countries. Also, with Russia, Party Chairman Kim indicated the intention to continue strengthening and developing friendly relations in the congratulatory telegrams sent to President Putin on the occasion of the anniversary of the adoption of the Decree on Russian Sovereignty (in June) and the 71st anniversary of North Korea's "liberation of the country" (in August).

North Korea gradually strengthened criticism of the Park Geun-ee regime while trying to divide the national opinion within South Korea by repeatedly calling for inter-Korean dialogue taking advantage of the party congress

Concerning its relations with South Korea, North Korea declared the closure of the Kaesong Industrial Complex (in February) due to Park Geun-hye administration's interruption of the operation of the complex after North Korea's nuclear test (in January) and the long-range ballistic missile launch (in February). Subsequently, North Korea

declared that all inter-Korean agreements on economic cooperation and exchange projects be invalidated, and strengthened its confrontational attitude by implementing a large-scale artillery exercise simulating an attack on Cheong Wa Dae (or the Blue House, the South Korean presidential office; in March), in response to the Park administration

which announced South Korea's individual sanction measures.

Under these circumstances, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un remarked that the improvement of inter-Korean relations was a "pressing issue" and asserted the need for "dialogue and negotiations to take place between the military authorities of the two sides" at the 7th Congress of the WPK (in May). After this, North Korea repeatedly called on South Korea to respond to this suggestion of meetings between North and South Korean military authorities or practical contacts with that goal. However, from the standpoint of giving top priority to the denuclearization of North Korea, the Park administration refused all calls, stating that "now is not the time for dialogue, and further sanctions are necessary," and moved to strengthen international pressure on North Korea through President Park's tour of African countries and other initiatives.

North Korea widened its call for dialogue to

South Korea's ruling and opposition parties, civil society groups, and individuals in June, and proposed a unified "joint conference" of both sides to be held on the 71st anniversary of "National Liberation Day" on 15th August, thereby attempting to stir up the Park administration. Although some of the opposition parties and civil society groups in South Korea responded, the call failed to win a wider response, and neither did the unified "joint conference" materialize.

Subsequently, North Korea continued its attempt to divide South Korea's public opinion through the use of private-sector exchanges while intensifying criticism of the Park administration, which continued to pressurize the North in view of stirring up the Kim regime. As a response to President Park's "National Army Day" memorial speech (in October) calling on North Korean residents to come to South Korea, North Korea warned that they may launch an "ultra-precision nuclear attack" on Cheong Wa Dae.

While continuing to develop nuclear weapons and missiles, North Korea is likely to seek dialogue with the new US administration with the status of "nuclear power" in the future

North Korea is expected to seek opportunities to draw out a dialogue between "two nuclear powers" by assessing the attitude toward North Korea of the new US administration which will be inaugurated in January, 2017, while continuing to strengthen its nuclear and missile forces in accordance with the "parallel pursuit of economic development and nuclear armament" (adopted

in March 2013) and enhancing diplomatic efforts to break out of its international isolation.

In addition, North Korea is expected to continue stirring up South Korea through various dialogue proposals while paying close attention to the South Korean political situation with a view to the next presidential election.

Background of North Korea's nuclear and missile development

North Korea is believed to have commenced full-scale nuclear research with the grant of a nuclear reactor for research from the former Soviet Union in the 1960s. In 1986, North Korea started operation of an independently-constructed five megawatt nuclear reactor in Yongbyon which lies to the north of Pyongyang. North Korea has revealed that they have reprocessed spent nuclear fuel rods taken from inside the nuclear reactor several times to date, and it is believed that they have extracted tens of kilograms of plutonium. In addition, North Korea announced the commencement of uranium enrichment in 2009, and has publicly opened up the uranium enrichment facilities to US experts visiting the country; it has been pointed out that they have proceeded with the production of weapons-grade uranium through the operation of the facilities.

With regard to atomic bombs which make use of the nuclear fission reaction of plutonium and uranium, it is possible that North Korea has considerably improved the technology to reduce size so that mounting warheads on ballistic missiles is possible. However, with regard to hydrogen bombs which use the nuclear fusion reaction of deuterium and tritium, North Korea claimed success in the first hydrogen explosion experiment in January; however, the scale of the earthquake created by the experiment was small compared with usual hydrogen bomb experiments; therefore, this claim of "success" has been met with much skepticism.

On the other hand, with regard to ballistic missiles, North Korea succeeded in the 1980s in domestically producing the "Scud" short-range ballistic missile made by the former Soviet Union. Later, in the 1990s, North Korea is said to have developed the quasi-mid-range ballistic missile "Nodong" which is an enlarged "Scud" as well as the multi-staged "Taepodong 1" which combined the "Scud" and the "Nodong." Also, in the 2000s, North Korea is said to have deployed a medium range ballistic missile "Musudan" which was an improvement of a former Soviet-made submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), as well as repeatedly conducting test launches of long-range ballistic missiles "Taepodong 2" and its derivative types under the pretext of satellite launches. Furthermore, in 2015, North Korea announced that it had "completely succeeded" in underwater test launch of the SLBM, and since then, has been repeatedly testing the launch of the missile.

Among these missiles, the "Scud" which is estimated to have South Korea within range, and the "Nodong" which is estimated to have Japan within its range, have reportedly been already deployed and test launches have been conducted to improve operational capability. The "Musudan" and the SLBM are presumed to have Guam and elsewhere within range and North Korea demonstrated their certain flight capabilities in June and August test launches. In addition, there is a possibility that test launches will be continued for verification of performance or improvement in the future. With regard to the "Taepodong 2"-derived type presumed to have the mainland United States within range, it has been pointed out that the atmospheric reentry technology has not yet been achieved, although through launch tests it has demonstrated certain flight capabilities. In addition, North Korea is believed to be developing and now possess long-range ballistic missiles using mobile launch pads, and there is a possibility that it may take steps to make launch tests in the future.

1 — 2 North Korea pushed forward with the construction of a "powerful socialist country" through the establishment of Kim Jong Un' s own leadership system

Through the 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held for the first time in the 36 years, North Korea made a display of Kim Jong Un' s authority and the establishment of his own leadership system

North Korea emphasized in First Secretary Kim Jong Un' s "New Year's speech" that the "7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea should be celebrated as a glorious congress of victors" (in January), and implemented, among others, a "Battle of 70 Days" campaign for increasing national production (from February 23 to May 2) in order to foster and raise the atmosphere for the party congress.

Under these circumstances, the 7th Congress of the WPK was held for the first time in the 36 years since October 1980 (in May), and First Secretary Kim was inaugurated to the newly established position of "Party Chairman." North Korea made a demonstration of Party Chairman Kim' s authority as well as establishment of its own leadership system both within and outside of the country through the selection of new leadership, the renaming of the Party Central Committee' s "Secretariat" to the "Political Bureau," and other initiatives.

In addition, Party Chairman Kim read out a Summary Report of the Party Central Committee' s Undertakings, and asserted that he would maintain the "course of the parallel pursuit of economic construction and nuclear armament" as a permanent party line, while regarding the current situation of North

Korea, he recognized that the country had "reached the status of a powerful political and military power, but that the economic sector has not yet reached a reasonable level." He clarified his determination to advance to the completion of a "strong socialist power" that combines the three political, military, and economic powers through concentrating the collective efforts of the party and state on the economic sector as well as maintaining the position of a "strong military state" and "nuclear power" through strengthening nuclear and missile development.

Later, North Korea held the 4th session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly (in June), and inaugurated the Party Chairperson Kim to the new highest position of the state, the Chairman of the State Affairs Commission. In addition, by reforming the "National Defense Committee," which had been a symbol of the military-first politics, to the "State Affairs Commission" and supplementing it with the Prime Minister of the Cabinet and party officials of the foreign affairs department, North Korea ended the emergency state regime that had emphasized the military and strongly impressed the transition from the Kim Jong Il era to the Kim Jong Un era.

Under sanctions by the international community, North Korea encouraged economic construction through "self-development"

North Korea emphasized in its "New Year's speech" the construction of a "socialist economic power" by the "principle of giving priority to self-development" without depending on foreign countries. Immediately after that, North Korea carried out a fourth nuclear test (in January), which was met by tougher sanctions by the international community; however, North Korea asserted that it would name the development of the high-rise condominiums in Pyeongyang City "Ryomyong Street" construction, and that the "construction shall be completed within the

year, clearly showing the spirit of the DPRK standing up and keeping up with the world, despite all sorts of sanctions and pressure, and that the DPRK is able to be well-off in its own way and nothing is impossible for it to do" (in March).

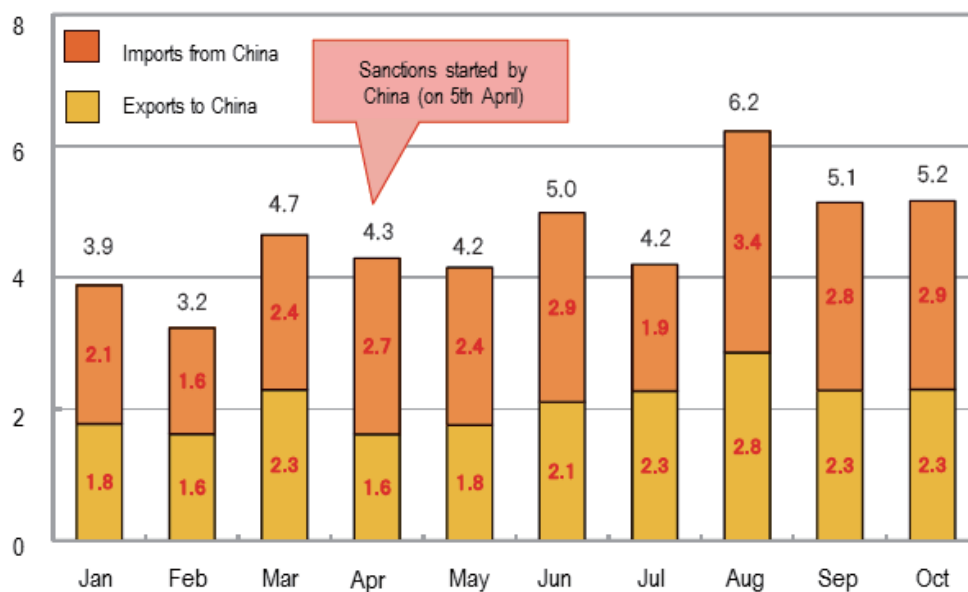
At the 7th Congress of the WPK (in May), a "Five Year Strategy of National Economic Development" (2016-2020) was presented, and a policy to revitalize the economy in general by appropriately implementing "a socialist corporate responsibility management system" that allows companies and other entities to

take initiative in management while at the same time promptly resolving power shortages and promoting agriculture and light industry under the direction of the Cabinet. Also, before and after the party congress, the national movements for increase in production, "Battle of 70 Days" and "Battle of 200 Days" were implemented as an attempt to raise the morale of the population as a whole.

Later, North Korea carried out a fifth nuclear test (in September), but immediately after that, it suddenly announced the cancellation of the construction of "Ryomyong Street" and attempted to shift its policy to redirect the total power of the state to the restoration of damage caused by flooding

which occurred in northern North Korea at the end of August. Since then, it has worked on the construction of houses for those who were affected with the slogan "let us win the miraculous victory by turning down the ills and making it happiness."

On the other hand, regarding the external economic relations, North Korea expanded trade with China as international sanctions were strengthened, as transactions for civilian purposes are excluded from sanctions. In addition, North Korea exported large amounts of anthracite and iron ore etc. at prices lower than those prevailing in the international market, while it imported essential goods for production and other items to the country.



Monthly trends of trade between China and North Korea
(from January to October 2016)

North Korea is likely to continue to focus on stabilizing and strengthening the regime

North Korea made a display of the beginning of the Kim Jong Un era by way of proceeding with reforms such as the change of the state regime from the military to a party-centered national system; however, in the process of their taking root, there is a possibility that a conflict may arise between the army and the party over their vested interests. It is expected that North Korea will attempt to stabilize the regime in the future by strengthening control over the military executives and other groups. Regarding the

economy, North Korea is expected to continue to revitalize the economy by expanding the voluntary economic activities of residents and corporates under the name of "self-development," while also striving to acquire foreign currency by further expanding foreign trade. On the other hand, new phenomena such as the rise of "Tonju (gold masters)" who closely resembles capitalists and the widening of disparities between the rich and the poor are beginning to surface, and this trend is expected to continue in the future.

Column

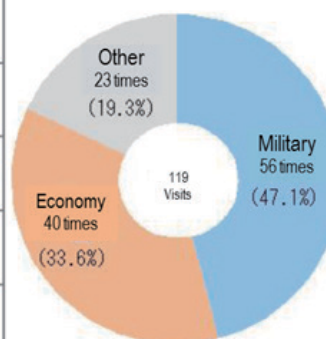
Characteristics of the onsite inspections by the Party Chairman Kim Jong Un

The number of appearances of the Party Chairman Kim Jong Un in the North Korean press in 2016 (as of end November) amounted to 119, which was 24 fewer times than compared to 143 in the same period last year (from January to November), and it is expected that over the course of the whole year the number of appearances will be fewer than 156 in the previous year. Incidentally, the number of onsite inspection trips conducted by the Party Chairman Kim has been decreasing from a peak of 235 in 2013.

<Number of Appearances of the Party Chairman Secretary Kim Jong Un>



<Breakdown of Onsite Inspections>



<Destination of Onsite Inspections by Month>

	Military	Economy	Other
Jan	6 (0)	3	3
Feb	12 (0)	0	2
Mar	10 (1)	4	0
Apr	3 (0)	5	1
May	1 (1)	6	5
Jun	3 (0)	6	3
Jul	4 (2)	5	2
Aug	3 (0)	4	3
Sep	5 (1)	4	0
Oct	0 (0)	3	1
Nov	9 (2)	0	3
Total	56 (7)	40	23

<Sectors of Onsite Inspections>

Regarding sectors of onsite inspections, the military sector was the most frequent at 56 times (as of end of November), of which 30 were related to nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches, and the media reports praised the achievements of the Party Munitions Industry Department as well as scientists and engineers who were engaged in the development of missiles and nuclear weapons, rather than the military. In addition, no inspection to field troops was reported until the end of October, but in November, Party Chairman Kim made successive inspections of the special operations battalion and frontline troops. On the other hand, inspections in the economic sector have been increasing from around the time of the 7th Party Congress (in May), and this seems to reflect Party Chairman Kim's consideration to make a display of his leadership and achievements related to his "Five-Year Strategy of National Economic Development" presented at the Party Congress.

<Attendance of the Executives>

Regarding the attendance of executives, Party Deputy Director Cho Yong Wong made the largest number of appearances, and his presence as an aide of the Party Chairman Kim was increasing. In addition, the attendance of Party Deputy Director Kim Yo Jong (Party Chairman Kim's younger sister) has greatly increased (3 times in 2012, 2 in 2013, 14 in 2014, 28 in 2015, 17 in 2016; as of November of each year), and she seems to have been assisting Party Chairman Kim both publicly and privately.

Meanwhile, accompanying nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches, the attendance of executives of the party's Munitions Industry Department, such as that of Director Ri Man Gon and Deputy Director Kim Jong Sik was increasing substantially.

Surname, Name	Position	Number of Attendance
1) Jo Yong Won	Deputy Director, WPK	46
2) Hwang Pyong So	Chief of the General Political Bureau, KPA	45
3) Choe Ryong Hae	Vice chairman of the Central Committee, WPK	28
3) Ri Man Gon	Director, Munitions Industry Department, WPK	28
5) O Su Yong	Central Committee Vice Chairman, WPK	23
6) Kim Jong Shik	Deputy Director of the Military (Machine-building) Industry Department, WPK	22
7) Park Yong Sik	Minister of People's Armed Forces	21
8) Ri Myong-su	Chief of General Staff, KPA	20
9) Ri Byeong Cheol	First Deputy Director, Munitions Industry Department, WPK	18
9) Hong Yong Chil	Deputy Director, Munitions Industry Department, WPK	18

※ All numbers of attendance are as of end November 2016

1 — 3 North Korea reacted defiantly to Japan's measures against it, while refusing to take its own initiative to improve relations with Japan

North Korea continued to take interest in Japan, despite expressing full discontinuation of the "investigation on the Japanese" who are suspected to have been abducted

As a response to North Korea's nuclear test (in January) and long-range ballistic missile launch (in February), Japan decided on measures against North Korea, such as prohibiting payments as a rule to North Korea (in February). North Korea reacted defiantly to this, and announced the discontinuation of the "investigation on the Japanese" who are

suspected to have been abducted and the dismantling of the "special investigation committee" (in February), and has not reported any findings to Japan since.

Later on, after First Secretary Kim Jong Un at the 7th Congress of the WPK (in May) expressed a certain interest in North Korea's relationship with Japan by demanding

reflection and apology for "past guilt," North Korea displayed a move aimed at stirring up Japan. An ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Song Il Ho referred to the possibility of unilaterally publicizing the results of the "investigation on the Japanese" (in May), and Cho Pyon Cheol, a research fellow for Japanese Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, hinted that it had become difficult to recover the bones because of development at the burial ground where the Japanese are interred (in July).

In addition, North Korea emphasized its attitude that Japan is responsible for the

stagnation in the relationship between Japan and North Korea, with Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho asserting that "Japan broke the Stockholm agreement first" (in July), and the Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of the WPK Ri Su Yong pointing out that "the problem exists on the Japanese side" (in September). Meanwhile, North Korea continued to show interest in Japan with Ambassador Song hinting on the possibility of improved relations with the delegation of a Japan-North Korean friendship organization if Japan altered its attitude toward North Korea (in October).

North Korea continues to scrutinize Japan' s attitude towards them

For the time being, North Korea is expected to try to wait and scrutinize what Japan does first, while observing trends in foreign relations such as the relationship between the US and North Korea. In such circumstances, there may be a possibility that North Korea could attempt to draw out actions from Japan concerning issues of

missing persons, the bones of the deceased Japanese citizens, and Japanese spouses, by bringing up cooperation and consulting on temporary homecoming trips for the subjects of the "investigations on the Japanese" based on the "Stockholm Agreement," but excluding those Japanese abductee victims whose cases North Korea claims to be "resolved."

1 – 4 Chongryon strengthened its members' loyalty to the Party Chairman Kim Jong Un and revitalized the organization

Chongryon advocated ideological education to its activists and revitalized the grass-root organs

Chongryon advocated ideological education activities to strengthen the loyalty of activists to the Party Chairman Kim Jong Un and instructed cadre activists to engage in Chongryon activities that faithfully follow the prescribed activity policy. In response to North Korea's nuclear test (in January) and long-range ballistic missile launch (in February), Chongryon sought to tighten up the organization by emphasizing North Korea' s "legitimacy" and the Party Chairman Kim' s "greatness," and by stating that even in the face of the worst adversity, General Kim Jong Un "achieved extraordinary events including full success in the first hydrogen bomb test and the successful result of the Earth Observing Satellite, and has majestically pushed the homeland (North Korea) up to the

ranks of strong nuclear powers." In addition, Chongryon focused on revitalizing the grass-root organs, and in March, began an intensive movement of "branch organs competitions" to be implemented throughout the year to March, 2017, aiming at the revitalization of branch activities by strengthening the branch organization and "ethno-national education" activities.

Meanwhile, Chongryon successively worked on a "60 Day Concentrated Battle" (from May to July), a "100 Day Concentrated Battle" (from July to November), and, in November, gathered activists at Korea University in Kodaira City, Tokyo, holding a "Congress of Branch Representatives" and encouraging further efforts for branch and chapter activities, such as honoring active branches.

Through celebratory events of the 7th Congress of the WPK, Chongryong made a display of its loyalty to the Party Chairman Kim Jong Un

At the 7th Congress of the WPK (in May), Chongryon sent a "celebratory delegation of Koreans in Japan" to North Korea. Chairman of the Osaka Prefectural Headquarters of Chongryon, Bu Yon Uk, who served as the head of the celebratory delegation, sat on the tiered platform at the Congress, and read out a "Celebratory Letter Dedicated to Comrade Kim Jong Un" offering a celebratory banner to First Secretary Kim Jong Un, and receiving hospitality such as shaking hands with him. Chongryong emphasized such treatment as "exceptional love and consideration offered by Marshal Kim Jong Un," and called out to the activists for even stronger loyalty to "take this honor into our hearts and work sincerely until

the end of this world for Marshal Kim Jong Un." In addition, Chongryon held celebratory events in Japan, and at the "Central Congress of the Japanese Koreans" held by activists in the Tokyo Chosun Culture Center (in Kita Ward, Tokyo), Chairman Ho Jong Man made a report completely supporting the Party Congress and calling for their absolute loyalty toward Party Chairman Kim in order to "thoroughly establish the sole leadership system of our dearest and respected Marshal Kim Jong Un within the Chongryong organization by revering our dearest and respected Marshal at the center of our unity and leadership.

Chongryong expanded various protest activities against the Japanese government and other entities

Chongryon reacted defiantly when Japan implemented its individual measures against North Korea in response to the nuclear test (in January) and long-range ballistic missile launch (in February). At the press conference, Vice Chairman Nam Sun U criticized "the Government of Japan for arbitrarily intending to broaden its ban (on re-entry into Japan of those who have North Korea as their destination of departure) to encompass all Chongryon affiliates and compatriots in Japan, which is an outright political suppression against Chongryon."

Chongryon had for some time been protesting and making demands to local governments that have suspended granting subsidies to Korean schools. In March, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology issued a notice which encouraged a sufficient consideration of the public interests of subsidies, the effect on promoting education, and other factors, and sent the notice to prefectures in which North Korean schools exist. In response to the issue of the notice, Chongryon complained to the Ministry about the "illegitimacy" of issuing the notice and submitted a request for the

notice to be withdrawn, as well as conducted protests and shouted demands outside the ministry building. In addition, Korean school officials tried to raise public opinion in their favor by holding a press conference at the press club for journalists reporting on the Ministry (in March) and the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan (in April).

Moreover, Chongryong conducted a protest shouting their demand outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in March) for the withdrawal of the Japanese-South Korean Agreement (of December, 2015) addressing the issue of "comfort women" at the Japan-Korea Foreign Ministers' Meeting; it also conducted protests and shouted its demands outside the U.S. and South Korean Embassies in Japan seeking to discontinue the US-Korea joint military exercise (in March, April, and August); it conducted the same actions outside the South Korean Embassy in Japan claiming that the collective defection of female employees of North Korean restaurants in China to South Korea was an "abduction" by South Korea, and demanded repatriation of the employees.

Chongryon strives to enhance the capabilities of the organization while maintaining the regime of Ho Jong Man

Chongryon is intensifying its sense of crisis arising from the difficult circumstances which are a result of Japan's measures against North Korea, and it is expected to further strengthen the leadership system of Chairman Ho Jong Man and strive to tighten the reins of

the organization. In addition, Chongryon is expected to continue tightening its guidance toward regional organizations by actively dispatching central cadres in order to enhance the capabilities of the organization through reactivation of its grass-roots organizations.

Column

Noted points in the 60th anniversary of the foundation of Korea University

Korea University (in Kodaira City, Tokyo Prefecture; founded in 1956) celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2016 and held various commemorative events as well as fundraising activities aimed at the renovation of the facilities of the campus.

In May, at the university, in the presence of the cadres of Chongryon, a "Memorial Congress" for the school faculty staff and students, was held as well as "Commemorative Grand Festivities" such as art performance for activists and members. At the "Commemorative Grand Festivities," the register of donations collected by the "Executive Committee for the 60th Anniversary of the Foundation of Korea University" was handed over to the University. In addition, in November, a "Memorial International Symposium 'Ethno-national Education of Koreans overseas and Korea University - History, Present, and Future'" was held, co-hosting with universities in China and Russia, as well as the "Memorial University Festival."

