

Review and Prospects of Internal and External Situations

January 2022



Public Security Intelligence Agency

Upon the publication of the “Review and Prospects of Internal and External Situations” (2022 Edition)

The Public Security Intelligence Agency (PSIA) has a mission to ensure public security, and based on the Subversive Activities Prevention Act and the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Indiscriminate Mass Murder, we enforce strict and proper surveillance disposition of the so-called Aum Shinrikyo, and in addition, as a core member of Japan's intelligence community, we are contributing to various government policies by collecting and analyzing information on trends of various domestic and international issues that may affect the public security of Japan, such as the trends of economic security, the trends in cyberspace, international terrorism, the situation around Japan, and the trends of domestic organizations, and providing them to government agencies in a timely and appropriate manner.

For example, it is still fresh in our minds that the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games attracted the attention of the world, and the PSIA contributed to the safe holding of the Games by collecting and analyzing information across the entire agency to prevent terrorism and to identify various unlawful cases as early as possible.

This document, "Review and Prospects of Internal and External Situations," is published in January each year to summarize various domestic and international situations related to public security during the previous year.

In this issue, in order to provide an interesting read for people who do not usually have the opportunity to come into contact with the situation related to the public security of Japan, we have introduced themes on economic security, cyber attacks, which have drawn attention in recent years, as well as on the request for recurrence prevention disposition against the mainstream Aum Shinrikyo group, "Aleph," in "Special Feature" sections of this document.

The domestic and international situations surrounding Japan are changing rapidly every day and have become increasingly complex in recent years, and we hope that you will make use of this document to help you grasp the overall picture and deepen your understanding.

In addition, your understanding and support are indispensable for the promotion of the PSIA's operations, and I strongly feel the importance of dissemination of information every day. As the importance of industry-academia-government collaboration is further increasing in various fields, especially in the field of economic security, I myself, as Director-General, have been speaking at lectures and strengthening public relations activities throughout the Agency, and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely ask for your understanding and support for the work of the PSIA, using this document as a starting point.

Director-General
Public Security Intelligence Agency
WADA Masaki

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*  indicates the reference point.

Economic Security

1 The US and China continued to mutually restrain each other

The Biden administration maintained the efforts of the previous administration while strengthening ties with allies and like-minded countries

The US under the Trump administration positioned China as a "strategic competitor" and sharpened its hardline stance toward China, and the confrontation between the US and China encompassed various aspects such as trade, security, and values. The Biden administration, inaugurated in January, defined China as "the only competitor potentially capable of combining its economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to mount a sustained challenge to a stable and open international system" (in March, "Interim National Security Strategic Guidance").

In particular, President Joseph Biden, who recognizes that "technology is at the center of US-China competition" (in January, Presidential Spokesperson Jen Psaki), is concerned that US business activities will lead to the strengthening of China's military power, and took a number of measures such as adding Chinese supercomputer-related companies and institutions to the "Entity List," a list of export restrictions (in April), to restrict transactions between these companies and US companies, as well as issuing an Executive Order (in June) prohibiting investment in companies that cooperate with the People's Liberation Army's weapons development and companies that develop surveillance technologies that promote the suppression of human rights.

Also, as the division of labor in the manufacturing industry has been formed on a global scale and the

supply chain from procurement of raw materials to manufacturing, delivery, sales, and consumption of products spanned across multiple countries, the US was concerned that there was a risk of disruptions to the manufacturing process in its own country if one country intentionally stops providing parts for important products, and started to review the supply chain for key technologies and products such as information technology, semiconductors, and high-performance batteries. As part of the plan, the Biden administration planned to build a new supply chain centered on allies and like-minded countries, and confirmed at the summit meetings with Japan and South Korea that they would cooperate in rebuilding the supply chain for semiconductors and other products (in April and May). And in the joint statement of the second Japan-US-Australia-India summit (in September), they stated, with China in mind, that they would "promote the free, open, and rules-based order, undaunted by coercion," and confirmed that they would cooperate to build a "resilient, diverse, and secure supply chain" for critical technologies and materials, such as semiconductors and next-generation wireless networks. This move by the Biden administration can be seen as a continuation of the previous Trump administration's efforts to ban the government from procuring Chinese telecommunications equipment.

China restrained regulatory measures against China by implementing laws and regulations

While the US has taken a series of regulatory measures against China, such as restricting the supply of semiconductors to major Chinese telecommunications companies (in May and August 2020), China promulgated and enforced the "Rules on Counteracting the Unjustified Extraterritorial Application of Foreign Legislations and Order Measures" (in January, Ministry of Commerce) in order to prevent foreign regulatory laws and regulations from being applied in China. Moreover, in June, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress passed the Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law, which was promulgated and enforced on the same day. Since the law allows for countermeasures at the legal level against "discriminatory restrictive measures" by foreign countries and includes "interference in internal affairs" as an application item (Article 3), it may apply not only to economic activities but also to activities of a political nature. In addition, the clause prohibiting foreign countries from cooperating in "discriminatory restrictive measures" (Article 12) allows for the interpretation that it includes not only companies and individuals in China but also companies and individuals in third countries as subjects covered by the law, thus strongly discouraging foreign regulatory measures against China. With regard to Article 3 of the Law, China in fact declared that the US advisory to US companies in Hong Kong that "business risks are increasing" was a "serious interference in its internal affairs" and announced that it would "impose sanctions under the Law" on former US Secretary of

Commerce Ross (in July).

With regard to semiconductors, which the US considers one of the most important products, China has set a goal of raising its self-sufficiency rate to 70% by 2025 (in 2015, "Made in China 2025"). Also, in order to achieve these goals, in response to events such as China's telecom equipment company ZTE being unable to purchase semiconductors from the US due to US regulations and being forced to temporarily suspend its main business activities (in 2018), China has been stepping up its efforts, such as renewing tax breaks for domestic semiconductor-related companies (in July 2020, State Council). In addition, the "14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035" (in March), which is China's medium- to long-term strategic goal, set the goal of "making breakthroughs in core technologies," including semiconductors, and "entering the front ranks of creation-oriented nations" by 2035, as well as "keeping key parts of the supply chain, including semiconductors and other key technologies and products, within China." As a result of this policy, there were concrete moves by Chinese companies to participate in the construction of the semiconductor supply chain, and a major Chinese telecommunications equipment manufacturer "Huawei" announced its own OS for smartphones (in June), indicating that China was moving toward domestic production of key technologies and products.

2 Strategic materials, technologies, data, etc. targeted at home and abroad

China's acquisition of overseas technologies and products continued; Japan must pay attention to related trends

In the "14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and Long-Range Objectives through the Year 2035" (in March), China set the goals of "strengthening independent, innovation-

driven science and technology to conquer difficult challenges" and "perfecting the innovation service system for enterprises" in order to realize "self-reliance and self-strengthening in science and

technology," and increased the research budget every year to improve the domestic innovation environment.

On the other hand, with regard to these Chinese moves, there is a view in the US that China may continue to try to acquire technology from abroad, saying that "China's efforts have often sought to first obtain the technologies and capabilities it needs from foreign firms" and "the (Chinese) government is still seeking specific foreign capabilities" (in April, Congressional Research Service report).

Regarding China's plans to attract foreign talent, such as the "Thousand Talents Plan," the report stated, "China operates state talent programs to acquire targeted cutting-edge technologies and capabilities. These programs are specifically targeted to advance the goals and fills the gaps identified in China's industrial plans" (in September, Congressional Research Service report).

In these circumstances, in the US, a Chinese national living in Hong Kong was indicted for stealing corporate secrets related to semiconductor technology from a US company (in February), and a Chinese national living in the US was sentenced to prison for illegally exporting marine equipment to a Chinese military-affiliated university (in September). In addition, a US university professor specializing in mechanical engineering was indicted for failing to report to US authorities the status of contracts with multiple Chinese research institutes (in January), and a US university professor specializing in medical technology was indicted for making false application

to participate in a Chinese talent attraction program and receiving improper grants (in February).

In addition, there were moves to block Chinese acquisitions of companies due to security concerns in various countries, such as the German government's decision not to approve the acquisition of a company dealing with satellite communications and other technologies by a Chinese munitions-related company (in December 2020) and the Ukrainian government's decision not to approve the acquisition of a major aero-engine company by a Chinese munitions-related company (in March) respectively (👉 see table below). On the other hand, there was a series of Chinese investments and purchases of overseas companies, including the acquisition of a British semiconductor-related company by a major Chinese electronics company through its Dutch subsidiary (in July) and the acquisition of a Canadian lithium resource development company by a major Chinese automotive battery manufacturer (in September).

There are many companies and universities in Japan that have advanced technologies in the fields of semiconductor manufacturing and materials, etc., and there have been cases where Chinese companies have invested in or acquired Japanese semiconductor companies, and cases where Japanese researchers have participated in the "Thousand People Plan" and engaged in research at the "Seven universities of National Defense," which are considered to be particularly closely related to China's military industry.

Cases in which Chinese takeovers of companies were prevented, etc.


Italian company	The Italian government's cabinet approved a ban on a Chinese company acquiring semiconductor-related manufacture in Italy (in March).
South Korean company	The US Treasury Department instructed the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) to put on hold the proposed acquisition of a South Korean semiconductor manufacturer (listed in the US) by a Chinese investment-related company (in June).
Italian company	Italian authorities indicted Chinese and Italian corporate officials for failing to report to authorities the acquisition of a 75% stake in a company in Italy that manufactures drones for military use, etc. (in September).
British company	The UK government instructed its regulator to review the acquisition of a British company that developed advanced materials that could be used for military purposes by Chinese researchers due to security concerns (in September).

For this reason, there is a concern that China will continue to acquire important technologies and products owned by Japanese companies and universities in order to improve its own

manufacturing capacity and technologies, as well as to pursue acquisitions of companies related to Japan and to invite personnel with advanced technologies, so we need to be vigilant about these trends.

3 Public Security Intelligence Agency's Efforts in the Field of Economic Security

The Public Security Intelligence Agency has been strengthening its collection and dissemination of relevant information in response to the growing domestic and international interest in economic security. In February, the "Project Team for Economic Security Investigation" under the direct control of the Director-General and Deputy Director-General was established to expand the functions of planning and research related to economic security. And in April, a leaflet and video on economic security were released, and a special feature page was opened on the website. In addition, based on the recognition that strengthening cooperation between industry, academia, and government is essential, we have

established a dedicated contact point for communication and consultation regarding the outflow of technology, data, and products that threaten Japan's economic security, and we are actively exchanging opinions and giving lectures, etc. with companies and economic organizations. The Public Security Intelligence Agency will continue to collect and analyze information that contributes to the prevention of outflow of technology and products, and contribute to the government's measures for economic security. ( See p. 56, "External Situation 5 Trends surrounding materials and other commodities for weapons of mass destruction ")

Cyber attacks against Japan

1 The growing threat of cyber attacks on Japan

A series of cyber-attacks targeting Japanese companies, etc. have been uncovered

Cyber-attacks aimed at disrupting business operations, stealing confidential information, and obtaining money have become commonplace both in Japan and overseas, and their methods are becoming more sophisticated. In addition, the activities of malicious entities in cyberspace pose a serious threat to the sustainable development of society and economy, as well as to the safety and security of people's lives, as cyberspace is further expanded and penetrated into the real world due to technological progress and changes in social structure.

Furthermore, it appears that nations are strengthening their cyber warfare capabilities, such as information theft and destruction of critical infrastructure, in order to achieve their political and military objectives, and the threat of cyber attacks is becoming more serious from the security perspective.

In 2021, cyber-attacks that appeared to be aimed at stealing confidential information were discovered one after another.


In a cyber-attack case against about 200 organizations, including the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Metropolitan Police Department referred a Chinese Communist Party member who was staying in Japan at the time to the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office (in April) for contracting a Japanese rental server under a false name on a total of five occasions between September 2016 and April 2017. It was pointed out that "Tick," a China's cyber threat entity with the support of the Unit 61419 of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, was likely involved in this incident. Also, a major electrical equipment manufacturer announced a case of cyber-attack on a tool for sharing information both internally and externally over the Internet (in May). As a result of an internal investigation, it was found

that data including personal information of more than 100 organizations was stolen and unauthorized access was made from outside the company by a third party who seemed to have exploited the vulnerability of the tool using a legitimate ID and password (in August). Furthermore, in the cyber-attack case against a major heavy industry manufacturer announced in December 2020, an internal investigation indicated the possibility that some servers in Japan and overseas were unlawfully accessed via overseas bases and information was leaked (in July).

These cases are attacks targeting Japanese companies via overseas sites with relatively weak security, or attacks that exploit zero-day vulnerabilities (unknown vulnerabilities), and the possibility of state-involved or state-sponsored cyber attacks is also pointed out.

Cyber attacks that exploit zero-day vulnerabilities were also discovered outside Japan.

The US government announced that cyber threat actors linked to China's Ministry of State Security had infiltrated tens of thousands of computers and networks around the world in a cyber attack that exploited a zero-day vulnerability in the messaging platform provided by US telecommunications company "Microsoft."

Moreover, cyber-attacks on critical infrastructures were also reported, such as a cyber-attack on a water purification plant in the US, which attempted to poison tap water (in February), and cyber-attacks on financial institutions and postal service providers in New Zealand (in September). ( See P.12 COLUMN)

Japan needs to remain vigilant to protect its critical information and infrastructure from the threat of cyber attacks.

Cases in which state involvement was pointed out continued to occur

The US, UK, and other countries are actively engaged in public attribution to identify and publicize the perpetrators of cyber attacks and the national organizations to which they belong. The following were the cases in which the national involvement of China, Russia and North Korea was pointed out in these efforts.

■ China

As for China, in addition to the involvement of the military and intelligence agencies in large-scale cyber espionage, it has been pointed out that the authorities and cyber criminals have a so-called "symbiotic relationship."

The US Department of Justice announced the indictment of three employees of the Hainan Provincial State Security Department and four hackers hired by Hainan Xiandun Technology Development, a Chinese information and communications company, for their involvement in a global cyber attack campaign aimed at stealing intellectual property and trade secrets (in July). Along with this, the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the National Security Agency (NSA), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) issued a joint advisory on "APT40," the Chinese cyber threat actor that carried out the campaign (in July). Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also mentioned "APT40" in a spokesman's statement (in July), and the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the European Union (EU), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) also issued statements condemning the entity (in July).

■ Russia

For Russia as well, it has been pointed out that there is "cooperative relationship" between security agencies and cyber criminals, as well as the involvement of military and intelligence agencies in cyber attacks.

In response to a large-scale cyber attack (announced in December 2020) that was triggered by an attack that exploited an IT management software update program made by the US telecommunications

company "SolarWinds," the US government named "APT29" (also known as "Cozy Bear"), a cyber threat actor associated with the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), as the perpetrator, and issued an Executive Order to counter malicious cyber activities by Russia, including this case, including the deportation of 10 diplomats stationed in Washington, DC, and sanctions against six Russian companies (in April). Regarding this case, along with the issuance of the US Executive Order, the British Foreign Office issued a statement stating that there was a high possibility that SVR was involved (in April).

Also, the European Council issued a statement condemning the Russian government for its involvement in a malicious cyber activity called "Ghostwriter" (in September). The statement said that "Ghostwriter" targeted a large number of European Parliament members, government officials, etc., hacked into their computer systems, stole their data, and attempted to undermine democratic institutions and procedures by spreading false information, etc., and urged Russia to act as a responsible nation in cyberspace.

■ North Korea

The US Department of Justice announced the indictment of three hackers belonging to the General Reconnaissance Bureau of North Korea for their involvement in destructive cyber attacks and cyber financial crimes (in February).

Also, in its FY2020 report (released in March), the Panel of Experts of the UN Security Council's Committee on Sanctions against North Korea stated that North Korea had acquired more than \$300 million in cyber-attacks targeting financial institutions and crypto-asset exchangers in the two years to November 2020. The Panel also pointed out that North Korea had been laundering the stolen cryptographic assets by cashing them through brokers in China, and expressed its view that North Korea is continuing its cyber activities targeting cryptographic assets.

COLUMN

Cyber attacks against critical infrastructures

Cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure are a serious threat to the safety and security of people's lives.

In recent years, there have been a number of cases of cyber-attacks on critical infrastructures outside Japan that have had a significant impact on real life. In the US, a ransom ware attack (malware that makes a computer unusable and then demands a "ransom" in return for recovery) occurred against Colonial, a petroleum products pipeline operator (in May), and the company shut down the pipeline for five days, causing panic buying and many sellouts of gasoline on the East Coast, which had a huge impact. In this case, the Russian hacker group "DarkSide"

admitted its involvement and apologized for the impact it had on society.

At the US-Russian summit subsequently held, President Biden told President Vladimir Putin that there were 16 sectors of critical infrastructure (chemicals, commercial facilities, communications, critical manufacturing, dams, defense industrial base, emergency services (police, fire, ambulance, etc.), energy, financial services, food and agriculture, government facilities, healthcare and public health, information technology, nuclear reactors, nuclear materials and nuclear waste, transportation systems, water and wastewater systems) on which any attacks could not be allowed (in June).

Cyber attacks on critical infrastructure

Date	Country of occurrence	Case overview
March 2013	South Korea	Financial institutions and broadcasting stations experienced simultaneous system failures due to malware infection. ATM use and some broadcasting operations were disrupted.
December 2015	Ukraine	As a result of a cyber-attack on a power company and unauthorized manipulation of the control system, a power outage occurred for several hours in the western part of the country, affecting about 225,000 people.
May 2017	About 150 countries including Japan	In a large-scale ransomware attack that occurred in approximately 150 countries around the world, including Japan, approximately 300,000 terminals at government agencies, medical institutions, and financial institutions were infected.
October 2020	India	Cyber-attacks on the central power grid and port facilities, etc., caused a major power outage in Mumbai.
May 2021	US	Colonial, the largest petroleum products pipeline operator in the US shut down for five days after a ransomware attack. A number of gasoline outages occurred on the East Coast due to panic hoarding.

2 Cyber attacks targeting cloud service providers (MSPs)

Providers of services related to the operation, maintenance, and management of systems, such as cloud services and file sharing services, are generally referred to as managed service providers (MSPs).

Since MSPs share networks, servers, and other systems with multiple customers, cyber attacks on these systems pose a risk of intrusion and expansion into the customer's systems, etc.

Cyber attacks against MSPs believed to be involved or supported by a state

Since if intrusion into an MSP system is successfully made, it gives efficiency in gaining access to large amount of customer information and penetrating customers' systems, cyber attacks against

MSPs have been frequently carried out, especially persistently by state-sponsored cyber threat actors. For example, "APT10," a cyber threat actor allegedly operating under the umbrella of China's Ministry of

State Security, is said to have been conducting a cyber attack campaign called "Operation Cloud Hopper" targeting MSPs around the world since about 2008, and in December 2018, the US

Department of Justice announced the indictment of two APT10 officials for breaking into computers around the world for the purpose of stealing intellectual property and trade secrets.

MSP attack led to information leakage incident

In Japan as well, there have been a series of cases of information leakage due to cyber attacks on MSPs.

In May 2020, a Japanese MSP that provides cloud services announced a cyber-attack against the provider, and an internal investigation revealed that nearly 200 corporate customers were affected. In December 2020, it was announced that a subsidiary of a major heavy industry manufacturer had been unlawfully accessed as a result of a cyber attack on an MSP. In addition, a cyber attack on an MSP that provides a service for sharing information over the

Internet both internally and externally was found to have stolen the data of more than 100 organizations, including personal information (in May).

Outside of Japan, a ransomware attack targeting zero-day vulnerabilities in the products of "Kaseya," a US telecommunications company, was announced (in July), and it was found that up to 1,500 companies were affected, as the company's products had been installed in many MSPs.

Cyber attacks against MSPs by various cyber threat actors are expected to continue, and continued vigilance is required.

3 Information theft activities surrounding new corona vaccine intensified

Cyber attacks on organizations related to new corona vaccines occurred in Europe, the US and other countries

With the spread of new coronavirus infections around the world, cyber attacks against organizations that develop, manufacture, and transport new coronavirus vaccines, as well as vaccine clinical trial organizations and licensing organizations, have been occurring one after another in Europe, the US, and elsewhere.

In a cyber attack on the European Medicines Agency announced in December 2020, documents submitted by pharmaceutical companies for approval of a new corona vaccine were stolen, and the contents

were made public after being modified. It has been pointed out that cyber threat actors from China and Russia may have been involved in the cyber attacks against the agency. It was reported that North Korean cyber threat actors were involved in cyber attacks against several major US pharmaceutical companies (in February), highlighting the situation where national involvement of China, Russia and North Korea is suspected in a series of cyber attacks targeting organizations related to new corona vaccines.

4 Raising cyber security awareness is an urgent issue

It is reported that there have been unauthorized accesses and cyber attacks on organizations related to the new corona vaccine in Japan as well.

The cyber threat actors involved in and supported by the state have a characteristic of continuing attacks without regard to the cost to achieve the

national goals. The cyber attacks targeting sensitive technologies and data owned by Japanese companies and universities are expected to continue in the future, and it is necessary to improve the cyber security awareness in Japan.

The fluctuating situation in Afghanistan and trends related to international terrorism

1 The situation in Afghanistan became chaotic due to the "Taliban"'s control of the capital

As US and other forces were withdrawing, the "Taliban" took control of the capital, Kabul

In Afghanistan, as the "Taliban" continued to attack the security forces, the US announced (in April) that the deadline for withdrawal of US forces stationed in Afghanistan was September 11, and in May, the withdrawal from all of Afghanistan, including NATO forces, began in earnest.