On the 60th anniversary of the University's foundation, North Korea sent a celebratory letter dated April 10 from First Secretary Kim Jong Un to the school faculty staff and students. In response, in April at Korea University, in the presence of Chairman Ho Jong Man and other cadres of the Chongryon, a "Meeting to Convey the Celebratory Letter Sent from our dearest Marshal Kim Jong Un to the faculty staff and students of Korea University on the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Foundation of Korea University" was held, in which the Chairman Ho read out the celebratory letter. In the celebratory letter, Korea University was referred to as "the Leader's (President Kim Il Sung) and the General's (General Secretary Kim Jong Il) University in name and reality, which was born in the bosoms of the Leader and the General, and which is an overseas compatriots' University of the Republic (North Korea)."

<Outline of Korea University>

Korea University was established as the "highest academic institution in the ethno-national education" of Koreans living in Japan on April 10, 1956 in Kita Ward, Tokyo (within the premises of the Tokyo Choson Middle & High School). In 1957, the University received a remittance from North Korea for subsidizing the construction of the campus building and operation of the university, and constructed the building in its current location in Kodaira City in Tokyo Prefecture, Japan, moving in in June 1959. The school currently has eight faculties and 17 departments, a graduate school for research, Research Center for Korean Issues, and Wildlife Research Laboratory. President Jang Pyong Thae is a delegate to the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly.

2 China

2 – 1 China further intensified demonstrative behavior toward securing maritime interests and territorial sovereignty

China refused acceptance of the arbitration judgement on the South China Sea, and continued to build military bases

Based on its strategy to become a "major maritime power," China has continued into 2016 its large and rapidly proceeding reclamation of artificial islands and construction of various military and civil infrastructures on the Spratly Islands of the South China Sea, which it started from 2015.

Under such circumstances, the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague in the Netherlands, to which the Philippines filed a case over China's claims in the South China Sea (in January 2013), concluded that the "Nine-Dash Line" surrounding almost the entire area of the South China Sea which China sees as the basis for sovereignty "has no legal basis to assert historical rights," and ruled that the reef, on top of which the artificial island has been constructed in the Spratly Islands would not give birth to an "exclusive economic zone (EEZ)" (in July).

In reaction to this, China announced successively in statements issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other entities that the "judgement is invalid and has no binding force" and that "China does not accept or recognize it." Meanwhile in its military operations, China conducted "battle patrols" in the vicinity of Scarborough Reef

near the port of Subic in the Philippines into which US vessels also call, by dispatching "ROG-6K" strategic bombers and other aircrafts. With regard to diplomacy, when the U.S. Navy Operations Director John M. Richardson visited China, Navy Commander Wu Shengli clearly stated that the South China Sea constitutes a "core interest" of China, demonstrating a non-conciliatory attitude concerning the issue of their territorial sovereignty. In relation to the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China sought support for its position through the summit meetings, and in particular, tried to improve its relations with the Philippines by announcing in its "White Paper" that it wished to resolve the conflict through negotiation (all in July).

In satellite images released by the US Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (in August), several hangars capable of housing large military aircraft have been confirmed as being constructed in a short period of time on three artificial islands developed by China, revealing the fact that China is ignoring international judicial process and has been continuing to turn reefs and islands into military bases.

Large military exercises in the East China Sea and mass dispatch of public vessels to the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands

China has also displayed demonstrative behavior in the East China Sea. The Navy's three large fleets, the North Sea, the East Sea, and the South Sea Fleets, mobilized, among others, submarines, surface ships and coastal defense forces in the same area and carried

out "large scale military exercises with actual troops and live ammunition" (in August). In addition, the destroyer division of the East Sea Fleet carried out "actual battle training" such as live testing of rocket depth charges (in September).

China promoted unilateral change in the current situation in both South and East China Sea areas while restraining "intervention" from Japan and the US

China's demonstrative behavior in the South China Sea and the East China Sea has developed out of its strong opposition to the "intervention" and "interference" of Japan and the US in the South China Sea issue. At the Sino-Russian "Joint Sea-2016" (in September), which was the first naval exercise in the South China Sea sponsored by the Chinese side, training for the capture of islets and reefs was also carried out, which reflected its intention to make a display of its landing operation capabilities with the Senkaku Islands in mind.

China, while directly and indirectly curbing Japanese and US "intervention" in the South China Sea issue, is expected to promote unilateral change of the unstable situation by

means such as continuing to expand the scale of military exercises in both seas as well as dispatching public ships of maritime agency to the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands, and also by means of strengthening the construction of military facilities to make practical military operation of the artificial islands in the Spratly Islands archipelago.

In particular, China is expected to seek opportunities for starting land reclamation on the Scarborough Reefs, which is regarded as a key point in China's establishment of effective control over the whole South China Sea, while watching over trends in the attitude of the new US administration that will be inaugurated in January, 2017.

2 – 2 China pursued the creation of an international environment favorable to its own country, while having issues with neighboring countries

China pursued active diplomacy with countries along the "One Belt, One Road"

China has positioned the promotion of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative consisting of the "Silk Road Economic Belt" and "The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road" as an important mission in its diplomatic strategy, and worked to strengthen cooperation with the countries along the route. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) that financially supports this "One Belt, One Road" initiative held an opening ceremony (in January) and started official operation. The Board of Directors of the AIIB approved projects for power transmission, roads and development in poverty-ridden districts in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Tajikistan as its first projects (in June), followed by power generation projects in Pakistan and Myanmar (in September).

For the first time after taking office, President Xi Jinping visited the Middle East as well as Central and Eastern Europe, and declared an intention to strengthen and upgrade the strategic partnership with the countries visited. In his visit to the countries of the Middle East (in January), President Xi Jinping delivered a speech at the Arab

League headquarters, calling on countries in the region to participate in the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, and announced China's intention to provide a total of \$55 billion (about 6.4 trillion yen, as of January) for investment and loans.

On his visit to Central and Eastern European countries (in March and June), President Xi Jinping stated that the cooperation framework "16 Plus 1" including China and 16 Central and Eastern European countries would "act as an important receptacle for promoting the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative into the European economic zone," calling for the promotion of the framework.

Furthermore, as regards its relations with Africa, with Japan's stance towards cooperation demonstrated by the "Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development" (TICAD VI) (in August) in mind, China held a series of related meetings for the "China-Africa Cooperation Forum" which it leads (in July and September) and made other efforts to maintain and expand their influence.

China strengthened cooperative stance with Russia while maintaining the current state of its relations with the US

In relations with the United States, China adhered to an unyielding stance due to the South China Sea and human rights issues at the summit talks (in March, September, and November) and the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (in June). On the other hand, there were fields where it was found possible for China to cooperate without significant damage to its national interests, such as the adoption of Resolution No. 2270 of the UN Security Council (in March) on the nuclear test of North Korea (in January) and the simultaneous ratification by the US and China of the "Paris Agreement" on the issue of climate change (in September).

China maintained close ties through top-level exchanges with Russia which was confronted by the West and isolated from the international community, and made efforts to strengthen strategic partnership between the two countries. China together with Russia

expressed strong opposition to the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile system to the US Forces in South Korea which was announced by the U.S. and South Korea (in July), stating that it will "seriously impair the strategic security interests of Northeast Asian countries" (PLA Daily on July 29). In addition, China and Russia held a joint naval exercise "Joint Sea 2016" in the South China Sea (in September), and the two countries made a display of their posture to jointly defend the peace and stability of the world and the region through military cooperation.

In connection with the UK with which China had declared a "golden age" of relations as having begun, China expressed caution that "uncertainty in the world economy has increased" (Prime Minister Li Keqiang) after the UK's decision to withdraw from the European Union (in June).

China was faced with challenges with neighboring countries such as North Korea and South Korea

In relations with North Korea, following the adoption of the resolution of the Security Council (in March), China displayed a policy combining hard and soft approaches, by confronting North Korea's nuclear and missile development with a strict attitude and implementing embargo measures against North Korea (in April), while accepting the visit of the Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Ri Su Yong, and emphasizing anew that they "will attach great importance to the Sino-North Korean friendship" (in June, President Xi Jinping). However, China could not prevent North Korea from forcefully conducting its second nuclear test of 2016 (in September).

In relations with South Korea, China strongly and defiantly reacted against the deployment of THAAD to the US forces in Korea. Although intergovernmental exchange was maintained, the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi strongly demanded of Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se that "South Korea proceed in the same direction as China rather than following a different path" (in August), and hinted at retaliatory measures by stating that South Korea "will pay an

appropriate price" (People's Daily, on October 1), causing a rapid cooling of the relationship that was once determined as "the best in history" (in May 2014, Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang).

With the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China displayed its renewed intention to strengthen, among others, political and security cooperation, economic and trade cooperation, with the intention of restraining criticism against China over the South China Sea. When the National League for Democracy (NLD) government came into power in Myanmar (in March) and the momentum for Myanmar improving relations with the United States and other countries heightened, Foreign Minister Wang visited the country ahead of other countries' representatives (in April). In addition, when President Xi Jinping met with the visiting State Counsellor and Foreign Minister Aung San Suu Kyi (in August), he emphasized the traditions of friendship between the two countries and called for strengthening relations which showed that China strove to maintain influence over Myanmar. In relations with the Philippines,

although China had been deepening its conflict over the South China Sea issue with them, China has been working to improve its relationship with the Philippines since President Rodrigo Duterte took office while showing a positive intention toward dialogue and cooperation with Beijing (in June). During

President Duterte's visit to China (in October), Beijing aimed at placating the Philippines by suggesting that the South China Sea issue be "shelved," and showing its intent to expand cooperation in economic and other spheres.

Acting as a driving force of the world economy as host country of the G20

Under these circumstances, China designated the G20 Hangzhou Summit (in September) to be "the most significant diplomatic event at home" in the year of 2016, and advertised its role in driving the world economy and its status as a major power. China promoted the centripetal force of international financial institutions it led by seizing opportunities that attracted international attention, for example, when as President Xi Jinping at a meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada prior to the

summit, welcomed Canada's intention to apply for accession to AIIB which was announced shortly before the meeting.

President Xi summarized that China had "for the first time fully explained" their "view of global economic governance, and left China's deep footprints in the development history of G20" (in September), but in fact China only confirmed what were already known issues in the world economy, and the overproduction issue of China itself also attracted renewed attention.

China focused on grasping the initiative of peripheral diplomacy while focusing on maintaining a stable relationship with the new US administration

With the 19th Party Congress in 2017 approaching, China is expected to emphasize the diplomatic achievements of the Xi Jinping leadership, and in order to strengthen its centripetal force, engage in diplomacy with increased activity, attaching weight to the securing and expansion of the country's own interests.

In relation to the Trump administration of the United States which will be inaugurated in January 2017, China is expected to assess the administration's policy toward Asia and its attitude toward Beijing, and seize its

opportunities such as summit meetings to continue to work on forging a "new type of major power relations" while working on building a stable relationship with the United States. In relation with its neighboring countries, China is expected to repeat its attempt to seize the initiative in peripheral diplomacy by focusing on restoring and strengthening relationships through economic partnerships such as the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, and via cooperation in various fields such as fight against international terrorism.

2 — 3 China was highly wary of Japan's moves regarding the South China Sea issue, while at the same time favoring an improvement of relations with Japan as the underlying tone

China conducted high-level exchanges such as summit meetings and foreign minister meetings; displayed attitudes to emphasize improvement of the relationship

While evaluating Japan-China relations as "complicated and vulnerable," China successively displayed its recognition of the fact that there is a "momentum for improvement" (Prime Minister Li Keqiang, in March).

In relations between the diplomatic authorities, China invited the Japanese Foreign Minister to visit its country for the first time in about four and a half years (in April), and Foreign Minister Wang Yi made his first visit to Japan since the inauguration

of the Xi Jinping administration (in August). In the exchange between leaders, China demonstrated its stance of working to improve relationships by accumulating high level exchanges and practical exchanges with Japan, as exemplified by Prime Minister Lee saying in a summit meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Mongolia (in July) that they should "promote the process of

improving relations to the next stage."

It is assessed that behind this was China's intention to restore relations with Japan to a certain extent and prepare an environment for a summit meeting of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Xi Jinping, "in order to successfully hold the most significant diplomatic event at home," the G20 Hangzhou Summit.

China demanded "word concordance," focusing on Japan's posture to China

While dealing with such high-level exchanges, China made a criticism to the effect that "Japan has been troubling China everywhere" (March, Foreign Minister Wang) and that the obstacles to improve relations were on the Japanese side. At the meeting of the Japanese and Chinese Foreign Ministers (in April), China demanded Japanese efforts to improve relations by confronting Japan with "demands on four items" such as "squarely face the history issue and reflect on history,

strictly observe one China policy" and "abandon the opposition to China in regional and international affairs."

On that basis, China showed moves to evaluate the attitude of the Abe administration toward China while repeatedly demanding that "in order to advance the improvement in the relationship, Japan needs its words to match up with its actions, such as stopping the dissemination of the theory of Chinese threat" (Foreign Minister Wang).

China expressed a strong sense of caution against the formation of a network to contain China over the South China Sea issue and the "rightward turn" of Japan

In relation to the South China Sea issue, China showed a strong sense of caution toward Japan, which has been demanding "compliance with international law," by stating that the country was "planning to intervene in the issue" (January, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and told Japan not "to show any more 'presence'" (in May, *ibid.*).

On the occasion of the G7 Ise Shima Summit (in May), with the aim of preventing the issue becoming an agenda item, China made strenuous individual overtures to the countries involved in the summit, and strengthened its criticism of Japan, citing the "petty tricks of Japan swaggering about under the borrowed authority of the G7 summit" (Xinhua News Agency, on May 26). In response to the summit declaration that expressed concern over the South China Sea, China displayed its increased sense of frustration by declaring a "strong dissatisfaction with Japan and the G7" (spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and stated that "Japan should refrain from speaking and acting about the South China Sea issue" (in September, President Xi).

Furthermore, China observed the impact of the enforcement of the Peace and Security

Law in Japan (in March), and the Japan's strengthening of its security relations with the US, Australia, and India, which expands the scope of activities of the SDF and the formation of a network to contain China on the South China Sea issue. China then warned the international community to beware of the "rightward turn" of Japan, commenting upon the results of the elections to the House of Councilors (in July) as "guiding Japan to the old ways of militarism" (on 11 July, Xinhua News Agency), seeing that the environment was now ripe for revising its constitution.

Under these circumstances, in Okinawa where the facilities of US forces in Japan are concentrated, China attempted to form public opinion in Okinawa in its favor, by approaching "groups for Ryukyu independence" which were calling for a "removal of all bases from the Ryukyus" and raising the "theory of undetermined attribution of the Ryukyus" (see "Column").

Elsewhere, China renewed its emphasis on the "one China" principle and showed a strong sense of caution in the strengthening of cooperation between Japan, the US and Taiwan, after the first change of government in eight years in Taiwan (in May).

China proposed the “theory of the undetermined attribution of the Ryukyus” and attempted to form public opinion in Okinawa

The People's Daily-affiliated "The Global Times" (on August 12) published a paper titled "the attribution of the Ryukyus is undetermined, and the Ryukyus should not be called Okinawa," asserting that "the US only handed over the administrative rights over the Ryukyus to Japan, but the attribution of the Ryukyus is undecided," and that China had "for a long time called the Ryukyus 'Okinawa,' but this designation is equivalent to implicitly assuming the sovereignty of the Ryukyus in Japan; we should not use it."

In China, those universities and thinktanks which are interested in the theory of "the undetermined attribution of the Ryukyus" have already taken the lead in promoting academic exchanges and deepening relations with members of organizations calling for the "independence of the Ryukyus" in Japan. Behind such exchanges, it seems that China harbors a strategic aim to form a favorable public opinion of China in Okinawa and to attempt a division in Japan; therefore, further attention will be required on China's moves with regard to Okinawa in the future.

While maintaining its principled position on territorial and historical issues, China actively responded to calls for economic and private exchanges

China exhibited exceptionally idiosyncratic behavior in sending its public vessels and other boats into the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands, and although it agreed to the acceleration of the talks for early commencement of the operation of the "sea and air contact mechanism" with Japan at the Japan-China summit talks (in September), it did not agree to a formal agreement on the establishment of the mechanism. Thus, no change was seen in China's stance of trying to break the effective control by Japan by making the Senkaku Islands into a "disputed territory."

China has meanwhile been recognizing that the issue of "perception of history" is related to the political basis of Japan-China relations, and has not relaxed its caution toward Japan as reflected in its strong criticism that "Japan's aim is to dilute its position as invaders" (Xinhua News Agency as of May

11) upon US President Obama's visit to Hiroshima (in May).

On the other hand, China seems to be aware that maintaining relations with Japan, which is highly complementary with China in economic terms, is still important, as it emphasized reciprocity in strengthening relations with economic organizations in Japan by holding exchange sessions of Japanese and Chinese enterprises on the subject of the environment and tourism (in July). In addition, China expressed its expectations for cooperation from Japan on the "One Belt, One Road" initiative as well as on the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Moreover, China carried out several youth and cultural exchanges, attaching importance to private-sector exchanges, stating that they would "improve national sentiment and encourage mutual understanding" (Prime Minister Li, in April).

China sought stabilization of relations with Japan by fostering a mood of friendship on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of diplomatic normalization

Since the Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting (in August), China has agreed on the improvement and development of relations with Japan, and "to draw forth positive elements and suppress negative ones" (in

September, President Xi), and has been mentioning the 45th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China (in 2017) and the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the "Japan-

China Peace and Friendship Treaty” (in 2018). By seizing the opportunity presented by both anniversaries, China seems to be aiming at fostering an environment for the improvement of relations, through holding a commemorative event with Japan.

Whereas China is expected to undertake actions in pursuit of its own national interests

regarding the maritime problem and security policy by taking advantage of all available opportunities, China’s policy toward Japan is susceptible to being exploited in its domestic politics because of the historical background; as such, there is a possibility that China may show an even more hardline reaction, depending on the future situation.

2 – 4 The Xi Jinping regime rushed to centralize power and reconstruct the Party; continued to struggle to maintain social and economic stability

China advanced military reform while trying to rebuild a strict governance regime for the Party; positioned Secretary Xi Jinping as "core" and concentrated power

Calling for a "strict governance of the Party," the Xi Jinping regime proceeded to a full-scale reconstruction of a system, which would allow the regime’s disposition to be spread throughout the country via the party organization.

At the meeting of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Party (in January), it was confirmed that the Party should be “highly consistent with the central leadership of the Party having Comrade Xi Jinping as General Secretary” in thought, politics, and behavior. Before and after that, a tendency was observed in which leaders of various regions unanimously called out the name of General Secretary Xi Jinping and expressed their support one after another; thereby running the risk of developing into a cult of personality. Meanwhile, despite this advancement of the authority of General Secretary Xi, cases still arose in which the existence of criticism and dissatisfaction was exposed. Ren Zhiqiang, a prominent blogger and entrepreneur with Party membership, wrote in his mini-blog what seems to be a criticism of media control by General Secretary Xi (in February). An open letter demanding the resignation of General Secretary Xi was also posted on the news site "Wujie News" run by the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region Government (in March). However, these actions remained sporadic, and subsequently General Secretary Xi’s authority was advanced yet further, as the

central leadership of the Party issued an “important instruction” for the implementation of study and education to raise qualified party members through learning the party constitution and rules, as well as through the speeches made by General Secretary Xi (in April)

With regards to the reform of Party-related organizations, a reform policy was announced for the Communist Youth League of China, which has produced a large number of leaders and senior officials, to reduce the number of central executive posts and to expand the grassroots organizations that are in contact with the general youth (in August). The reform appears to be aimed at reducing the influence of the Communist Youth League while at the same time using it to strengthen the exertion of political influence on the youth since it is a youth organization commanded by the Party.

In relation to military affairs, the Xi regime continued to implement systemic reforms, which it had commenced at the end of 2015 (See column on p.26).

Continuing with this trend, the 6th Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Party (from October 24 to 27) positioned General Secretary Xi as “core,” which means he has exceptional status in the central leadership of the Party, and displayed its intention to promote “comprehensive and strict Party governance” under the unified guidance of General Secretary Xi.

The Xi administration resolutely advanced control over media and social organizations

The Xi administration displayed its intention to strengthen Party's guidance over the media and various social organizations that have hitherto enjoyed social influence in their own right with the aim of restraining them.

General Secretary Xi set out the role of Party and government media as "bastions of propaganda" when he visited major media organizations such as the People's Daily, making clear the official stance that they would be actively used to influence public opinion in line with party policies (in February). In the same manner, the course of events in which the president of the publisher of the purportedly reformist magazine Yanhuang Chunqiu found himself having to announce the suspension of the publication, stating that "independent editing could not be maintained due to the intervention of the

authorities" (in June), suggests the official stance is to place under strict control publishers who had previously been allowed, to a certain extent, to present liberal points of view. In regard to the internet, the Xi administration sought to tighten control of network operators by enacting the Cyber Security Law (in November).

Concerning social organizations, the Xi administration enacted the Law on the Management of the Domestic Activities of Foreign NGOs (in April) which restricted the activities and fund procurement of foreign NGOs, and in the field of religious activity, the Xi administration laid out successive policies tightening up guidance and regulations, such as emphasizing the strengthening of Party guidance at the National Conference of Religious Works (in April).

Structural reform of the economy is expected to be difficult, and discord appeared within the leadership

In the economic sphere, as the economic slowdown became even more evident, the Xi administration designated 2016 as the "year for starting the final stage of a full realization of a moderately prosperous (Xiaokang) society, as well as the year of an intensive strategy to promote structural reforms" (in a government activity report in March), and advanced the maintenance of stable growth and structural reform of the economy. Regarding structural reform in particular, the Xi administration began to cut corporate tax mainly in the service industry (in May) and integrate state-owned enterprises, as it emphasized efforts on the "supply side" and set priority issues including the "liquidation of excessive production capacity" and "reduction of corporate costs."

Under such circumstances, an interview with an anonymous "person with authority"

published in The People's Daily (in May) gave the impression to domestic and international readers that there was discord inside the Party and government on how the policy was being managed in the short term, as the person intensely criticized the economic stimulus measures through investment initiated by the State Council (government). Elsewhere, in relation to the "liquidation of excessive production capacity" initiated by the government rather than by market mechanisms, it seemed that reform has been experiencing difficulties overall, as there was an increase in the rate of defaults on corporate debt, and a lack of sufficient progress in the screening of state-owned enterprises which have failed in their business activities but have continued to exist with the support of the banks.

The Xi administration struggles to make achievements in reforms such as economic aspects before the next Party congress

The Xi administration is expected to aim at the construction of a regime with centralized power through a reshuffle of relevant

personnel such as the Standing Committee members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Party elected through the

19th Party Congress, which is scheduled to be held in the second half of 2017. To that end, it is necessary for it to forestall the occurrence of economic and social turmoil and to show visible achievement in various reforms.

However, public discontent with economic and social policy has been breaking out in various areas, and there have been incidents, such as the one in Beijing when a large number of military veterans gathered around buildings in which the Central Military Commission and the Defense Ministry are located (in October).

In addition, there are voices pointing out the degradation of the functions of the Party

and state organs, as some party and government executives in charge of solving these problems conduct acts of sabotage, since they fear being probed themselves.

With regard to these issues, the Xi administration is showing its determination to seize the initiative mainly by strengthening the internal control of the Party as a basic policy, and by stating that they will “rule the party rigorously by iron discipline” (at the 6th Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee, in October). There is a possibility that the effectiveness of such hardline measures may be called into question in the future.

Column

The largest systemic reforms in the military organization since the foundation of the PRC has been implemented

Since the end of December 2015, structural reforms have been taking place in the People's Liberation Army, which appeared to be the largest in scale since its foundation, involving: 1) abolition of four General Departments, including the General Staff Department, 2) abolition of seven military regions and establishment of five theater commands.

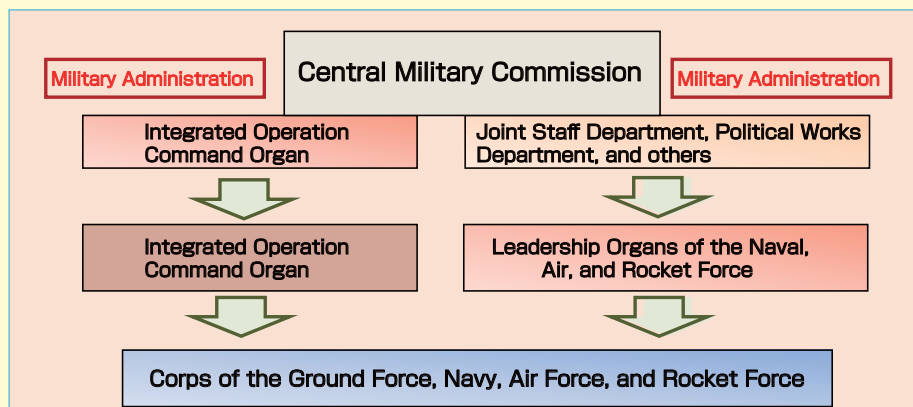


Chart of the Command Structure of the Peoples' s Liberation Army

The objective of the reform was reported to be the construction of “armed forces which can fight and win a battle,” and the integrated operations regime of naval, air, and rocket forces has been reinforced in the western Pacific, the South China Sea, and elsewhere. In the new regime, it has been decided that the “Central Military Commission oversees the whole, as theater commands fight, and the military branches (the army, navy, and air force) construct” (in other words, military command and administration were separated: see chart). Whereas the command functions had been dispersed across the Central Military Committee and the four General Departments, an alteration was made to concentrate the functions into the Central Military Commission. In addition, the expected theaters of war and unit operation were revised, which led to the abolition of the former seven military regions and establishment of five theater commands which mainly take charge of battle command. Preparations were made in order to assume command for an integrated operation, by appointing officers of the army, navy, and air force to the staff posts of the theater commands in a balanced manner.

2 – 5 Relations between Taiwan and China reversed after the inauguration of incoming Tsai Ingwen administration

DPP wins the presidential election and the Legislative Yuan election, and while upholding "the maintenance of the status quo", works towards shifting from pro-China line.

The 14th presidential election was held in Taiwan (in January), with the opposition candidate, the Chairperson of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Tsai Ingwen, winning over the ruling party candidate, the Chairman of the Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) Chu Lilun (Eric Chu) by a margin of about 3 million votes (gaining 56.12% of the vote). The DPP also won a firm basis for political power as it seized the Legislative Yuan, in addition to the Presidential Office, by winning 68 seats out of 113 in the Legislative Yuan elections held at the same time.

Behind the DPP's landslide victory was the rise of discontent and dissatisfaction with the economic policy of dependence on China, promoted by the previous Ma Yingjeou administration of the Kuomintang, of which the DPP became the receptacle.

President Tsai Ingwen has constantly regarded "maintaining the status quo of both sides of the Strait" as the basic principle for the relationship toward China from as early on as 2015, and has emphasized her stance

that she will not choose the course of "Taiwan's independence." On the other hand, concerning the "1992 Consensus" which China determines as a meeting in which "both sides confirmed that they belong to one China," President Tsai only said that Taipei will "respect the historical fact that in 1992, a meeting occurred between the two institutions representing each side of the Taiwan Strait."

In these circumstances, the Tsai Ingwen administration promoted the "New Southbound Policy" to strengthen the relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other entities in order to withdraw from the system of excessive economic dependence to China, and abolished the purportedly pro-China "curriculum guidelines" which were revised during the period of the Ma administration (in May), thereby announcing its position of making a transition from the pro-China course of the same administration.

China demanded acceptance of "one China" and applied various measures for pressure

In addition to criticizing President Tsai's speech as an "incomplete answer" (State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, in May), China has been demanding the acceptance of "one China" by applying various measures exerting pressure in the political, economic and diplomatic spheres.

In terms of dialogue between the authorities of China and Taiwan, China publicly announced the suspension of the communication mechanism (in June), and in terms of the economy, it has begun reducing the number of Chinese tourists visiting Taiwan, and suggested its intention to continue this until President Tsai accepts "one China."

In addition, as a new means of exerting pressure, China welcomed a visit by a team

consisting of Kuomintang affiliated administrative leaders of eight prefectures and cities, and announced preferential tourism and agricultural policies exclusively for those prefectures and cities (in September). Also, General Secretary Xi Jinping made clear China's intention to encourage division inside Taiwan by meeting with Kuomintang Party Chairman Hung Hsiuchu who visited China (in November) and providing preferential treatment to the party and working together with it. In the diplomatic arena, China shut out the Taiwanese delegation from international meetings such as the General Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) (in September) and the General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO), intending

to reduce Taiwan's sphere of activity in the international community. China has also been strengthening its contact with the Vatican,

which is the only country in Europe to have diplomatic relations with Taiwan (see column).

Tension mounted as China strengthens its containment of the Tsai Ingwen administration

President Tsai expressed Taiwan's stance to strengthen relations with Japan and the United States, and is set to adopt a diplomatic policy based on "universal values such as freedom, democracy and human rights," asserting that Taipei "would like to pursue opportunities for cooperation and development in Southeast Asia and other regions together with Japan" (in October), that they were "confident" that with the new Trump administration, "the two nations' friendly and

mutually beneficial partnership would be further strengthened" (in November). Meanwhile, China is likely to further increase checks on the Tsai administration and pursue a policy towards Taiwan based on accommodating and facilitating the Kuomintang. It is also expected that tension will mount in relations between China and Taiwan as exchanges in various fields decrease.

Column

Contact between China and the Vatican became active

China and the Vatican severed diplomatic relations in 1951 (with the Vatican establishing diplomatic relations with Taiwan immediately after that), but in March 2013 Xi Jinping and Pope Francis issued mutual inauguration celebration telegrams, and since then, momentum for an improvement in their relations has been gathering. In 2016, contacts have become increasingly active, with Vatican Secretary of State Palatrin stating that he "hoped to improve relations with China" (in August), which was followed by Pope Francis meeting with the Bishop of Suzhou in China on his visit to the Vatican (in October).

Behind China's seeking to improve relations with the Vatican was, in addition to pressurizing Taiwan, its aim to enhance its international image as well as its expectation that this might create an encouraging effect for stronger relationships with countries along the "One Belt, One Road" including Christian countries. It is possible that China may further enhance its ties with the other Christian nations other than the Vatican with which Taiwan has diplomatic relations (currently 22 countries).

3 Russia

3 – 1 While trying to create a favorable situation in its relations with the West, Russia's cooperation with China yielded limited results

Russia continued to take an offensive stance in the Middle East and expanded its military presence while showing an easing of tension toward Europe

Regarding the conflict in the eastern part of Ukraine, sporadic armed conflict continued even after the ceasefire agreement in February 2015; however, Russia did not display any move to destabilize the situation, but instead displayed its intention to maintain the current situation, and regularly conducted working-level consultations with the US (in January, May, and October).

Although the US and European Union (EU) sanctions were not canceled or relaxed, executives of European and American companies, as well as President Juncker of the European Commission, attended the "St. Petersburg International Economic Forum" held in Russia (in June), and met with President Putin. By this, Russia was able to give the impression both domestically and internationally that the opportunities for dialogue with Europe, that had deteriorated due to the Ukrainian crisis, were reviving.

Regarding its relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), tensions over the military situation in Eastern Europe were heightened by irregular movements of Russian military aircraft toward a US vessel in the Baltic Sea (in April), and the decision to deploy NATO troops to Poland and the Baltic States (in July). However, a meeting of the "NATO-Russia Council" that had been suspended for about two years was restarted (in April and July), and President Putin stated that Russia is "ready to start a

dialogue on confidence-building and conflict prevention"(in July).

On the other hand, in September 2015, Russia launched its military intervention in Syria at the request of the Assad administration and helped it reassert its power, which had been seriously compromised in the course of the civil war. Against this background, Russia and the United States agreed twice to suspend hostilities in Syria, except for attacks against terrorist organizations (in February and September); however, Russia and the Syrian government forces intensified the offensive against Aleppo in the north where the opposition base is located, amid growing concerns from the international community over the humanitarian crisis, leading to the collapse of the ceasefire agreement (in September). Furthermore, Russia expanded its military presence in the Middle East region, by announcing a plan to permanently station its air forces in northern Syria and to make its naval base in the west permanent (in October).

In addition, Russia improved its relations with Turkey, which is a NATO member state that has interests at stake in the Syrian situation, by President Putin's acceptance of an apology offered by President Erdogan of Turkey (in June) for the incident in which a Russian military aircraft was shot down (in November 2015), and by holding three top-level meetings with Turkey.

Much publicized economic cooperation with China stagnated

The strong criticism of the deployment initiated by the US of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to South Korea (joint statement at the time of President Putin's visit to China in June), and the holding of the first Joint Russian-Chinese naval exercise in the South China Sea "Joint

Sea-2016" (in September) have attracted attention as a move by Russia and China to collaborate with the aim of containing the United States and other countries.

However, as far as economic and energy cooperation with China is concerned—something which Russia has adopted as a

countermeasure against economic sanctions by Western countries—despite some achievements, such as the Chinese government-led "Silk Road Fund" investing in the Yamal liquefied natural gas development plan in Russian territory in the Arctic Circle (in March), concrete progress has not been seen in major projects such as the construction of natural gas pipelines, and a sense of stagnation has been growing.

Perhaps reflecting this situation, the aforementioned visit of President Putin to China produced few concrete results, and no major senior officials from China attended the "Second Eastern Economic Forum" (in Vladivostok, in September), despite the participation of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

and President Park Geun Hye of South Korea who both made keynote addresses.

In these circumstances, Russia actively diversified its diplomatic policy, which prior to that had been focused on China by hosting a summit meeting with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on its own territory (in May, in Sochi), advocating the framework for a "greater Eurasian partnership" (in June, in St. Petersburg) which covers not only the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union and China but also European countries, and conducting a joint military exercise with India near the Russian border with China (in the Russian Primorsky Krai, in September).

Although the ruling party won in the election for the lower house, the uncertain economic situation is a factor for instability

Russia's economy saw its GDP growth rate in 2015 down to minus 3.7%, due to sanctions by Western countries and declines in international oil prices.

Under such circumstances, at the election to the State Duma (lower house; in September), the ruling "United Russia" won 343 seats out of the 450 seats, with the reintroduction of the electoral system comprised of both single-seat constituencies and proportionally represented multiple-seat constituencies in parallel and the early implementation of the elections working in the favor of the ruling party.

In addition, as a large-scale protest movement against the Putin regime, such as

the one which sprang up at the time of the previous lower house election (in 2011), did not materialize this time, President Putin appears to have gained confidence for the presidential election scheduled in 2018, although he did not officially announce his candidacy.

However, as the economic situation of Russia continues to be uncertain, if further deterioration in state finances spreads to the social security system in the future, and dissatisfaction of the people with the administration heightens, there is a possibility that President Putin's handling of the government may be affected in the next presidential election

Strengthening the domestic regime by creating a security institution, and conducting a partial change of government officials

President Putin created the "National Guard" which is an institution to project force directly reporting to the President and based on the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (in April), and also dismissed his long-time "ally," Chief of Staff of the Presidential Executive Office Sergei Ivanov, appointing Anton Vaino, the deputy chief of the Presidential Executives Office, as the

successor to that position (in August). In addition, Speaker of the State Duma Sergei Naryshkin was appointed as the Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR; in October). Thus, the Putin administration displayed its move to strengthen the regime internally within Russia in terms of both organization and personnel affairs.

Russia sought access to ASEAN

Amid a rise in tension over the South China Sea, Russia held its third summit meeting with ASEAN, for the first time in Russia itself, in May, and demonstrated to the international community its intention to strengthen security and economic cooperation with ASEAN countries. In the "Sochi Declaration," the document setting out the consensus reached at the summit, mention was made of the South China Sea and other issues which had not been mentioned at past meetings, and those matters viewed as important to Vietnam and the Philippines, such as the "support for the early formulation of a South China Sea Code of Conduct (COC)," were specified as a common understanding with Russia.

Also, at a meeting of the Defense Ministers of Russia and Vietnam, (in April) held just before the aforementioned summit meeting, the Russian Defense Minister Shoigu called Vietnam "a strategic ally" of Russia and emphasized the desire to "deepen the 'brotherly friendship' between the two countries, and to develop naval cooperation and military technical cooperation."

In addition, the Russian Navy participated in two joint exercises with the ASEAN countries and others, in April-May, dispatched a marine research ship to the South China Sea, and made calls at the Cam Ranh base in Vietnam and Manila in the Philippines (in addition, a Russian navy vessel called at the Cam Ranh Base in August).

On the other hand, the joint naval exercise "Joint Sea-2016" (in September) in the South China Sea, which had been noted as an action showing Russian cooperation with China, was implemented in the offshore area of Guangdong Province, far away from the disputed area, and Russia's Ministry of Defense only gave it a low level of publicity.

It may not be easy for Russia to actually strengthen its relations with the ASEAN countries which have been distant up until now; however, in a situation where the Southeast Asian region is becoming the stage of competition for influence by major powers such as the US and China, Russia is expected to make use of its cooperation with the ASEAN countries in fields such as military and energy and further its moves to improve its presence in the region.

3 – 2 Using President Putin' s visit as a pivot, Russia focused on expanding bilateral cooperation with Japan

Russia welcomed Japan' s position toward Russia in recent years

Russia moved to seek greater cooperation with Japan as relations with Western countries deteriorated due to issues including those related to the situation in Ukraine and Syria.

President Putin met with reporters after an interactive television program with the general public (in April) and stated that "despite pressure from its partner, the United States, friends in Japan strive to maintain a good relationship (with Russia)," and expressed great appreciation of Japan' s stance toward Russia.

In 2016, three sets of summit talks (in May in Sochi, Russia; in September in Vladivostok,

Russia; in November, in Lima, Peru) were held, in which the two leaders discussed bilateral relations and the wide-ranging international situation, and also confirmed, in the summit meeting in September, that President Putin would visit Japan in December and hold a summit meeting in Yamaguchi Prefecture. In these circumstances, President Putin attended the general meeting of the 2nd Eastern Economic Forum (in September in Vladivostok), and stated that bilateral relations with Japan are good, concluding that the relationship with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as "a very intimate and reliable relationship."

As the Russian economy stagnated, Russia inclined toward progress in economic cooperation between Japan and Russia

As stagnation accelerated in the Russian domestic economy which had been on a declining trend, Russia set its sights on expanding cooperation with Japan centering on economic relations.

Dialogue between Japan and Russia aimed at strengthening relations in the economic field has been continuing, such as the "11th meeting of the Japan - Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economy" (in September 2015) and the "Japan-Russia Trade and Industry Dialogue" (from February 29 to March 1). At the Japan - Russia Summit Meeting in May (in Sochi), Prime Minister Abe proposed an 8-point "cooperation plan" to promote Russia - Japan economic exchanges, and President Putin evaluated the proposal of Prime Minister Abe as the "only right way" (in September), expressing his intention to develop economic

cooperation with Japan through realization of the plan.

In these circumstances, Russia dispatched to Japan key figures such as Deputy Prime Minister and Plenipotentiary Representative of the President in the Far Eastern Federal District Yury Trutnev (in May), Minister of Economic Development Aleksei Ulyukaev (in July, later dismissed), Minister of the Development of the Russian Far East Aleksandr Galushka (in September), and Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dovorkovitch (in October) to encourage the expansion of economic cooperation, and President Putin instructed the government to consider the establishment of a post for the "development of economic cooperation with Japan" (in September) after the "2nd Eastern Economic Forum."

While showing a positive attitude toward the conclusion of a peace treaty, Russia emphasized its legitimacy concerning the Northern Territories issue by citing it as a "result of World War II"

With the dialogue between Russia and Japan becoming more active, President Putin said on the issue of concluding the peace

treaty that he thought "a compromise can and will be found one day" (in April, at a press conference after the conclusion of the "Direct

Dialogue with the People”), thereby expressing understanding that it was possible to conclude a peace treaty in the future.

Meanwhile, the President expressed his understanding that the conclusion of the peace treaty would take time, by stating before the “Second Eastern Economic Forum” on the subject of the current Japan-Russian relationship that he did not “consider that (the solution of the issue) is getting as close as in 1956 (when Japan and the Soviet Union signed a Joint Declaration)” (in September). In

addition, Foreign Minister Lavrov emphasized that there is no change in their principled position that the Northern Territories are Russian territory, by saying that “Russia has no plans to hand over the Kuril Islands to Japan and is not going to beg Tokyo for a peace agreement” and “to have a conversation about a mutually acceptable solution of this territorial issue without recognizing the outcome of the Second World War – it is impossible” (in May).

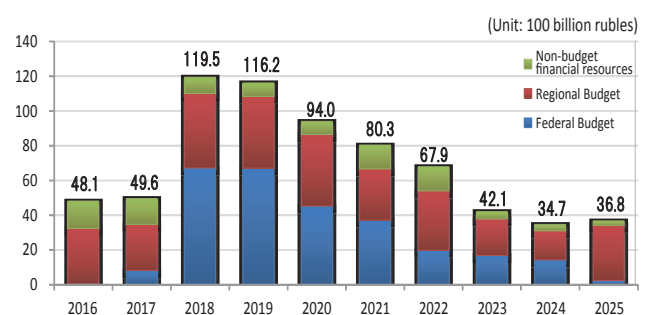
Russia started a new development plan for the Northern Territories, and steadily promoted the modernization of troops stationed there

Russia has been promoting development led by the federal government in the Northern Territories, and has begun infrastructure development based on the local development plan from 2016 to 2025 (of about 68.9 billion rubles [about 119 billion yen as of the end of November]) approved by the government in August 2015. As the domestic economy stagnated in Russia, the Federal government spent almost no funds in 2016 which was the first year; however, using funds from the budget of Sakhalin Province which has "administrative jurisdiction" over the Northern Territories, the construction of kindergartens, houses, and other buildings was advanced. In addition, Minister of the Development of the Russian Far East Galushka, under whose jurisdiction the plan sits, expressed his intention to establish a Special Economic Zone during 2016 to attract domestic and foreign investment for the industrial development of the Northern Territories and the Kuril Islands (in June).

On the other hand, concerning the modernization of stationed troops, Minister of

Defense Sergei Shoigu outlined the direction for deploying the long-range land-to-ship missile systems “Bastion” and “Bal” to the Northern Territories and the Kuril Islands. In addition to this, he outlined the direction for conducting an on-site survey on the feasibility of setting up a base for the Russian Navy’ s Pacific Fleet in Kunashiri, Etorofu, and the Kuril Islands (in March), and dispatched a survey team to Matsuwa Island in the central part of the Kuril Islands (from May to June).

Yearly Budget for the Development Plan of the Northern Territories, 2016-2025



Russia is expected to work on Japan, focusing on economic relations

Dialogue between Russia and Japan is being actively conducted ahead of President Putin's visit to Japan (in December), and it is expected that upon the President’ s visit to Japan, agreements will be concluded mainly in the economic fields. As economic sanctions by Western countries have not been lifted or

relaxed, and as economic cooperation with China is stagnating, Russia is expected to continue its approach toward Japan, centering on economic relations through the exchange of key figures and various dialogues in the public and private sectors in order to realize the eight-point "cooperation plan."

Russia strengthened its military presence around the Sea of Okhotsk

Russia has started the deployment of long-range land-to-ship missile systems to the Northern Territories and the Kuril Islands, and in recent years has acted to strengthen its military presence around the Sea of Okhotsk. Behind this, it is assessed that there are military and political intentions such as those described below.

1. Protection of strategic nuclear submarines (SSBN) which form the core of the nuclear deterrent force

The Sea of Okhotsk appears to comprise the core of the nuclear deterrent force on which Russia has placed importance since the Cold War, and it also appears to be the deployment area for the SSBNs that are based in the Kamchatka Peninsula. In September, the third ship of the new Borey-class SSBN arrived at the base. Russia is believed to be planning to protect the SSBNs by using the Northern Territories and the Kuril Islands, which form the outer edge of the Sea of Okhotsk, as strategic barriers.

2. Deterrence and control against the advance of China to the Arctic and the areas around the Sea of Okhotsk

In recent years, China has successively advanced its research vessels and commercial ships into the Arctic Ocean as well as its naval vessels into the North Pacific Ocean. As these ships take routes via the Sea of Okhotsk, complicated situations have cropped up in which China's new sea lanes are being formed within waters which Russia views as being of strategic importance.

Since 2012, as a result of these advances made by China, the Russian Army has repeatedly carried out actions which appear to be displays of military force, including exercises around the Sea of Okhotsk. When the Chinese polar research ship "Snow Dragon" moved northwards in the same area in July, Russian warships launched long distance cruise missiles from the sea to the Kamchatka Peninsula.

In addition, Russia further tends to correlate the strengthening of the defense of the areas around the Sea of Okhotsk with that of the Arctic; both areas are linked by the Arctic route. Defense Minister Shoigu clearly stated in August that Russia was now working on the construction of the "Unified Coastal Defense System" which extends from the Sea of Japan to the North Pole, and that the strengthening of control of the straits in the Northern Territories and the Kuril Islands was part of that.

3. Political motives against Japan

As dialogue aimed at the conclusion of a peace treaty between Japan and Russia proceeds, it can be considered that Russia intends to secure a superior position by making a display of the reinforcement of its military presence around the Northern Territories.

It is necessary for Japan to pay attention to these moves, taking into consideration the fact that Russia's strengthening of its military presence around the Sea of Okhotsk is influenced, not only by the Northern Territories issue, but also by the power balance between Russia, the United States, and China, the security of the Arctic, and China's advance into the Oceans, among other things

4 The Middle East and North Africa

4 Turmoil continued in the Middle East and North Africa

In Syria, efforts toward peace did not progress, and fighting continued in various places

In Syria, fighting continued between the Assad administration and the opposition after the outbreak of the uprising against the government in March 2011. As the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has stepped up its activities in the country since 2013, various rival groups continue to fight over their own spheres of influence, with the Assad administration controlling the capital, Damascus, as well as central and western coastal regions, ISIL occupying the northern and eastern regions, and the opposition groups based in the northwestern regions.

As ISIL and opposition forces intensified their offensive against the territory controlled by the Assad administration in 2015, the administration received stronger military support from Russia from September 2015, and began to gain military superiority in the front against ISIL and the opposition. From the beginning of 2016, the Assad administration regained control to a certain degree by actions including partly recapturing Latakia Governorate in the north-western region which had been under the control of the opposition (in January) as well as ISIL-controlled Homs Governorate in the central region (in March), and also sending opposition forces in retreat from Darayya in the suburbs of Damascus (in August) in agreement with the opposition forces.

In addition, the Kurdish forces which have most of the ethnically-Kurdish areas in the north under their control invaded ISIL-controlled areas with support from the United States and others countries. The Kurdish forces further expanded their areas of control in the northern regions.

In these circumstances, peace talks between the Assad administration and the

organizations representing the opposition began with United Nations mediation in January, in Geneva, Switzerland, and in February, a US and Russia-sponsored temporary ceasefire between the government and opposition forces was achieved. However, sporadic air strikes and battles continued in various places after the ceasefire commenced, and in April the battle between the two sides became intense in Aleppo, the capital of Aleppo Province in northern Syria and elsewhere, leading to the virtual collapse of the temporary ceasefire; as a consequence, peace talks have not resumed since its interruption at the end of April. In September, another temporary ceasefire was agreed upon between the two sides, again sponsored by the United States and Russia; however, battles raged on in the city of Aleppo and elsewhere. The administration asserted that "a ceasefire violation was made by the opposition," declared the "end" of the ceasefire, and escalated air strikes against opposition-controlled areas in the eastern part of Aleppo (at the end of September).

Subsequently, concerned countries, such as the United States and Russia, put their efforts into securing a ceasefire, but the battle between the administration side and the opposition forces did not resolve, and efforts toward peace did not progress.