As the withdrawal of US and other forces progressed, the "Taliban" stepped up its offensive,

taking control of Zaranj, the capital of the southern province of Nimruz, in August, and other provincial capitals in a short period of time, and besieging the capital Kabul in the middle of the month. Furthermore, by the 15th of the same month, President Ashraf Ghani fled the country and the "Taliban" seized the presidential palace in Kabul.

The "Taliban" established "new government," but some countries were concerned

Following the "Taliban"'s seizure of Kabul, the UN Security Council held an emergency meeting and issued a press statement calling on the "Taliban" to establish, through negotiations, "a new government that is united, inclusive and representative of all forces, including the participation of women" (in August).

In response, the "Taliban" in September announced a "interim cabinet" with a senior veteran official as the "acting prime minister" and senior officials placed under him, claiming that "the cabinet has not been finalized and we will select people from other parts of the country," and issued a statement by the supreme leader, saying that "we will protect human rights, minority rights, and the rights of underprivileged groups within the framework of Sharia." However, the announced "ministers" did not include any women, only a few non-Taliban figures, and included a number of people designated as sanctioned by the United Nations, as well as Sirajuddin Haqqani, the leader of the "Haqqani Network," which the US designates as a foreign terrorist organization, and the most wanted man by

the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), being designated as the "acting interior minister," and many countries voiced concerns about the "administration" run by the "Taliban."

In response to these moves by the "Taliban," 22 countries, including the G7, India, Australia, South Korea, and Pakistan, held a meeting of foreign ministers and expressed the stance that the "Taliban" should respond sincerely to the demands of the international community (in September).

During its rule from 1996 to 2001, the "Taliban" introduced measures such as restricting women's schooling and employment, and destroyed a giant stone Buddha in Bamiyan Province in the central highlands of Afghanistan for "violating the Islamic prohibition of idolatry."

In response to the resurgence of "Taliban" rule, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that the UN Human Rights Council has received testimonies of executions of Afghan security forces personnel and detentions of Ghani regime officials after the takeover of Kabul. Furthermore, the Commissioner stated that rights violations such as

women being forbidden to go out in public without a male escort have been confirmed, and accused the “Taliban” of reneging on their human rights commitments (in September).

In addition, the number of internally displaced persons continued to increase as the “Taliban” launched an offensive (in September, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs). Although there had been no large-scale exodus of refugees since the “Taliban” took control of Kabul, depending on the situation, it was reported that there could be

more than 500,000 refugees seeking to flee the country by the end of the year (in August, UN High Commissioner for Refugees). In addition, humanitarian issues have emerged, such as the UN World Food Programme (WFP) pointing out (in August) that approximately 14 million people, or one-third of the total population of Afghanistan, are in danger of severe hunger or “acute hunger,” which means they are on the verge of starvation, as a result of the combined effects of chaos, drought, and other factors in Afghanistan.

China and Russia worked to strengthen ties with “Taliban”

As the situation in Afghanistan became increasingly unstable, both China and Russia, wary of the influx of Islamist extremism from Afghanistan into their countries and surroundings, invited delegations of the “Taliban” to Tianjin and Moscow, respectively, before the “Taliban” seized control of the country (in July), and worked to strengthen relations with the “Taliban” by maintaining embassies, unlike Western countries, even after the “Taliban” took control of Kabul (in August).

China and Russia have called on the “Taliban,” like other countries, to establish an “inclusive” government that includes all ethnic groups in Afghanistan, and adopted a joint declaration at a summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) led by the two countries (in September) that “it is critical to have an inclusive

government with representatives from all ethnic, religious and political groups in Afghanistan.” China and Russia took a cautious stance toward recognizing the “interim government” announced by the “Taliban,” saying that they would “support them to reach a comprehensive political agreement as soon as possible” (in September, President Xi Jinping) and that it “cannot be called comprehensive” (in September, President Putin). At the same time, they virtually showed their support for the “interim government” by demanding that the US government lift the freeze on Afghanistan’s assets in the US, saying that it would be “an obstacle to reconstruction” (in September, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian) and that it would “cause instability and worsen the migration situation” (in September, Russian Ambassador to the UN Vasily Nebenzya).

2 Afghanistan and the terrorism situation

Al-Qaeda stressed “defeat of the United States” and legitimacy of “jihad”

“Al-Qaeda,” which is mainly based in Afghanistan and has been pointed out to have links to the “Taliban” (in July, the UN Security Council ISIL and “Al-Qaeda” Sanctions Committee Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team Report), issued a statement in response to the “Taliban”’s control of Kabul (in August), claiming that it had humiliated and defeated the US, the leading “unbeliever,” characterizing the crackdown as a “great victory over

Major Islamist extremist organizations that issued “statements of congratulations” to the “Taliban”

Asia
“Al-Qaeda”
“Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent” (AQIS)
“Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan” (TTP)
“Hizbul Mujahideen” (HM)
“Ansar al-Islam” (AAI)
“Jamaah Ansharusy Syariah”(JAS)
Middle East
“Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula” (AQAP)
“Tahrir al-Sham Organization” (HTS)
“Hurras al-Din” (HAD)
“Turkistan Islamic Party” (TIP)
Africa
“Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb” (AQIM)
“Al-Shabaab”

the Crusader alliance," and also claiming that the "Islamic Emirate" ("Taliban") had achieved a "historic feat," and praised not only the current supreme leader of the Taliban, Haibatullah Akhundzada, but also the successive supreme leaders.

In addition, "Al-Qaeda"-affiliated organizations

operating in Yemen, Somalia, Algeria, and other countries also issued statements, claiming that the legitimacy of the "jihadist" line had been proven. Islamist extremist organizations active in Asia and the Middle East also issued a series of "congratulatory messages."

The "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL)-affiliated organizations made their presence felt

While "Al-Qaeda" and other groups showed their admiration for the "Taliban," "Khorasan Province," an affiliate of the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL) in Afghanistan, which has been a traditional enemy of the "Taliban," carried out a suicide bombing near Kabul International Airport (in August, more than 180 people died), where crowds of people seeking refuge from the country were

crowding.


Even in September, "Khorasan Province" continued to make its presence felt with a clear hostile attitude to "Taliban" by launching a series of bomb attacks targeting "Taliban" personnel, mainly in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan.

Deepening concerns of the international community

Prior to the "Taliban"'s takeover of Kabul, "Al-Qaeda" was known to be active in 15 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces (in July, UN Security Council ISIL and "Al-Qaeda" Sanctions Committee Analysis Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team Report). Also, in the course of the "Taliban" offensive, a number of prisoners, including "Al-Qaeda" members, were reportedly released from prisons, suggesting the growing power of "Al-Qaeda." In this context, the UN Security Council held a meeting on the situation in Afghanistan and adopted a resolution calling on the "Taliban" not to allow Afghanistan's territory to be used for attacks on other countries, protection of terrorists, training, etc. (in August, Resolution 2593).

As the situation in Afghanistan continued to be chaotic, US Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) David Cohen said at a meeting in Washington DC, "We are already beginning to see some of the indications of potential movement of 'Al-Qaeda' to Afghanistan" (in September), and the US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin also told a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the withdrawal of US troops from

Afghanistan that "Al-Qaeda" could be re-organized and revived. In addition, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US military Mark Milley also sounded the alarm about the threat posed by "Al-Qaeda" and other groups, stating (in September) that "A reconstructed 'Al-Qaeda' or ISIL with aspirations to attack the US is a very real possibility and those conditions could present themselves in the next 12 to 36 months." Furthermore, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon accused the "Taliban" of releasing militants at the UN General Assembly and said that "Afghanistan is once again turning into a hotbed of international terrorism" (in September).

Although the "Taliban" claims that it will not allow other organizations to use Afghanistan's territory to attack other countries, it is not certain that this will be done. In this situation, there are concerns that Afghanistan may become a breeding ground for terrorism, including threats from "Al-Qaeda" and "Khorasan Province," and that the "Taliban"'s "victory over the US" will activate the activities of terrorist organizations in various regions. ( See p.48 "External Situation 4 International Terrorism")

Request for recurrence prevention disposition against Aum Shinrikyo's mainstream group “Aleph”

1 First request for recurrence prevention disposition since the enforcement of the Act on the Control of Organizations

“Aleph” sharpened stance against surveillance disposition

On the so-called Aum Shinrikyo (organization), which operates as three main groups consisting of the mainstream group (“Aleph” and the “group led by Yamada” (see note) and the Joyu group (“Hikari-no-Wa”), the Public Security Examination Commission decided in January to renew the period of the surveillance disposition for the seventh time based on the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder (Act on the Control of Organizations), stating that there were facts sufficient to admit that there was still a risk of indiscriminate mass murder, and the organizations are required to report the current status of their organizations and activities to the Director-General of the Public Security

Intelligence Agency every three months.

Of these, “Aleph,” which is the largest in size, not only stopped reporting the assets of its revenue-generating entity (an entity for the purpose of yoga teaching and sales of goods to its lay members, and in which live-in members are engaged in activities), which should virtually be regarded as the assets of “Aleph,” since February 2020, but also had not reported any matters that should have been reported since May 2021, and they were showing no indication of trying to fulfill their obligations under the surveillance disposition.

Note: The “group led by Yamada” does not use any specific name of its own, so it is referred to by the name of its senior member.

Request for recurrence prevention disposition

The Public Security Intelligence Agency repeatedly instructed “Aleph” to fulfill its reporting obligations in light of the purpose of the surveillance disposition, which is to clarify the activities of organizations that have committed indiscriminate mass murder in the past and still retain dangerous elements related to indiscriminate mass murder, but “Aleph” did not respond to the instructions.

As a result of this failure to report, it was recognized that it had become difficult to ascertain

the extent of the risk of “Aleph” committing indiscriminate mass murder, and therefore, on October 25, the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency requested the Public Security Examination Commission to take a recurrence prevention disposition for the first time since the enactment of the said law, pursuant to Article 8, Paragraph 1 of the Act on the Control of Organizations.


Requirements for recurrence prevention disposition

Latter part of Article 8, paragraph 1 of the Act on Control of Organizations

When an organization has **not submitted a report** or has submitted a false report to the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency, or has refused, obstructed, or evaded an on-site inspection, and it is found **difficult to ascertain the degree of risk with which the organization will commit an act of indiscriminate mass murder**.

Details of request for recurrence prevention disposition

While the recurrence prevention disposition based on the Act on the Control of Organizations is to temporarily suspend the organizations from newly acquiring or using land or buildings, engaging in activities related to solicitation, or other activities,

for a period not exceeding six months, the content of the request for the disposition this time is to require the following dispositions among those stipulated in Article 8, Paragraph 2 of the Act on the Control of Organizations for six months ( see table below).

Details of request for recurrence prevention disposition

Summary of disposition		Details of request
A. Prohibition of new acquisition of land and buildings, etc. (Article 8, Paragraph 2, Item 1)	Prohibiting new acquisition or lease of land or buildings, regardless of the name under which it is done, with or without specifying the area	<u>Prohibiting</u> new acquisitions and leases of land or buildings by "Aleph" <u>without specifying the region</u>
B. Prohibition of the use of land and buildings (Article 8, Paragraph 2, Item 2)	Prohibiting the use, in whole or in part, of specific land or buildings owned or managed by the organization	<u>Prohibiting the use of all or part of certain facilities owned or managed</u> by "Aleph"
C. Prohibition of Solicitation, etc. (Article 8, Paragraph 2, Item 4)	Prohibiting coercing or soliciting others to join the organization, or obstructing them from leaving the organization	<u>Prohibiting coercion or inducement to join "Aleph" or interference with leaving it</u>
D. Prohibition of receiving gifts (Article 8, Paragraph 2, Item 5)	Prohibiting receiving gifts of money, goods or other property benefits	<u>Prohibiting "Aleph" from accepting gifts of money and other property benefits</u>

Submission of Report by Aleph - Withdrawal of Request


After the request for recurrence prevention disposition, while the Public Security Examination Committee was in the process of reviewing the case, "Aleph" filed reports with a due date of May 15 and August 15, which it had not reported, and filed another report with a due date of November 15. In response to these reports, the Public Security Intelligence Agency withdrew its request for recurrence prevention disposition on November 19.

However, since some of the items required to be

reported, such as the assets of the profit-making business, were not reported in any of the reports, the Public Security Intelligence Agency provided corrective guidance and, if the reports remain uncorrected and the situation continues, the agency will take appropriate action with a view to requesting a new recurrence prevention disposition on the grounds that some of the items required to be reported have not been reported.

2 Efforts to prevent the increased danger of "Aleph" in the future

The Public Security Intelligence Agency will take appropriate measures to deter the increased risk of "Aleph" committing indiscriminate mass murder, such as the request for recurrence prevention disposition this time, and will make a contribution to

ensuring public security through the steady implementation of regulatory measures against potentially dangerous groups. ( P.59 "Internal Situation 1 Aum Shinrikyo")

EXTERNAL
SITUATION of
2021

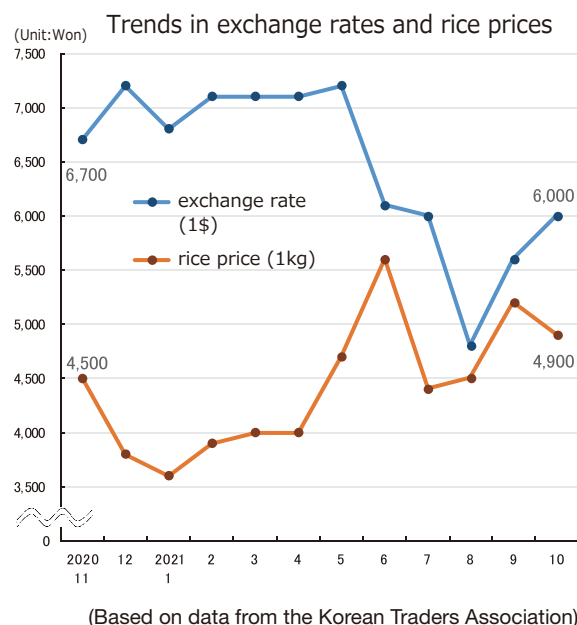
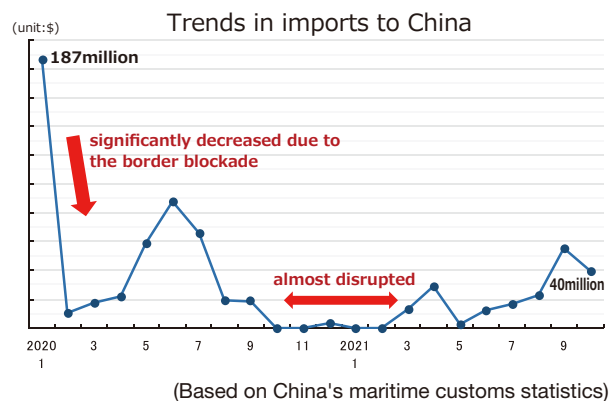
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North Korea struggled to prevent economic chaos as
border blockade dragged onNorth Korean authorities forced to cope with rising prices and food
shortages

The border blockade measures adopted by North Korea at the end of January 2020 to stop the influx of new coronavirus infections were maintained in 2021, and trade with China, which accounts for the majority of foreign trade, continued to be significantly reduced. During this period, there was a move to renovate a military airport into a quarantine base in the suburbs of Sinuiju City, a key point for overland logistics with China, but there was no confirmation of a full-scale resumption of trade. On the other hand, it was reported that North Korea was reluctant to accept monitoring by the "COVAX Facility," a framework for international joint purchase of new coronary vaccines, and that it declined to supply vaccines made in China, suggesting that it was more concerned about sealing the border than vaccines.

In these circumstances, within North Korea, the impact of the prolonged border blockade on the economy and the lives of the local population became apparent. There were reports of sluggish production activities due to shortages of imported materials and raw materials, and stagnation in existing construction projects such as the Pyongyang General Hospital and the Wonsan Kalma Coast Tourist Area. It was also reported that the value of the US dollar and the Chinese yuan fell sharply due to a drop in demand for foreign currencies as a result of the sharp decline in trade, while the prices of foodstuffs such as flour, sugar, and seasonings, as well as pharmaceuticals, soared, and the prices of rice and corn, which had been relatively stable, also soared (in May and June).

In response, in order to stabilize the lives of its residents, General Secretary Kim Jong Un of North Korea issued a "special order" (in June) in recognition of the urgent need for food, seeking to bring the situation under control by releasing the military's stockpiles of food. Furthermore, General



Secretary Kim made a policy speech at the Supreme People's Assembly (in September), stressing that the "10,000 apartment houses" under construction in Pyongyang should be completed by the end of the year, that the shortage of raw materials, power, etc. should be solved on a priority basis, and that the food problem should be solved by such measures as increasing the area of rice and wheat cultivation. On the other hand, in his speech at the "Defense

Development Exhibition" (in October), General Secretary Kim appealed for the strengthening of military power, stressing that the development of the

revolution cannot be considered without the development of defense power, even in the midst of difficult economic conditions.

Under the slogan of "selfless devotion toward work," the government encouraged cadres to further devote themselves, and strengthened thought control among the youth

North Korea held the 8th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in January and, in addition to electing Kim Jong Un as the party's general secretary and forming a new leadership team, the party decided on the policy of activities for the next five years and the "Five-Year Plan for National Economic Development." During the session, they held sectoral meetings to study the draft decisions of the Congress and invited cadres to participate, and after the session, they held a series of meetings for city- and county-level party secretaries and cell secretaries of subordinate organs to disseminate the policy, and encouraged cadres to get involved under the slogan of "selfless devotion toward work." During this period, they dismissed Party Secretary Kim Tu Il, who was in charge of the economy, after only one month in office for setting the wrong economic targets (in February), and ousted high-ranking party and military officials, including Ri Pyong Chol, a

member of the Standing Committee of the Party Political Bureau, for neglecting to enforce policies on disease prevention (in June).

North Korea also changed the name of the "Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League" to the "Socialist Patriotic Youth League" (in April) in order to further mobilize the youth for economic construction, and called on them to become "patriotic youth devoted to the struggle for the building of socialism" (Rodong Sinmun, April 30), and appealed to the youth to respond by bruited the situation where youths from various regions had "volunteered" to work in coal mines and rural areas. Under these circumstances, North Korea enacted the "Law on Provision of Education of Young People" (in September), which is believed to be aimed at strengthening the ideological education of the youth, suggesting that thought control of the youth has emerged as an issue.

With a milestone year involving three generations of leaders approaching, they will focus on promoting their "achievements"

North Korea is expected to continue to maintain a strict quarantine system and limit trade with China as long as it determines that the risk of new coronavirus infection remains. Along with this, as the economy and the lives of the people continue to suffer, it is expected that the government will struggle to stabilize the regime through strengthening economic management and thought control.

In 2022, the 80th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's birth (in February), the 10th anniversary of Kim Jong

Un's election to the highest office in the party and state (in April), and the 110th anniversary of Kim Il Sung's birth (in April) will mark a series of milestone anniversaries for successive leaders, and North Korea is expected to hold military parades, completion ceremonies for construction projects, and other events to coincide with these occasions, in order to demonstrate its military and economic achievements and improve the centripetal force of the regime.

COLUMN 1

Revision of the Rules of the Workers' Party of Korea

The Workers' Party of Korea amended its Party Rules at its Eighth Party Congress. This was the first revision of the Rules since the Seventh Party Congress in 2016. Although North Korea has not released the full text of the amended Rules, according to reports so far, the notable changes are as follows.

1 Removed or modified descriptions of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and Kim Jong Un's name

The parts of the preface that previously referred to the achievements of President Kim Il Sung and General Secretary Kim Jong Il were largely deleted, and many references to "Kim Il Sung" and "Kim Jong Il" were replaced with the term "leader" (*suryong*). In addition, the name of Kim Jong Un was replaced by such expressions as "head" (*suban*), and the color of personal worship was generally reduced.

2 New position of "First Secretary of the Party Central Committee" was created

In the composition of the Secretariat of the Party Central Committee, the new position of "First Secretary of the Party Central Committee" was established, and it was stipulated that the First Secretary would be "a deputy of the Party General Secretary (Kim Jong Un)" and would be elected at the Plenum of the Party Central Committee. This is the first time that North Korea has explicitly stated the establishment of a "deputy" for the supreme leader,

but so far there is no indication that a specific person has been appointed to this position.

3 Corrected text regarding "south Korean Revolution"

The phrase "to achieve the tasks of national liberation and democratic revolution (note)" targeting South Korea, which had been described as the "purpose (goal) of the party" in the preface was deleted and replaced with the phrase "to achieve the tasks of independent and democratic development of (South Korean) society." Although it is presumed that it was removed in a situation where the possibility of achieving the so-called "unification by communism" (*jeokhwa tong-il*) through a socialist revolution in South Korea is low, it seems premature to assume that the party will immediately abandon its campaign to achieve the "unification by communism," since it is a party policy that they have firmly upheld for many years.

(Note) "National liberation and democratic revolution" is to overthrow the South Korean regime and establish a communist-oriented government through a democratic revolution mainly led by South Korean workers, thereby ending up a peaceful reunification between the North and South regimes (Source: Ministry of Unification, South Korea)

COLUMN 2

The Rise of Party Secretary Jo Yong Won

Jo Yong Won, a Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea (in charge of organization), was an alternate member of the Party's Politburo and the First Vice Director of the Party's Organizational Leadership Department before the Eighth Party Congress, but in the leadership appointments at the Congress, he made a "special two-rank promotion" to Presidium Member of the Party's Politburo and Party Secretary, and his rank jumped to the third place.