Incidentally, according to the Syrian Human Rights Monitoring Group headquartered in the UK, the number of deaths due to battle and others exceeded 300,000 people since the outbreak of the opposition uprising in Syria (Syrian Human Rights Monitoring Group website on September 13).

Although sweeping up of ISIL progressed, political confusion was not resolved in Iraq

In Iraq, security forces supported by the United States and other countries as well as Shiite militias have been engaged in sweeping up operations against ISIL, which controls a wide region in the north and the west, and since the end of 2015, some progress has been made with those forces successively recapturing regions which had previously been controlled by ISIL, such as Nineveh Governorate in the northern region, and Anbar Governorate in the western region. In addition, from around July, the government of Iraq strengthened its offensive towards the suburbs of Mosul with the goal of recapturing the city, which is both the largest city under the occupation of ISIL and also the capital of Nineveh Governorate in the northern region, and in October, it started an operation to retake it.

In these circumstances, Prime Minister Abadi began efforts intended for political reform and to eradicate corruption from the

summer of 2015, and as a part of this effort, started reshuffling the cabinet; however, due to political strife between political factions and other factors, these efforts have not seen progress. In April, demonstrators supporting the Shiite religious leader Sadr and seeking the promotion of political reform poured into the former US military-controlled district, the "Green Zone," in the center of the capital city of Baghdad, with some of them breaking into the National Assembly. In response the security authorities declared an emergency situation and strengthened security measures; however, political turmoil was not resolved, as protest demonstrations occurred in various places.

According to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), between January and October, more than 5,500 civilians were killed in Iraq due to attacks by ISIL and others (on November 1, UNAMI website).

Turkey and other countries continued to be involved in the Syria-Iraq situation

As frequent terrorist attacks believed to have been carried out by ISIL affiliates and the Kurdish Labor Party (PKK) have taken place within its own territory, Turkey has undertaken attacks against ISIL-controlled areas in Syria and PKK sites in northern Iraq, and in August, Turkey escalated its involvement in the situation in Syria by, among other actions, sending its ground troops into combat on Syrian territory. Thereafter, in September, the Turkish government announced that "from Azaz to Jarablus in the northern region of Syria, all the terrorist organizations have been pushed back." Turkey demonstrated its intent to further increase its involvement in the situation in Iraq by continuing to station troops in the northern region of Iraq and

claiming that its forces bombarded ISIL in the operation to recapture Mosul launched by the Iraqi army and the forces of other countries in October.

On the other hand, Russia, which has been supporting the Assad administration, and has been conducting air-strikes in Syria since the end of September 2015, initiated a temporary ceasefire between the government-side and the opposition forces in February and September; however, the United States resumed and continued air-strikes in Syria after the collapse of the ceasefire agreement. Moreover, Russia sent its aircraft carrier into action in November, and has continued its involvement in the Syrian situation, asserting that it has "begun a large-scale military operation."

In Libya and Yemen, political and security conditions remained unstable

In Libya, the unity government, which was established by a delegation of the conflicting secularist forces and Islamist forces (in December 2015), entered the capital, Tripoli, to take up the reins of government in March. However, as opinion opposed to the establishment of a unity government is strong within the secularist forces based in the eastern region, the unity government is still unable to obtain the approval of the National Assembly, which is dominated by secularist forces; therefore, the unity government and the secularist forces continue to fight against each other over their own spheres of influence. For this reason, they both operate independently in terms of maintaining security, and the unity government intensified its offensive against ISIL-related organizations which had controlled the city of Sirte in the central region since May. On the other hand, secularist forces have been conducting their own attacks against militant Islamist organizations in the city of Benghazi in the eastern region and other places.

In Tunisia, the democratization process was completed in February 2015; however, issues such as regional disparity or high unemployment rates remain unresolved. In these circumstances, a no confidence motion was passed against the Essid Cabinet (in July) which had been established through the democratization process, and the Chahed Cabinet was set up as a successor (in August). Although the Tunisian government has been continuing enforcement, sporadic terrorist attacks believed to be the work of "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb" (AQIM) affiliated organization occurred in the western part of

the country, whereas a terrorist attack in which the involvement of ISIL was suspected occurred (in March) near the border with Libya in the south-eastern region of the country.

In Egypt, President el-Sisi took office in June 2014, and the parliament was established in January, which concluded the transition process after the fall of the Mubarak administration (in February 2011). Although the Sisi administration strengthened enforcement against radical Islamist organizations, terrorist attacks occurred in the Sinai Peninsula in the northeastern part of the country, as well as in the suburbs of its capital, Cairo, which were believed to be conducted by ISIL-related organizations.

In Yemen, fighting between the army of the government, the Shiite armed forces known as the "Houthis," and the supporters of the former President Saleh continued in numerous areas including in the Taiz Governorate in the southern region and the border area with Saudi Arabia, and air strikes by Saudi Arabia-led allied forces were maintained. Peace talks, which were conducted from April through the mediation of the United Nations, were postponed in August, and the negotiations did not show any progress, as the Houthis unilaterally announced the establishment of the "Supreme Political Council" which has as its goal the taking over of the governance of Yemen (in July). In addition, as the conflict drew on and as a result of the security vacuum created by it, "Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula" (AQAP) and ISIL-affiliated organizations conducted active operations.

A Kurdish militia group “People's Defense Units” (YPG)

Various organizations are involved in the Syrian situation, and one of them is the “People’s Defense Units (YPG) which is considered to be the military wing of the “Democratic Union Party” (PYD) organized in Syria by the Kurdish separatist organization “Kurdistan Workers’ Party” (PKK) in Turkey.

The YPG is mainly composed of Kurds; however, Arabs are also reported to belong to the organization, and some have pointed out that their proportion amounts to 15%. In addition, although very small in number, other foreign combatants are also reported to be participating. The membership has been estimated at around 30,000.

The YPG has become an effective ground force in sweeping up the “Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant” (ISIL). Ethnically-Kurdish areas, such as northeastern Syria, have been under the de facto control of Kurdish organizations, mainly the PYD/YPG, from the summer of 2012. Since January of 2014, the PYD/YPG has been confronting ISIL head on and has recaptured the main Ayn al-Arab (Kurdish name: Kobani) District, a key area in northern Syria from ISIL, and in June 2015, Iraq brought Tel Aviyad under control, which was a key stronghold at the Turkish border that ISIL had been using as a supply base.

In addition, in October 2015, the YPG formed the “Syrian Democratic Forces” (SDF) which united it with several Arab anti-government organizations that had been in a relationship forming a united front, and the YPG has been operating as its driving force. In August, SDF recaptured Manbij in northern Syria from ISIL, and announced in November that it had begun an operation aimed at capturing Rakka in the northern part of the country.

Attitudes toward the PYD/YPG vary from country to country. Turkey has designated the PYD/YPG as a terrorist organization, claiming the PYD/YPG is a breakaway faction of PKK which has also been designated as a terrorist organization by Turkey and is wary of its expansion of power. On the other hand, the United States has designated PKK as a terrorist organization; however it does not designate the PYG/YPG as a terrorist organization but as a separate organization from PKK, and the US is believed to have supported them in sweeping up ISIL.

5 International Terrorism

5 – 1 Overview

In the year 2016, continuing on from the previous year, Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) related terrorist incidents occurred around the world, and the spread and infiltration of its influence became a serious concern.

Although the areas under its control in Syria and Iraq were reduced, ISIL continued to demonstrate itself to be a threat, conducting massive suicide bombings in the government-controlled regions of Syria and Iraq. In the Middle East neighboring Syria and Iraq as well as in North Africa, among other areas, ISIL-related organizations are actively operating, and terrorist attacks occurred one after another in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other countries.

In Western countries, there were many “lone wolf” terrorist attacks of various forms inspired by ISIL, mainly in France and the United States. In addition, following the simultaneous terrorist attacks that occurred in France in November of 2015, a series of

terrorist incidents conducted by returning ISIL fighters and others occurred in March in Belgium.

In Asia, in Bangladesh, an incident took place with more than 20 people being killed including seven Japanese nationals, and also in Indonesia and the Philippines, the first ISIL-related terrorist attacks occurred respectively, suggesting that its influence has penetrated those countries.

As for terrorist organizations other than ISIL, Al-Qaeda, whose activities had been said in recent years to be on the decline, showed a move toward recovery of centripetal force by actively advertising itself, and Al-Qaeda-related organizations in various regions also continued their activities, with terrorist attacks taking place in Yemen and Somalia. In Afghanistan, the Taliban strengthened its offensive, and terrorist incidents perpetrated by Taliban-supported organizations took place in Pakistan.

5 – 2 The threat of “Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant” diffused all over the world

ISIL saw its territory in Syria and Iraq shrink

ISIL had been expanding the territory under its control in Syria and Iraq since January 2014, particularly in the northern and eastern regions of Syria and the northern and western regions of Iraq. However, since the end of 2015, the area it controls in both countries has shrunk.

In Syria, ISIL lost the city of Tadmur in Homs Governorate in the central region (in March), Manbij in Aleppo Governorate (in August), the city of Jarabulus (in August), the town of Dabiq (in October) to Assad administration forces supported by Russia and other countries, and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) supported by the United States and other countries, as well as opposition forces against the regime supported by Turkey. Also in Iraq, ISIL lost one area after another,

including the City of Sinjar in Nineveh Governorate in the northern region (in November 2015), the city of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar Governorate in the western region (in December 2015), the city of Hit in the same governorate (in April), the city of Ar Rutba (in May), and the city of Fallujah (in June) against the security forces supported by the United States and other countries, Shiite militias, and Kurdish forces.

Regarding the area controlled by ISIL, it has been pointed out that it has decreased by about 50% in Iraq and by about 20% in Syria compared with the beginning of 2015 (when the area within its control was said to be at its peak; in June). Also, due to the decrease in the inflow of foreign fighters and for other reasons, it has been pointed out that the

number of ISIL fighters decreased from about 33,000 in 2015 to around 18,000 to 22,000 (in June), and senior members of ISIL were successively killed by air strikes conducted by the US-led Coalition Forces and other actions; such as ISIL's military wing executive Abu Omar al-Shishani (in March), deputy leader Abdul Rahman Mustafa al-Qaduli (in March), and official spokesman Abu Muhammad al-Adnani who is believed to have played a central role in executing operations outside its territory (in August).

In these circumstances, ISIL conducted successive large-scale suicide bombings in areas controlled by the Assad administration in Syria as well as various places in Iraq, such as the suburbs of Syria's capital Damascus and Homs Governorate in the central region (in February; nearly 200 people were killed) and in Shi'a residential areas in Iraq's capital Baghdad (in July; over 300 people were killed), thereby demonstrating high capability in conducting terrorist attacks in order to make

its presence felt and maintain and expand its threat.

ISIL has also started publishing a new official magazine, "Rumiya," (in September), and seriously called for conducting "lone wolf" terrorism in Europe and the United States. In addition, after the operation by the Iraqi military and others for the recapture of Mosul, a statement was issued (in November), purportedly by its supreme leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, offering encouragement to combatants in Iraq and countries and regions in which ISIL affiliated forces exist, and showing a tightening in its organization.

ISIL is expected to continue to conduct suicide bombings in Syria and Iraq as well as secure territorial control for the maintenance of its own influence, and also to conduct terrorist attacks through related organizations, while at the same time calling for terrorist attacks by affiliated organizations and "lone wolf" terrorists.

In the areas neighboring Syria and Iraq, terrorism perpetrated by organizations related to ISIL has continued

In the countries neighboring Syria and Iraq, terrorist attacks, which are believed to be the work of ISIL-affiliated organizations and others, have followed.

In Jordan, in Lukvan in the north-east of the country, an incident took place in which a vehicle loaded with bombs crossed over from Syria to the Jordanian side of the border, slammed into Jordanian military facilities and exploded (in June; six Jordanian military officials were killed). Media related to ISIL claimed that this incident had been conducted by a soldier of the "Islamic State," and furthermore, released a video which it said was shot at the time of the attack.

In Lebanon, a series of suicide attacks occurred (in June; killing five citizens) in the northern town of Al-Kahua in which many residents are believed to be Christian, and it was pointed out that ISIL was the culprit. After that, the Lebanese security authorities revealed that ISIL has been planning terrorist attacks in Lebanon which target soft targets such as financial institutions, restaurants, entertainment facilities (in September).

In Saudi Arabia, on July 4, suicide bombings took place near the "Mosque of the Prophet" located in the sacred city of Islam, Medina, in the western region of the country, as well as

near the Consulate General of the United States located in the city of Jeddah on the Red Sea in the western region, and near a Shiite mosque in the eastern region of Qatif respectively (four Saudi security officials were killed). The country's security authorities blamed ISIL for this series of suicide bombings and arrested many suspects.

In Turkey also, terrorist attacks which are believed to have been carried out by ISIL affiliates have taken place frequently, with suicide bombings taking place in Istanbul's Sultanahmet District (in January; 12 foreign tourists were killed), in addition, some Central Asians who had previously traveled to Syria committed a terrorist attack at Ataturk International Airport (in June; 47 people were killed).

In Libya, ISIL's "Tripolitania Province" (see note) has seen its power wane since May, losing many areas it controlled due to the attack by the unity government in Sirte City in the central region and on other fronts, although it conducted suicide bomb attacks that targeted unity government troops in the city.

In Egypt, the "Sinai Province" of ISIL has been actively operating in the Sinai Peninsula in the northeastern region, and has conducted

frequent terrorist attacks targeting security authorities and other entities. In addition to the Sinai Peninsula, there were attacks targeting a security checkpoint in the central area of the country, Giza Governorate (in February), and another which targeted a bus with security officials on board in the vicinity of the capital city Cairo (in May), for which responsibility was claimed in a statement issued in the name of "ISIL Egypt."

Moreover, in some regions of Nigeria, as well as in neighboring Niger, Chad and Cameroon, the "West Africa Province" of ISIL has been conducting active operations. The security authorities in each country there have tightened up sweeping-up operations against the organization; however, the organization has unleashed frequent attacks on security authorities and mosques, attacking the security authorities in Diffa Region in southeastern Niger (in June), and has conducted a suicide bombing targeting a

mosque in Borno State in north-eastern Nigeria (in July).

Concerns have been raised that ISIL-affiliated organizations and others would continue to carry out terrorist attacks in areas neighboring Syria and Iraq, taking advantage of the unstable domestic situation in each country.

(Note) After the declaration of the establishment of the "Islamic State" by ISIL, "provinces" have been established as a territory of the "Islamic State" outside Syria and Iraq. According to ISIL, the procedure for accrediting a "province" includes among other things: (1) an expression of loyalty to the ISIL supreme leader, (2) the acceptance of this oath of loyalty by the supreme leader, (3) the nomination of the leader of the "province" by ISIL, (4) the establishment of a direct communication route between ISIL and the "province."

In Western countries, successive terrorist attacks related to ISIL occurred

In Western countries, ISIL has been intensifying its calls on Muslim residents there to conduct terrorist attacks, advising concretely on how to carry out attacks and select targets through statements and magazines. "Lone wolf" terrorist attacks conducted by those who are influenced by ISIL and respond to such calls have become a serious threat.

From the beginning of the year, "lone wolf" terrorist attacks by those who are believed to have been influenced by ISIL occurred one after another. In March, a series of terrorist incidents using explosives occurred at airports and subway stations in Brussels, the capital city of Belgium (32 people were killed and 340 were injured). A statement claiming responsibility was issued in the name of "ISIL Belgium." Some pointed out that the case was an organized attack committed by the same group which conducted a series of terrorist attacks in Paris, France in November 2015 (130 people were killed and about 350 were injured), consisting mainly of ISIL combatants who have returned to Europe. In the two incidents, a total of three people were arrested, 12 perpetrators were killed, and over 70 people were detained by the relevant authorities of each country as suspected affiliates.

Also after that, "lone wolf" terrorist attacks

by those believed to have been influenced by ISIL continued, and in June, an incident of random gun shooting took place at a night club in Orlando, Florida, in the southeast of the United States (49 people were killed, 53 were injured). In addition, in July, there was a case in which a truck crashed through a crowd of people watching fireworks to celebrate Bastille Day in Nice, in the South of France (86 people were killed, 434 were injured). In both cases, the type of target selected was a soft target, involving a large concentration of the general public gathered together in one place, which resulted in a large number of victims.

Furthermore, in September, a car loaded with gas cylinders, diesel fuel, and other things was found in the French capital Paris, and three women and two men were arrested. Some pointed out that the attack was planned in response to instructions from ISIL combatants residing in Iraq, and was intended to target soft targets such as Notre Dame Cathedral and the Gare de Lyon railway station.

Thus, in Western countries, "lone wolf" terrorist attacks by "homegrown terrorists" responding to ISIL calls are taking place frequently, and there are concerns that they will continue to take place in the future. In addition, since a number of ISIL combatants

are thought to have been returning to the countries they originated from, and cases have been exposed in which ISIL combatants have

disguised themselves as refugees, there are concerns that these people may be involved in carrying out terrorist attacks.

In Asia, the influence of ISIL also exerted itself, and related terrorist attacks were carried out in succession

In Asia, at the same time as the existing leaders of militant Islamist organizations have been seen expressing support and allegiance to ISIL, since around 2014, organized terrorist attacks, conducted by those who are believed to have been influenced by ISIL, continued right through into 2016. In January, a shooting and suicide bombing incident took place in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia (four persons including one foreign national were killed), and a statement claiming responsibility was issued in the name of "ISIL Indonesia." The incident was believed to have been instructed by a person held in prison who had sworn allegiance to ISIL and it was regarded as the first ISIL-related terrorist attack in Southeast Asia.

In addition, in the Philippines, in April, after an incident took place in which a faction of the militant Islamist organization "Abu Sayyaf Group" (ASG), which pledges allegiance to ISIL, clashed with the Philippines army on Basilan Island in the south of the country, a statement claiming responsibility was issued in the name of "ISIL Philippines." Since then, statements have frequently been issued in the same name claiming responsibility for clashes with the Philippines army and others.

In Malaysia too, as the uncovering of terrorists with suspected links to ISIL continued, a bomb attack in which grenades were used took place at the end of June at restaurants in Selangor Province near the capital. The attack is believed to have been

carried out based on the instructions of ISIL combatants in Syria.

In Bangladesh, following on from terrorist incidents in 2015 in the name of "ISIL Bangladesh," including the incident in which a Japanese national was murdered (October 2015), attacks continued. In early July, an incident took place in which a restaurant mainly used by foreigners was attacked in the capital city of Dhaka (more than 20 persons including seven Japanese nationals were killed), and a statement claiming responsibility was issued in the name of "ISIL Bangladesh." The incident is believed to have been carried out by organizations that pledge allegiance to ISIL, after splintering from the militant Islamist organization "Jamaat-ul-Mujahidin-Bangladesh" (JMB).

Since then, at the end of August, a statement claiming responsibility in the name of "ISIL East Asia" was issued concerning the detention center raid, which took place in Mindanao in the southern Philippines.

As such, terrorist incidents, in which the name of ISIL was used in the statements claiming responsibility, took place one after another in Asian countries, where large-scale terrorist attacks had not occurred in their name in recent years, thus revealing the penetration of ISIL's influence into the region. In these countries, there is concern that organizations pledging allegiance to ISIL will continue to further escalate their terrorist activities in response to ISIL's calls.

Targets of terrorist attacks and harm inflicted on Japanese nationals

In recent years, a series of incidents in which Japanese people were the victims of terrorist attacks abroad have occurred, and since the terrorist attacks on Japanese nationals in Algeria in 2013, 23 people have died in seven terrorist attacks with seven being injured.

Looking at recent cases in which Japanese nationals were harmed, it can be noted that there are more cases in which Japanese people fall victim in incidents where the terrorist organizations go out to inflict damage indiscriminately on the so-called "Crusader Alliance" including countries in Europe and the US, such as the terrorist attacks in Brussels, the capital of Belgium (March, 2007) than there are cases where Japanese nationals are specifically targeted, as in the murder of the Japanese national in Bangladesh (October 2015).

Since Japan has long been named as a target of terrorism from the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" as well as other organizations, it is necessary to maintain the utmost vigilance toward the occurrence of terrorism targeting Japanese nationals.

In addition, as ISIL has strengthened its call for the so-called "lone wolf" type of terrorism outside the territories of Syria and Iraq, there is great concern that Japanese could get caught up and harmed in attacks, since the places terrorist attacks occur worldwide include Western countries and areas of Asia where many Japanese nationals both reside and travel to; this is also because many incidents which occur are aimed at soft targets or places where large numbers of the general public are gathered together, such as public transportation facilities, restaurants, sightseeing spots, and various other events.

Recent Overseas Terrorist Incidents in Which Japanese Nationals Were Harmed

Month, Year	Case Outline	Harm Caused to Japanese Nationals	
		Deaths	Injuries
January 2013	【Terrorist Attack against Japanese Nationals in Algeria】 In eastern Algeria near Inamenas, an armed group raided natural gas related facilities. Many employees of the facility including Japanese nationals were detained as hostages. Although the incident was ended by a neutralization operation conducted by the Algerian army, many people lost their lives. A former senior member of an Al-Qaeda-related organization known as "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb" (AQIM) and the leader of the "Masked Brigade" Mokhtar Bermokhtar is thought to have been its mastermind.	10	-
January to February 2015	【Terrorist murder of Japanese nationals in Syria】 A man believed to be an ISIL combatant accused Japan of "participating in the Crusader Alliance" and demanded payment of US \$ 200 million for the release of two Japanese nationals who were believed to be missing in Syria and detained by ISIL in 2014. Subsequently, an image showing that a Japanese national had been killed was distributed, and a video suggesting that the remaining Japanese national had also been killed was publicly released.	2	-
March 2015	【Museum Attack Incident in Tunisia】 In Tunisia's capital Tunis, armed groups attacked foreign tourists in a museum near the National Assembly building, leaving numerous casualties. 6 Japanese nationals visiting the premises were killed or injured. The next day, ISIL issued a statement claiming responsibility and stating that the citizens of the countries in the "Crusader Alliance" had been targeted.	3	3

Targets of terrorist attacks and harm inflicted on Japanese citizens (continued)

Recent Overseas Terrorist Incidents in Which Japanese Nationals Were Harmed

Month, Year	Case Outline	Harm Caused to Japanese Nationals	
		Deaths	Injuries
September 2015	【Kidnapping of Foreigners in the Philippines】 An armed group kidnapped four foreign nationals, mainly tourists, at a resort facility on Samar Island, off the coast of Dabaw in the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. At that time, Japanese nationals who were visiting the area were injured. In November 2015, a statement claiming responsibility in the name of the "Abu Sayyaf Group" (ASG) was issued.	-	1
October 2015	【Murder of a Japanese National in Bangladesh】 In Rangpur in the north-west of Bangladesh, an armed group shot and killed a Japanese national who was staying there. On the same day, a statement claiming responsibility for targeting the Japanese was issued in the name of "ISIL Bangladesh."	1	-
March 2016	【Series of terrorist attacks in Brussels, Belgium】 In Brussels, Belgium's capital city, a series of terrorist incidents took place at an airport and a subway station. On that occasion, two Japanese nationals who were reportedly on a train or at the subway station were injured. On the same day, a statement claiming responsibility in the name of "ISIL Belgium" was issued, stating that the "Crusader" nation of Belgium had been targeted.	-	2
July 2016	【Attacks in Dhaka, Bangladesh】 In Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, armed groups attacked a restaurant and detained a large number of foreigners including Japanese nationals who were using the restaurant. Even though the incident was ended by a neutralizing operation by the Bangladeshi authorities, many including the Japanese nationals were killed or injured. The next day, a statement claiming responsibility in the name of "ISIL Bangladesh" was issued, stating that citizens of countries in the "Crusader Alliance" countries had been targeted.	7	1

5 – 3 “Al-Qaeda” aimed to recover its centripetal force

Al-Qaeda further intensified propaganda and other activities

Facts suggested that Al-Qaeda has declined as a centripetal force in recent years, as it tended to be involved in low level terrorist activities, and with its senior members dying one after another in 2015. However, since early 2016, it has made a move to strengthen propaganda activities, and the number of statements issued by its supreme leader Ayman Al Zawahiri significantly increased, with Hamza Bin Laden, the son of the founder of the organization Osama bin Laden, who is also considered as a future supreme leader candidate, also issuing a series of statements.