From the end of 2014, it was frequently reported that Party Secretary Jo Yong Won had been

accompanying Kim Jong Un, which implied that he was one of his closest aides, and since the Eighth Party Congress, he has been reported to be harshly critical of certain cadres and to instruct cadres at Party meetings that Kim Jong Un does not attend. In addition, his presence in the leadership has been growing, as evidenced by his inspection of the reviewing troops at the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of the government military parade (in September).

North Korea demanded that the new US administration change its policy toward the North, while keeping an eye on a policy toward the North of South Korea where the presidential election is coming up

Insisting on reversal of US "hostile policy" toward North, they rejected dialogue proposals

At the Eighth Party Congress (in January), North Korea, with the inauguration of the new Biden administration in the U.S. in mind, asserted that "a key to establish new relationship between the DPRK and the US lies in the US withdrawal of its hostile policy toward the DPRK" (on January 9, Korean Central Broadcasting System), and expressed his policy of taking a hard or soft stance depending on the US response, upholding the "answering force with toughness and good faith in kind."

After that, the Biden administration announced a new policy toward the North, "a coordinated and pragmatic approach" (in April), and the US and South Korean leaders shared their policy toward the North at a summit (in May), and Kim Jong Un said, "We need to get prepared for both dialogue and confrontation" (on June 18, Korean Central Broadcasting System), which the US took as an "interesting signal" and proposed dialogue without preconditions. However, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Son Gwon said that North Korea "is not considering even the possibility of any contact with

the US, let alone having it, which would get us nowhere" (Korean Central News Agency, dated June 23), and Vice Department Director Kim Yo Jong branded the August US-South Korea joint military exercises as "the most vivid expression of the US hostile policy" and accused the US of its dialogue stance being a "hypocrisy" (Korean Central News Agency, dated August 10).

Under such circumstances, General Secretary Kim claimed in his policy speech at the Fifth Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly (in September) that the Biden administration's dialogue proposal was "no more than a petty trick for hiding its hostile acts" (on September 30, "Korean Central Broadcasting") and further claimed in his speech at the "Defense Development Exhibition" (in October) that "US behaviors provide us with no reason why we should believe that they are not hostile" (on October 12, "Korean Central Broadcasting"), indicating that he was seeking concrete actions to demonstrate the withdrawal of the "hostile policy."

Putting pressure on South Korea by putting Vice Department Director Kim Yo Jong front and center, while responding to moves to improve relations behind the scenes

At the Eighth Party Congress (in January), North Korea demanded that South Korea cease hostile actions and implement the agreements between North and South Korea, and expressed its position that the improvement of inter-Korean relations depends on the attitude of the South Korean authorities. On top of that, it condemned the South Korean side for conducting joint US-South Korea military exercises (in March) and for distributing leaflets against the North by a group of North Korean defectors (in April), issuing a speech by Vice Department Director Kim Yo Jong.

On the other hand, North Korea has agreed to exchange letters of intent with South Korea at the highest level behind the scenes since around April, and by the end of July, North Korea agreed to restore the communication line between North and South Korea, which had been cut off when the North-South Liaison Office was bombed in June 2020, and announced that it agreed to "make a big stride in recovering mutual trust and reconciliation" (Korean Central News Agency dated July 27). After that, North Korea refused to respond to the liaison line in opposition to the US-South Korea joint military

exercises in August, and in September, North Korea launched a series of missiles, raising tension; however, when South Korean President Moon Jae-in proposed the adoption of the declaration of the end of the Korean War at the UN General Assembly and expressed his will to work on the realization of cooperative relations between North and South Korea until the end of his term (in September), Vice Department Director Kim Yo Jon, who had been the "strongest advocate" against South Korea until that time, evaluated the proposal positively, and mentioned the possibility of re-establishing the North-South Joint Liaison Office and holding a summit meeting between the two Koreas. In addition,

General Secretary Kim announced in his policy speech that the communication line between North and South Korea would be restored at the beginning of October (in September), and on October 4, communication operations resumed. At that time, North Korea expressed to South Korea that it should "make positive efforts to settle the important tasks which must be prioritized to open up the bright prospect in the future, bearing in mind the meaning of the restoration (of communication lines)" (on October 4, "Korean Central Broadcasting Station), and urged further action by the South Korean side to improve North-South relations.

Amid Corona disaster, new ambassador sent to China to focus on strengthening China-North Korea relations

Since North Korea sealed off the China-North Korea border from the end of January 2020, there has been no official traffic of dignitaries or delegations between China and North Korea, nor has there been any human traffic even on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the signing of the China-North Korea Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in July 2021.

Under these circumstances, North Korea appointed Vice Premier Ri Ryong Nam as its ambassador to China and sent him to Beijing (in February). Since his arrival, Ambassador Ri has met with Song Tao, the head of the International Liaison Department of the Communist Party of China (in March) to inform President Xi Jinping, through an oral letter of General Secretary Kim addressed to President Xi, of the results of the Eighth Party Congress (in January), and also called for China and North Korea to unite in dealing with issues such as relations with the United States. Thereafter, the ambassador met with Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Zhao Kezhi, Minister of Public Security, and Yang Jiechi, Member of the Party Political Bureau and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Party (in May, August, October) to emphasize the strengthening of

China-North Korea cooperative relations, and also contributed an article to the People's Daily, the official newspaper of the Communist Party of China, to evaluate the "strategic communication" between China and the North Korea (People's Daily dated June 21) and to express his support for China on issues such as Taiwan, Hong Kong and Uyghur.

General Secretary Kim also sent a congratulatory telegram to President Xi on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China and the 60th anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between China and North Korea, and on the occasion of the signing of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, he visited the "China-North Korea Friendship Tower" in Pyongyang City to honor the Chinese People's Volunteer Army, emphasizing the importance he attaches to China (in July). Furthermore, in his State of the Nation Address to the Supreme People's Assembly (in September), General Secretary Kim characterized the current international situation as a "new cold war" (September 30, Korean Central Broadcasting Station) and indicated that he would pursue his foreign policy with the US-China conflict in mind.

Developing and deploying weapons in accordance with the policy of strengthening national defense capability

At its Eighth Party Congress (in January), North Korea referred to the status of such developments as multi-warhead missiles, hypersonic weapons, and nuclear submarines, and claimed that it was promoting the upgrading and diversification of its military capabilities. It also referred to the

development targets for various weapons, such as the development of smaller and lighter nuclear weapons and their conversion into tactical weapons, as issues to be addressed in strengthening national defense capabilities over the next five years (see Table 1 below).

Table 1 Names and development status of weapons mentioned by President Kim Jong Un at the Eighth Party Congress

Name of strategic weapons, etc.	Development results and status	Development goals	Status of implementation
intercontinental ballistic rocket (ICBM)	Succeeded in the test-fire of the ICBM "Hwasong Rocket-15" New type gigantic rocket displayed	Improve the capabilities of preemptive and retaliatory strike by further raising the hit rates	—
Super-large hydrogen bomb	Underwent a development to minimize and standardize nuclear weapons and make them tactical ones and complete	—	—
Super-large multiple launch rocket system (MLRS)	Developed and completed	—	—
Ultra-modern tactical nuclear weapons	Developed a series of new type tactical rockets and intermediate-range cruise missiles	—	New tactical guided missile (March 2021) New long-range cruise missile (September 2021) Rail mobile missile (September 2021)
Anti-air rocket complex	Achieved such successes as developing world-class one	—	New anti-air missile (September 2021)
Guidance technology for multi-warhead rocket	Conducted the research for performing one at the final stage	—	—
Supersonic gliding flight warheads	Finished the research into development, and is making preparations for their test and production	Develop and introduce in a short period	Hypersonic missile "Hwasong-8" type (September 2021)
New nuclear-powered submarine	The study of the designing was in the stage of final examination after its completion	Access to nuclear-powered submarine	—
Underwater-launch nuclear strategic weapon	—	Access to underwater-launch nuclear strategic weapon	—
ICBM with the use of solid-fuel engine(Ground and underwater)	—	Push ahead with the work of developing as planned	—

(Based on reporting by the Korean Central Broadcasting Station)

Subsequently, North Korea conducted a launch test of a new ballistic missile in March, followed by a series of tests of cruise missiles, ballistic missiles

and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) in September and October (see Table 2 below).

Table 2 Missile weapon launched by North Korea in 2021

Date of implementation (as announced by North Korea)	Test firing on March 25	Test firing on September 11-12	Firing training on September 15	Test firing on September 28	Test firing on September 30	Test firing On October 19
Date of report	March 26	September 13	September 16	September 29	October 1	October 20
Name	New type tactical guided missile	New type long-range cruise missile	Railway Mobile Missile	Hypersonic missile "Hwasong-8" type	New type anti-aircraft missile	New type submarine-launched ballistic missile
Flight distance	600km	1,500km	800km	—	—	—

(Based on reporting by the Korean Central Broadcasting Station)

On the other hand, North Korea held a military review ceremony (parade) in commemoration of the Eighth Party Congress (in January) and a parade of paramilitary and public security forces to celebrate the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the Republic (in September), but did not disclose its intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), and in October, it held its first "Defense Development Exhibition," displaying strategic weapons developed in the past five years, including ICBMs, to show off the results of its development. In his speech at the exhibition, General Secretary Kim accused the South Korea of its "attempt to modernize

its armaments which has recently become intolerably undisguised," referring to the development and introduction of new types of weapons in South Korea, and stressed that the strengthening and development of national defense capability is "an invariable priority policy" (on October 12, Korean Central Broadcasting System) and that he would continue to work on the development and deployment of weapons. However, he showed a stance of separating weapons development from diplomacy with the US and South Korea, saying, "Our arch enemy is the war itself, not south Korea, the US" (on October 12, Korean Central Broadcasting System).

To the US, it maintained the position of calling for a change in its policy toward the North and sought a time to resume dialogue

Behind the North Korea's insistence on the US "reversal of its hostile policy toward North Korea," it seems that the lack of progress in negotiations with the former Trump administration has taught North Korea a lesson, and North Korea is expected to continue to carefully assess the change in the Biden administration's stance toward the North.

It is also believed that North Korea will continue to conduct various missile launch tests in accordance with its own weapons development program, keeping in mind South Korea's weapons development trends, and will also consider conducting ICBM launch tests while keeping an eye on its relations with the US.

While keeping a close eye on the South Korean presidential election, North Korea may react depending on how the South Korea will play out

In terms of relations with South Korea, it is believed that North Korea expects the current ruling party to continue in power, and while closely monitoring the next South Korean presidential election (in March 2022) and having cards such as

the inter-Korean summit and General Secretary Kim's visit to South Korea, it likely will respond to the moves of the Moon Jae-in administration, which is about to complete its term in office.

1-3

North Korea was all about condemnation of Japan

North Korea did not participate in the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

While much attention was focused on the possibility of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics (Tokyo Games) becoming an opportunity for dialogue between North Korea and Japan, the US and

South Korea, North Korea announced on the Ministry of Physical Culture and Sports website (in April) that it had decided not to participate in the Tokyo Games, citing the spread of the new

coronavirus infection, and did not send any athletes or government officials to the Games.

In response to North Korea's non-participation in the Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced (in September) that it would suspend the North Korean Olympic Committee until

the end of 2022, in violation of its obligation to participate in the Games as stipulated in the Olympic Charter. As a result, North Korea will not be able to participate in the Beijing Winter Olympic Games (in February 2022) with national status.

Claiming that the issue of abductions of Japanese nationals has been "resolved" even after the new Japanese government took office

Regarding the issue of the abductions of Japanese nationals, Japan has repeatedly called for dialogue with North Korea, since May 2019 when then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced his intention to meet General Secretary Kim Jong Un unconditionally. However, North Korea has not shown any willingness to respond, and even in response to then-Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's policy speech (in January), which referred to unconditional dialogue, North Korea claimed that "(it is) undebatable" (Korean Central News Agency dated February 2). Also, when Japan co-hosted a UN symposium on the abduction issue with the United States, Australia, and the European Union (in June), it asserted that the abduction issue had been "resolved in an impeccable

and irreversible manner" and that "countries that take up (the refrain of Japan) are well-advised to restrain themselves" (article by Ri Pyong Dok, researcher at the Institute for Studies of Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dated June 15).

Under these circumstances, when the new Kishida administration took office in Japan (in October), North Korea reiterated that the abduction issue was "long resolved perfectly and completely" and asserted that "it is most likely that the DPRK-Japan relations would be set gloomer if the Japanese Prime Minister makes a wrong start from the beginning" (article by Ri Pyong Dok, researcher at the Institute for Studies of Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dated October 7).

While condemning the developments surrounding the abduction issue and other issues, North Korea is prepared to watch the Japanese government's stance toward the North

No change has been seen in North Korea's stance of refusing to engage in dialogue aimed at resolving the abduction issue, and it appears that it will continue to watch the Japanese government's stance

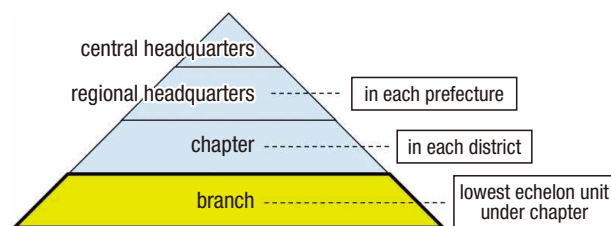
toward the North while condemning trends related to the abduction issue and the treatment of Koreans residing in Japan.

General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) worked to strengthen the foundation of the organization

Focusing on strengthening its lowest echelon units "branches" in response to General Secretary Kim Jong Un's congratulatory letter

In response to General Secretary Kim Jong Un's call in his congratulatory letter to the "Conference of Representatives of Branches of Chongryon-2020" (in November 2020) to "fully enhance the functions and roles" of branches, the lowest echelon units, the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) held the fourth meeting of the 24th term of its Central Committee (in March) and announced a policy to strengthen efforts to rebuild and revitalize branches and rebuild the organizational base. Based on this policy, Chongryon organized the "Three-Month Intensive Door-to-Door Visit Campaign of Selfless-Devotion toward Work" (in May-July) and had activists from each regional headquarters visit the homes of compatriots in the region to arouse their interest in the organization and encourage them to participate in its activities. However, since the Corona disaster prevented them from making sufficient visits, Chongryon Central Committee summoned the chairman of each regional headquarters (in June), and Chairman Ho Jong Man

strongly reprimanded the activists and encouraged them to strengthen their branches. Also, as a further response measure, Chongryon Central Committee proposed "Strengthening the Fight against Epidemic, 20-Day Intensive Campaign for the Selfless-Devotion toward Work for Compatriots" (in July 1-20), and as a support for the members' vaccination against the new corona virus, the senior members of the branches were asked to help members make appointments, take them to the venue, and check their physical condition after the vaccination, in order to build support for the organization and strengthen cooperation between the branches and members.



(Based on the website of Chongryon (<http://www.chongryon.com>))

Focus on rallying Korean compatriots in Japan, including efforts to support Korean schools and artistic performances

Following the confirmation of defeat of the Korean schools (in July) in all lawsuits filed in five locations across the country (Tokyo, Aichi, Osaka, Hiroshima and Fukuoka) seeking the application of "free high school education" to Korean schools, Chongryon held protest rallies in various locations with support groups and appealed its policy to continue working for the application of "free high school education." It also announced (in April) that it had collected about 1.07 million signatures, exceeding its goal, in a "One Million Signature Campaign" calling for the application of "tuition-free childhood education and nursing" and support measures for "similar facilities for infant education" to the kindergarten group of Korean schools. In

addition, Chosun University prepared and released a protest video to be sent to the United Nations Human Rights Council (in August) and held a protest rally at the building of the House of Councilors (in September) regarding the exclusion of Chosun University students from the "Emergency Student Support Benefit" system.

On the other hand, in order to rally its members and other compatriots residing in Japan, Chongryon instructed each regional headquarters to resume the national tour performance of Kumgangsan Opera Troupe (P.29 COLUMN), which was cancelled in 2020 due to the spread of the Corona disaster, in order to "raise the patriotic enthusiasm of activists and compatriots," and in response to this,

Kumgangsan Opera Troupe started its national tour performance "Sol (Pine)" in 2021, starting with a

performance in Itami, Osaka (in July).

Demanding the cancellation of the US-South Korea joint military exercises, etc. in cooperation with its compatriots in South Korea and abroad

In response to a call by the "June 15 Joint Declaration Implementation South Side Committee" (South Side Committee), a pro-North Korea organization in South Korea and other groups, Chongryon participated in international protests demanding a halt to US-South Korean joint military exercises and a change in the US "hostile policy" toward North Korea, and together with anti-South Korean and pro-North Korean organizations in Japan,

staged a demonstration against the US Embassy and consulates in Japan (in August). In addition, on the third anniversary of the "September Pyongyang Joint Declaration" (September 19, 2018) and the 14th anniversary of the "October 4 Declaration" (October 4, 2007), a commemorative conference was held together with the "South Side Committee" and others to call for unification and national unity between North and South Korea.

Focus on rebuilding the branches under the leadership of Ho Jong Man

In an effort to continue rebuilding its branches, Chongryon is expected to intensify its service-oriented branch activities to meet the various demands of the general membership, including measures against the new coronavirus infection. Also, it is assessed that Chongryon will put more efforts in requesting local governments and lobbying pro-North Korean people in Japan in order to obtain public support for Korean schools.

In September 2020, Chongryon elected Pak Ku Ho as the First Vice Chairman and shifted to a new regime of "two centers" with Chairman Ho Jong Man, but Chairman Ho Jong Man still holds the real power, and the Ho Jong Man regime is believed to basically continue at the 25th Chongryon Congress to be held in 2022. However, depending on the intentions of North Korea and the health of Chairman Ho, there is no denying the possibility of a change.

COLUMN

Kumgangsan Opera Troupe recognized by North Korea as the "only overseas folk art troupe"

The "Kumgangsan Opera Troupe" (in Kodaira City, Tokyo), an affiliate business of Chongryon, was formed in June 1955 to promote and disseminate Korean folk music and traditional dance, and to contribute to the enhancement of the ethnicity of Koreans residing in Japan. In April 1974, they gave a performance of the opera "Songs of Mount Kumgang" in North Korea under the patronage of then President Kim Il Sung, and in June of the same year they were awarded the "Order of Kim Il Sung," North Korea's highest honor. Recognized by North Korea as "the only overseas national art troupe" (see the website of Chongryon (<http://www.chongryon.com>)), the troupe has performed at art festivals held in North Korea since 1982, and has also sent its members to North Korea for long periods of time to learn dance and performance techniques, and some of its members have been awarded the titles of

"People's Actor" and "Meritorious Actor" by North Korea.

Since its formation, the group has performed more than 7,000 times in Japan, not only for Koreans residing in Japan, but also for the general public, performing operas and dances in praise of North Korea's building of socialism. In 2021, performances began in July, and by the end of November, performances had been held in 10 locations throughout Japan, including Tokyo, Niigata, and Aichi.

Also, in overseas, they performed in Berlin (1973), Moscow (1985), Beijing and five other cities in China (1986), and New York (1999), and in addition, in response to the growing momentum for reconciliation following the North-South summit meeting in June 2000, the group performed in Seoul in December of that year.

2-1

On the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, the Xi Jinping administration showed off its ability to govern, but faced many challenges ahead of the 20th Party Congress

Promoted the legalization of domestic governance under the leadership of the Party, emphasizing the superiority of the one-party rule system

The Communist Party of China celebrated its 100th anniversary. In order to build momentum for the 100th anniversary celebration (on July 1), since February the Xi Jinping administration conducted activities for all Party members to learn about the Party's history, and since around May, it expanded the scope of its activities to all layers of society in an effort to instill awareness of the "great contribution of the Party" among the people. In addition, with the aim of ensuring the Party's leadership in domestic governance, it developed laws and regulations concerning the Party's organization and internal personnel. Furthermore, in the "Plan of building the Rule of Law-based China (2020-2025)" formulated based on the "Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law" (in January), which is at the center of the Xi administration's "rule of law" policy, the policy of institutionalizing the Party's leadership into law was clearly stated.

The Xi administration also thoroughly governed the domestic economy and society, tightening regulations on large IT platform companies that were previously beyond the Party's strong control, and applying anti-monopoly laws and administrative guidance to stabilize the domestic economy.

On the military front, it enacted the "National Defense Law of the People's Republic of China" (Revised National Defense Law) at the beginning of the year, which stipulates the "defense of national sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, and the interests of security and development," to demonstrate its stance against external threats and to strengthen its centripetal force by improving the status and treatment of military personnel. Also, General Secretary Xi Jinping said, "Our Party has always attached great importance to the cause of

science and technology" (in May), and praised the successful landing of the "Tianwen-1" probe on Mars (in May) and the mission of the crew of the "Shenzhou-12" spacecraft on the space station (in June) to emphasize the successive "achievements."

In Hong Kong, while protests against the Xi administration and the Hong Kong government on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Party were expected, the election system for the Chief Executive and other positions was changed (in May) under the policy of promoting "Hong Kong governance by patriots" (in January, General Secretary Xi). Stability was also ensured by the arrest (in January) of former pro-democracy members of the Legislative Council under the Hong Kong National Security Safeguarding Law, and the closure (in June) of "Apple Daily," a media outlet that had frequently voiced opposition to Chinese government policies.

In this context, at the congress celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Party, General Secretary Xi delivered an "important speech," in which he declared the "full completion of moderately prosperous society," which had been set as the goal to be achieved by the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Party, thus demonstrating the superiority of the one-party rule system by showing "achievements," and also made a strong appeal for the need to "move forward with the common prosperity for the entire people" on the "new journey." Then he emphasized that "without the Communist Party of China, there would have been neither new China, nor the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation" and called on the people to "make sure to uphold the Party's overall leadership" in the future.

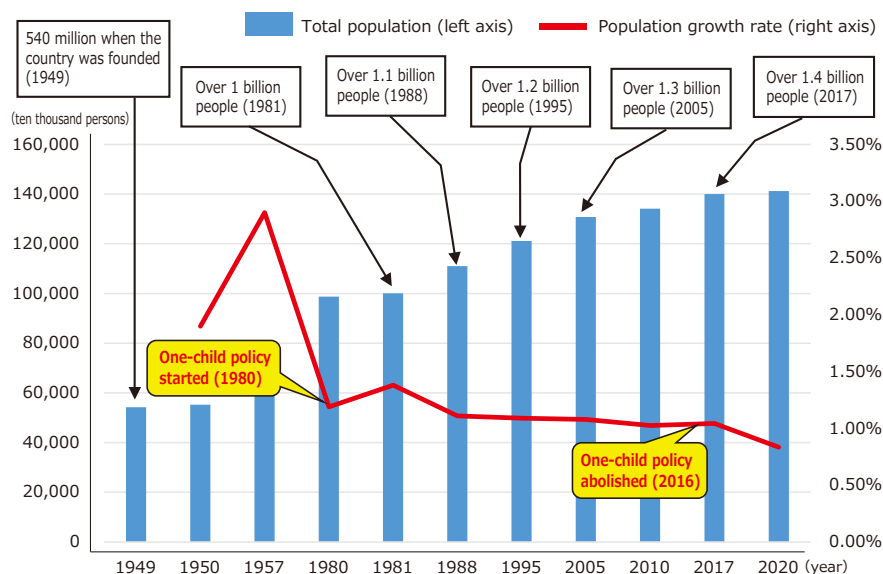
Population surpassed 1.4 billion, but the pace of growth was slowing, and the government was concerned about the impact on economic and social development and struggled to counteract population decline

According to the results of the "7th National Population Census of China" released by the Chinese government in May, the first since 2010, while the total population increased to 1,411.78 million, the largest in history, it became clear that the average annual population growth rate had been declining and the birth rate had been declining even since the abolition of the "one-child policy" (2016). The Chinese government has expressed concern about the impact on economic and social development of demographic problems, such as the declining birthrate and aging population, as well as the decline in the working population, stating that while "the demographic dividend still exists" (Ning Jizhe, Commissioner of China's National Bureau of Statistics, May), "adjustments and adaptations are needed in the economic structure and the development of science and technology" (ditto).

Following this, in July, the Chinese government announced a policy of allowing and encouraging the birth of a third child in order to promote a more balanced population transition. In addition, recognizing that the increasing burden of childcare was one of the factors contributing to the decline in the birth rate, the government took measures to curb the rising cost of education by making cram schools non-profit and imposing restrictions on the listing of educational service companies on stock markets. It also instructed local governments to formulate and implement specific measures to stem the decline in population.

On the other hand, with the aging of the population, the share of social security expenses in

Trends in China's total population and population growth rate



(Based on the "National Population Census", "China Statistical Yearbook," etc.)

	Year 2010 (6 th)	Year 2020 (7 th)
Total population	1,339,720,000	1,411,780,000
Average annual growth rate	0.58%	0.53%
Population sex ratio (male per 100 female)	105.2 persons	105.1 persons
Composition by age		
Child population (0-14 years old)	222,390,000	253,380,000
Working population (15-59 yrs old)	940,490,000	894,380,000
Elderly population (60 years old-)	176,840,000	264,020,000
Ethnic composition ratio		
Han Chinese	91.5%	91.1%
Ethnic minority	8.5%	8.9%
Composition by urban/rural area		
Urban	49.7%	63.9%
Rural	50.3%	36.1%

(Based on the "National Population Census")

fiscal expenditures was increasing, and there were concerns that the government's measures to the falling birthrate, such as subsidies for childcare and education, may put further pressure on public finances. There are indications within the country that "the population will reach its peak in 2022," and population decline is becoming a reality.

Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games on the horizon, resurgence of new coronavirus infections on alert

Continuing from 2020, China experienced localized and sporadic outbreaks of new coronavirus infections, and in January, outbreaks were confirmed mainly in the northeast region. After that, the number of new infections decreased, but when the "delta variant" spread around the world, China also saw another outbreak in July and August.

In response to this situation, the Xi administration issued an order (in August) to "resolutely prevent mass infections," and took strict measures such as simultaneous inspections, movement restrictions, and mandatory quarantine in each region, and at the same time, the officials and quarantine officers of the regions where the infection spread were punished for "insufficient infection prevention measures."

China is preparing to host the Beijing Olympic

and Paralympic Games (Beijing Winter Games) in February 2022, which will help boost national prestige. From the perspective of preventing "epidemics," General Secretary Xi and Vice Premier Han Zheng inspected the situation on the ground in January and September, respectively, and recognized that "epidemics are a major test for the Beijing Winter Games," and listed infection control as the top priority for the success of the Beijing Winter Games, indicating a policy of "appropriate prevention and control" to thoroughly control the spread of infection. It was then decided (in September) that no spectators from abroad would be allowed to attend the Winter Games in order to prevent and control infection.

Plenary session of the Party Central Committee was held and the "Third Historical Resolution" was adopted

The Communist Party of China held the Sixth Plenum of the 19th Central Committee (in November). The conference adopted the "Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the major achievements and historical experiences of the Party over the past century" as the

"Third Historical Resolution" following the "Historical Resolutions" adopted during the Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping eras, and also decided to hold the National Congress of the Communist Party of China (20th Party Congress) in the second half of 2022.

With the 20th Party Congress coming up, domestic stability was a top priority, but problems abound

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Party, General Secretary Xi declared that "substantial development must be made" in the "common prosperity" set as the new economic and social development goal following the "full completion of the moderately prosperous society." It is assessed that behind such declaration lay the General Secretary's intention to emphasize the legitimacy of the one-party rule system by demonstrating the Party's stance that it will play a "leading role" in achieving its goals in anticipation of the 20th Party Congress, as well as to solidify the path to long-term power for General Secretary Xi himself.

For this reason, the Xi administration is expected to seek domestic stability by successfully hosting the Beijing Winter Games and further tightening its control over the economy and society. However, in terms of people's lives, the administration has yet to address issues such as income inequality and high unemployment, and the social security system does not cover all citizens. In addition, on the economic front, there are a pile of problems, such as the financial crisis of the major real estate company "Evergrande Group," and the risks that private enterprises face are becoming apparent. It remains to be seen whether the administration will be able to come up with effective concrete measures to deal

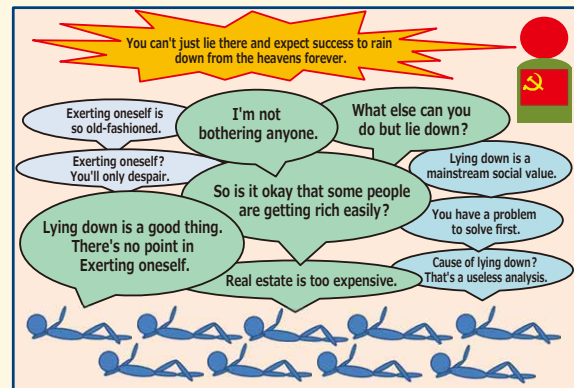
with these issues in order to gain centripetal force, while avoiding dissatisfaction from various segments

of the domestic population that may arise as a result of its policy management.

COLUMN

The "lying down" tribe has become a hot topic, especially among young people, and it could be a hindrance to economic development

In China, in 2021, the existence of the "lying down" (*tang ping*) tribe has become a hot topic, especially among the younger generation. The "lying down" tribe refers to those who have given up on getting ahead and improving their standard of living, and have left the competitive world behind to work only when they feel like it. Behind the emergence of the "lying down" tribe, there is a widespread feeling of deep disappointment and apathy toward the future among young people who have been exposed to a harsh educational environment since childhood, and have witnessed the current situation of ordinary people who are exposed to a difficult working environment but whose lives are not getting any better. Regarding this, the "China Youth Network," which is run by the Communist Youth League of China, published a commentary on the "lying down" tribe (in May), and while avoiding total denial by saying, "In the face of an unchangeable fate, there is no choice but to lie down and rest," it also complained, "Even if you lie down in a comfortable environment, success will never come from heaven," indicating that the authorities recognize that the "lying down" tribe is a problem that cannot be overlooked. Also, while in China, posts criticizing the authorities are generally targeted for deletion, more than 100 comments in the comment section of the commentary remain undeleted, including vague expressions of dissatisfaction as well as criticisms of the authorities' attitude of encouraging people to struggle by shelving structural problems in China such as soaring real estate prices and income disparity, indicating that the authorities are responding carefully to dissenting opinions.



(Based on comments made in response to a commentary on the "lying down" tribe in the "China Youth Network" dated May 23, 2021)

While General Secretary Xi Jinping has identified "common prosperity" as "a key feature of Chinese-style modernization" (in August) and has urged all the Party and people to unite and exert themselves for its basic realization by the middle of this century, the "lying down" tribe is at odds with what General Secretary Xi advocates for the Chinese people. The existence of this group could be attributed to the fact that the Party prioritized economic growth based on the "the theory of allowing individuals to grow rich first," which states that those who become wealthy first will help those who come after them, but the distribution of wealth did not function sufficiently, resulting in a situation where those who come after them were left behind, and the increase of the "lying down" tribe could be a "hindrance" to the administration.

Even after the Biden administration took office, there was no prospect of a significant improvement in relations with the US, and conflicts with European and other countries over human rights issues surfaced

In response to the inauguration of US President Joseph Biden, China expressed that it "expects the US side to move closer to us" (in January, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China), indicating its expectation for the improvement of US-China relations under the new US administration, and the Biden administration also positioned China as "(US-China relationship has) adversarial, competitive, and still also cooperative aspects" (in January, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken). However, as China reacted to the fact that the US reaffirmed its recognition of human rights violations in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region as "genocide" (in January), and that the US designated 24 Chinese and Hong Kong officials as those who violated Hong Kong's autonomy (in March), the friction between the US and China increased over universal values such as fundamental human rights and democracy. Against this backdrop, at the top-level US-China diplomatic meeting held in Alaska (in March,) the two sides reportedly exchanged accusations for more than an hour, with Yang Jiechi, member of the Party Political Bureau and Director of the General Office of the Central Commission for the Work of Foreign Affairs, opening the meeting by saying, "The US does not have the qualification to say that it wants to speak to China from a position of strength", and thereby the cleavage formed between the two countries became clear. Furthermore, China announced (in July) that it would impose sanctions on US-related individuals and organizations based on the "Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law" (see "1 The US and China continued to mutually restrain each other" in Special Feature 1 Economic Security on page 6) in response to the US sanctions imposed due to the situation in Hong Kong, demonstrating its firm opposition to US pressure.

Also, while the Biden administration indicated its policy of cooperating with China in areas where

cooperation was possible, China, while expressing its willingness to cooperate on issues such as climate change, maintained its stance that "the atmosphere of good bilateral relations must be a necessary condition for cooperation" (Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in July). Furthermore, in a meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman (in July), China presented the US side with a "two lists" that included the withdrawal of sanctions against China as a precondition for improving relations (see table "Two lists" presented to the US" next page), and President Xi Jinping, in a videoconference with President Biden, said, "I hope that President Biden will exercise political leadership to bring the US policy toward China back on a rational and realistic track" (in November), indicating that the US side's compromise is necessary to improve the relationship, and there is still no prospect of a significant easing in US-China relations.

With European countries also, conflicts over human rights issues and the situation at the Taiwan Strait surfaced. In particular, regarding the Uyghur issue, the European Union (EU) joined the US and other countries in imposing sanctions on China for the first time since the "June 4 Tiananmen Square Incident" (1989) (in March), and China immediately condemned the EU for "seriously damaging China-EU relations" (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, in March) and took retaliatory measures such as banning European lawmakers from entering China. In response, the European Parliament froze deliberations (in May) on ratification of the "Comprehensive Investment Agreement" reached in principle with China in December 2020, and the conflict over human rights issues also affected economic and trade relations. Furthermore, in response to the inclusion of the Uyghur issue in the summit declaration of the Group of Seven (G7) summit (in June,) China criticized the G7, calling it

"'pseudo-multilateralism' based on group politics" (Yang, Director of the General Office of the Central

Commission for the Work of Foreign Affairs, in June).

"Two lists" presented to the US (as identified) (Based on materials released by China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

List of Corrective Action Requirements for the United States	Status of implementation
Withdrawal of visa restrictions for members of the Communist Party of China and their families	×
Withdrawal of sanctions against Chinese leaders, officials, and government departments	×
Withdrawal of visa restrictions for Chinese students	△
Withdrawal of pressure measures against Chinese companies	×
Stopping harassment of Chinese students	Unknown
Removal of pressure measures against Confucius Institutes	×
Withdrawal of the designation of Chinese media as "foreign agents" or "foreign missions"	×
Withdrawal of extradition of Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou	○ Returned to China by plea bargain (in September)

List of key individual issues that the Chinese side concerns with
Ban on travel visas to the US for certain Chinese students
Unfair treatment of Chinese nationals in the United States
Harassment and attacks on Chinese embassies and consulates by US illegal elements
Growing anti-Asian and anti-Chinese sentiment in the US
Violence against Chinese nationals in the United States

Appealing the practice of "multilateralism" and trying to gain support from the international community

In response to such pressure and criticism from the West and other countries against China, China appealed the "unfairness" of such pressure and criticism, saying that they were "interfering in China's internal affairs in the name of human rights" (Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in June) and at the same time, it developed its diplomacy in all directions in order to gain broad international support for itself, for example, by putting forward its stance of emphasizing cooperation and collaboration with the international community on measures against infectious diseases and economic reconstruction.

At the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Boao Forum for Asia (in April, Hainan Province), which China emphasizes as one of its "home diplomacy," President Xi emphasized online his willingness to promote international cooperation on the new corona vaccine and climate change issues, as well as the joint construction of "One Belt, One Road," and

appealed that China "always builds world peace, contributes to global development, and defends international order." On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, President Xi also held the "Leaders of the CPC and World Political Parties Summit" (in July, online format), where he appealed for stronger international coordination to build the "Community of Common Destiny for Mankind" that he advocates, and called for joint opposition to "various acts of unilateralism under the guise of multilateralism" with the United States in mind.


With regard to European countries, where conflicts over the Uyghur issue and other issues have surfaced, China stressed that "we are not a structural rival" (Foreign Minister Wang Yi, in March) and expressed cooperation in such matters as economic fields and climate change issues, while expressing hope that Europe would maintain an independent foreign

policy and not follow the US, and discouraging stronger cooperation with the US on policies toward China and other issues. With regard to relations with Russia, which President Xi regards as a "model of a new type of international relations" (in June), the two sides decided to extend the "Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation Between the People's Republic of China and Russian Federation," which was to expire in July, and confirmed their policy of practicing "true multilateralism" (in June), thus continuing to show off their close ties to the outside world.

In terms of relations with "developing countries," President Xi reiterated his position that "we will forever be a member of developing countries family" (in July), and expressed his intention to provide \$3 billion in aid over three years for infectious disease control and economic reconstruction (in May) and to provide free China-made vaccines (in September), and emphasized their stance of representing the interests of "developing countries" in the international community, stating that "we should give more representation and voice to developing countries" (President Xi, in September).

Increasing instability in China's surrounding environment

China is believed to have strong concerns about the formation of a "siege network" against China by the US and other related countries in the Indo-Pacific region, including the South China Sea, which it considers strategically important. Following the first teleconference of the four leaders of the "Quad" framework of Japan, the US, Australia and India (in March), the second meeting in Washington D.C. (in September) expressed their commitment to cooperate for a "free and open Indo-Pacific," and the three countries of Australia, the UK and the US further established the new "Australia-UK-US Trilateral Security Partnership" (AUKUS), regarding which China said, "We must assess the nature of the AUKUS and the US 'Indo-Pacific strategy,' and work together to oppose any attempts to destroy regional peace and stability against the common will of regional countries" (Foreign Minister Wang, in October).

On the other hand, in Afghanistan, where China borders, the Taliban took control of the capital Kabul (in August,) just before the deadline for the withdrawal of US troops. China held an "anti-terrorism exercise" (in August) with Tajikistan because "some terrorist organizations are gathering in northern Afghanistan" (Xinhua dated August 19), and also asserted that "the 'three forces' (terrorist organizations, secessionist groups, and religious extremist groups) must be strictly dealt with in the face of the complex and rapidly changing regional security situation" (President Xi in September). It is assessed that China is concerned about the spillover of this situation into China's domestic affairs amid the increasing instability in the surrounding environment. ( For information on the Taiwan issue, see p. 40, "2-4 As China steps up pressure on Taiwan, the international community's attention was focused on the situation in the Taiwan Strait").

Xi Jinping's administration was forced to navigate the difficult waters between "confrontation" and "cooperation"

There is an awareness in the Chinese government that "the world is facing once-in-a-century changes, but the time and momentum are with us" (President Xi in January), and it is assessed that the Chinese government will aim to "shape a more just and equitable new international order" (President Xi, in May), which means a more favorable environment for China, by driving measures against the new

coronavirus infection, global economic recovery, and "multilateralism." At the same time, as China prepares for the Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games scheduled for 2022 and the 20th Party Congress, it is believed that China is aware that "an international environment based on peace and stability is necessary" (President Xi, in October).

With no prospect of resolving the "confrontation"

with the Western countries, China, as to the US, expressed the recognition that it "opposes defining Sino-US relations as 'competitive'" (Yang, Director of the General Office of the Central Commission for the Work of Foreign Affairs, in October), and will curb tensions on security issues and stage "cooperative" diplomacy on issues such as climate change, while with Europe, it is assessed to expand

areas of cooperation, especially in the economy, and to urge the European countries to maintain distance from the US in their policies toward China. However, there is little room for choosing "weak-kneed" diplomacy, which could lead to a decline in the administration's centripetal force, and the administration may be forced to navigate a difficult path.

COLUMN

China's Quest to Become "Beloved China"

Since its inception, Xi Jinping's leadership has emphasized that "We should firmly tell our China's narrative and also firmly convey the voice of China" (National Conference for the Work of Publicity and Thought, in August 2013), and has emphasized external communication to enhance China's international influence and image. However, in reality, China's rapid and opaque expansion of its military power and its "hegemonic" behavior in the oceans have raised the concerns and alarm of the international community, and especially in recent years, as China's confrontation with the West has deepened over the Uyghur issue, the situation in Hong Kong, and the origin of the new coronavirus, Chinese diplomats have shown aggressive and provocative foreign policy, known as "wolf-warrior diplomacy," which has caused a backlash from the international community.

Against this backdrop, the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held a group study session on "Strengthening China's International Communication Capacity Building" in May. At the group study session, General Secretary Xi delivered a speech in which he said, "Although China's international communication capacity and influence have notably improved, the country faces new situations and tasks as well," and he also

instructed, "we must make greater efforts to improve the persuasiveness of China's discourse, and China's ability to lead the international public opinion," and "we must possess humbleness and humility and strive to shape a reliable, beloved and reputable image of China." These comments by General Secretary Xi attracted a lot of attention from abroad, such as "... a sign that China may change its aggressive diplomatic stance" (BBC, dated June 2).

However, General Secretary Xi has also recognized (in September) that in the international community, "we must refrain from stepping or giving way to issues of principle, and safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests with unprecedented will and quality," and is expected to continue to take a hard-line stance against external "threats" to what he considers China's "core interests." On the other hand, the group study session also showed the recognition that "we must adopt communication methods that are tailored to different regions, countries, and audiences," and that "we must win over the majority and expand the circle of friends of international public opinion who are friendly with China," and it remains to be seen what changes may be observed in future external communications, including diversification of content and methods according to the target audience.

Expectations for new development in Japan-China relations following the inauguration of the new Japanese administration

China tenaciously continues to make unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the vicinity of the Senkaku Islands, and has been promoting the improvement of Japan-China relations through practical cooperation using the economy as a lever, while being wary of Japan's complicity in the "siege against China" by strengthening Japan-US cooperation mainly in the security field.

In this context, after the inauguration of the Kishida administration, President Xi Jinping, in a

congratulatory telegram to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, stated that "developing cooperative relations between China and Japan is in the fundamental interests of the two countries and two peoples" (in October), and expressed hope for the expansion of bilateral exchanges and dialogues in his first Japan-China summit phone call (in October), saying that he "hopes to open up new prospects for the development of bilateral relations."

Promoting cooperation between China and Japan through support for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

Amidst the stagnation of exchanges between Japan and China due to the effects of the new coronavirus infection, China expressed its "support" for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, which had been thought to be in jeopardy, in telephone talks between the foreign ministers of Japan and China (in April) and between President Xi and International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach (in May), and stressed that China would "provide support" for the hosting of the games (Chinese Ambassador to Japan

Kong Xuanyou, in June).