In his statement, Ayman Al Zawahiri strongly criticized the “Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant” (ISIL) which is in competition with Al-Qaeda for leadership of the “global jihad” initiative; he stated that ISIL was “trying to divide combatants,” and made a

wide appeal to unite under the Afghanistan-based Taliban to which Al Qaeda pledged allegiance (in August). Also, upon the 15th anniversary of the September 11 attacks in the United States, Zawahiri demonstrated Al-Qaeda's presence by warning the United States that “9.11 will be repeated thousands of times as long as it (the US) continues to commit crimes against us (the Islamic community)” (in September).

In addition, it has been pointed out that Al-Qaeda has moved several of its senior members to Syria, as well as having several senior members in Iran (in July).

Al-Qaeda is expected to continue to develop propaganda activities including its criticism of ISIL in order to demonstrate its presence, and continue its activities to maintain and expand influence in Syria and other countries.

Al-Qaeda-related organizations continued their terrorist activities in various places

“Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula” (AQAP) in Yemen has been expanding its forces, taking advantage of the destabilization of the domestic situation by fighting among the government forces, the Shi'ite armed forces known as the Houthis, and the supporters of the former President Saleh. However, after the sweeping-up operation by the allied forces led by Saudi Arabia, as well as that conducted by the Yemeni Army, AQAP reduced its area of activity, withdrawing from the port city of Mukalla in the east (in April), which it had occupied for about a year, as well as from Zinjibar, the capital city of Abyan Governorate in the south which it had been occupying since the end of 2015 (in August). However, the organization continued its terrorist activities, including the conducting of suicide bombings targeting military bases in Mukalla City as well as Aden City in the southern region of the country.

The Somalia-based “Al-Shabaab” continued to operate actively although it was the target of military operations by Somali armed forces as well as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and it carried out various types of terrorist activities, including a raid on the base of Kenyan troops who were participating in AMISOM (in January), causing an explosion on a Daallo Airlines flight (in February) that had been flying from the capital city of Mogadishu to Djibouti, and a suicide bombing at a hotel near the

presidential palace (in August).

“Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb” (AQIM) which extends its scope of activities southward from Algeria and the northern regions of Mali in which it has its main bases carried out a raid targeting hotels that are largely used by foreigners in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso (in January), as well as raids targeting resort hotels in Grand-Bassam, a tourist destination in the southern region of Côte d'Ivoire (in March).

The Syrian-based “Nusra Front,” in cooperation with other opposition forces, has continued to occupy the city of Idlib in the north-west, fighting intensely with the Syrian army and others in the major city of Aleppo in the north of the country. The supreme leader of the organization Abu Muhammad Al Gorani announced the organization's withdrawal from Al-Qaeda and the change of the organization's name to “Fateh al-Sham Front” (in July), but it has been pointed out that there is no substantial change in its threat as a terrorist organization under the umbrella of “Al-Qaeda”, as it has been involved in “propaganda activities to display itself as more moderate in order to integrate and mobilize other opposition groups.”

Al-Qaeda related organizations are expected to actively develop terrorist activities in the future by taking advantage of the unstable domestic situation of the countries that they are based in.

5 – 4 The “Taliban” expanded its area of control in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, the “Taliban” refused peace talks and escalated its offensive

In Afghanistan, the four countries, namely Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States and China, called for the “Taliban” to resume peace talks (in January), but the “Taliban” refused this (in March), and maintained its hardline policy by announcing a “Spring Offensive” and making repeated attacks against government agencies. In addition, although the Taliban leader Akhtar Mohammad Mansour died in an air strike carried out by a drone operated by the US military on Pakistani territory (in

May), Hibatullah Akhznada who took over as the supreme leader also intensified the offensive in various places without wavering from the posture of confrontation with the government, and repeated its old argument that “withdrawal of foreign troops is the premise of peace talks.” In the capital city of Kabul, the Taliban carried out a series of terrorist bombings, expanded the areas it controlled, mainly in Helmand Province in the south of the country, as well as approaching

the provincial capitals in Kunduz Province in the north-east, and Uruzgan Province in the south. In response to this situation, the US announced that it was reviewing the size of the US forces in Afghanistan, which it had announced that it would be reducing from 9,800 to 5,500 in 2017, and that it would keep 8,400 personnel stationed there (in July).

The prospects for progress in the peace talks are nowhere in sight, as the "Taliban" also opposed the settlement for peace which was reached between the government and the anti-government armed organization "Hizb-e Islami (Hekmatyar faction)" (HIG) which is the

second largest after the "Taliban" (in September).

Elsewhere, in Afghanistan, the "Khorasan Province" of the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL) has been operating mainly in Nangarhar Province in the eastern region of the country. The organization is said to have been weakened as many combatants have been killed in bombing by the US military and in the battles against Afghan government military forces and the Taliban, although it did carry out a terrorist bomb attack targeting Shi'a Muslims in the capital city of Kabul.

In Pakistan, forces supporting the "Taliban" and other forces also continued terrorism

In Pakistan, the military carried out a sweeping-up operation in the North Waziristan District of the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) in the northwest of the country and other areas, reportedly inflicting a blow upon the "Taliban Movement of Pakistan" (TTP) made up of Taliban supporters as well as a TTP-offshoot organization "Jamaat-ul-Ahrar Pakistan-Taliban Movement" (TTP-JA); however, they continued active terrorist attacks in various areas.

The TTP attacked a university in Charsadda District in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Province in the northwest of the country (in January, killing 21 people), and conducted a suicide bomb attack targeting the border guards in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan Province in the south-east region (in February, killing 12 people).

In addition, TTP-JA conducted terrorist attacks including a suicide bombing targeting

Christians in a park in Lahore, the capital of Punjab Province in the eastern region (in March, killing 72 people), a suicide bombing targeting a mosque in Mohmand Agency in FATA (in September, killing 36 people), arguing that they were retaliation against sweeping-up operations by the military.

Moreover, ISIL's "Khorasan Province" which has been operating in Afghanistan claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack targeting a hospital in Quetta (in August, killing 72 people), and for a raid against a police school (in October, killing 63 people), thus displaying a move towards increased influence in the region.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Taliban and those forces supporting it are expected to actively pursue terrorist operations; there is also a concern that terrorist attacks by organizations connected to ISIL may take place.

6 Adverse Activities against Japan

6 – 1 The threat of cyberattack

Cyberattacks such as successive cases of personal data leakage posed extremely serious threats

While a large number of personal data leakage cases in Japan and abroad continued to be seen, it is believed that a leak of about 6.79 million sets of personal data may have taken place in the incident where travel agencies in Japan were targeted (publicly announced in June; see the column on page 49).

In addition, Nuclear Material Control Center, a public interest incorporated foundation, announced that file sharing software was installed on an employee's terminal, and that suspicious communication to the exterior was detected from the Rokkasho Safeguards Center (in January). Moreover, Toyama University publicly announced that there was a possibility that information on technology to separate and remove radioactive materials from polluted water was leaked through a targeted e-mail attack on the Hydrogen Isotope Research Center at the same university which conducts research related to fusion reactor (in October). They were all incidents occurring in facilities related to nuclear science and nuclear power plants; therefore, there is a concern that cyberattacks aimed at stealing Japanese technical information, including those targeting universities and research institutes possessing such sensitive information will take place.

The international financial system has also been targeted, with the Central Bank of Bangladesh assaulted by targeted mail attacks, a case in which unauthorized remittance was made from the account of US Federal Reserve Bank of New York through

the International Banking Interactive Association (SWIFT) system. There was also an incident in which a South African bank's banking system was hacked and the customer approval function paralyzed, and counterfeit cards were subsequently used in automatic teller machines (ATM) in 17 prefectures in which funds of the same bank were withdrawn all at once (in May).

In addition, a large-scale DDoS attack using IoT (Internet of Things) equipment was conducted against US companies which manage the infrastructure related to the domains of the Internet, and a case occurred in which web services such as those of some US media became unusable (in October).

Approximately 20 million cyberattacks against the official site of the Organizing Committee of the Rio De Janeiro Olympic and Paralympic Games (from August to September) were confirmed. Also, a person named "Anonymous in Brazil" announced that they had carried out the attack against the website of the State Government of Rio De Janeiro. In a case where medical information on various international athletes from the database of the World Anti-Doping Organization (WADA) was taken, the involvement of a Russian hacker group was suspected.

As such, the threats posed in cyberspace are diverse and becoming increasingly serious. Ahead of the upcoming Tokyo Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games, it is necessary for Japan to further strengthen vigilance.

State involvement in the theft of important information is suspected in some cases

Among the cases concerning theft of important information are those with which the involvement of China, North Korea, Russia and others are suspected. The US Director of National Intelligence testified at a Senate

Army Committee hearing, that China was continuing its cyberattacks against the US government and its allies as well as US companies aimed at stealing information (in February). In addition, South Korea's

National Police Agency announced that North Korea stole approximately 42,600 documents including information on defense-related industries from Korean companies (in June), and the Supreme Prosecutor's Office of the same country announced that the e-mail account passwords of South Korea's public officials and military personnel were illegally acquired by North Korea (in August). Furthermore, the US Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the

Director of National Intelligence issued a joint statement that the Russian government instructed the leak of internal information from a political organization in the US, and that Russia intended to interfere with the presidential election in the United States. In addition, the White House spokesman said that the US was considering appropriate countermeasures, including sanctions and retaliatory measures against Russia (in October).

An international hacker group announced an attack on Japan

The group of hackers who call themselves "Anonymous" has been raising opposition to whaling and dolphin fishing for a long time, and more specifically, they announced an intensification of their attacks at the beginning of the dolphin-fishing season (in September) in Taiji Town in Wakayama Prefecture. In these circumstances, attacks on the websites of Japanese government agencies, companies, airports, national universities and other institutions caused browsing problems during the period from around September 2015 to around April, and

from September, failures occurred on the website of the Biodiversity Center of Japan (under the Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment). In all cases "Anonymous" stated that it had made the attacks.

Moreover, "Anonymous" announced that it would execute cyberattacks against financial institutions around the world (in May), and the Bank of Japan and financial institutions and other entities in Japan were included in their list of targets.

Column

A large number of incidents of personal data leakage occurred domestically and abroad

In recent years, a large number of leaks of personal data and other information have occurred due to unauthorized access at home and abroad, and in Japan, in 2013, public announcements were made by a company that operates portal sites that it may have suffered a leak of about 22 million user IDs; also, by a communication-related corporation that it may have suffered a leak of 4 million mail addresses and passwords. Also, in 2015, the Japan Pension Service announced the leak of approximately 1.25 million sets of personal data. In addition, in April, 2016, two media-related companies and a music-related company announced one after the other the possibility that they had suffered a leak of hundreds of thousands of sets of personal data, and in June, a travel company announced that they might have suffered a leak of about 6.79 million sets of personal data (some of them including passport numbers), which is the largest case of its kind in Japan.

Overseas, in May, a leak of personal data from two social media related companies, concerning about 117 million sets and 360 million sets respectively, were reported in succession, and in September, a portal site operating company announced the leak of more than 500 million cases of personal data, which is said to be the largest ever leak. In addition, in November, it was reported that more than 400 million e-mail addresses, passwords, and other information had been leaked from US companies that manage adult websites.

Behind this massive leakage of personal data, we cannot deny the possibility that the intent of states is at work; stolen personal data can be abused for new illegal access and other activities, and there are concerns that it could lead to the illegal acquisition of advanced technology, confidential information, and other information.

6 – 2 Activities aimed at acquiring goods and technology convertible to military use

Concern about procurement and proliferation activities of North Korea in the pursuit of nuclear and missile development

North Korea conducted two nuclear tests (in January and September) and a series of test launches of various missiles including long-range ballistic missiles (in February), which it claimed to be the launching of earth observation satellites. Meanwhile, in the domain of nuclear development, North Korea announced its reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel removed from the graphite-moderated reactor of Yongbyon's nuclear facility, as well as the production of nuclear weapons-grade highly concentrated uranium (in August), and in the domain of missile development, North Korea has publicly released footage of the "atmospheric zone re-entry environmental simulation test" of the warhead of a ballistic missile (in March), as well as on engine combustion tests of a "high power solid rocket" (in March), a "new intercontinental ballistic rocket" (in April), and a "new geosynchronous satellite carrying rocket" (in September).

Although North Korea made a display of its own nuclear and missile development capabilities in this way, there have been circumstances in which foreign products have

been used for the development and manufacture of weapons of mass destruction and other weaponry. For instance, a trading company in China, Dandong Hongxiang Industrial Development Co. Ltd., was criminally prosecuted by the US government (in August) as having conspired to avoid sanctions against North Korea; it is suspected that it may have sold to North Korea materials that could be used for the centrifuge required for uranium enrichment (in August; according to a report "In China's Shadow," pp.34-36, jointly prepared by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies of South Korea and The Center for Advanced Defense Studies [C4ADS] of the US).

As North Korea is expected to continuously pursue nuclear and missile development, it is likely to continue procurement and proliferation activities by taking advantage of various methods of subterfuge, for example using neighboring countries such as China as a diversion, concealing the end user, making use of overseas front companies as intermediaries and other methods. Therefore, further vigilance is required.

Vigilance is required with regard to China's procurement activities promoting "military-civilian fusion"

China continues to increase defense expenditure while promoting "military-civilian fusion" which encourages private enterprises to enter into production in the arms and defense equipment manufacturing industry as well as in research and development of defense science and technology. According to an official announcement by the State Bureau of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (in March), it is believed that 1,000 or more private enterprises have been permitted to engage in the production of arms and equipment.

Also, as policies intended to accelerate the entry of strong private enterprises into production in the arms and defense equipment manufacturing industry is set out in the "Opinion Concerning the Integrated

Development of Economic Construction and Defense Construction" announced by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the State Council, and the Central Military Commission (in July), it is expected that such companies will continue to increase.

On the other hand, China is considered to be dependent on overseas suppliers for some of the materials and technologies necessary for the modernization of its equipment, and it has been pointed out that China is aiming to acquire foreign aircraft, marine engines, and the most advanced machine tools (in May; Annual Report to Congress by the US Department of Defense). In the United States, a case has been uncovered in which a company attempted to export to China without permission a Japanese-manufactured

high-performance carbon fiber that can be used for military purposes (in April), and also in Japan, vigilance is required with regard to procurement activities involving goods and

technology which can be used for military purposes by companies and individuals that have contacts with China's military industry.

Nuclear deal with Iran has been concluded and implemented; however, vigilance is required with regard to Iran' s procurement activities for materials and technologies that can be converted for weapons of mass destruction

Regarding the nuclear issue in Iran, in January, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) approved the completion of measures taken by Iran including the reduction of centrifuges for uranium enrichment. Upon the arrival of the implementation date of the "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action" (JCPOA), which had been agreed with Iran by six countries including European countries and the United States, the US lifted nuclear weapons related sanctions against Iran, and the EU partially ended sanctions. Based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (adopted in July, 2015) that approved JCPOA, the sanctions imposed by past UN resolutions on the Iran nuclear issue were also lifted. On the other hand, United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 has called for all Member States to take measures such as freezing assets for those involved in Iran's nuclear activities, and Japan has implemented these measures according to the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act.

In the same resolution, Iran is required

not to implement any activities related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of transporting nuclear weapons, but the country carried out a test launch of a ballistic missile (in March). Iran insisted that the "development program for ballistic missiles is for our defense purpose and they have not been designed for carrying nuclear warheads" ; therefore, it does not violate UNSC Resolution 2231" (in July, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson).

In these circumstances, it was pointed out that after the implementation date of JCPOA, Iran tried to procure a large amount of carbon fiber that could produce a centrifuge exceeding the limit allowed (in July; the US think-tank Institute for Science and International Security [ISIS], "Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Attempted Carbon Fiber Procurement"). Therefore, continued vigilance is required with regard to Iran' s procurement activities of materials and technologies which can be converted to weapons of mass destruction.

Fundraising activities by North Korea

It has been noted that North Korea has acquired foreign currency through illegal economic activities such as counterfeiting and circulating US dollar notes and has used them as a source of funds for nuclear and missile development.

In these circumstances, it has been reported that North Korean agents located in Dandong City, Liaoning Province, China were detained by the Chinese security authorities for using forged US\$100 notes (in June), and two South Koreans were indicted for having planned to illegally export large military-convertible tires to North Korea as well as for researching whether circulation of counterfeit US dollar notes in South Korea was feasible in response to a request from a North Korean agent (in August).

In addition, a trading company in Dandong City, China, Dandong Hongxiang Industrial Development Co. Ltd. and four of its executives were criminally prosecuted by the US government (in August) as having conspired to avoid the sanctions against North Korea and for money laundering, and were designated for sanctions (in September). According to the US government, the accused were believed to have been conducting trading in the US dollar on behalf of the Korea Kwangson Banking Corporation. The Korea Kwangson Banking Corporation had already been designated for US sanctions (in August 2009) due to its support for North Korea's proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and the banking corporation had been prohibited to conduct transactions in US dollars through accounts which are entrusted to foreign exchange traders residing in foreign countries (or correspondent banks) or through those accounts opened upon outsourcing contracts; however, even after the sanctions designation, the bank is believed to have intended to continue such trading while keeping its own involvement secret by using Dandong Hongxiang Industrial Development Co. Ltd. and its front companies.

Furthermore, North Korea is believed to be aiming at also acquiring foreign currency through cyberspace, as it is believed that North Korean personnel dispatched abroad have operated gambling sites to acquire foreign currency, and also because South Korean authorities have announced that the cyberattack, in which the country's electronic commerce management company had had its customer information stolen and received intimidating demands to hand over bitcoins, was assessed to have been conducted by the General Reconnaissance Bureau of North Korea (in July).

Focal Issues of the Domestic Situation in 2016



1 Aum Shinrikyo

1 – 1 Aum Shinrikyo engaged in active undertakings while maintaining its dangerous traits

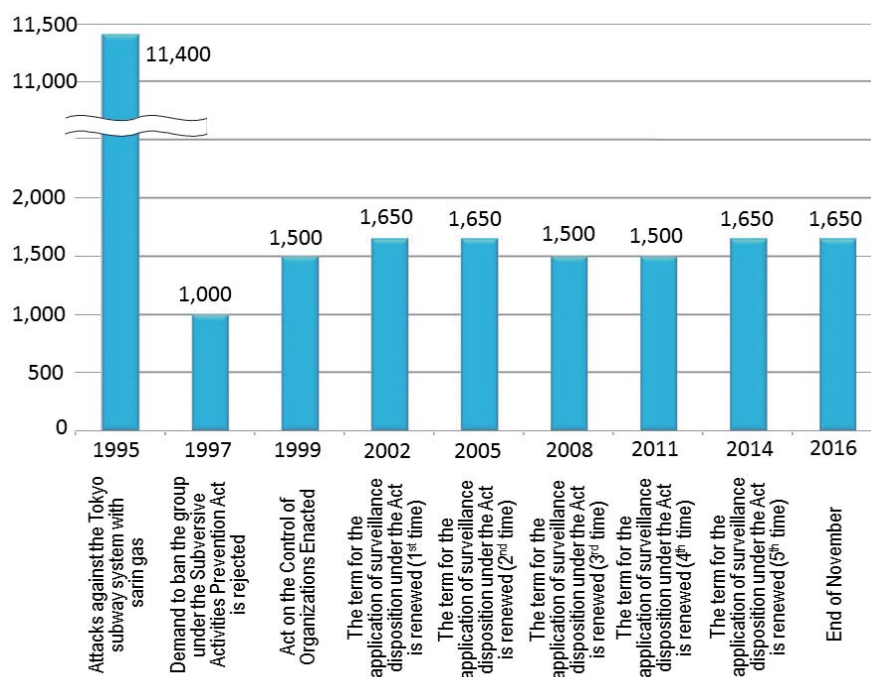
Aum Shinrikyo maintained its membership and assets while increasing the number of facilities

Aum Shinrikyo (a cult group) is still actively engaged in undertakings centering around a group using the name “Aleph” (the mainstream group) and another group using the name of “Hikarinowa” (Joyu group) while maintaining dangerous traits such as being under the influence of Shoko Asahara, the mastermind of the Tokyo Subway Sarin incident. They have developed nationwide recruitment activities, and acquired about 130 new followers in 2016, and secured new base facilities.

At present, the cult group maintains around 1,650 followers in Japan, and about 460 in Russia. As far as the assets of the cult (cash, deposits and savings, as well as loans) are concerned, the total amount at the end of October was about 910 million yen. The cult has come into possession of large assets as it has been continuously earning funds from many lay followers by collecting seminar

participation fees and contributions through holding various events such as “intensive seminars.”

In addition, as regards the cult’s facilities, some larger facilities than those which the mainstream faction had previously secured and made use of were newly acquired in Koka City in Shiga Prefecture and in Sapporo City in Hokkaido (January and May), and the cult’s base facilities in Japan amounted to 34 spread over 15 prefectures. Among them, the new facility in Sapporo City (Sapporo Shiroishi Facility) is used as a “dojo (training hall)” to instruct a large number of lay followers, and it has been ascertained that the slogan “be a savior of madness,” which Asahara had long used when encouraging his followers in recruitment and propagation activities, can be seen displayed within that facility.



Change in the number of followers within Japan

The PSIA conducted on-site inspection at a total of 35 facilities in 12 prefectures

The PSIA has been strictly implementing surveillance action against the cult based on the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder (Act on the Control of Organizations), and has conducted on-site inspections in 12 prefectures and into 25 facilities of the cult group in total by mobilizing 470 Public Security Intelligence officers from January to the end of November.

Each facility of the mainstream group displayed an altar holding a photographic portrait of Asahara and a painting of a Buddha, said to be an incarnation of him (Asahara), in addition to holding an array of teaching materials containing Asahara's sermons. Moreover, there were also facilities where a video of Asahara's sermons was being continuously played during the inspections.

In particular, the mainstream group took a consistently non-cooperative stance during the on-site inspections, by taking a long period of time to open the doors after the commencement of the inspection had been

announced, ignoring the inspectors' questions, or asserting that "answering is not compulsory." In the case of the on-site inspection on the Yokohama facility in Kanagawa Prefecture in March, followers in the room tried to hide and smuggle out materials revealing the activities of the organization. The PSIA indicted two followers at Kanagawa Prefectural Police Headquarters as having violated Article 39 of the Act on the Control of Organizations (the two followers were arrested in September, and one was prosecuted by the Yokohama District Public Prosecutors Office).