Even after the Games were closed, China reported that the fact that the Games were held in the midst of the spread of the new coronavirus infection was "a victory for and by all humanity" (Global Times dated August 9), and that "the successful experience of the Tokyo Olympics will help the Beijing Olympics" (General Administration of Sport of China, in August) to emphasize that it would help Beijing to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Major statements and media coverage of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

Foreign Minister Wang Yi (April 5)	We would like to maintain communication on mutual support for hosting the Tokyo Olympics and the Beijing Olympics (Japan-China Foreign Ministers' conference call)
President Xi Jinping (May 7)	The Chinese side would like to continue to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and support the hosting of the Tokyo Olympics (phone conversation with IOC President Bach).
Xinhua News Agency (May 11)	There is growing support in the international community for the hosting of the Tokyo Olympics. The success of the Games will require the cooperation and efforts of all participants.
Chinese Ambassador to Japan Kong Xuanyou (June 23)	The Chinese side will continue to provide support to the fullest extent of its ability for the safe and successful holding of the Tokyo Olympics.
Global Times (August 9)	The Tokyo Olympic took place amid a severe COVID-19 rebound, yet the excitement went beyond the expectations. This is a victory for and by all humanity.
Xinhua News Agency (August 9)	The Tokyo Olympics, which were not easy, came to an emotional close. People at the closing ceremony didn't seem to want to leave, and tonight Tokyo left the Olympics with unforgettable memories.

(Based on the websites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and the Chinese Embassy in Japan, and Chinese media reports)

Strong opposition to Japan's moves on Taiwan, Hong Kong and human rights issues

On the other hand, China strongly opposed Japan's moves in matters that it considers "internal affairs."

China criticized Japan for emphasizing "the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait" and expressing concern about the human rights situation in Hong Kong and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in the joint announcement of the Japan-US Security Consultative Committee (Japan-US "2 + 2") (in March), with Foreign Minister Wang Yi saying that China and Japan "should ensure that the bilateral relations do not get involved in the confrontation between major countries" (in April), and added, "We oppose Japan's interference in China's internal affairs" (in April) to dissuade Japan from strengthening its criticism of China in cooperation with the US and other countries. Also, in response to the joint statement of

the Japan-US summit meeting (in April) which clearly stated the same thing regarding Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson said, "We are firmly against it" (in April).

Furthermore, it claimed that the holding of an online meeting on foreign and defense policy between Taiwanese and Japanese ruling party officials (in August,) and the mention of the situation in the Taiwan Strait by Fumio Kishida, the former Chairman of the Policy Research Council of the Liberal Democratic Party (then), ahead of the LDP presidential election, as "interfered in domestic affairs" (a Foreign Ministry spokesman), and called for the "appropriate handling of serious and sensitive issues such as Taiwan relations" during the Japan-China summit phone call (in October).

China also restrained Japan over maritime rights and historical awareness

China maintained its stance of restraint on Japan's maritime interests and historical awareness, which are pending issues between Japan and China.

With regard to maritime rights and interests, vessels belonging to the China Coast Guard tenaciously approached the Senkaku Islands, including the longest-ever streak (157 days) of continuous navigation in the contiguous zone off the Senkaku Islands, and also enacted (in February) the Law on Governing the Coast Guard of the People's Republic of China, which stipulates the responsibilities of the China Coast Guard and its authority, including the use of weapons.

Regarding the issue of historical awareness, Foreign Minister Wang criticized the visit of Japanese ministers to Yasukuni Shrine on the anniversary of the end of WWII, saying, "It is a challenge to human conscience and international justice" (in August), and criticized it, saying that all countries "should strongly condemn such act". Furthermore, at a ceremony held (in September) to commemorate the "90th anniversary of the Liutiaohu Incident," Zhao Leji, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Party

Central Committee, emphasized that "the September 18 Incident was the starting point of the Anti-Japanese War and the opening of the global anti-fascist war," and even after the new Japanese administration took office, China called for an appropriate response to the perception of history at the Japan-China summit phone call (in October), and also opposed Prime Minister Kishida's offering of *masakaki* at Yasukuni Shrine, saying that "Japan should make a clear break with militarism" (Foreign Ministry spokesman, in October).

In addition, regarding the policy of releasing treated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the ocean, China called the Japanese ambassador to China to protest against the policy, saying that China "resolutely oppose" (in April), and even thereafter, Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang stated in a teleconference of BRICS foreign ministers that "(the disposal of such water) concerns the life and health of people in all countries" and that "(Japan) must not discharge the water as it wishes" (in June), in an attempt to make the policy an international issue by criticizing Japan's response on various occasions.

In anticipation of the "50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China," China sought to maintain and develop good relations with Japan

As China continues to confront the US and other Western countries in a variety of fields, it is wary of Japan's complicity in Western pressure and criticism against China, but at the Japan-China summit phone call (in October), it called for the promotion of "constructive and stable China-Japan relations that meet the demands of a new era."

With the "50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan" coming up in 2022, China stressed that it "hopes that

the two sides will jointly embrace this significant historical juncture and open up new prospects for the development of bilateral relations" (President Xi, in October), and it is expected that China will focus on strengthening relations with Japan through visiting dignitaries, governmental and private-sector exchanges, and the expansion of practical cooperation in the economic field, with the aim of stabilizing and developing Japan-China relations.

2-4

As China steps up pressure on Taiwan, the international community's attention was focused on the situation in the Taiwan Strait

As China intensified its pressure on Taiwan, stressing that "reunification of the motherland is a historic mission," Taiwan's cooperation with the West and other countries was growing

China stepped up its offensive for "reunification" with the stance that "we must deter secessionist activities by 'Taiwan independence' forces and interference by foreign forces and push forward with the process of reunification" (Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Wang Yang, in January).

As part of the pressure measures against the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) government, Taiwan's agricultural products were embargoed one after another (in March and September), and Executive Yuan President Su Tseng-Chang and others were banned from entering mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao (in November). When the new coronavirus infection spread in Taiwan, China announced that it would provide new coronavirus vaccine made in China that was not yet approved in Taiwan (in May), and some local administrative leaders in Taiwan showed interest in the vaccine. As for the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT), the largest opposition party in Taiwan, which held its presidential election in September, General

Secretary Xi Jinping sent a telegram of congratulations to former New Taipei City Mayor Chu Li-luan upon his election and encouraged cooperation between the two parties.

In response to these Chinese efforts, the Taiwanese authorities gave leading Taiwanese companies the authority to negotiate with European pharmaceutical companies to secure vaccines. Furthermore, in addition to strengthening relations with the US, the authorities sought to expand its external sphere of activities against the backdrop of the growing interest of the international community in the situation across the Taiwan Strait.

In terms of relations with the US, the US Department of State eased restrictions on contact with Taiwan (in April), and a US congressional delegation visited Taiwan several times (in June and November), indicating that personnel traffic has become more active. On the economic front, a "supply chain dialogue" was held between the US and Taiwan over the supply of semiconductors (in February). In addition, negotiations on the "Taiwan-US Investment and Trade Agreement," which had

been suspended since 2016, resumed (in June).

In addition, a "Taiwanese Representative Office" was established in Lithuania (in November). This was the first time that a representative body bearing the name "Taiwan" was established in a UN member state. In addition, when China applied to join the

Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) (on September 16), Taiwan immediately applied to join the CPTPP (on September 22), demonstrating its willingness to actively participate in the international economic partnership framework.

As China's activities in the vicinity of Taiwan became more active on the military front, the US and other countries expressed interest in the situation in the Taiwan Strait one after another

China indicated that it would not hesitate to use force, saying, "We sternly warn 'Taiwan independence forces' that 'independence means nothing but war'" (Ministry of National Defense spokesman, in January). General Secretary Xi also reiterated his stance on the issue of Taiwan at the "110th Anniversary Meeting of the 1911 Xinhai Revolution" (in October), saying that "the historical task of the complete reunification of the motherland must be fulfilled definitely." On the military front, the Chinese People's Liberation Army continued conducting a military demonstration such as conducting military exercises around Taiwan and sending a record number of military aircraft into Taiwan's air defense identification zone on any given day since the Ministry of National Defense began issuing announcements (in October). Furthermore, China strongly dissuaded the US from involvement in Taiwan, saying at the US-China summit (in November), "Some people in the US intend to 'use Taiwan to control China,' but playing with fire would get you burned and ruined."

In response to China's threatening behavior, President Tsai Ying-wen emphasized in an interview with the US media that Taiwan would be able to defend itself in the event of an emergency and that it could receive support from countries with common values, and acknowledged that the US has sent troops to Taiwan to train the Taiwanese military (in October).

The international community showed its growing

interest in the situation in the Taiwan Strait at various international summit-level meetings, such as the joint statement announced at the G7 summit (in June), which clearly stated that "we underscore the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait." Also, the US decided to sell arms to Taiwan for the first time under the Biden administration (in August), had warships sail frequently in the Taiwan Strait, and conducted military exercises in the waters southwest of Okinawa and the South China Sea with five other countries including the UK (in October) to counter China's military threats against Taiwan.

China is expected to continue to exert pressure on Taiwan through various means, including military and economic, in an attempt to reduce the centripetal force of the DPP administration, while strengthening its efforts to reach out to countries that are increasingly concerned about the situation in the Taiwan Strait and to prevent Taiwan from expanding its influence.

Major summit-level meetings where the phrase "underscoring the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait" was included in the statement

Japan-US Summit Meeting (in April)

US-South Korea summit (in May)

Japan-EU summit (in June)

US-EU summit (in June)

G7 Leaders' Meeting (in June)

COLUMN

China's trend toward acquisition of Taiwan's advanced technology

Against the backdrop of the US-China conflict, China is said to be seeking to acquire Taiwan's advanced semiconductor-related technologies in order to reduce its dependence on external sources for semiconductors. Taiwanese media and others have pointed out that China's methods for acquiring advanced technologies include hiring Taiwanese engineers by offering high remuneration, approaching Taiwanese engineers by posing as Taiwanese or third-country companies, and acquiring patented technologies of Taiwanese companies through corporate acquisitions.

In response, Taiwan recognized China's acquisition of advanced technology as "a threat to our (Taiwan's) science and technology industry and economic development" (in March, report of the Mainland Affairs Council, the Taiwanese authorities' section on China), and has strengthened measures to ensure its economic security. Specifically, the administration

emphasized that it would impose fines for offering employment in China and for publishing various advertisements (in April), revised existing laws and regulations to regulate the visit to China of engineers with important technologies, punished the leakage of trade secrets related to the same technologies outside Taiwan as a violation of national security, and announced a policy to regulate the activities and investment in Taiwan of foreign, Hong Kong, and Macao capital with Chinese or other investments (in July and September).

Taiwan has earned a high reputation in the international community for its manufacturing and development of semiconductors, which are the key infrastructure supporting the digital society, and it is conceivable that there may be increased interest in China's moves toward Taiwan's advanced technologies in the future.

Economic security-related laws that the Taiwanese authorities are considering revising

Name of law	Major revisions
Act Governing Relations between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area (A basic law on interaction with China)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Require prior application for visits to China for those working with core national key technologies ● Capital from third regions (foreign countries, Hong Kong, Macau) invested by Chinese capital shall be required to obtain the same permits as Chinese capital when conducting business activities in Taiwan ● Those who falsify their names in order to evade regulations when Chinese capital invests in Taiwan shall be punished. Also, when Chinese capital or capital invested by Chinese capital in a third region conducts business activities in Taiwan, those who use false names to evade regulations shall be punished.
National Security Act (A law to punish acts of favoring the enemy, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Those who infringe upon the trade secrets of the nation's core key technologies on behalf of foreign countries, mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, extraterritorial hostile forces and organizations established by them shall be punished.

(Based on reports from the "Taiwan Central News Agency," etc.)

3-1

As ruling party "United Russia" won lower house election, Putin administration's authoritarian structure became more pronounced**Tightening the noose around anti-regime groups and independent media to ensure the ruling party's victory in the lower house election**

In Russia, the authorities significantly tightened the noose around anti-regime and independent media ahead of the lower house elections (in September).

In January, the Russian authorities arrested anti-Putin activist Alexei Navalny and cracked down on the protests that had broken out across Russia in the wake of his arrest as unauthorized demonstrations. According to the human rights organization "OVD Info," about 4,000 citizens were arrested during the demonstration on January 23 and about 5,800 during the demonstration on January 31. Also, in June, three affiliated groups led by Navalny were designated as "extremists" by the Moscow City Court and were forced to disband or suspend their activities.

Furthermore, the Russian authorities have been tightening regulations on the Internet and social networking services, and since January, the penalties for failing to comply with requests from the authorities to remove "undesirable information" from the Internet were significantly stiffened. In August, Google, a major IT company of the US, was fined a total of 20 million rubles (about 30 million yen) for two days on August 17 and 19 for failing to comply with a request to remove content related to the "Smart Voting" campaign led by Navalny and others

to prevent the ruling party candidate from winning the election, increasing the pressure on the anti-regime movement.

In addition, since April, the Russian authorities have designated a number of independent media outlets critical of the Putin regime as "foreign agents" reminiscent of "spies," numbering 33 media organizations and 62 individuals (journalists) as of November 15. Russian companies have been refraining from advertising in these media, and some of these media have been forced to suspend their activities due to financial difficulties.

In the lower house elections (held in September) while the activities of anti-regime groups and independent media were greatly restricted, the ruling party "United Russia," which supports President Putin, won 324 seats, more than two-thirds of all seats, although the number of seats decreased from the previous election.

With a presidential election coming up in 2024, the Putin administration is expected to continue to apply heavy-handed pressure on the anti-regime faction and the independent media in an effort to ensure the stability of the regime.

Continuing to show off ties with China, while waiting to see what the new Biden administration will do

In relations with the US, after the Biden administration took office in January, while the US and Russia reached an agreement (in February) on the extension of the New START (New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty), which had been a pending issue between the US and Russia, in March, the situation continued to deteriorate due to US sanctions

against Russia in connection with the attempted poisoning of Navalny and President Biden's statement that he considered President Putin a "killer." In April, when Russian troops increased their presence near the border with Ukraine and tensions in the surrounding region increased, President Biden called for direct dialogue with President Putin, and a US-

Russia summit was held in Geneva, Switzerland in June. Following the meeting, the two countries held two rounds of deputy-ministerial-level talks on "strategic stability" over arms control and other issues (in July and September).

Also, in terms of relations with Europe, where sanctions against Russia had been prolonged as in the US, Russia's gas pipeline to Germany, "Nord Stream 2," whose construction had been temporarily stalled due to the opposition of the then Trump administration, was completed in September after the Biden administration showed its de facto acceptance of its construction (in May).

On the other hand, in terms of relations with China, the leaders of China and Russia participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for a project to install Russian reactors at a nuclear power plant in China in May, and in June they agreed to extend the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation Between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, demonstrating the good relationship between the two countries. On the military front, the Russian military participated for the first time in the People's Liberation Army's military exercise ("West/Interaction-2021") held in China in August, and in October, following the "Joint Sea-2021" joint military exercise by the Chinese and Russian navies in the Sea of Japan, the naval vessels of the two countries passed through the Tsugaru Strait and the Osumi Strait in such a manner that both countries' naval vessels circled Japan, an

unprecedented move. In response to the chaotic situation in Afghanistan also, China and Russia are aligned in their efforts to establish an "inclusive" government (see p. 14, "Special Feature 3 The fluctuating situation in Afghanistan and trends related to international terrorism").

In addition, President Putin addressed the situation in Ukraine and Belarus in his annual presidential address in April and appealed to the West not to cross the "red line" and discouraged intervention. In terms of relations with Belarus, while the Lukashenko regime came under international criticism for its crackdown on dissidents, including the forced landing of an Irish civilian airliner in the country and the detention of an independent media journalist (in May), Russia showed its support for the regime, and in September, a 200,000-strong military exercise, "Zapad-2021," was held in western Russia in collaboration with Belarus.

For the time being, the Putin administration is expected to assess the Biden administration's approach to Russia, but it is also expected to continue to show off its partnership with China without losing its stance against the West. At the same time, it is assessed that Russia will continue to maintain and expand its influence in the surrounding regions in order to secure its position as "one of the influential centers of the contemporary world," as stated in the "National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation," a guideline for security policy revised in July.

COLUMN 1

Vaccination rates continued to stagnate due to distrust of domestically produced vaccines

In 2020, Russia announced the approval of the domestically produced vaccine "Sputnik V" as the world's first new corona vaccine, showing off its superiority both domestically and internationally, but in 2021, it faced sluggish growth in vaccination rates.

Russia set a goal of achieving a 60% vaccination rate by autumn, but a June poll conducted by the independent public opinion research organization "Levada Center" showed that 54% of the public did not want to be vaccinated due to distrust of domestically produced vaccines, and the vaccination rates continued to stagnate.

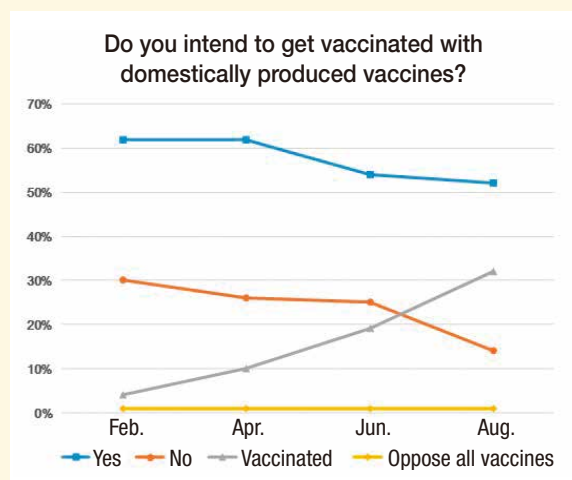
As vaccination rates continued to stagnate, local governments increasingly introduced policies to make vaccination compulsory, such as Moscow City's requirement (in June) for employers to vaccinate at

least 60% of their employees in the service industry. However, public opposition to domestically produced vaccines was persistent, and President Putin, facing the upcoming lower house elections, said, "Certain regions introduced mandatory vaccination-related rules to prevent a lockdown from happening," seeking the public's understanding of the policy of mandatory vaccination introduced by local governments, adding, "I once said that I do not support mandatory vaccination, and I continue to adhere to this point of view," (in his remarks at the "President's Direct Line--Public conference with citizens" on June 30), and expressed his opposition to mandatory vaccination itself. President Putin's comments suggest that he intends to direct public dissatisfaction over mandatory vaccination to local governments and

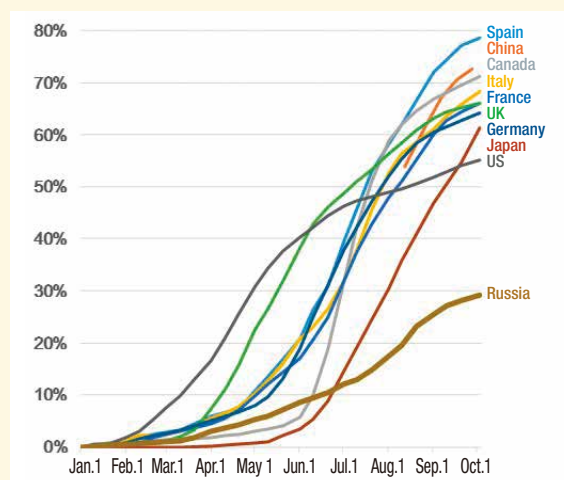
avoid responsibility for his own actions.

While vaccinations are progressing in developed countries and economic activities are resuming, the Putin administration, unable to find an end to the

epidemic, is faced with the difficult task of navigating between increasing vaccination rates, a prerequisite for resuming economic activities, and public opinion, which opposes mandatory vaccination.



Public opinion survey on domestic vaccination
(Based on data from the Levada Center)



Percentage of people who have been vaccinated
(Based on data from "Our World in Data")

COLUMN 2

Sino-Russian cooperation in the field of advanced technology

In Russia, the introduction of the 5th generation mobile communication system (5G) is being phased in, following the lead of other major countries. In July 2020, Russia's mobile communications giant "MTS" obtained the country's first 5G license, and in March, conducted a 5G demonstration test for the general public in Moscow.

It is noteworthy that Huawei, a major Chinese telecom equipment manufacturer, is in a leading position in the 5G business in Russia, and its telecom equipment was used in the demonstration test of MTS in Moscow as well. Russia has a history of relying on foreign technologies in the construction of 3G and 4G networks, and it has been pointed out that domestically produced technologies account for about 6% of Russia's telecom equipment market and almost 0% of the mobile telecom sector (as of 2020). As part of Russia's national plan, Rostek, a state-owned company involved in the military industry, will be in charge of manufacturing 5G equipment in the country, but some Russian telecom operators want to

speed up the development of their business by relying on foreign products. On the other hand, Huawei has also decided to divert its previous investments in the US to Russia since it was designated as a target of US sanctions in 2019. Sino-Russian cooperation in these advanced technology fields is not limited to the 5G project, but extends to many other areas such as communications satellites and smart city projects.

However, there are also moves on the Russian side to strengthen caution against the outflow of information and technology to China. In Russia, there were two cases of scientists being caught by the authorities for passing confidential information to Chinese intelligence agencies in 2020, and another case in 2021. While Russia needs China's cooperation in areas such as communications technology, it is also likely to be nervous about defending its own technology so as not to lose its limited advantage.

3-2

While maintaining political dialogue with Japan, it maintains a hard-line stance on the Northern Territories issue

While confirming the continuation of negotiations for a peace treaty, Russia stressed the position of separating the negotiations from the territorial issue

Despite the restrictions on human traffic between Russia and Japan, such as the cancellation of the "visa-free exchange" program following 2020 due to the spread of the new coronavirus infection, a high-level political dialogue was maintained, including a meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Japan and Russia on the occasion of the UN General Assembly (New York, in September) and a summit teleconference between Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and President Vladimir Putin (in October).

In this context, President Putin expressed his willingness to continue negotiations on a peace treaty, claiming that Japan had not responded to Russia's security concerns regarding the Japan-US alliance, and that "the ball is in our partner's court" (in September), while calling the lack of a treaty between the two countries "nonsense" (in September).

On the other hand, with regard to the Northern Territories issue, following the passage of Russia's

revised constitution in 2020, which includes a clause prohibiting the cession of territory and negotiations for such cession, the Russian side made a series of claims that negotiations themselves were prohibited, such as "We have no right to discuss the transfer of sovereignty over Russian territories" (Dmitrii Medvedev, Deputy Chairman of the Security Council, in February). Moreover, Russia reiterated the traditional position of separating negotiations for a peace treaty from the territorial issue, saying, "Our Japanese colleagues are constantly talking about their desire to move toward concluding a good (peace) treaty which they see in a form where the 'territorial problem' is to be solved first, but such agreement does not exist" (Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, in July). Russia's stance of aiming to conclude a treaty while shelving the territorial issue is expected to continue in the future.

Announcing the introduction of a tax exemption system for the Northern Territories, in an attempt to accelerate development led by its own country

With regard to the development of the Northern Territories, the Russian side further strengthened its stance of proceeding on its own initiative.

Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin visited the island of Etorofu with several ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister Yury Trutnev, who is in charge of Far East development, and stated that a tax exemption system that would exempt the region, including the Northern Territories, from major taxes such as corporate income tax and property tax was being considered (in July). Later, at the plenary session of the "6th Eastern Economic Forum" (Vladivostok, in September), President Putin announced the introduction of the tax exemption system and expressed his intention to attract domestic and foreign investment, including from Japan.

Regarding the tax exemption system, the Russian

side emphasized its stance of promoting its own development in the Northern Territories based on the application of Russian laws and regulations, saying, "The new system in 'Kurile' is also for the benefit of Japan, but we do not choose investments based on nationality; 'Kurile' is Russian territory" (Deputy Prime Minister Trutnev, in September).

In addition, on the military front, Russia conducted a field training exercise for the "S-300V4" surface-to-air missiles (in April) deployed in the Northern Territories (in December 2020), as well as a large-scale military exercise that could be described as unique in that it mobilized more than 10,000 soldiers, 32 aircraft, and 12 ships (in June). After that, despite Japan's repeated protests, it repeatedly conducted military exercises in the Northern Territories, showing off its effective control.

Energy infrastructure development plan underway in the Northern Territories

The government of Sakhalin Oblast, which has "administrative jurisdiction" over the Northern Territories, has set a goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2025, and is promoting the conversion of its main fuel sources of coal and diesel to gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG), as well as the construction of new renewable energy production facilities.

With regard to energy conversion, there are plans to build LNG receiving and processing facilities on the islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri and Shikotan, and to use LNG transported from Sakhalin for power generation and other purposes. During his visit to the island of Etorofu in July, Prime Minister Mishustin

indicated the central government's support for the project by mentioning the need to contribute to the project from the federal budget.

On the other hand, in the area of renewable energy, in addition to the production facilities that are already in operation, albeit on a small scale, there are plans to build new production facilities and renovate existing ones, including geothermal, wind, and solar.

If these plans for the development of a series of energy infrastructure in the Northern Territories are realized, there is concern that they may lead to the further strengthening of Russia's effective control, such as the stabilization of electricity supply and the revitalization of industrial activities associated with it.

4-1

The Ongoing Threat of International Terrorism

The year 2021 marked the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, counter-terrorism measures were strengthened around the world, and as a result, "Al-Qaeda" and the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL) suffered major damage, with many of their top leaders and fighters killed. However, the two organizations did not disappear and continued their activities during 2021. In addition, terrorist

attacks by ISIL- and Al-Qaeda-related organizations continued to occur in various parts of the world, and terrorist attacks by those inspired by Islamist extremism also occurred.

Regarding the Taliban's seizure of power in Afghanistan (in August), the possibility was pointed out that the country could become a breeding ground for terrorism.

COLUMN

Use of crypto assets by terrorist organizations and others

Cryptographic assets such as Bitcoin are characterized by immediacy, such as the fact that international transactions do not take long, anonymity, such as the fact that information leading to the identification of users is kept secret, and speculative elements, such as the expectation of profit margins from price fluctuations. In this context, the number of users of cryptographic assets is increasing around the world, with more than 10,000 types of assets.

On the other hand, due to the anonymity and other characteristics of crypto assets, there are concerns about their use by terrorist organizations and their affiliates for fundraising activities.

As the UN Security Council pointed out that the use of cryptographic assets related to the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL) and "Al-Qaeda" is expanding (Report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the UN Security Council ISIL and "Al-Qaeda" Sanctions Committee, in July), terrorist organizations are believed to be using cryptographic assets for fundraising activities in the Middle East, Asia, and other regions under the guise of "donations" to their fighters.

In August 2020, the US Department of Justice announced that it had uncovered more than 300

accounts of crypto assets with links to "Al-Qaeda" and other groups. In October of the same year, a man was arrested in the UK for allegedly sending more than 50,000 pounds worth of Bitcoin to Syria to support ISIL, which operates in Syria. Under these circumstances, terrorist organizations have been calling for the use of Monero, a cryptographic asset that is more anonymous than Bitcoin and whose remittance information is less likely to be leaked to third parties, claiming that "Bitcoin transactions will be traced."

Also, in Afghanistan, although the "Taliban," which has seized control of the country, declared the eradication of the drug industry (in August), which is said to have been the source of funding, it is said that they have fallen into financial difficulties due to the fact that sanctions, etc. have restricted many legitimate means of raising funds and the value of money has plummeted (in August), and some believe that they will continue to rely on the drug industry. Under these circumstances, there are concerns about the use of crypto-assets as a means of fund-raising, as a person claiming to be an "agent" of the "Taliban" was reported to have expressed that he would welcome the start-up of crypto-asset businesses in Afghanistan.

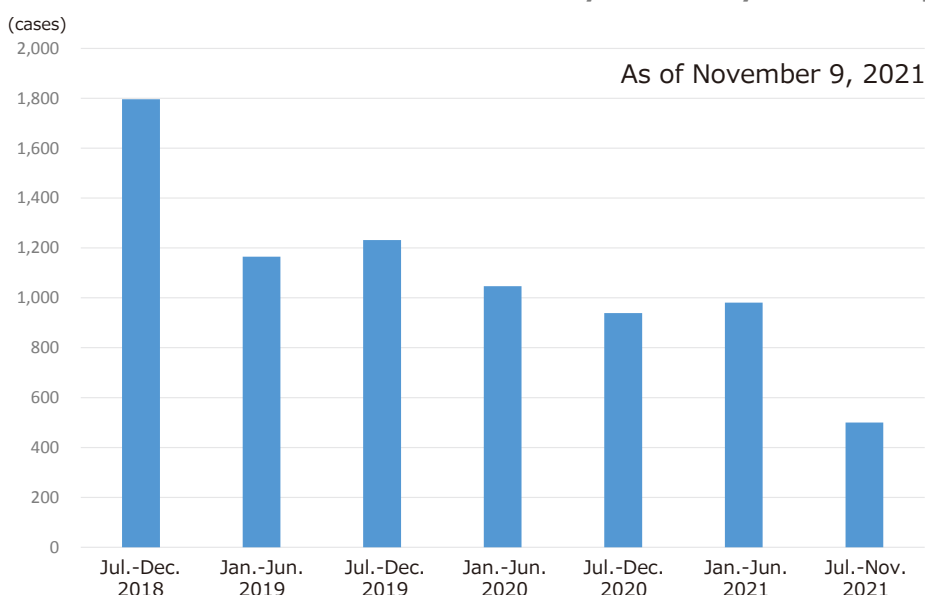
4-2

“Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant” (ISIL) continued its activities**Continued operations in Syria and Iraq**

The “Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant” (ISIL) continued to maintain a certain level of power in Syria and Iraq, hiding in desert and mountainous areas in both countries, and, although the number of attacks has been decreasing, continued to conduct terrorist attacks throughout the year, such as ambushing security forces and killing civilians who cooperate with security forces. (See p. 51, “4-4 A series of terrorist attacks related to the ‘Islamic

State of Iraq and the Levant’ (ISIL), ‘Al-Qaeda,’ and other groups occurred around the world”)

ISIL was said to have about 10,000 fighters in Syria and Iraq, and it was also said to still have \$25 million to \$50 million in funds, although it was reported to be decreasing. (Report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the UN Security Council ISIL and “Al-Qaeda” Sanctions Committee, in February and July).

Number of terrorist incidents claimed by ISIL(in Syria and Iraq)**Propaganda activities were declining, but emphasized results of own and affiliated organizations**

Although the frequency of ISIL's statements decreased and the types of media it used decreased, ISIL demonstrated its presence by regularly calling for terrorism and promoting the results of its battles in Syria and Iraq through its senior members' statements and the Arabic-language weekly “Al-Nabaa,” and showed the influence of its own organization and the maintenance of its network by repeatedly disseminating the results of the battles by

its affiliated organizations in various regions.

The statement by Supreme Leader Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurashi has not been issued since he assumed the position of Supreme Leader in 2019 (as of November 20), but the statement by Abu Hamza al-Qurashi, the spokesman, was issued through the Al-Furqan Media Foundation, which issues ISIL senior members' statements (in June). The statement praised the activities of the ISIL-affiliated “Central

Africa Province" (ISCAP), which was active in Mozambique and elsewhere, and the ISIL-affiliated "West Africa Province" (ISWAP), which had succeeded in eliminating Abubakar Shekau, the supreme leader of the rival "Boko Haram," in

Nigeria and elsewhere. The statement also called on its all affiliated organizations to storm prisons and release imprisoned fighters of the organization, as it did last year.

4-3

"Al-Qaeda" called for carrying out terrorist attacks in various regions as it continued its propaganda activities

While the number of statements issued was on a downward trend, they continued their propaganda activities in response to various situations

Although the number of statements issued by "Al-Qaeda" was declining, the group continued to conduct propaganda activities through statements, its organ-magazines, and other media.

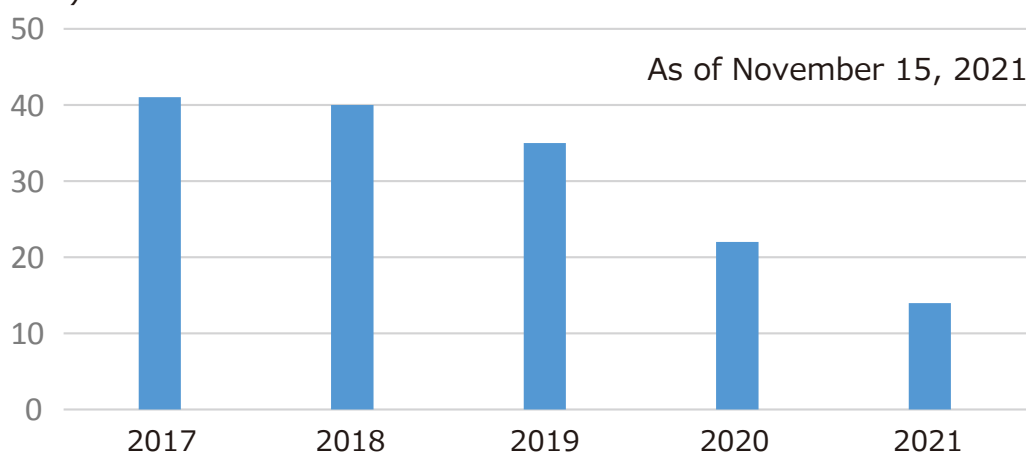
"Al-Qaeda" issued a statement (video) calling for terrorist attacks against Myanmar's interests, claiming that Muslims were being persecuted in the country (in March). Also, in its Arabic-language organ-magazine "One Ummah," they seized on the attack on the US Capitol (in January) and claimed that "the US is on fire," and also showed interest in the new coronavirus infection, saying that the virus was made in a biological weapons factory, and that "it makes no difference whether the virus came from

the US, Russia, China, Japan, or European countries, the history is filled with criminal acts by these countries," recognizing Japan as a "criminal nation" (in April).

In addition, "Al-Qaeda" also praised in a statement (video) the terrorist attack on the French weekly newspaper "Charlie Hebdo" (in January 2015), which had published caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, as "an attack that should be written in gold ink in the history of Islam" (in July), and it is believed that they tried to maintain and expand their influence by taking up issues that were likely to attract the attention of Muslims and emphasizing the past achievements of their forces.

Number of statements and other materials issued by "Al-Qaeda"

(cases)



Issued a statement on the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the US, calling for terrorism against Israel and the US

In a statement (video) issued on the 20th anniversary of the attacks on the US, "Al-Qaeda" supreme leader Ayman Zawahiri claimed that "19 mujahidin (jihadists) plunged a blade into the heart of the US, inflicting pain that the US has never experienced (in September). Zawahiri then claimed that his faction's operation, namely, "Jerusalem will never be Judaized," was continuing successfully in various areas, and urged Muslims to "take revenge against the Zionist occupier (Israel) and its supporter (the US)," calling for terrorism against both countries, following a statement (written, in May) issued on the armed conflict over Palestine. In addition to this, Zawahiri emphasized the "defeat of the US" in Afghanistan, claiming that "the US has lost the battle after 20 years of war."

Regarding "Al-Qaeda" supreme leader Zawahiri, the possibility of his death in 2020 was pointed out

(Report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the UN Security Council ISIL and "Al-Qaeda" Sanctions Committee, in February), but in his statement issued in September (video), there was a reference to the January terrorist attack on the Russian military base in Raqqah province in northern Syria, and the death theory pointed out in 2020 was denied.

In addition, the online book supposedly written by Zawahiri that was published the day before the video (in September) stated the date of writing as "April 2021," suggesting that he was still alive as of April.

"Al-Qaeda" is expected to take advantage of the withdrawal of US troops in Afghanistan for its own activities, and continue to make its presence felt by calling for terrorist attacks against Western countries and others in response to various situations.

4-4

A series of terrorist attacks related to the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL), "Al-Qaeda," and other groups occurred around the world

In the Middle East and Africa, the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL), its affiliates, and "Al-Qaeda" affiliates actively conducted activities

In Syria, the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL) continued to conduct terrorist attacks throughout the year, using small arms and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to ambush and attack security forces and kill civilians cooperating with security forces, mainly in desert areas along the Euphrates River, which flows through the eastern province of Deir ez-Zor and the northern province of Raqqah, and in the central province of Homs and other areas.

In Iraq, ISIL conducted suicide bombings targeting Shiite residents in the capital Baghdad for the first time in three years since 2018 (January), and then conducted a series of attacks targeting Shiite residents in the same city (in April, June, and July). In addition, in the northern provinces of

Kirkuk, Salahuddin, Ninawa, and the eastern province of Diyala, as in Syria, terrorist attacks were carried out throughout the year using small arms and IEDs, ambushing and attacking security forces, and killing civilians who cooperated with security forces, as well as blowing up numerous power towers (in June, July, and August), affecting civilian life.

In Egypt, the ISIL-affiliated "Sinai Province" continued to conduct terrorist attacks in the northeastern province of North Sinai, such as bombings against security authorities (in January) and the self-confessed killing of Christians (in April).

In Libya, although the two conflicting political forces agreed to a ceasefire, while the talks to

resolve the conflict were stalled, an ISIL-affiliated "Libya Province" carried out a suicide bombing, etc. against the security authorities in the southern province of Sebha (in June).

In the Sahel region, the "Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims" (JNIM) which is affiliated with "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb" (AQIM) continued to be active in Mali, conducting attacks against the country's military (in February), suicide bombings against French forces (in June), and suicide bombings against the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) (in June). In addition, the ISIL-affiliated group "ISIL Greater Sahara" conducted terrorist attacks in Niger, including an attack on a village in the southwestern province of Tillabéri (in January) and an attack on the house of the Speaker of the National Assembly in the capital Niamey (in June), and continued terrorist attacks on the military and civilians in Chad, including an attack on a military base in the western province of Lac (in April). France, which conducted military operations in the Sahel region, announced that it had killed the organization's supreme leader, Adnan Sahrawi (in September). In Nigeria, the ISIL-affiliated "West Africa Province" (ISWAP) repeatedly conducted terrorist attacks on the country's military forces in the northeastern state of Borno, and also attacked Abubakar Shekau, the supreme leader of the rival "Boko Haram," as a result of which he blew himself up and was reportedly killed (in May). While absorbing defectors from "Boko Haram," the organization expanded its activities to neighboring countries, such as Cameroon, where it conducted terrorist attacks on military bases in the northern

and far northern provinces (in July).

In Somalia, the ISIL-affiliated "Somalia Province" carried out a bombing targeting a vehicle carrying security minister and others in the northeastern autonomous region of Puntland (in June). In addition, "Al-Shabaab," an "Al-Qaeda"-affiliated organization based in the country, took advantage of the security vacuum caused by the political confrontation over the general elections in the country to expand its area of control in central and southern parts of the country, and also conducted frequent terrorist attacks on the country's military forces. In the neighboring country of Kenya as well, the organization continued to conduct terrorist attacks, such as the bombing of the country's military forces in Lamu County in the southeast (in April).

In Mozambique, the ISIL-affiliated "Central Africa Province" (ISCAP) attacked and temporarily took over the city of Palma in the northern province of Cabo Delgado (in March). Even after the organization withdrew from the city following a mopping-up operation by the military forces of the country, it continued to conduct terrorist attacks against the military forces of the country (in July).

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, ISCAP conducted a series of attacks on military units in the northeastern province of North Kivu, and conducted its first suicide bombing (in June). The organization was also active in the neighboring country of Uganda, where it conducted the country's first series of suicide bombings near a police station and the parliament building in the capital Kampala (in November).

In the Southwest and South Asia regions, the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL)-affiliated organizations continued to conduct terrorist attacks and make their presence felt

In Afghanistan, the ISIL-affiliated organization "Khorasan Province" conducted terrorist attacks against Shiite Hazaras in various locations as it increased its attacks against the "Taliban." In the capital city of Kabul, the organization was pointed out to be engaged in the terrorist bombing that occurred in front of a girls' school in a district where many Hazaras live (in May, more than 85 people

died), and in the northeastern province of Baghlan, the organization was also pointed out to target Hazaras were the target in the terrorist attack on a camp of an international NGO engaged in demining (in June). In addition, in the northeastern province of Kunduz and the southern province of Kandahar, suicide bombings were carried out inside Shiite mosques (in October, in both cases, more than 100

people were killed or injured.)

In Pakistan, the ISIL-affiliated "Pakistan Province" killed Hazara miners in the southwestern province of Baluchistan (in January), and the "Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan" (TTP) carried out a car bombing at a hotel in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan Province (in April). The TTP issued a statement in the name of its supreme leader following the "Taliban"'s seizure of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, praising the Taliban as "a victory for the entire Islamic community" and asserting that it "once again pledges allegiance to the 'Taliban'" (in August).

In India, the ISIL-affiliated "Hind Province"

claimed to have thrown hand grenades at security forces in the northern region of Kashmir, injuring six people (in May) and to have attacked security forces, injuring two (in July), making its presence felt.

In the Maldivian capital, Malé, the Speaker of the Parliament, Mohamed Nasheed (former President), was getting into a car near his home when a bomb attached to an auto-bike parked near the car exploded, injuring at least six people, including the Parliament Speaker and a British national (in May). The authorities investigated it as an act of terrorism and arrested a number of extremists.

In Southeast Asia, "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL) affiliates continued to conduct terrorist attacks despite being controlled by security authorities

In Indonesia, the security authorities conducted a series of exposures targeting at ISIL-affiliated organizations such as the "Jamaah Ansharut Daulah" (JAD) and the "Mujahidin Indonesia Timur" (MIT), and more than 140 people were arrested on suspicion of terrorism between January and May. However, JAD conducted a suicide bombing at a Catholic church in Makassar in Sulawesi Selatan of central province (in March), and MIT also conducted terrorist attacks, including beheading four residents in Poso in Sulawesi Tengah of central province (in May).

In the Philippines, the security authorities

successively exposed and forced the surrender of members of ISIL-affiliated organizations such as the "Abu Sayyaf Group" (ASG), some groups of the "Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters" (BIFF), and the "Maute Group," etc., however, these ISIL affiliates continued to operate from their bases in the southern Sulu Islands and parts of Mindanao. The "Maute Group" clashed with the military in Lanao del Norte (in August), and some BIFF groups continued to conduct terrorist attacks targeting security authorities and civilians, such as the bombing of a volleyball game in Maguindanao (in September).

Europe continued to see terrorist attacks by individuals believed to be inspired by Islamist extremism

In Europe, a man attacked an officer with a knife at a police station in Rambouillet, near Paris, capital of France (in April), and a man who allegedly admitted to being affiliated with ISIL stabbed a member of the House of Commons at a church in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, in the southeast of England (in October).

Also, a series of ISIL-related exposures occurred, such as in Germany, where a man who allegedly raised funds based on ISIL's instructions and sent money to ISIL-affiliated organizations in Syria and Lebanon, and a woman who allegedly helped him

send money were arrested (in January and August), and a Syrian man allegedly associated with ISIL was arrested for planning to attack a synagogue (Jewish place of worship) in Hagen in the south of the country (in September). Furthermore, in Denmark and Germany, 14 people, including those believed to have been influenced by ISIL, were arrested on charges of obtaining materials for manufacturing explosives and firearms (in February). In addition, four men were arrested in Italy for allegedly sending money to ISIL affiliates in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia (in July), indicating that ISIL's influence

was still widespread.