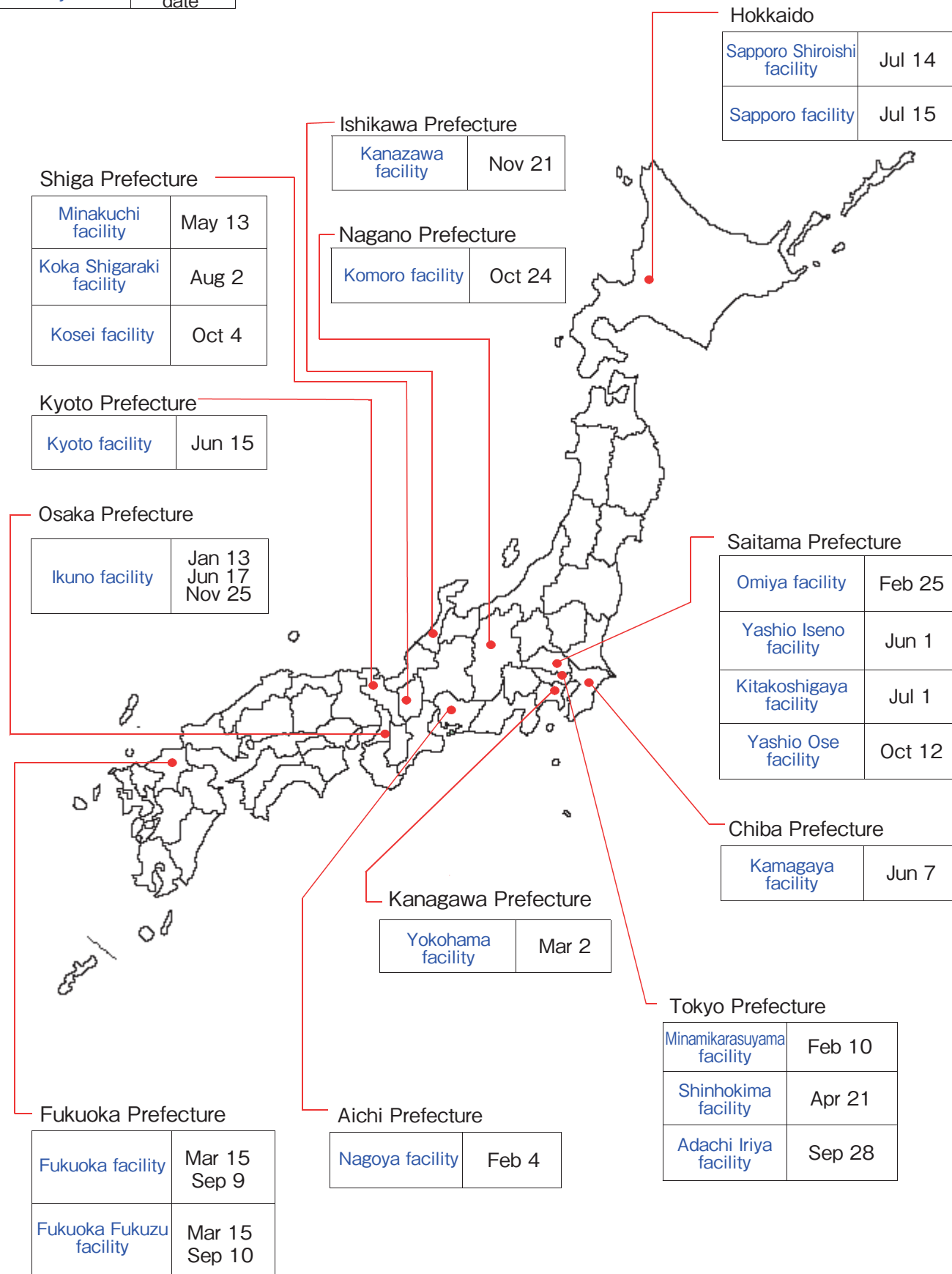
Meanwhile, at the facilities of the Joyu faction, a painting of a Buddha said to be an incarnation of Asahara was on display, and the staff at the facility manifested a non-cooperative stance similar to the mainstream faction by taking a long period of time to open the door after the commencement of the inspection, and asserting that "answering is not compulsory" to questions posed by the inspectors.

Facilities where on-site inspections were conducted

(January-end of November 2016)

LEGEND

Facility name	Inspection date
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Exchange meeting with local residents and the families of the victims of the incident

Local residents living around the cult's facilities continue to harbor fears and anxiety about the cult, and opposition rallies and protest demonstrations were held at various places.

Based on the Act on the Control of Organizations, the PSIA received reports on the current situation of the organization and activities of the cult (reports on the cult) four times every three months during the period of 2016. The Agency provided relevant information including contents of the reports and results of the on-site inspections on a total of 39 occasions to 18 municipalities in three prefectures and one metropolitan area from January to the end of November.

In addition, in order to contribute towards alleviating the fears and anxiety of the local

residents, a total of 41 meetings were held with the resident community in 18 regions between January and the end of November. During the sessions, the PSIA explained the current situation of the cult and the results of the surveillance actions implemented. Local residents requested the continued hosting of opinion exchange meetings.

In addition, the victims and bereaved families of the "sarin gas attacks in the Tokyo subway system" met in March, and the bereaved families of the "Matsumoto Sarin Incident" met in May with the Director-General of the PSIA for the first time, on which occasion they submitted a formal request demanding a stricter implementation of surveillance action and other such measures.

Column

Authorities overseas also stepped up vigilance and regulation of the activities of the cult

In March, security authorities in Montenegro detained 58 Russian and other followers of Aum Shinrikyo inside Montenegro. These followers seem to have entered and stayed in the country for the purpose of hosting seminars of the cult, and the detainees included four Japanese followers of the mainstream faction who had traveled from Japan, but everyone was deported.

Immediately after this in April, Russian security authorities searched upwards of 20 premises related to "Aum Shinrikyo" in Moscow and St. Petersburg, such as the residence of the leader and places used for religious ceremonies, seizing goods and computers used for the ceremonies. They also conducted investigations against Russian followers who had been detained by the security authorities in Montenegro and deported.

Subsequently, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation asked the Russian Supreme Court to recognize Aum Shinrikyo (termed as "Aum Shinrikyo, AUM, Aleph" according to the announcement by the Russian Prosecutor General's Office) as a terrorist organization, based on Article 24 of the Law of the Russian Federation "On Counteraction to Terrorism." The Russian Supreme Court consequently received evidence to prove illegal activities by the followers that threaten the country's constitutional system and national security, and in September, it designated Aum Shinrikyo as a terrorist organization, and banned its activities in Russia.

As for the activities of the Joyu group overseas, no facts concerning trips abroad were ascertained apart from the incident where three senior members including Joyu himself were denied entry into Turkey at Antalya Airport in Turkey, and returned to Japan in October 2015.

1 – 2 The mainstream group attempted to stabilize the management of the organization while maintaining "absolute faith in Asahara"

The mainstream group continued its teaching aimed at the implantation of absolute faith in Asahara

The mainstream group maintained its guidance aimed at an establishment of absolute faith in Asahara through various events such as the "intensive seminar" for lay followers and a "birth festival" celebrating Asahara's birth, as they have done in previous years.

In the "intensive seminar" held three times a year (in January, May, and September), the group had the followers view videos in which Asahara preached the "necessity of practicing tantra vajrayana" (a dangerous doctrine implicitly suggesting murder). It also involved the followers carrying out an ascetic training exercise in which there is repeated chanting of verses such as "I will revert to Asahara" with no opportunity for rest or sleep. Also, at the "birth festival" of Asahara (in March), a sermon was delivered emphasizing the greatness of Asahara to a gathering of more than 700 followers in the cult's facilities

nationwide.

In addition, the mainstream group used original teaching materials such as the "shinri karuta" (Truth Cards), which enabled elementary school children and preschool children, whom it is difficult to train in the same way as adults, to learn through play the doctrine that Asahara preached.

Besides this, the mainstream faction positioned recruitment activities towards obtaining new followers as an important effort to realize the "salvation of sentient beings" preached by Asahara, and organized efforts in this regard were made nationwide. Also, as in the past, the mainstream group conducted recruitment activities keeping the name of the group concealed, and in a manner that hides the religious nature of the group.

The mainstream group is expected to actively engage in its undertakings to establish absolute faith in Asahara as well as make recruitment nationwide.

The mainstream group continued to tighten its own grip of the organization after the dispute surrounding the reinstatement of Asahara's son

In the mainstream group, internal friction developed among the senior members from October 2013 onwards, between Asahara's wife and others who had plotted to have his second son return to the cult's activities on the one hand, and Asahara's third daughter and others who moved in opposition to the return of the second son on the other. The "joint meeting," which was the decision making body of "Aleph," between 2014 and 2015 expelled senior members who sided with the third daughter and also punished senior members who argued against the decision to purge, expelling them from "Aleph." The joint

meeting continued to tighten its own grip within the organization and stabilize the management of the organization by continuing to punish some of the live-in members who did not follow their intent throughout 2016.

In addition, the mainstream group continued to hold a birth festival (in March), by gathering about 300 followers which was the largest number gathered so far in its multiple facilities around the birthday of Asahara's second son, and made efforts to develop an atmosphere conducive to the return of Asahara's second son.

Active recruitment by the mainstream group

The cult has acquired as many as 100 new followers every year. Looking at the breakdown of new followers during the year of 2016 by region, Hokkaido and the Kinki region make up more than 60% of the total, and in terms of age composition, nearly 80% of the total number of young people (aged 34 or under).

In particular, the mainstream faction has in recent years been actively engaging in recruitment activities targeting young people who have less awareness of Aum Shinrikyo, in order to expand the organization, making use of every opportunity and having wide contact with the general public, and inviting people to a yoga classroom concealing the name of the group, etc., and after deepening the relationship having them join the group (see the chart below).

Flow of the mainstream group's recruitment activities

First Step

- The group maintains a wide point of contact with the general public, by offering various activities such as yoga, fortune telling, dinner parties soliciting on the streets and in bookstores, and holding exchanges on social networking services (SNS) that conceals the name of the cult, and behaving in a manner that conceals the religious tones.
- Through these activities, the group invites those who are interested in religion, yoga, spiritual world, etc. to yoga classes or study meetings while concealing the name of the cult.



Second Step

- In the yoga classroom or other such places, other followers establish a relationship with the recruitment target while offering guidance.
- In addition, while explaining the contents of the teaching without mentioning the name of Asahara, or by stating that the sarin attack on the subway system was plotted by outsiders of the cult, the recruitment target is persuaded to feel less resistant to the cult.



Third Step

- After establishing a relationship and reaching a stage at which there is no resistance to the cults, the name of the cult is revealed to the recruitment target, and they are encouraged to join.

1 – 3 The Joyu group continued efforts to escape surveillance

The Joyu group continued activities including the "hiding of Asahara"

As the Joyu group continued to advance its efforts at "hiding Asahara" and to pretend outwardly that Asahara's influence was dispelled in order to escape surveillance action, it publicly announced its "guidelines for socially appropriate group activities" (in May), aiming to demonstrate to society at large the "soundness" of activities related to the handling of donation and recruitment activities.

In addition, while outwardly declaring that "it is not a religion, but a classroom for

learning thought and philosophies of the East and West," the group still posts Buddhist images, which are considered as incarnations of Asahara, in facilities across the country. Joyu also preached to lay followers that it would be an escape from reality to consider that Asahara is solely responsible for his criminal activities.

As mentioned above, the Joyu group is still under the influence of Asahara and is expected to continue its attempts to avoid surveillance action.

Through seminars and "pilgrimages to holy places," the Joyu group struggled to acquire followers and funds

In response to various events such as the "Intensive Seminar" held three times a year (in January, May, August), and the "pilgrimage tour around holy places" which are shrines and temples which Joyu defined as holy places, the Joyu group actively promoted propaganda activities calling for the participation of events on the group's website and other places, with the aim of acquiring new believers and funds.

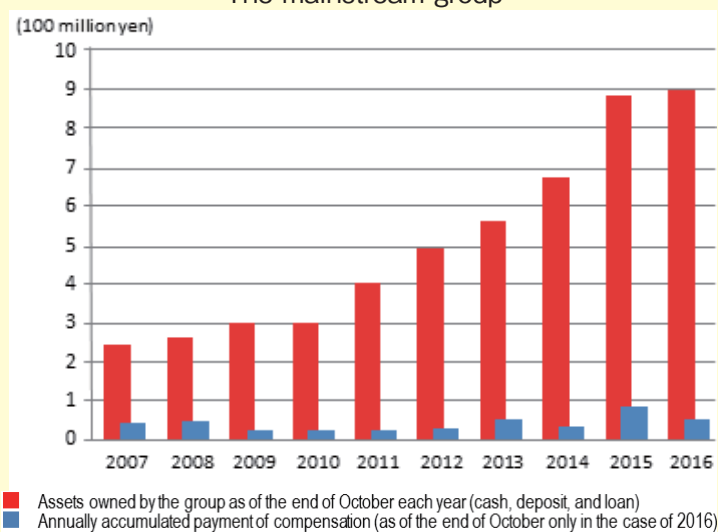
In addition, the group pretended to be "an open group in which people may learn without becoming member," and failed to report those people who frequently participated in these events as members of the cult in the cult group's report to the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency, even though these people had carried out activities equivalent to those of the lay followers.

The payment status of damage compensation by the mainstream group and the Joyu group

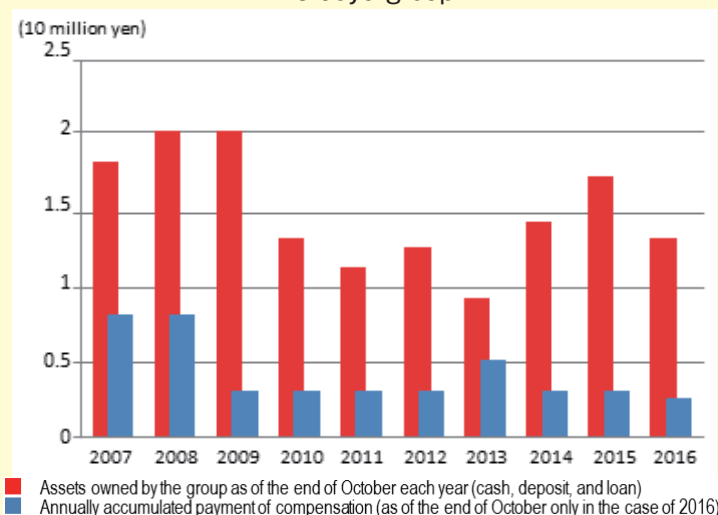
It is known that in recent years the mainstream group has accumulated assets such as, for example, a large amount of cash generated mainly from seminar participation fees or contributions paid by its large number of lay followers, and that the group has been using the assets for activities directed at organizational expansion such as obtaining its new facilities. On the other hand, since 2009 when the payment of reparations receivable was transferred from the bankruptcy trustee to the "Aum Shinrikyo Crime Victim Support Organization," the annual payment amount for compensating victims for a series of incidents, such as the sarin attack on the subway system, has continuously been under 10% of assets held, such as, for example, cash.

In July 2009, the Joyu group signed an agreement with the aforementioned victim support organization to make a compulsory payment of 3 million yen or more per year and to make a payment of 8 million yen as a non-binding target. It advertised the fact that it had "concluded the reparation contract based on the reflection on the incident" and that the organization "will step up efforts to achieve more than the non-binding target amount (8 million yen)." However, irrespective of whether the assets held, such as cash, have increased or decreased, the amount of compensation actually paid in annual damages has continued to fall far short of the voluntary target amount.

The mainstream group



The Joyu group



2 Trends in Domestic Groups Concerning Events that Drew Attention from Society

2 – 1 Campaign to prevent the relocation of US military facilities and for the withdrawal of Marine troops in various parts of Okinawa Prefecture

Obstructive activities continued against relocation work of US military facilities in Henoko and Takae

Concerning US military facilities in Okinawa, the Okinawa Defense Bureau continued to undertake construction for the relocation of the US Futenma Base to Henoko (which has been halted since March due to the settlement between the Japanese central government and the Okinawa prefectural government). In July, the central government restarted helicopter landing zone relocation work in the US Forces Northern Training Area (Camp Gonsalves) for the first time in about two years. The Japanese Communist

Party (JCP) and radical leftist groups took part in protest actions in the vicinity of Henoko and the Northern Training Center, along with opposition citizens' groups and supporters inside and outside the prefecture. In particular, radical leftist groups such as Kakumaru-ha (Revolutionary Marxist Faction of the Japan Revolutionary Communist League) and some of the opposition groups repeatedly obstructed the passage of relocation related vehicles by sitting on public roads, and causing people to be arrested.

The withdrawal of the Marine Corps in protest against the murder of a woman by a civilian employee of the US military was demanded

The JCP and radical leftist groups, along with opposition citizens' groups and others protested around the US military facilities in the prefecture such as Kadena Base, and clamored for the withdrawal of the Marine Corps as a result of the murder of a woman at the hands of a former member of the Marine Corps who worked there as a civilian

employee at the time of the incident (in April). In addition, they mobilized party members and activists from across the country to attend the "Prefectural Civic Convention Seeking the Withdrawal of Marines, to Support the Victims and Condemn the Cruel Violence of the Former Marine Corps Member" held in Naha City in June.

Candidates were supported who are opposed to Henoko relocation in various elections within the prefecture, in addition to supporting the governor who advocated for the "prevention of the relocation"

The JCP which is the majority faction in the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly called again for people from all across the country to support Okinawa Governor Takeshi Onaga, who has officially pledged "not to allow a new base to be built in Henoko," given that three court cases were in progress against the central government over the relocation. Also, at the elections for the Mayor of Ginowan City (in January) and the House of Councilors (in July), the JCP mobilized party members both

within and outside the prefecture to support candidates who oppose relocation. In view of the fact that the candidate it supported at the House of Councilors election for the Okinawa Prefecture constituency was elected, JCP Chairman Kazuo Shii asserted that it was "an expression of the overwhelming will of the citizens of Okinawa against the new base construction" at the 94th anniversary lecture meeting of the establishment of the party (in August).

2 – 2 Efforts were made to move public opinion in favor of abolishing the Legislation for Peace and Security

Protests and gatherings continued around the National Assembly

Concerning the Legislation for Peace and Security, nationwide opposition campaigns were held, with protests around the National Diet and meetings and demonstrations in various places held on the 19th of each month, marking the date the legislation was passed, as well as on the Constitution Memorial Day (in May) and on first anniversary of the law when a large-scale gathering was held (in September).

In this context, the JCP branded the bills as “war bills.” JCP Chairman Kazuo Shii, JCP Diet Members, and party members continually participated in the above protest actions and gatherings, and demanded the “abolition of the war bill,” as well as “success in the struggle of the opposition parties and the citizens to defeat the Abe administration.” Furthermore, the JCP attempted to invigorate the opposition movement by criticizing the

dispatch of the Self Defense Force on Peace Keeping Operations, for which the Legislation for Peace and Security enabled the new task so-called “kaketsuke keigo” (“coming to the aid of a geographically distant unit or personnel under attack”) and by calling it an act of war, and so on.

Radical leftist groups have through their organ papers called on people to “overthrow the Abe administration and decisively stop the war legislative act” (Chukaku-ha or Middle Core Faction of the Revolutionary Communist League), to “confront the enforcement of the war law and fight to achieve a crushing of the war law” (Mainstream Faction of the Liberation Faction of the Revolutionary Workers Association), and mobilized activists at gatherings and demonstrations of citizens in opposition.

Citizens’ groups are called on to form a joint struggle

The JCP aimed to mobilize public opinion against the abolition of the Legislation for Peace and Security, and focused on struggling hand-in-hand with citizens’ groups working in the opposition movement. Specifically, in addition to having its party members participate in the collection of signatures for petitions to abolish the legislation, it featured activities of the student association SEALDS (Student Emergency Action for Freedom and Democracy) in its organ paper Akahata, praising them by stating that a “movement with the characteristics of the first civil revolutionary movement in Japanese history

has begun.” In addition, the JCP asserted that a joint struggle together with the citizens was progressing along the lines of the declaration by the JCP which lays out the goal of the “overthrow of the Abe administration” by publishing in Akahata a comment made by an affiliate of an organization related to the JCP to the effect that “the joint struggle of citizens and the opposition parties has made great progress towards the overthrow of the Abe administration through the demands set out for the abolition of the war legislation and protection of the dignity of individuals.”

2 – 3 The "Japan-South Korea Agreement" on the comfort women issue was seized upon to raise criticism against the attitude of the government

Reactions against the "Japan-South Korea Agreement," continued criticism of the government, and pressure for a solution of the issue of comfort women

Regarding the issue of "comfort women," criticism against the "Japan-South Korea Agreement" was made in the statements of domestic and foreign organizations supporting neighboring countries and former comfort women, and at gatherings organized by them, on the occasion of the agreement at the Japan-Korea Foreign Ministers' Meeting ("Japan-South Korea agreement" of December 2015).

In these circumstances, radical leftist groups criticized the government's attitude, stating that "the Japan-South Korean 'Agreement' should be condemned," that "the

agreement is deceptive," that the government was "talking back and taking the offensive against war responsibilities" etc. in their organ papers and meetings.

Incidentally, the JCP opined that "the Japan-South Korea Agreement could be assessed as an advancement toward the solution of the problem" (statement of Chairman Shii, 2015), and asserted that "a continuation of a serious approach and honest consultation will be required in order to fully solve the problem" (in June).

Demands for "apologies and compensation" to be given to the former comfort women, and work with overseas organizations.

While an international conference was held (in May, in Seoul) demanding a solution of the issue of comfort women and criticizing the "Japan-South Korea Agreement," organizations led by radical leftist groups invited affiliates of various overseas organizations to another gathering held in February, and adopted a resolution calling for the "abolition of the 'Japan-South Korea Agreement' " and a "government apology and compensation for

the sex slave victims of the Japanese military in all countries and regions." In addition, organizations with radical leftist groups' involvement supported the "8.14 Japanese Army 'Comfort Women' Memorial Day Appeal" by the Japanese organization supporting the former comfort women (in August), which declared that the "Japan-South Korea Agreement" "cannot be the solution for the problem of 'comfort women.' "

Attitudes of neighboring countries and others toward the issue of comfort women

Regarding the "Japan-South Korea Agreement" on the issue of comfort women (December 2015), North Korea criticized the governments of Japan and South Korea, stating that "Japan neglected the rudimentary right of survivors and recovery of honor, not to mention national and legal remedies," and that "(South Korea) clouded the issue of Japanese guilt" (on January 31, "Accusation by the Korean Central News Agency"). Subsequently, North Korea also referred to the fact that the organizations, such as the "Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan" in Korea with which organizations in Japan supporting the former comfort women cooperate, have been struggling against the government in asserting the "invalidity" of the Japan-South Korea Agreement, and called on the South Korean people to "deal a hard blow (to the Park Geun-hye administration)" (editorial of the Korean Labor Party organ paper "Rodong Sinmun" on August 9).

China continued to express its stance of containing Japan by stating that "China has been consistently asserting that Japan should directly face the history of aggression, reflect on it, and treat the problem appropriately and with a responsible attitude" in reference to the "Japan-South Korea Agreement" (Foreign Ministry spokesperson, December 2015). Also, regarding the application for registration as a UNESCO "World Memory" (in May) of materials related to comfort women by private-sector organizations in South Korea, China, Japan and five other countries and regions, China moved to contain Japan by stating that "China expresses support for the joint application of private organizations in the affected countries and regions," and that China "urges Japan to face the application properly, and encourage it not to interfere" (spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

In these circumstances, former leading members of rightist groups in Japan have been conducting protests against the move towards comfort women-related criticism of Japan at the United Nations, and have made remarks demanding that the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (in February, in Geneva, Switzerland) question the Japanese government as to whether the "Japanese army and the government made young women in South Korea sex slaves during the war" and ask them "what exactly the involvement of the army was," with the aim of "making the UN change its understanding that they were sex slaves." They also applied for the registration of "documents concerning comfort women and the discipline of the Japanese army" together with a US private-sector organization and other groups (in May), and asserted that "(comfort women) were legally recognized workers employed by private companies."

2 – 4 Continued protests appealing against the reopening of nuclear power plants

The JCP criticized the government's energy policy and demanded a stop to restarting

Regarding nuclear power plants, Takahama Nuclear Power Plant Unit 3 (in Fukui Prefecture, in January), its Unit 4 in February, and Ikata Nuclear Power Plant Unit 3 (in Ehime Prefecture, in January) were restarted one after the other, and acts of protests against the restarting were organized by anti-nuclear and other organizations in various parts of the country, including around the National Diet and the nuclear power plant locations.

In these circumstances, the JCP had its National Diet members participate in protests in front of the Office of the Prime Minister and in the vicinity of the National Diet criticizing the government's energy policy and asserting that "Japanese society can do without nuclear power plants," and called for the cancellation of the nuclear power plant restart program on the occasion of the temporary disposition decision of the Otsu

District Court (in March) that ordered a halt to the operation of the Takahama Nuclear Power Plant.