In this context, there were cases related to foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) who participated in ISIL and returned to home countries. In Denmark, six people, including FTFs who had returned from Syria, were arrested for their involvement in transferring terrorist funds (in April), and in Greece, a Moroccan FTF was arrested for allegedly planning to carry out terrorist attacks in Morocco after returning from Syria (in

July).

In Europe, although there were no terrorist attacks by those who had contacts with ISIL, "Al-Qaeda", etc., these terrorist organizations continued to call for the execution of terrorist attacks against Western countries on the Internet, and there is concern that terrorist attacks in response to these calls could continue to occur in Europe.

COLUMN 1

Terrorism against Chinese interests continued in Pakistan

In 2015, Pakistan officially launched the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a large-scale infrastructure development project with China. Because the CPEC plan includes the development of ports, highways, etc. in the province of Baluchistan in the Southwest of Pakistan, radical groups such as the "Balochi Liberation Army" (BLA), which has been working for the secession and independence of Baluchistan from Pakistan, began to consider the CPEC and China as "expansionist and exploitative" and conducted terrorist attacks against Chinese interests. Such terrorist incidents allegedly targeting Chinese interests by the BLA and others occurred not only in Baluchistan province but also in the southern province of Sindh, where these interests were located (see table below).

In addition, in Baluchistan province, a car bomb attack occurred at a hotel in Quetta, the capital of the province, where the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan

was staying (in April) and the "Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan" (TTP), which was mainly based in the northwestern region of Pakistan, issued a statement claiming the attack. The ambassador was out of the accommodation at the time of the incident and escaped harm. At first, it was widely believed that the Chinese ambassador was the target, but it was unclear whether the ambassador was actually targeted.

In Pakistan, there were continuing concerns about terrorist attacks against Chinese interests. In the provinces of Baluchistan and Sindh, where the terrorist attacks occurred, there is a high concentration of Japanese companies in Pakistan, and there is a possibility that Japanese interests could be mistaken for Chinese interests and become targets of terrorism, so appropriate vigilance is required.

Major terrorist incidents against Chinese interests in Baluchistan and Sindh

Date	Summary
May 2017	Road workers shot at near Gwadar port in Baluchistan province, where China is developing the port (10 people killed)
August 2018	Attack on a security convoy carrying Chinese engineers in Darbandin, Baluchistan (6 injured)
November 2018	Attack on Chinese Consulate General in Karachi, Sindh (4 dead)
May 2019	Attack on a hotel frequented by foreigners, including Chinese, in Gwadar, Baluchistan (5 dead)
June 2020	Attacks on stock exchange in Karachi, Sindh, in an attempt to hit China's economy (6 dead)
July 2021	Gunmen shot at a vehicle carrying two Chinese nationals (one injured) in Karachi, Sindh
August 2021	Suicide bomb attack on a convoy carrying Chinese nationals in Gwadar, Baluchistan (2 killed)

Behind the occurrence of terrorist attacks involving women in Indonesia

In Indonesia, although the number of terrorist incidents had been decreasing, terrorist attacks involving women continued to occur in recent years, and the relationship between terrorism and women attracted attention.

In this context, in March, a suicide bombing by a couple who were members of "Jamaah Ansharut Daulah" (JAD), an organization affiliated with the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL), near the main gate of a Catholic church in Makassar in Sulawesi Selatan of central province (at least 20 people injured), and another shooting terrorism by a woman supporting ISIL (no casualties) occurred in the premises of the national police headquarters in the capital city of Jakarta in succession.

"Jemaah Islamiyah" (JI), which had carried out a number of terrorist attacks in Indonesia in the past, required women to take on roles in the home and was said to have a negative view of women's participation in combat, and there had been no confirmed cases of terrorist attacks by women associated with JI. On the other hand, since 2016, there had been some cases to be noted where women, who were members of ISIL-affiliated organizations or supported ISIL but did not belong to any specific organization, conducted or

planned terrorist attacks. In 2018, there were several "family terrorist attacks" involving entire families, including women, in Surabaya in western province of East Java and its suburbs. Behind these trends, there is a possibility that those women who were involved in terrorist attacks described above were influenced by the fact that Indonesian fighters who joined ISIL had referred to women's participation in combat as obligatory, and that Indonesians who supported ISIL had called for and praised women to carry out terrorism on social networking services.

Also, in October 2020, an Indonesian woman who traveled from Indonesia to the Philippines with her family and joined the "Abu Sayyaf Group" (ASG) was arrested in Sulu Province in the southern Philippines for planning a terrorist attack on Philippine security authorities in retaliation for the murder of her husband. In Indonesia as well, as the security authorities make progress in uncovering ISIL-affiliated organizations, there are concerns about reprisal terrorism by women whose relatives, especially husbands, have been killed by the authorities carrying through the same sort of uncovering as aforementioned.

5

**Activities aiming to acquire materials and technologies,
etc. that can be diverted to military purposes**

While no progress was seen in negotiations with the US to lift sanctions, Iran activated its uranium enrichment activities, and its procurement and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction-related materials require vigilance

Over the Iranian nuclear issue, the US withdrew (in May 2018) from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) (concluded in July 2015) and re-imposed economic sanctions on Iran, and as a countermeasure, Iran announced its policy to partially suspend the implementation of the JCPOA in May 2019, and had since gradually expanded the scope of the suspension. In January, based on the "Strategic Action Plan to Lift Sanctions and Protect Iranian Nation's Interest" (December 2020), it started production of uranium enriched up to 20%, operation of a high-performance centrifuge, and production of metallic uranium and others. Also, it announced (in February) that it would suspend the implementation of the Additional Protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), whose provisional application had been accepted under the JCPOA, and restricted inspections of nuclear facilities by the IAEA.

On the other hand, the US President Joseph Biden, who took office in January, expressed his intention to lift the sanctions contained in the JCPOA on the condition that Iran fully implement the JCPOA, and in April, the US began indirect talks with Iran to return to the JCPOA, mediated by the five JCPOA parties (the UK, France, Germany, Russia, and China) and the European Union (EU). A few days later, an anomaly occurred at the nuclear facility in Natanz, central Iran, where a part of the electrical system was damaged, and the Iranian government declared it to be "sabotage" by Israel and announced that it had started to increase the uranium enrichment to 60% as a countermeasure (in April). Regarding Iran's description of the use of 60% enriched uranium as radiopharmaceuticals, Western countries expressed strong concern because the value is close to the 90%


enrichment level that could be used for nuclear weapons. In this way, Iran was accelerating its uranium enrichment activities beyond the limits set by the JCPOA, while trying to sway the US and the JCPOA parties, the UK, France, and Germany, toward the early lifting of sanctions. Under these circumstances, the indirect talks with the US, which had been suspended since June, resumed in November, and the new "conservative and hard-line" Raisi administration, which was inaugurated in Iran in August, insisted that "the US should lift all sanctions imposed on Iran after its withdrawal from the JCPOA and guarantee that it will not withdraw from the JCPOA in the future" (Foreign Minister, in November), indicating that there were disagreements of opinion with the US on the scope of lifting sanctions, and the talks are expected to face difficulties.

With regard to missile development, Iran continued its ballistic missile-related activities, including a ballistic missile launch test during a military exercise (in January) and a ballistic flight test of its new "Zorjana" satellite launcher (in February). And in recent years, it has also focused on the development of a wide variety of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and has conducted military exercises specific to UAVs. Iran procured the goods and technology necessary for these developments from abroad if it could not secure them at home, and the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution pointed out that Iran's attempts to procure nuclear missile-related goods were on the increase ("Annual Report" of the said Office, in June). It has also been pointed out that Iran has been proliferating its own missiles, UAVs, and other weapons and their manufacturing technologies to its


proxy forces in the Middle East. For this reason, it is necessary to continue to be vigilant against Iran's procurement and proliferation of materials and

technologies that can be diverted to weapons of mass destruction and the like.

North Korea continued its procurement and proliferation activities while advancing its nuclear and missile development

At the 8th Party Congress (in January), the "Defense Development Exhibition and Self-Defense 2021" (in October), and other events, North Korea made clear its commitment to improving military technology and promoting weapons development, and conducted a series of test launches of various types of missiles that were said to have been newly developed (in March, September, and October;  see "Table 2 Missile weapon launched by North Korea in 2021," p. 25), and at nuclear facilities in Nyeongbyeon in the northwest of the country, release of cooling water that suggested the restart of the 5-megawatt nuclear reactor (in July) and a move to expand the enrichment facility, which could lead to an increase in the production capacity of highly enriched uranium (in September) were reported. In order to promote its nuclear and missile development programs such as these, it was necessary to procure materials and parts from overseas that could not be manufactured in the region for technical reasons, and

it became clear that North Korea had been working to procure goods of concern through a machine tools trading company, the Korea General Machinery Trading Corporation, and other companies, despite repeated sanctions by the United Nations, the European Union, and other organizations (Expert Panel of the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on North Korea, in October).

In addition, it has been pointed out that North Korea continued to export military supplies through its overseas bases, cooperated with Iran, Syria, and other countries in missile-related projects (the said expert panel, in October), and changed the ship registration of the vessels it uses to transport goods of concern dozens of times a year, indicating that North Korea was conducting procurement and proliferation activities with a mixture of skillful *modus operandi*. ( Special Feature 1 Economic Security," p. 6)

INTERNAL SITUATION of 2021

1-1

Three years after the execution of Asahara and others, Aum Shinrikyo maintained its dangerous nature

The Public Security Examination Commission decided to renew the period of surveillance disposition

While even today, the so-called Aum Shinrikyo (organization) continues its activities centered on the following groups: “Aleph”, which explicitly emphasizes absolute devotion to Chizuo Matsumoto, aka Shoko Asahara, the mastermind of the sarin gas attacks on the subway in Tokyo (in March 1995), the “group led by Yamada” (see note), which maintains absolute devotion to Asahara while keeping a certain distance from “Aleph” (herein both groups together are referred to as the mainstream group), and “Hikari-no-Wa,” which pretends to cast aside Asahara’s influence in order to avoid the surveillance disposition (represented by Fumihiro Joyu and known as the Joyu group), since February 2000, the Public Security Intelligence Agency has been conducting surveillance disposition on the group based on the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder (Act on the Control of Organizations), and in

October 2020, the agency requested the Public Security Examination Commission to renew the period of said disposition for the seventh time.

In response to this request, on January 6, the Public Security Examination Commission decided to renew the period of surveillance disposition for three years (expiring on January 31, 2024), finding that there were sufficient facts to conclude that the group still posed a risk to committing indiscriminate mass murder and that it was necessary to continue to clarify the status of their activities.

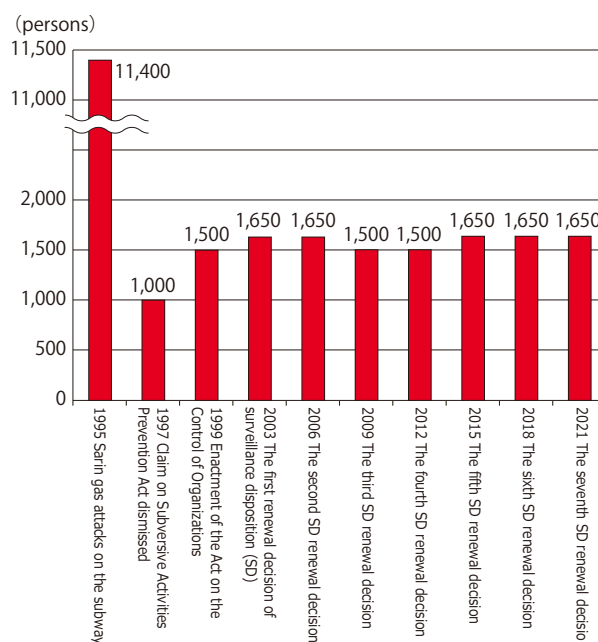
Incidentally, in response to this decision, “Aleph,” the “group led by Yamada,” and “Hikari-no-Wa” respectively filed a lawsuit demanding the revocation, etc. of the decision.

Note: The “group led by Yamada” does not use any specific name of its own, so it is referred to by the name of its senior member.

Aum Shinrikyo still under the influence of Asahara

Even now, three years after Asahara's execution (in July 2018), no changes have been seen in the actual state where they remain under the influence of Asahara, such as the mainstream group posting Asahara's photographic portrait on the altar in the facility, and the Joyu group posting a Buddhist painting that projects Asahara in the facility. And, Aum Shinrikyo still now maintains its dangerous nature, as seen in that the majority of live-in members of the mainstream group and all of the live-in members of the Joyu group are those who were the members even before the sarin gas attacks on the subway, and they continued to maintain dangerous “doctrines” that included content recommending


Changes in the number of members in Japan



murder and a closed society of superior orders and subjugation that enabled them to plan and prepare for the sarin gas attacks on the subway in an organized and secretive manner.

Aum Shinrikyo increased resistance to surveillance disposition

Although Aum Shinrikyo was obligated to report the current status of its organization and activities to the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency every three months based on the Act on the Control of Organizations, both the mainstream group and the Joyu group were found to have problems such as failing to report on matters that should have been reported or reporting inaccurate information.

In particular, "Aleph" did not report to the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency by the deadline of May 15, and even after that, it did not report at all, despite repeated attempts by the Public Security Intelligence Agency to correct the situation to encourage reporting ( p.17, "Special Feature 4 Request for recurrence prevention disposition against Aum Shinrikyo's mainstream group 'Aleph'").

Also, on the on-site inspection based on the Act on the Control of Organizations, during 2021, members of both the mainstream group and Joyu group showed the same uncooperative attitude as before, ignoring the questions of the inspectors, or answering "I will not answer your questions", "I am

No major shifts in the number of members of Aum Shinrikyo have been seen in recent years, and as of 2021, the organization still had about 1,650 members in Japan.

not obliged to answer your questions", or "As you can see". In addition to this, "Aleph" was particularly uncooperative, using multiple video cameras to constantly film the inspectors during inspections, including the inspectors' appearance, and resisting the inspections by claiming, "As this is religious material, it's blasphemy, isn't it?", and in April, a live-in member assaulted an inspector engaged in an on-site inspection and was arrested for obstruction of performance of public duty.

Furthermore, the mainstream group, using the prevention of the spread of new coronavirus infections as a pretext, resisted the entry and inspection of inspectors, claiming, "Don't bring in coronaviruses" and "Are you trying to kill people?", showing their attitude to dissuade inspectors from implementing proper on-site inspections.

In spite of these resistances, the Public Security Intelligence Agency took all possible measures to prevent infectious diseases and conducted on-site inspections in a proper and strict manner, confirming the fact that both the mainstream and Joyu groups were under the influence of Asahara.

COLUMN

Trends of the Asahara family and others regarding Asahara's remains, etc.

When Asahara's wife and other parties were at odds with Asahara's fourth daughter, who claimed to have been designated by Asahara to receive the remains of Asahara, who was executed in July 2018, the fourth daughter filed a petition with the Tokyo Family Court (in December 2018) seeking to designate the fourth daughter as the acquirer of Asahara's ritual succession goods, and subsequently three parties, namely, the fourth daughter; Asahara's wife and second son; and Asahara's second daughter, the third daughter and the first son, fought over where it belonged, as a result of which the Tokyo Family Court ruled that Asahara's second daughter was the acquirer of the object of ritual succession (in September 2020).

The fourth daughter and the wife and the second

son appealed the judgment in dissatisfaction immediately, but the Tokyo High Court dismissed the appeal (in March), and the fourth daughter and the wife and the second son filed a special appeal to the Supreme Court, but the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal (in July), and the judgment of the Tokyo Family Court that Asahara's second daughter was the acquirer of the object of ritual succession became final and binding.

Since some members of Aum Shinrikyo have expressed an interest in Asahara's remains, and since residents living near the facilities of the organization are concerned that Asahara's remains may be brought into the facilities, the Public Security Intelligence Agency will continue to closely monitor the activities of the group regarding Asahara's remains.

Inspected facilities of Aum Shinrikyo (January – November 2021)

Legend

Name of facility	Date of inspection
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Saitama Prefecture

Yashio Oze facility	May 13
Yashio Iseno facility	June 8
Kita-Koshigaya facility	Jul. 7 Nov. 19
Omiya facility	Jul. 21
Koshigaya Osawa facility	Sep. 14

Ishikawa Prefecture

Kanazawa facility	Oct. 5
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Shiga Prefecture

Koga Shigaraki facility	Apr. 22
Minakuchi facility	Apr. 22

Kyoto Prefecture

Kyoto facility	Jan. 26 Jul. 20
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Osaka Prefecture

Higashi-Osaka facility	Jan. 21 Nov. 12
Ikuno facility	Jul. 1

Hokkaido

Sapporo facility	Jul. 13
Sapporo Shiroishi facility	Jul. 13

Ibaraki Prefecture

Mito facility	Aug. 8
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Chiba Prefecture

Noda facility	May 28 Sep. 3
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Tokyo

Shin-Hokima facility	Apr. 16
Nishiogi facility	May 20
Hokima facility	Jun. 3 Nov. 25
Adachi Iriya facility	Jun. 16 Sep. 10 Nov. 19
Minami-Karasuyama facility	Oct. 13

Kanagawa Prefecture

Yokohama facility	Jul. 29 Nov. 29
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Aichi Prefecture

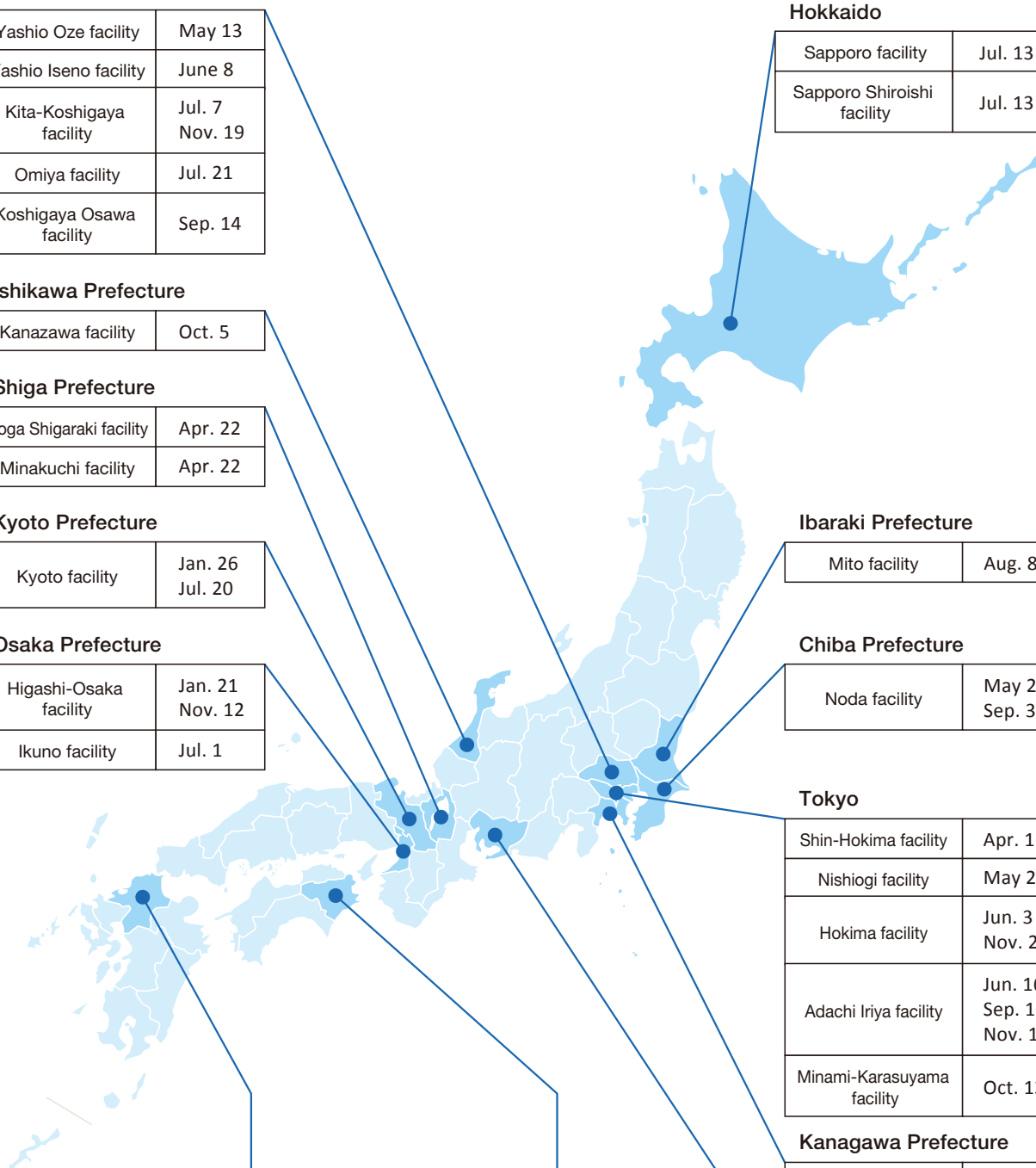
Toyoake facility	Feb. 25
Nagoya facility	Jul. 27
Iwakura facility	Nov. 4

Fukuoka Prefecture

Fukuoka facility	Mar. 17 Aug. 4
Fukuoka Fukutsu facility	Oct. 21

Tokushima Prefecture

Tokushima facility	Feb. 23 Aug. 13
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"Aleph" continued instruction to inculcate absolute faith in Asahara

"Aleph" continued to display Asahara's photographic portrait on the facility's altar as before, and continued instruction to inculcate absolute faith in Asahara by limiting the number of visitors to the facility and the time they could spend there as a measure to combat the new coronavirus infection, and by gathering lay members at facilities throughout Japan.