In addition, on the location of nuclear power plants, JCP local assembly members have conducted activities to demand that municipalities and electric power companies stop the restart of nuclear power plants and decommission aged nuclear power plants. Besides this, when Takahama Nuclear Power Plant and Ikata Nuclear Power Plant were restarted, the JCP had its local assembly members participate in protest activities in various places, and called for the immediate suspension of the restarts. In addition, in elections held in the areas where nuclear power plants are located, such as in Niigata Prefecture's gubernatorial election in October, the JCP supported candidates who expressed a cautious attitude toward restarting.

Radical leftists called for the immediate suspension of all nuclear power plants and decommissioning of reactors by mobilizing activists for protests

Radical leftists criticized the restarting of nuclear power plants as "being connected to nuclear armament" and protested against the restart by mobilizing activists to meetings, gatherings and demonstrations carried out by anti-nuclear power plant organizations at the location of the nuclear power plants.

Moreover, an anti-nuclear group, supported by radical leftist groups, has been illegally occupying the premises of the Ministry of

Economy, Trade, and Industry by pitching a tent there (since September 2011). It continued to occupy the site after the Supreme Court decision on the surrender of land was finalized (in July), and the tent was compulsorily removed in August. However, even after the tent was removed, the group sat down on the sidewalk in front of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and continued its protest.

3 Radical Leftist Groups

3 Radical leftist groups developed diverse activities with the intention of expanding their social influence

Kakumaru-ha aimed to penetrate civil society, government, the public workers union, and core industrial unions

In line with its policy to prioritize the construction of its organization, Kakumaru-ha (Revolutionary Marxist faction of the Revolutionary Communist League) tried to incorporate people at the level of citizens as well as union members by infiltrating citizen groups which oppose government measures, government and public workers unions such as Jichiro (All Japan Prefectural and Municipal Workers' Union), the Japan Teachers' Union, JR Soren (Japan Confederation of Railway Workers' Union), the Japan Postal Group Union and other core industry unions.

From the start of the year, Kakumaru-ha adopted "prevention of the amendment of the constitution" as its slogan, and made efforts toward its "Unified Action of the Laborers and Students" (in Tokyo, in January), as well as conducting propaganda activities at bipartisan gatherings held against the Legislation for Peace and Security in front of the National Diet (in April, May, and September). Additionally, it participated at

local gatherings against the US military Futenma Base's relocation to Henoko and the restarting of nuclear power plants; thereby calling for support and solidarity toward the faction.

In addition, Kakumaru-ha conducted propaganda activities by mobilizing its activists at the May Day Central Assembly (in Tokyo, in April) as well as periodic conventions of government and public workers unions and core industrial unions, and called on union members who participated to unite with them.

Kakumaru-ha published an article in its organ paper in the name of its chairman Takuma Ueda on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founder Koichi Kuroda's death (in July), and again demonstrated its policy toward the construction of the organization which had been advocated by Kuroda. Thus, Kakumaru-ha is expected to continue focusing its efforts on penetration at the citizen and labor union level.

Chukaku-ha asserted its presence through the House of Councilors election and media exposure

In the House of Councilors election (in July), Chukaku-ha (Middle Core Faction of the Revolutionary Communist League) fielded one of their activists as a candidate in the Tokyo constituency and called for the "defeat of the Abe administration by strikes." During the election period, Chukaku-ha mobilized full-time and student activists from all over the country and put efforts into self-promotion; however, their candidate was defeated.

In addition, Chukaku-ha has been actively exposing itself to the mass media in recent years, and through 2016, they made public the inside of their headquarters facility, "Zenshin-sha," (in Tokyo) through TV and net-distributed news (in June, August, and

September). In the TV news program broadcast in August, activists from its affiliated Zengakuren (All-Japan Federation of Students' Self-Governing Associations) made remarks affirming "violent revolution."

Apart from this, Chukaku-ha promoted its policy line of expanding the organization through the labor movement, such as by issuing a booklet "Laborers of the nuclear power plant make an appeal II" (in March) that summarizes their dialogue with workers at nuclear plants, and they distributed this publication at anti-nuclear plant gatherings of citizens' groups with the aim of organizing nuclear workers. They also undertook a reciprocal exchange of activists with a labor

union in South Korea by calling their annual gathering of laborers “Tokyo-Seoul November International Collaborative Action.”

Chukaku-ha is expected to continue using the media and various citizen group

movements to publicize itself, based on their recognition that in order to realize organizational expansion through labor movements, understanding and support from the masses is indispensable.

Kakurokyo Kaiho-ha aimed at advancing the Narita struggle and anti-war / anti-base movement revolving around the incorporation of day laborers

Kakurokyo Kaiho-ha (Liberation Faction of the Revolutionary Workers' Association), both the mainstream and the anti-mainstream factions, aimed at incorporating day laborers into their factions, through their hot meal service and labor counseling by the respective day labor union which they lead, and mobilized these laborers in various struggles.

Among them, the mainstream faction aimed at boosting the struggle by designating 2016 as "the 50th anniversary of Narita struggle" (in July), and mobilized its activists for the “50th anniversary of the Sanrizuka struggle” (in Tokyo, in July), which was organized by the Kitahara Faction of the United Opposition League against the Construction of Narita Airport. The same faction also opposed the relocation of the US military base at Futenma and the helicopter landing zone in the US military Northern Training Area, and mobilized activists at protests carried out at the location by opposition residents and others.

Meanwhile, the anti-mainstream faction implemented "nationwide united action for the smashing of the security treaty and overthrowing of the government” (in June, gathering and demonstration), and called for the prevention of the relocation of the US

military base at Futenma. Also, taking into account the dispatch of the SDF substitution units to the UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) in South Sudan, it conducted protests around SDF bases nationwide in various parts of the country. In addition, the same faction opposed the restart of Takahama nuclear power plant (in Fukui Prefecture) and Ikata nuclear power plant (in Ehime Prefecture), as well as the construction of Oma nuclear power plant (in Aomori Prefecture), and worked on protests in those locations.

The two factions are expected to continue various struggles while continuing to maintain and expand the organization by incorporating day laborers. In particular, the anti-mainstream faction has strongly opposed the relocation of the US military base at Futenma, and has thus far caused incidents launching metallic projectiles that targeted not only the Japanese Ministry of Defense and US military-related facilities, but also companies related to the relocation construction. In addition to that, since gunpowder and other items were found in a search (in February) of the base of the faction’s clandestine organization “the Revolutionary Army,” there is concern that similar incidents will be perpetrated by the faction in future.

The domestic supporters of Japan Red Army and “Yodo-go” hijacker group sought future movement

More than forty years have passed since the Tel-Aviv Airport Shooting Incident (in May 1972) that triggered the formation of the Japanese Red Army, and since the Japan Air Lines hijacking incident (March 1970) which was committed by the “Yodo-go” group; however, those groups supporting the perpetrators of these incidents have continued their activities to the present day.

Throughout 2016, members of the Japan Red Army and supporters in Japan held meetings commemorating the Tel-Aviv Airport Shooting Incident as per every year (in May), as well as support gatherings at the trial in Japan of Tsutomu Shirotsuki (on November 24; the initial verdict was 12 years in prison, but the defense appealed the same day), a member of Japan Red Army who was involved in the Jakarta incident in which homemade bombs were fired toward embassies including the Embassy of Japan (in May 1986). In addition, supporters of the “Yodo-go” group resumed their visits to North Korea for the first time in about two years; these had been suspended due to the state of Japan-North Korea relations. They confirmed that the movement would renew their efforts with the goal of securing the return to Japan of all the members still remaining in North Korea.

However, the members of these support groups have aged further, and their activity tends to be stagnant. For this reason, they have been attempting to expand their support base and develop new action/movement by stepping up the use of social media such as Twitter and blogs, but it seems that this has not yet yielded results.

4 The Japanese Communist Party (JCP)

4 The JCP aimed to expand support from non-partisan groups by raising a unified front of opposition parties

The JCP promoted its confrontational stance against the Abe administration by stressing the theme of "the LDP and Komeito" versus "opposition parties plus citizens"

At the joint meeting of five opposition parties held in February, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) discussed about the House of Councilors election in July stating that it "would enter into talks on electoral cooperation while setting aside the issue of government," and that they "would like to take drastic measures regarding candidate arrangements for the single districts." The JCP thus effectively shelved the proposal calling for the establishment of a "National Coalition Government" announced in September 2015, as well as announcing its readiness to withdraw candidates from the single candidate districts. In addition, at the 5th Plenum of the Central Committee (in April), the JCP launched its stance with regard to the election campaign by claiming that the focus of confrontation would see "the LDP, Komeito and their complementary forces" pitted against "four opposition parties plus citizens and the nation," and set a goal of "winning nine seats as well as 8.5 million

votes by proportional representation, or at least 15% of all votes."

Based on these policies, the JCP jointly submitted with other opposition parties a bill to abolish the laws relating to peace and security legislation and a draft motion of no confidence in the Cabinet in the ordinary session of the Diet. In addition, the JCP promoted its cooperative stance by inviting other opposition parties and organizations to party speech meetings and concluded policy agreements with the opposition parties and citizens' groups for the fielding of united opposition party candidates. The JCP also advanced its criticism of the Abe administration by raising both the "security legislation equals war law and constitutional amendment" and "Abenomics" as points at issue in the House of Councilors election, claiming that the "entire 'reckless Abe politics' betraying the will of the people is in question."

The JCP congratulated itself on its increase in seats in the House of Councilors election as an "effect of the united front"

In the upper house election, the JCP called for electors to vote for the "JCP in the proportional representation section and for the united opposition candidate in the electoral districts" in the 32 single member constituencies to which the united opposition candidates were fielded together with other parties such as the Democratic Progressive Party and the Social Democratic Party. The JCP attempted to win the support of conservatives, non-partisan groups and individuals who are skeptical of the Abe administration and vowed to "defeat the Abe administration which tramples down the lives and livelihood of the people." In these

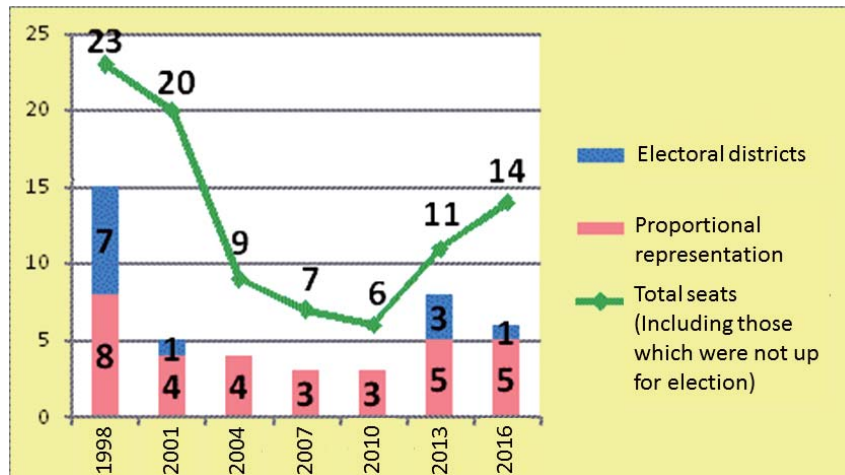
circumstances, the fact that Chairman Kazuo Shii asserted during a debate between party leaders that "the SDF violates the Constitution," and the Policy Committee Chairman, Yasufumi Fujino (who assumed office in April), commented on a TV debate program in the early stages of the election period that the defense budget of Japan was "a budget for killing people" (Mr. Fujino resigned a few days afterward; in June), was viewed as problematic.

As a result of the election, the JCP gained only about 6,016,000 votes in the proportional representative voting (10.74% of the votes), but its total number of seats won increased

from three to six seats (making a total of 14 seats when combined with the seats the party has which were not up for election in 2016). In response to the election results, the JCP assessed that it had “fought strenuously as a whole, as it gained the second largest number

of votes in its history under the proportional representation system” and congratulated itself that the “united front effect of ‘the sum of 1+1 is greater than 2’ was achieved,” considering the united opposition candidates were elected in 11 electoral districts.

Seats gained by the JCP in the House of Councilors elections



Looking toward to the House of Representatives election, the JCP projected a maintenance and strengthening of the united front

The JCP emphasized the continuation of the united front "to develop a united front of the opposition parties and citizens standing for a just cause" into the next House of Representatives election at the Sixth Central Committee Plenum (in September).

When Renho Murata, a member of the House of Councilors, was elected as the new leader at the leadership election of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) (in September), the four opposition party leaders' meeting (in September) confirmed that the parties would "cooperate as much as possible, including in the House of Representatives election as well," and "promptly discuss measures for the House of Representatives by-elections," and the JCP made efforts to maintain and strengthen its united front policy by withdrawing its own candidate without a policy agreement or recommendation and by supporting newcomer

DPP candidates as the opposition parties' joint candidate in both the Tokyo 10th district and Fukuoka 6th district by-elections.

Consequently, the JCP Chairman Shii demanded that the DPP to clearly distance itself from the Japanese Trade Union Confederation at a press conference (in October), and the JCP launched a policy aiming at the establishment of an "opposition coalition government" in the draft resolution of the 27th Party Congress (planned to be held in January 2017) adopted at the Seventh Central Committee Plenum (in November).

The JCP has become increasingly alarmed by its own continuing weakness, and in order to make a breakthrough in such a situation, it is expected to display its posture as a "driving force of the united front of opposition parties" while taking advantage of bullish and flexible attitudes.

5 Right-wing Groups and Other Organizations

5 Right-wing groups and other organizations undertook activities focused on the issues of territory and recognition of history

Right-wing groups carried out various activities by taking advantage of problems related to territory and historical recognition with neighboring countries

Since the acquisition of direct ownership of the Senkaku Islands by the Japanese government from private hands (September 2012), right-wing groups have been conducting propaganda activities in the streets in response to the Chinese government vessels normalizing the invasion of territorial waters around those islands, as well as to a Chinese warship navigating through the waters surrounding Kubajima Island in the same archipelago (in June) and also through the territorial waters of Kuchinoerabujima Island in Kagoshima Prefecture (in June). Right-wing groups protested outside Chinese diplomatic mission in various places in Japan that "the entry of Chinese warships into the territorial waters and surrounding waters of Japan is absolutely unforgivable." They have also demanded of Japanese government agencies that "Japan should also take measures against China which repeatedly makes aggression towards Asian countries." On the annual "9.29 Anti-Communist China Day" (held on the date of signing of the Japan-China joint statement), right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets criticizing China as well as gatherings and demonstration rallies. In these circumstances, a member of a right-wing group caused damage to a building by kicking and breaking glass in the entranceway of the annex of the Japan-China Friendship Center (in September, in Tokyo).

Regarding South Korea, in response to the "Japan-South Korea Agreement" over the issue of comfort women (December 2015), right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets around government offices and Korean diplomatic missions in various places in Japan, calling for the "dissolution of the pseudo-conservative LDP who blaspheme our ancestors," and that "the Japan-South Korea agreement should be

immediately retracted."

In addition, right-wing groups seized the occasion of the annual "2.22 Takeshima Day" (which Shimane Prefecture enacted as such by ordinance) and conducted propaganda activities in the streets in various places calling for the "recapture of Takeshima."

Regarding North Korea, right-wing groups gave voice to their opposition to nuclear tests (in January and September) and the intermittent launches of ballistic missiles from February onwards, and carried out propaganda activities in the streets calling out for the "overthrow of the red devilish terrorist state North Korea" around Chongryon-related facilities in various places.

Regarding Russia, in addition to foreign minister Sergei Lavrov's visit to Japan (in April), right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets demanding the "immediate return of the Northern Territories" and "apologies and compensation for inhuman acts of detention in Siberia," among other things, on the occasion of the annual "2.7 Northern Territory Day" (the date the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Japan and Russia was entered into), and "8.9 Anti-Russia Day" (the day when the Soviet Union abrogated the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact and invaded Manchuria and other places).

Right-wing groups have weakened their protests against the Japanese government since the inauguration of the second Abe cabinet (December 2012), but it is expected that there will be no change in their inclination to carry out protests against neighboring countries such as China, South Korea, North Korea, and Russia focusing on the issues of territory and the recognition of history for the time being.

A right-wing affiliated group fielded a candidate in the Tokyo gubernatorial election and carried out "anti-South Korea" activities

Although right-wing affiliated groups worked on anti-Korean and anti-China activities that captured the issues of territorial and historical recognition while restraining themselves from expressing those words criticized as "hate speech," there was a case in which some members of such groups canceled their demonstration march (in June, in Kanagawa Prefecture) upon being protested by others after the enforcement of the "Act on the Promotion of Efforts to Eliminate Unfair Discriminatory Speech and Behavior against Persons Originating from Outside Japan" (in June).

Under these circumstances, a representative of a right-wing affiliated group stood in the Tokyo gubernatorial election as a candidate (he lost with approximately 114,000

votes), and during the election period, he conducted propaganda activities in the streets with loudspeakers in the vicinity of the Korean National Assembly Center, urging that "the people of the Korean National Assembly should get out of Japan." This representative, who established a new political organization on the occasion of the Tokyo gubernatorial election, has been outlining a policy to assert an "anti-Korea" and "anti-China" position in election activities.

In addition, forces that condemn the right-wing affiliated groups as "racists" continued protests from the roadside or intersection points, during the demonstration marches and propaganda activities in the streets with loudspeakers by the right-wing affiliated groups.

Column

A right-wing group appealed for friendship with people from "pro-Japan" Muslim countries

Some of the right-wing group in Tokyo were seen to advocate people from "pro-Japan" Muslim countries, by stating that "people from pro-Japan countries of the Islamic world such as Turkey and Bangladesh will be subject to criticism within Japan" as terrorist incidents by militant Islamist groups continue to be caused in many parts of the world, including the raid in Dhaka, Bangladesh which claimed the lives of Japanese nationals.

The organization carried out a demonstration march urging friendship with people from Turkey and Bangladesh by holding the national flags of Turkey and Bangladesh as well as a placard written: "Don't lose out to sadness, people of Turkey and Bangladesh. Please overcome your difficulties. We are a friendly nation" (in July).

Matters Surrounding the Ise Shima Summit

Various groups in and outside Japan carried out diverse activities over the Ise Shima Summit

The Ise Shima G7 Summit was held in Shima City, Mie prefecture on 26th and 27th May, and after the summit, US President Barack Obama visited Hiroshima for the first time as incumbent President. A related ministerial meeting was also held in ten cities nationwide from April to September.

During this period, there were no terrorist attacks by international terrorists, radical protests by anti-globalization forces, or terrorist or guerilla incidents carried out by radical leftist groups which had been a concern.

Radical leftist groups conducted protests along with protesters from overseas organizations appealing against the summit and other issues

Radical leftist groups condemned the summit as "a conspiracy meeting for world domination and coordination of interests by imperialist superpowers," and carried out actions opposing the event, such as gatherings and demonstrations on the occasion of related ministerial meetings and summit meetings.

In addition, organizations led by radical leftists invited affiliates of overseas organizations who had made protests during

the Hokkaido Toyako Summit and Yokohama APEC Summit to gatherings held in February prior to the Ise Shima Summit. They called on them to participate in the actions opposing the event and made efforts to bolster the momentum for opposition. However, those from abroad who participated in the actions opposing the Summit were limited to only a few affiliates of labor organizations from South Korea.

Some right-wing groups and its affiliated groups worked on protests against the United States

While many right-wing groups were in favor of holding the summit, some right-wing organizations and its affiliated groups regarded the Summit in which the leaders of major countries, including the US, visit Japan as a good opportunity to promote themselves, and conducted propaganda activities in the streets "protesting against the US atomic

bombing." In addition, some members of right-wing groups attempted to approach the venue of the foreign ministers' meeting (in April, in Hiroshima) and President Obama's convoy on occasion of that meeting and the President's visit to Hiroshima respectively, but it did not result in any incidences of illegal acts.

The PSIA worked on information gathering and analysis concerning various threats to hosting the Ise Shima Summit

The PSIA, in collaboration with relevant organizations, collected and analyzed related information that contributed to securing the safe hosting of the Summit, under the "Special Intelligence Task Force for the 2016 Group of Seven" (established in June 2015).

In particular, from the viewpoint of prevention of terrorism, guerrilla acts, illegal incidents, disturbing actions, cyberattacks, and other acts which threaten and lay obstacles in the way of the Summit, the PSIA contributed to various efforts, with the whole government working as one to secure a safe and smooth hosting of the Summit, by focusing on early

apprehension of unsettling trends within Japan and overseas by adequately providing acquired intelligence to relevant organizations at the right time.

As Japan looks toward hosting the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, the PSIA is committed to strengthening information gathering and analysis on trends that may pose threats or become obstacles to the events, and establishing the necessary environment for this purpose, based on the experience and lessons learned from the Summit.

Appendix (Major Security Developments in Japan and Overseas)

Issues that took place overseas

Issues that took place in Japan

Jan 1 st (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korean leader Kim Jong Un released his New Year's speech. The mainstream group of AUM Shinrikyo held its year-end and New Year intensive seminars (from December 25, 2015 to January 3, 2016, in Saitama Prefecture and other locations). The Joyu group of AUM Shinrikyo held its year-end and New Year intensive seminars (from December 12 to 13, and from December 29, 2015 to January 2, 2016, in Tokyo Prefecture and other locations). 	26 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution No.2270 on Sanctions Against North Korea. Right-wing groups held a memorial service in the name of the "February 26th Incident Day" (in Tokyo and other locations).
2 nd (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing organizations conducted "New Year's Imperial Palace Public Celebrations" activity (in Tokyo Prefecture). 	27 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An organization led by radical leftists held gatherings inviting affiliates of overseas groups and adopted a resolution including a demand toward the Japanese government to "discard the Japan-South Korea Agreement" over the comfort women issue (until 28th, in Kyoto).
6 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test and announced that it "succeeded in the first hydrogen bomb test." 	March 2 nd (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution No.2270 on Sanctions Against North Korea.
13 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supreme Court dismissed the appeal of Makoto Hirata, a former senior follower of Aum Shinrikyo, who was sentenced to 9 years in prison in the Tokyo High Court for his involvement in cases including unlawful capture and confinement causing the death of a chief manager of a public notary office. 	5 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 4th Plenary Meeting of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC) was held (until the 16th, in Beijing). Prime Minister Li Keqiang reported on government activities; the meeting adopted a method to allow for a target range in GDP growth for the first time, i.e. from 6.5 to 7.0% in 2016.
14 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shooting and suicide bombings took place near a shopping mall in central Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, killing one Canadian and three Indonesians, and injuring 26 people including foreigners. A statement claiming responsibility was issued in the name of "ISIL Indonesia." 	8 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps conducted a test launch of ballistic missiles (until the 9th).
15 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Burkina Faso's capital Ouagadougou, armed groups raided hotels and coffee shops that are largely used by foreigners, killing 29 people including foreigners. On the same day, "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb" (AQIM) issued a statement claiming that the attacks had been perpetrated by "Al-Murabitoun." 	10 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea condemned South Korea's sanctions against North Korea (announced on the 8th), invalidated all agreements on economic cooperation and exchange projects between the North and the South, and announced the liquidation of all South Korean assets in North Korea.
16 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opening ceremony and the first Board of Governors meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was held in Beijing, with President Xi Jinping addressing the ceremony. Secretary-General of the Secretariat for the Preparation of the AIIB, Jin Liqun, was elected as its first President. Taiwan's 14th presidential election was held, and Chairperson Tsai Ingwen of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party was elected. Arrival of the implementation date of the "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action" (JCPOA), which had been agreed with Iran by six countries including European countries and the US. 	16 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Li Keqiang of China said at a press conference after the closing of the 4th Plenary Meeting of the 12th NPC (from 5th to 16th) that "the Japan-China relationship is improving but it is still vulnerable. Foreign Minister Wang Yi also commented on Japan-China relations at the press conference (on the 8th).
22 nd (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson commented that China will remain on "high alert for intervention by Japan in the South China Sea issue" as a response to Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida's mentioning of the South China Sea in his foreign policy address. 	18 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched a projectile, apparently a quasi-intermediate-range ballistic missile "Nodong."
26 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supreme Court rejected the objections and confirmed the nine-year prison sentence of a former senior follower of Aum Shinrikyo, Makoto Hirata, who had been involved in cases including unlawful capture and confinement causing the death of a chief manager of a notary public office. 	22 nd (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A series of terrorist bomb attacks took place at an airport and a subway station in Brussels, Belgium's capital city, in which a total of 32 people were killed and 340 people were injured. On the same day, a statement claiming responsibility in the name of "ISIL Belgium" was issued.
29 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JCP and radical leftists mobilized party members and activists to protest against restarting of Takahama Nuclear Power Plant Unit 3 (on the 29th, in Fukui Prefecture). 	25 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security authorities in Montenegro (former Yugoslavia) temporarily detained 58 Russian and other followers (including four Japanese followers) of Aum Shinrikyo. The detainees were deported after being questioned by the authorities.
Feb 2 nd (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bomb exploded in Daallo Airlines Airbus A321 which was en route from Mogadishu International Airport, located in Mogadishu, Somalia's capital city, to Djibouti, injuring two people. "Al Shabaab" issued a statement claiming responsibility. 	30 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National League for Democracy (NLD) administration was established in Myanmar, following the result of the general election in November, 2015.
5 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing groups carried out protests against the Japan Teachers' Union 65th National Assembly for Educational Research (until the 6th, in Iwate Prefecture). 	April 5 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution No.2270, the Ministry of Commerce and the General Administration of Customs of China announced a list of banned products which led to the prohibition of exports of minerals and aviation gasoline to North Korea as well as imports of coal from North Korea; the ban took effect on the same day. The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, the Interior Ministry of Russia, and the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation conducted a joint search on the premises of Aum Shinrikyo affiliated groups in Moscow and St. Petersburg.
7 th (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched a long-range ballistic missile, calling it a "satellite" launch. Kakumaru-ha (Revolutionary Marxist Faction of the Revolutionary Communist League) holds a "General Rally Meeting of Angry Laborers" (in Tokyo Prefecture). Right-wing groups carried out propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "Recapture of the Northern Territories" on Northern Territories Day (in various locations nationwide). 	9 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Basilan Island in the south of the Philippines, a clash between the units of the national army and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) took place, killing over 18 soldiers of the national army and many ASG combatants. A statement claiming responsibility in the name of "ISIL Philippines" was issued on the 13th. Right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets to protest against "the dropping of the Atomic Bombs" at the G7 foreign ministers' meeting (until the 10th, in Hiroshima Prefecture).
11 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea condemned South Korea's suspension of the Kaesung Industrial Park (announced on the 10th), declared the closure of the park complex, and froze South Korean assets. Right-wing groups marked National Foundation Day by visiting shrines and engaging in celebratory activities (in various locations nationwide). 	10 th (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JCP held its 5th Central Committee Plenary Meeting, and adopted a policy on activities for the next election to the House of Councillors. Chief of Secretary of the Secretariat Yoshiaki Yamashita was relieved from that position, and Vice-Chairperson of the Party Akira Koike was selected as the new Chief Secretary of the Secretariat (until the 11th, in Tokyo Prefecture).
12 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea definitively discontinued the search for Japanese nationals and announced the dismantling of the "special investigation committee" in response to Japan's measures against North Korea (announced on the 10th). 	13 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US authorities arrested a Chinese national for attempting to illegally export high-grade carbon fiber to China.
13 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing groups conducted protests against the 33rd Regular Convention of Zenkyo (All Japan Teachers and Staff Union; until the 14th in Tokyo). 	14 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Putin of Russia said on the issue of concluding the peace treaty between Japan and Russia that "a compromise can and will be found one day", while recognizing that it was necessary to conduct a permanent and uninterrupted dialogue. Right-wing groups carried out propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "recapture of the Northern Territories" (until 15th, in Tokyo Prefecture).
19 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JCP Chairman Shii held talks with the party leaders of the Democratic Party (as it was called at that time), Nippon Ishin no Kai, the SDP, and the People's Life Party, and announced the de facto shelving of the "National People's Government" initiative to realize a joint front of opposition parties in the next House of Councillors election (in Tokyo Prefecture). 	15 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched a projectile, apparently a medium-range ballistic missile "Musudan."
21 st (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the vicinity of a Shiite shrine on the outskirts of Syria's capital Damascus and in Homs in the central region, several terrorist bombings took place, killing nearly 200 people and injuring over 100 people. ISIL issued statements claiming responsibility for both explosions. 	19 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan, a suicide bomb attack using a car bomb took place near the National Directorate of Security (NDS) building, followed by an exchange of fire between the attackers and the security forces, killing a total of 64 people including citizens, and injuring 347. "Taliban" issued a statement claiming responsibility.
22 nd (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing groups and right-wing-affiliated groups marked Takeshima Day (set by prefectural ordinance of Shimane Prefecture) by engaging in propaganda activities calling for the "recapture of Takeshima" (Tokyo, Shimane Prefecture, and other locations). 	22 nd (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China held the National Conference of Religious Works (until the 23rd). President Xi Jinping gave an "important lecture", asserting that each level of the Party Committee must "establish a strong guidance mechanism and improve their soundness, and firmly lead, plan, guide works in the regions, as well as conducting supervision and inspections."
		23 rd (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched a projectile, apparently a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).
		28 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched two projectiles, apparently medium-range ballistic missiles "Musudan." China's 20th session of the 12th NPC Standing Committee adopted the "Law on the Management of the Domestic Activities of Foreign NGOs".

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo held its Golden Week intensive seminars (until May 8th, in Saitama Prefecture and other locations).
29 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Foreign Affairs Fumio Kishida visited China (until May 1st), and held talks with Prime Minister Li Keqiang, State Councillor Yang Jiechi, and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (on April 30th). The Joyu group of Aum Shinrikyo held its Golden Week intensive seminars (until 3rd of May, followed by May 14-15th and 22nd; in Tokyo Prefecture and other locations). Right-wing groups marked Showa Day by visiting the Musashino Imperial Mausoleum and carrying out activities honoring the illustrious memory of Emperor Showa (in various locations nationwide).
30 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chongryon sent a "celebratory delegation of Koreans in Japan" to North Korea upon the 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea (until May 19th).
May 1 st (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chinese government implemented a tax reform which eliminated the "business tax" on the sales of companies, and integrated taxes into "incremental taxes" on gross profits which are calculated by subtracting purchases from sales.
3 rd (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JCP and radical leftists groups mobilized party members and activists at gatherings demanding the abolition of the bills related to the Legislation for Peace and Security (in various locations nationwide). Right-wing groups marked Constitution Day by engaging in propaganda activities in the streets calling for the establishment of an autonomous constitution (in various locations nationwide).
4 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry commented on concerns expressed by Japan's key figures regarding China's activities in the South China Sea to the effect that "Japan is an outsider to the region, but it has recently been persistent in showing its presence."
6 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea held the 7th Congress of the Korean Workers' Party (until the 9th, in Pyongyang, at the April 25 House of Culture). First Secretary Kim Jong Un was inaugurated as the "Chairman of the Korean Workers' Party." Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Russia, and held a summit meeting with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Both leaders confirmed that they would be furthering negotiations by using a "new approach" with regard to concluding a peace treaty between Japan and Russia. In addition, Prime Minister Abe presented an eight-point "cooperation plan" to President Putin for the promotion of economic exchanges.
8 th (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Armed groups raided a bus carrying police officers, killing eight of the officers in Helwan, near Cairo, the capital city of Egypt. A statement claiming responsibility in the name of "ISIL Egypt" was issued on the same day.
9 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organ paper of the Communist Party of China, "The People's Daily," posted an anonymous interview by titled "Questioning the starting of the first quarter, the current Chinese economy according to an authoritative person." In addition to criticizing strong economic stimulus measures, stating that they generate a bubble economy, the person also urged the necessity of promoting "structural reform of the supply side."
14 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chongryon holds a "Central Congress of Koreans in Japan" celebrating the inauguration of Kim Jong Un as the Chairman of the Korean Workers' Party (in Tokyo Prefecture).
25 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets to protest against "the dropping of the atomic bombs" at the G7 Ise-Shima summit meeting (until the 27th, in Mie Prefecture).
26 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radical leftist groups hold opposition gatherings and demonstrations against the Ise-Shima summit (until the 27th, in Mie Prefecture and other locations).
27 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China said "that China was 'extremely dissatisfied with what Japan and the G7 have done' concerning the expression of concern made over the South China Sea in the G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration." Right-wing groups and right-wing affiliated groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets to protest against "the dropping of the atomic bombs" on the occasion of President Obama's visit to Hiroshima (in Hiroshima Prefecture).
31 st (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched a projectile, apparently a medium-range ballistic missile "Musudan." A delegation of the Korean Workers' Party (headed by Vice Chairman Ri Su Yong) visited China.
Jun 9 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea held a joint conference of the government, of representatives of political parties, and of public organizations (in Pyongyang, at the People's House of Culture), and proposed a unified "joint conference," to be held on the 71st anniversary of "National Liberation Day" (August 15th). A vessel of the Chinese navy entered the contiguous zone in the north-east of Kubajima Island in the Senkaku Islands, making it the first case of navigation by a naval vessel of China within the contiguous zone around the Senkaku Islands.
12 th (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A gunman opened fire at random at a night club in Orlando, Florida, killing 49 people and injuring 53. The anti-mainstream faction of the Kakurokyo Kaiho-ha (Liberation Faction of the Revolutionary Workers' Association) conducted a "Nationwide Unified Action for the Smashing of the Security Treaty and the Overthrow of the Government" (in Tokyo Prefecture).
14 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A travel company in Japan announced that they might have suffered a leak of personal data of up to 7.93 million people (on 24th June, the number was corrected to about 6.79 million people) because of unauthorized access from outside into the server of a group company.
15 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Chinese naval vessel intruded into Japan's waters in the west of Kuchierabujima in Kagoshima Prefecture. The same vessel also entered the contiguous zone north of Kitadaitojima in Okinawa Prefecture on the 16th.
16 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Diffa Province in the southeastern region of Niger, armed groups raided military barracks, killing seven police officers and injuring three people. On the 17th, a statement claiming responsibility in the name of the "West Africa Province" of ISIL was issued.

19 th (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JCP and radical leftists mobilized party members and activists to the "Okinawa Prefectural Citizens' Rally Condemning the Cruel Barbaric Act of a Former Marine, in Memorial of the Victim, and to Demand the Withdrawal of Marine Troops" (in Okinawa Prefecture).
21 st (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A vehicle which illegally crossed over from the Syrian side to the north-eastern region of Jordan slammed into Jordanian military facilities and exploded, killing six security officials and injuring 14 people.
22 nd (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched two projectiles, apparently medium-range ballistic missiles "Musudan."
25 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution No.2270 on Sanctions Against North Korea.
27 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside a Christian church and other locations in Al-Qaa in the northern region of Lebanon, four suicide bomb attacks took place, killing five civilians, and injuring 19 people. On the same night, another four suicide bomb attacks took place, at the funeral venue of the victims of the same bomb attacks, injuring 13 people.
28 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul in the western region of Turkey, gunshots were fired and suicide bomb attacks took place, killing 47 people and injuring more than 200 people.
29 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea held the 4th session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly (in Pyongyang, at Mansudae Assembly Hall), and inaugurated Party Chairman Kim Jong Un as the "Chairman of the State Council." President Vladimir Putin of Russia held a telephone talk with President Erdogan of Turkey, and agreed on the normalization of the bilateral relationship between the two countries which had been almost discontinued since Turkey's shooting down of a Russian military aircraft near the Syrian border (in November 2015).
July 1 st (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, armed groups raided a restaurant, taking more than 30 hostages including eight Japanese nationals. Security forces rescued 13 people including a Japanese national the next day (the 2nd); however, more than 20 people including seven Japanese nationals were killed. A statement claiming responsibility in the name of "ISIL Bangladesh" was issued on the 2nd.
3 rd (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A suicide bomb attack caused by a car bomb took place in Qarada district, a Shiite residential area of Baghdad, the capital city of Iraq, killing more than 300 people and injuring more than 200 people. ISIL issued a statement claiming responsibility. The Kitahara faction of the Sanrizuka-Shibayama United Opposition League Against the Construction of Narita Airport held a "50th Anniversary Rally of the Sainrizuka Struggle" (in Tokyo Prefecture).
4 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suicide bomb attacks took place near the holy ground of Islam in Madinah, the capital of Madinah Province in the western region of Saudi Arabia, in front of the Consulate General of the United States in Jeddah in the western part of Makkah Province, and near Shiite mosques in Katif Province in the eastern region of the country, killing four security officers and injuring five.
6 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US Treasury Department designated 11 North Korean individuals and five North Korean organizations including Party Chairman Kim Jong Un as sanction targets, citing responsibility for human rights infringement in North Korea. North Korea warned that it would take "extremely hard-line measures in response" in the statement issued by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 7th, and notified the US side on its severing of communication channels between the US and North Korea on the 10th.
8 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US and South Korea governments officially announced their decision to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system to United States Armed Forces in Korea.
9 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched a projectile, apparently a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).
12 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Permanent Court of Arbitration announced its award over the South China Sea issue. The award did not acknowledge any jurisdiction by China within the area of the "Nine-dash Line," and ruled that the artificial island China is building is a reef, thus would not give birth to an Exclusive Economic Zone of 200 nautical miles; it thereby recognized almost all aspects of the assertions made by the Philippines.
13 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China's State Council Information Office publishes a white paper titled "China Adheres to the Position of Settling Through Negotiation the Relevant Disputes Between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea" in response to the award issued by the Permanent Court of Arbitration over the South China Sea issue, and asserted that the award was "invalid and has no binding force." China-Japan Friendship Association in China held the "2nd Japan-China Entrepreneurship Exchange" (in Beijing) jointly with the Kansai Economic Federation of Japan.
14 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Nice in the South of France, a truck rushed into a crowd which had gathered to enjoy fireworks celebrating the anniversary of the French Revolution, killing 86 people and injuring 434.
15 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Li Keqiang of China held talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who visited Mongolia to attend the Summit of Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).
19 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched three projectiles, apparently short-range ballistic missiles "Scud" or quasi-medium range ballistic missiles "Nodong."
28 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abu Muhammad Al-Gorani, the supreme leader of the "Nusra Front" issued a video statement declaring its withdrawal from "Al Qaeda" and announcing that it will change the organization's name to "Fateh Al Sham Front."
August 3 rd (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched two projectiles, apparently quasi-intermediate-range ballistic missiles "Nodong."
5 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government vessels of China (three vessels) and Chinese fishing boats intruded into Japanese territorial waters off the coast of the Senkaku Islands. In addition, the government vessels intruded into Japanese territorial waters also on the 7th (11 vessels), 8th (four vessels), 9th (ten vessels), 17th (four vessels), and 21st (four vessels; 36 vessels in total).
6 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Joyu group of Aum Shinrikyo held its summer intensive seminars (until 7th, from 11 to 15th, and on 21st; in Tokyo Prefecture and other locations).

8 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan, in the western region of Pakistan, a suicide bomb attack took place near the emergency ward of a hospital to which the chairman of the local bar association who had been shot dead was transferred. The attack killed 74 people (including many lawyers) and injured more than 160 people. In addition to Jamaat Afrar (TTP-JA), ISIL's "Khorasan Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility. 	22 nd (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The website of the President of Russia announced that President Putin had instructed the government of Russia to take measures including the establishment of a representative post in charge of "development of economic cooperation with Japan." A US portal site operating company announced that its network was illegally accessed in 2014 and had suffered a leak of information related to at least 500 million users.
9 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing groups in the name of "Anti-Russia Day" conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "recapture of the Northern Territories" (in various locations nationwide). 	23 rd (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JCP Chairman Shii held talks with the party leaders of the Democratic Progressive Party, the SDP, and the People's Life Party, and agreed to "cooperate as much as possible" in the united front of the opposition parties in the next House of Representatives election (in Tokyo Prefecture).
10 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution No.2270 on Sanctions Against North Korea. 	25 th (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight aircraft of the Chinese Air Force flew over the area between Okinawa Main Island and Miyakojima Island and made a round trip between the East China Sea and the Pacific Ocean.
12 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seoul Central District Public Prosecutor's Office in South Korea indicted two South Koreans detained on charges of violation of the National Security Act, for having cooperated with North Korean agents of the General Reconnaissance Bureau operating in Dandong City, China (in August) and trying to smuggle large tires which are military-convertible. 	26 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US Department of Justice announced that it had criminally prosecuted a Chinese trading company, Dandong Hongxiang Industrial Development Co. Ltd. and four affiliated persons as having conspired to avoid US sanctions and for money laundering (in August). In addition, the US Treasury Department designated the company and its four affiliated persons for sanctions including freezing of assets.
15 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing groups visited Yasukuni Shrine and their local Gokoku Shrines, and attended memorial services for the war dead commemorating the anniversary of the end of the Second world war (in various locations nationwide). 	29 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing groups in the name of the "Anti-Communist China Day" conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for "a defense of the Senkaku Islands to the death" (in various locations nationwide).
19 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing groups conducted protests against Zenkyo National Conference on Educational Research 2016 (until the 21st, in Shizuoka Prefecture). 	October 7 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a statement stating that the leadership of the Russian government directed the cyberattack on the Democratic National Committee (DNC) of the Democratic Party.
21 st (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tokyo District Court removed a tent set up by an anti-nuclear power group supported by radical leftist groups illegally occupying one corner of the grounds of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry building (in Tokyo Prefecture). 	10 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toyama University publicly announced that there was a possibility that information on technology to separate and remove radioactive materials from polluted water was leaked through a targeted e-mail attack on the Hydrogen Isotope Research Center at the same university.
24 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched a projectile, apparently a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM). Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China attended the Japan-China-South Korea Foreign Ministers' Meeting (in Tokyo Prefecture) and a Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held. 	11 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 1,000 military veterans in China gathered around buildings in which the Defense Ministry is located in Beijing City, and demanded improved treatment including employment and pensions. They withdrew by the early morning of 12th. In Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan, an armed man randomly shot a gun, killing 14 Shiite Muslims and injuring over 60 people. ISIL's "Khorasan Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility.
29 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Aden in the southern region of Yemen, a terrorist bomb attack caused by a car bomb took place targeting a military training camp, killing at least 54 people and injuring 67 people. ISIL's "Aden-Abyan Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility. 	15 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched a projectile, apparently a medium-range ballistic missile "Musudan."
30 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A suicide bomb attack caused by a car bomb took place outside a hotel near the Presidential Palace and government buildings in Mogadishu in the capital of Somalia, killing at least 15 people and injuring 45 people. 	18 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Duterte of the Philippines visited China (until the 21st), and met and held talks with President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Li Keqiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China Zhang Dejiang, and others, successively (on the 20th).
September 2 nd (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Russia (until the 3rd) and held a summit meeting with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. An agreement was made to advance preparations in the political and economic fields including negotiations on concluding a peace treaty, on the President's visit to Japan and the summit talks scheduled for December 15 (in Yamaguchi Prefecture). A live-in follower of the mainstream faction of Aum Shinrikyo and a lay follower were arrested on charges of evading on-site inspection during the on-site inspection conducted on 2nd March by the PSIA (on the 21st; the live-in follower was indicted). 	20 th (Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched a projectile, apparently a medium-range ballistic missile "Musudan."
4 th (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> G20 Hangzhou Summit was held in China (until the 5th, Hangzhou City, Zhejiang Province). Heads of the G20 countries as well as those of extended members, such as Egypt, Kazakhstan, and Laos participated. President Xi Jinping of China held talks with the heads of 24 countries. 	21 st (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A US company handling DNS server management and other services received DDoS attacks and connection failures occurred on websites of US media and other sites that use the company's services.
5 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched three projectiles, apparently the quasi-intermediate-range ballistic missiles "Nodong" or the Scud short-range ballistic missile's extended range version, "Scud ER." President Xi Jinping of China, held talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who visited China in order to attend the G20 Hangzhou Summit. 	22 nd (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shanghai Normal University in China held an unveiling ceremony of a "statue of a comfort woman" in front of the "Comfort Women History Museum of China" which opened on that day, marking the first setting up of a statue of a "comfort woman" in China.
7 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tokyo High Court dismissed the appeal of Katsuya Takahashi, a former senior follower of Aum Shinrikyo, who was sentenced to imprisonment by the Tokyo District Court for involvement in five incidents including the attacks against the Tokyo Subway system with sarin gas (on the 16th: an appeal was made to the Supreme Court on the 16th). 	24 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 6th Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China opened (lasting until the 27th). Discussions were held on "the serious issue of rigorous governance of the Party", and they deliberated and adopted "a few rules on the political life of the party under the new circumstances" as well as an "ordinance on the internal supervision of the Chinese Communist Party."
9 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea conducted its 5th nuclear test. 	28 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing groups in the name of "Recapture Takeshima Day" conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for the recapture of Takeshima (in various locations nationwide).
12 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia and China jointly held a naval exercise "Joint Sea 2016" in the South China Sea (off the coast of Guangdong Province, China; until the 19th). The US Department of Defense announced that it had confirmed that the official spokesperson of ISIL, Abu Muhammad Al-Adnani, was killed by the air strike carried out on 30th August in Syria. 	November 2 nd (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A recorded statement purportedly of the supreme leader of ISIL, Baghdadi, was posted on the Internet.
16 th (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo held its autumn intensive seminars (until the 25th; in Saitama Prefecture and other locations). 	6 th (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chongryon held its "Congress of Brach Representatives - 2016" (in Tokyo Prefecture). Chukaku-ha (Middle Core Faction of the Revolutionary Communist League) held its annual "National Worker's Rally" (in Tokyo Prefecture).
17 th (Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In New Jersey in the east of the United States, a bomb exploded (without casualties) near a marathon venue. After that, another bomb exploded in the Manhattan District of New York, injuring 31 people. 	8 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Republican candidate Donald Trump defeated Democratic party candidate Hillary Clinton in the US presidential election.
18 th (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The general election for the State Duma (lower house) was held in Russia. The ruling "United Russia" won 343 seats out of the 450 seats. 	14 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation detained Economic Development Minister Alexei Ulyukaev on charges of acceptance of a bribe. On the next day (the 15th), President Putin dismissed the same person. It became apparent that more than 400 million e-mail addresses, passwords, and other information had been leaked from US companies that manage adult websites.
19 th (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JCP and radical leftist groups mobilized party members and activists at protests against the bills related to the Legislation for Peace and Security (in various locations nationwide). 	15 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JCP held its 7th Central Committee Plenum Meeting and adopted the draft resolution of the 27th Party Congress (until the 16th, Tokyo Prefecture).
20 th (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The JCP held the 6th Central Committee Plenum Meeting, where it summarized the results of the House of Councilors election, and adopted a policy dealing with the next general election as well as schedules for its 27th Party Congress (Planned to be held in January 2017; until the 21st, in Tokyo Prefecture). The Supreme Court of Russia prohibited activities in Russia by designating Aum Shinrikyo (AUM, Aleph) as a terrorist organization based on Article 24 of the Law of the Russian Federation "On Countering Terrorism" (which became effective on 25th October). 	19 th (Sun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Putin of Russia held talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who visited Peru to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit Meeting. The two leaders confirmed the President's visit to Japan (on December 15-16, to Yamaguchi and Tokyo Prefectures).
		30 th (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution No.2321 on sanctions against North Korea.

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Annual Report 2016
Review and Prospects of Internal and
External Situations
January 2017