In particular, in the "intensive seminars" held three times a year (in January, May, and September) for lay members, although they decided not to hold them in the form of gathering participants from all over the country in a large-scale facility, they provided guidance by broadcasting videos of Asahara's remarks via the Internet to lay members' homes, and by having senior members praise Asahara, as well as

in the "birthday celebration" where they celebrated Asahara's birthday (in March) they likewise had the participants watch a video of Asahara, thereby giving thorough instructions to foster absolute faith in Asahara.

With regard to Asahara's second son, whom Asahara once nominated as his successor, as in the previous year, the senior members made statements calling for his return as the successor, instructed lay members to plead for the second son's return, and held a "birthday festival" (in March) to celebrate the second son's birthday, in an effort to create momentum for the second son's return to the group's activities, but there were no concrete moves that would lead to its realization.

Even in the midst of the Corona disaster, recruitment activities were conducted nationwide

While "Aleph" was conducting systematic recruitment activities nationwide to attract new members during 2021, in light of the corona disaster, it shifted its emphasis from face-to-face recruitment methods such as calling out to people on the street to non-face-to-face recruitment methods using SNS and web conference systems. On the other hand, the recruitment method was the same as before, wherein by explaining the teachings preached by Asahara without specifying the name of the organization or Asahara's name to the solicitation targets, thereby reducing their resistance to the organization, deepening their personal relationships, and putting

them in a situation where it would be difficult for them to refuse and thus induce them to join. Meanwhile, in May, a live-in member was arrested on suspicion of violating the Act on Specified Commercial Transactions on charges that he had a contract made by pretending to give a yoga lecture, even though he was really soliciting for "Aleph," and another lay member was arrested on suspicion of fraud on charges that he rented a room in a condominium under the false pretense that it was for residential use, even though the purpose was actually to use it as a base for recruiting for "Aleph."

The “group led by Yamada” was active upholding the “absolute faith in Asahara”

The “group led by Yamada,” which operated at a certain distance from “Aleph,” maintained activities upholding absolute faith in Asahara, like “Aleph,” by posting photographic portrait of Asahara and

documents that demanded devotion to Asahara in its facilities, and by storing many teaching materials containing Asahara's statements.

1 – 3

The Joyu group continued to “conceal Asahara,” but remained under Asahara's influence

In 2021, the Joyu group emphasized that it had casted aside Asahara, with Fumihiro Joyu criticizing Asahara through talk events, etc. by making negative comments about Asahara, such as, “Asahara believed in his psychic powers, but he also felt that there were various limits” (in August), and saying that “we are operating a group of a sort of Buddhist or psychological circle called ‘Hikari-no-Wa’ based on our reflections on our past beliefs or activities” (in April).

On the other hand, they continued to display a Buddhist painting and other images projecting Asahara in their facilities, and even in the midst of concerns about the spread of the new coronavirus infection, they held “Intensive Seminars” three times a year (in January, May, and August), during which

they performed yoga exercises that Asahara claimed were important, and they also preached as if they were defending the teachings Asahara had preached, such as Joyu saying, “The pure aspects of Buddhism are part of the teachings of Aum Shinrikyo” (in August). Furthermore, they repeatedly conducted “tour of sacred sites” to visit shrines and temples that the Joyu group had once positioned as “places associated with Asahara” and that seemed to have a close relationship with Asahara.

In light of these activities, it is recognized that the Joyu group is continuing its efforts to “conceal Asahara” by pretending that Asahara's influence has been eradicated, and that the fact that they are still under Asahara's influence has not changed.

2

Radical leftist groups worked to criticize the government in an attempt to appeal to the discontented over important policies such as measures against the new coronavirus infection

They developed critical activities by seizing on the various measures taken by the government to combat the new coronavirus infection

Radical leftist groups continued to criticize the government's various measures against new coronavirus infections, such as "abandoning the 'measures against new coronavirus infections' in favor of saving the monopolistic bourgeoisie" (organ paper "Kaiho" of Kakumaru-ha (Revolutionary Marxist Faction of the Revolutionary Communist League), February 1 issue). In particular, at the time of the revision of the Act on Special Measures for the Control of New Influenza, etc. (in February), they held demonstrations and street propaganda around the Diet (Parliament), criticizing "the revision for the worse of the Act on Special Measures with penalties is a strengthening of security suppression for the purpose of constitutional change and war." Furthermore, in response to the declaration of a state of emergency and the issuance of priority measures to prevent the spread of the disease, they criticized the government on various occasions, including May Day (in May), an "anti-war and anti-Japan-US Security Treaty" rally (in June), and an "anti-nuclear" rally (in August), stating that "the government has abandoned compensation for the people's livelihoods and the expansion of the critically needed medical system."

Also, as the vaccination of the public with the new

corona vaccine was being promoted, Chukaku-ha (Middle Core Faction of the Revolutionary Communist League), in particular, put forward its own medical workers' union members to make a request to the Governor of Osaka Prefecture and carried out street propaganda, saying, "There is no way that a dangerous genetic vaccine can be a specific medicine" (in April). In addition to the above, radical leftist groups also criticized the government for hosting the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics (in July-September), linking the hosting of the Games to the increase in the number of new cases of new coronavirus infection and calling for the cancellation of the Olympics and Paralympics through rallies, demonstrations, and street propaganda, demanding such things as "Don't allow the mobilization of 10,000 medical personnel" and "Use the Paralympics budget for corona control."

Even after that, they continued to criticize the government, claiming that the government was "indulging in the formulation of 'economic recovery' measures to support large corporations and completely abandoning financial support for the strengthening of the medical system," (Kakumaru-ha in its organ paper "Kaiho," October 18 issue).

Focused on activities to oppose the revision of the National Referendum Act and the enactment of the Real Estate Usage Review and Regulation Act

Radical leftist groups also focused on opposing the revision of the Act on Procedures for Amendment of the Constitution of Japan (National Referendum Act) and the Act on Review and Regulation on Real Estate Usage near Sensitive Facilities and on Border Islands (Real Estate Usage Review and Regulation Act) that were passed in June.

In response to the amendment of the National Referendum Act, they claimed that "it is trying to pave the way for a major revision for the worse of the constitution" (Kakumaru-ha, its organ paper "Kaiho," June 7 issue), and "let's stand up fiercely in the struggle to stop the amendment for the worse of the National Referendum Act" (Chukaku-ha, its organ paper "Zenshin," May 24 issue), and held

protest actions around the Diet when the amendment was discussed and voted on, as well as appealing for "opposition to the National Referendum Act" at the annual "anti-war and anti-Japan-US Security Treaty" rallies.

On the other hand, in regard to the Real Estate Usage Review and Regulation Act, they claimed that it was a "security oppression legislation aimed at destroying the anti-base struggle and the struggle against nuclear power plants" (Kakumaru-ha, its organ paper "Kaiho", June 21 issue), and carried out various activities around the Diet to appeal for "prevention of its enactment", and even after the law was passed and enacted, they called for "immediate start of the struggle to never allow the law to take effect".

Making the presence of their own factions known through the labor movement and anti-war activities

Kakumaru-ha focused its efforts on reaching out to members of key industries' labor unions, and on the occasion of the national convention of the Japan Postal Group Labor Union (JP Labor Union) (in February), it mailed leaflets criticizing the JP Labor Union's executive committee to each of the union's local organizations, calling on them to "fight to win a large uniform wage increase." Kakumaru-ha also held anti-war rallies and demonstrations in Tokyo and other parts of the country, calling for "stopping the construction of a new base in Henoko (Okinawa)" and "opposing Japan-US joint military exercises" (in June and October).

Chukaku-ha advocated the building of a "national network of fighting labor unions," and appointed a member of a cooperating labor union to be the co-chair of the group's labor union exchange organization (in February), and also held a workers' rally and demonstration, which it positioned as a summary of its annual activities, and called for the "revival of the labor movement to end neoliberalism"

(in November). The group also conducted anti-war activities such as protests against the Ground Self-Defense Force exercises (in September, October, and November).

Anti-mainstream faction of Kakurokyo Kaiho-ha (Liberation Faction of the Revolutionary Workers' Association) held rallies and demonstrations in Tokyo and other cities to demand support for the livelihood of day laborers (in May and August), and also focused on anti-war activities, such as protesting against the deployment of the Maritime Self-Defense Force to the waters off Somalia and the Middle East around the Yokosuka, Maizuru, and Sasebo bases (in January, April, June, and September). Also, the mainstream faction of the said Liberation Faction focused on the Narita-Airport struggle and mobilized activists for rallies and demonstrations organized by the Association in Alliance against the Narita Airport (in January, March, July, and October).

COLUMN 1

Moves of the Japanese Red Army

The Japanese Red Army caused terrorist incidents in various parts of the world, such as the shooting of automatic weapons at the Tel Aviv-Lod International Airport (now Ben Gurion International Airport) in Israel, killing and wounding about 100 people in collaboration with the "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine" (PFLP)(*note) (Tel Aviv airport shooting incident occurred on May 30, 1972), and the occupation of the French Embassy in the Hague, Netherlands (Hague Incident, 1974), among others, and even today seven people, including Kozo Okamoto, a perpetrator of the Tel Aviv airport shooting incident, are still wanted internationally.

Fusako Shigenobu, the top leader of the Japanese Red Army, who is currently serving a prison sentence for her arrest, confinement, and attempted murder in the Hague incident, has contributed her analysis and views on the situation in the Middle East to an organ journal published by her support organization, and has contributed messages to a commemoration rally held every May, calling the Tel Aviv airport shooting

incident the "Ridda struggle." Though her sentence is set to expire in May 2022, for the most recent commemoration rally, she sent a message justifying the Tel Aviv airport shooting to sing perpetrators' praises, saying, "I am welcoming the month of May with pride in the young fighters who contributed to justice in Palestine," and "I hope to toast the 50th anniversary of the Ridda struggle with you next year." At the same rally, the PFLP's message was also introduced along with her message, and close attention should be paid to the Japanese Red Army's moves in Japan and abroad after her release from prison.

(Note) Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP): Founded in December 1967, it advocates the establishment of a Marxist-Leninist government in Palestine and has conducted the murder of Israeli government officials, kidnapping of foreigners, suicide bombings and rocket attacks on Israel. The US State Department designated it as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) on October 8, 1997.

COLUMN 2

Radical leftist groups claimed solidarity with Myanmar at home and abroad as they engaged in protests for democracy

In Myanmar, in February, the military detained National League for Democracy (NLD) officials, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, and declared a one-year "state of emergency" and established the State Administrative Council (SAC), the highest decision-making body chaired by Commander-in-chief of the country's Armed Forces Min Aung Hlaing. On the other hand, NLD officials established the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) as a democratic force to oppose the military (in February), and later launched the National Unity Government (NUG) with ethnic minorities (in April). In Myanmar, civilians supporting the pro-democracy forces held daily protests, and many civilians were killed when the military opened fire on them. In this situation, the NUG announced the launch of the "People's Defence Force" (PDF) to protect civilians from the repression of the military (in May), and later declared that it would start fighting in self-defense (in September).

In Japan, Myanmar residents residing in Japan who are critical of the Myanmar's military engaged in protest actions such as demonstrations calling for democracy in Tokyo, Hokkaido, Aichi, Osaka, and Okinawa

prefectures and other places. Also, one of the Myanmar players who came to Japan for the second Asian qualifying round of the Soccer World Cup held a three-fingered protest against the Myanmar's armed forces during the singing of the national anthem before the match (in May), and refused to return to Myanmar at the Kansai International Airport (in June).

In these circumstances, radical leftist groups called for solidarity with the Myanmar people by saying, "Solidarity with the protest, resistance and democratization movement against the military coup" (JRCL [Japan Revolutionary Communist League], organ paper "Kakehashi," February 15 issue) and "Workers have no borders. Workers are one. It is the responsibility of the Japanese working class to overthrow our own government, namely, the Suga administration that takes part in the massacre, in solidarity with people of Myanmar" ("Zenshin" of Chukaku-ha, April 5 issue), and activists of Chukaku-ha participated in the protest actions organized by Myanmar residents residing in Japan. Chukaku-ha is believed to have intention to use the collaboration with Myanmar residents residing in Japan to expand its own various movements.

3

JCP strived to increase party strength and support while criticizing the government's response to Corona**Efforts to increase party strength and support in the Corona disaster**

The Japanese Communist Party (JCP) criticized the government's response to the corona disaster, saying that the spread of the new coronavirus was a man-made disaster caused by the Suga administration, and appealed for the expansion of PCR testing and income compensation to demonstrate the party's presence. Also, recognizing the necessity for the Party to make a breakthrough in

the 49th General Election of the House of Representatives (in October) in order to achieve a change of government and an "opposition coalition government," it made use of social networking services to increase the number of Party members and readers of its organ paper "Shimbun Akahata," as well as to expand its support with the goal of having a dialogue with 10 million people.

JCP claimed that "the Suga administration advanced the politics of authoritarian means and corruption"

Since February, JCP caught a case of a broadcasting-related company providing entertainment to senior officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and questioned about the matter in the Diet, saying, "Wasn't the administration being distorted by being soaked in entertainment by vendors who are interested parties?", and demanded that those involved be called to the Diet. Also, with regard to the deployment of ships equipped with the Aegis system, it questioned the government, saying that "the process of selecting the radar to be installed on the ships is unclear" and that "it could become a second Lockheed case" (in February), and with regard to the multiple violations of the Public Offices Election Act by Diet members, it criticized that "the problem is that the Liberal Democratic Party has no self-cleansing mechanism for the problem of 'politics and money' and that no one is taking responsibility" (in June).

Since the National Diet began deliberating the Real Estate Usage Review and Regulation Bill (in May), JCP called the bill "unconstitutional legislation that tramples on the pacifism, basic human rights, and property rights of the

Constitution," and called for "the bill to be withdrawn" in the "Shimbun Akahata" and at opposition rallies held in various places, and in the party leaders' debate with then Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga (in June), it called for the cancellation of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo Games), saying, "There is no point in holding the Olympics while forcing the people to endure for a long period of time" (Chairman Kazuo Shii). Also, claiming that "the Suga administration made the politics of authoritarian means and corruption even worse," JCP and other opposition parties submitted a motion of no confidence in the cabinet to the House of Representatives (in June).

Regarding the relocation of the Futenma Air Station to Henoko, JCP repeatedly criticized the relocation, saying, "We cannot allow the construction of the base to proceed authoritatively by ignoring the consensus of the people of Okinawa and using earth and sand from the southern part of the island, where the remains of the war dead lie," and "It is an affront to the war dead that 70% of the earth and sand used for reclamation is procured from the southern part of the main island, where the remains of the war dead remain."

Various election campaigns were held under the slogans such as "anti-Olympics" and "regime change"

JCP won 19 seats in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly election (in July), an increase of one seat from 18 before the election, by criticizing the government's measures against the new coronavirus infection and calling for the cancellation of the Tokyo Games. In response, the party summed up the increase in seats following the last two Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly elections (2013 and 2017) as "a historic accomplishment for the first time in half a century."

Also, at the time of the 49th General Election of the House of Representatives (in October), which the party positioned as "an election aiming for a regime change and the establishment of an opposition coalition government," JCP proceeded to

build a "posture of joint struggle" among the opposition parties, based on its policy of "not bringing the party's views into government" on the pros and cons of the Self-Defense Forces and the Japan-US Security Treaty ("28th Party Congress" on January 2020), and conducted its election campaign on issues such as "livelihood and peace issues" and "climate crisis and gender equality." The results showed that the party won only one seat in the single-seat constituency and nine seats in the proportional representation system (about 4.16 million proportional votes, or 7.2% of the total), leaving the party with 10 seats in the House of Representatives, down two seats from 12 before the election.

COLUMN

JCP working toward "generational succession" for the 100th anniversary of its founding

The Japanese Communist Party was founded on July 15, 1922, as an illegal and clandestine party. The year 2022 will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the party. Although the number of party members exceeded 400,000 around 1979, it declined due to the collapse of the Soviet Union (1991) and other factors, and by the time of the last 28th Party Congress (January 2020), the number had fallen to about 270,000.

At present, due to the decline and aging of the Party membership, problems have arisen such as "the burden is concentrated on a few elderly Party

members" and "there are some branches that cannot even educate new Party members even after welcoming them," and therefore the Party is focusing on the "generational succession" of Party projects.

As part of its efforts, JCP persuaded its senior party cadres to stay on, regardless of age, who had requested to step down at the last party congress, in order to pass on their experience and theories to younger party members. The departure of aging party officials and the exceptional promotion of younger party members would be matters of future attention.

4

Right-wing groups and other organizations that were
active in addressing the issue of the new coronavirus
infection and other issues with neighboring countriesRight-wing groups conducted activities that capture the issue of corona and
territorial and historical awareness issues

Even during the declaration of a state of emergency due to the resurgence of the new coronavirus infection, many right-wing groups continued their propaganda activities in the streets, focusing on the resurgence of the infection and territorial and historical awareness issues with neighboring countries.

With regard to the infectious disease, some groups carried out propaganda activities in the streets around the Prime Minister's residence and the Liberal Democratic Party headquarters to criticize the government's infection control measures.

Regarding China, in response to the resurgence of the infection, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (in July), and the intrusions into Japan's territorial waters by vessels belonging to the China Coast Guard around the Senkaku Islands, right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets around Chinese diplomatic missions in Japan and elsewhere, calling for "don't let China get away with spreading the Wuhan virus around the world," "Crush the Communist Party of China, an enemy of humanity," and "Chinese ships must stay out of Japanese territorial waters."

Right-wing affiliated groups conducted activities that capture the corona
issue and other issues

Right-wing affiliated groups criticized the Japanese government's response to the resurgence of the new coronavirus epidemic, and claimed that "the Abe administration was responsible for this situation by inviting tourists from China, where the Wuhan pneumonia outbreak occurred in January 2020."

They were also involved in activities that

With regard to Russia, right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets, calling for the "recapture of the Northern Territories" in Hokkaido and around Russian diplomatic missions in Japan in conjunction with "February 7th Northern Territories Day" (the day the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Japan and Russia was signed) and "August 9th Anti-Russia Day" (the day when the Soviet Union abrogated the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact and invaded places such as Manchuria).

With regard to South Korea, in addition to appealing for the "recapture of Takeshima" in Shimane Prefecture and around Korean diplomatic missions in Japan in conjunction with "February 22nd Takeshima Day" (established as "Takeshima Day" by Shimane Prefecture ordinance) and "October 28th Takeshima Recapture Day" (the day South Korea refused to refer the issue of Takeshima's territorial ownership to the International Court of Justice), some groups took note of the actions of the South Korean athletes at the Tokyo Olympic Games athletes' village and held a campaign in the vicinity of the South Korean Embassy in Japan and the athletes' village to criticize South Korea.

criticized China and South Korea. Of these, against China, they took up the issues of the infectious disease and ethnic minorities, and conducted propaganda activities and demonstrations in downtown areas around the country to show their attitude, "We will hold China accountable for the global spread of Wuhan pneumonia" and "do not

allow the genocide of the Uyghurs." Against South Korea, they seized upon the Takeshima issue and appealed to South Korea to "immediately return Takeshima, which is our country's unique territory," in the vicinity of the Korean diplomatic mission in Japan.

In addition to these activities, they also engaged in the street propaganda activities to criticize the

Japanese government's measures to "promote the acceptance of foreign human resources" and "realize an interculturally cohesive society," as well as protesting against the moves of leftist forces that uphold "anti-Emperor system."

Those who criticized these right-wing affiliated groups as "racists" engaged in protests against the groups' activities.

Trends surrounding the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in the Corona disaster

The Tokyo Olympic Games were held from July 23 to August 8, and the Tokyo Paralympic Games were held from August 24 to September 5. During the period, anti-Olympic and Paralympic forces staged a campaign against the games, but there were

no terrorist attacks, which had been feared, and no cyber-attacks that could affect the operation of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics (Tokyo Games) were confirmed.

Anti-Olympic and Paralympic forces conducted an anti-hosting campaign that captured the opening and closing ceremonies and other events

The forces arguing that "the Olympics would be a disaster that would destroy the host city" continued their opposition to the Tokyo Games even after the decision to postpone the Games was made (in March 2020). The forces held rallies, demonstrations, and street propaganda calling for the cancellation of the Tokyo Games in conjunction with the Tokyo Olympic Torch Relay and other events that began in late March, claiming that "Tokyo will become a major cluster of infection spreading around the world," and also held protest actions at the time of the opening and closing ceremonies of the Tokyo Olympics, calling for the "protection of life rather than the Olympics." Furthermore, they also held protests against the holding of the Tokyo Paralympics, claiming that "the Paralympics encompasses discrimination, division, and the idea of eugenics."

In these circumstances, radical leftist factions held rallies, demonstrations, and street propaganda in various places, claiming such things as "Immediately stop the holding of the Tokyo Olympics, which will force the workers and people of Japan and the world to make huge sacrifices" (Kakumaru-ha, organ paper "Kaiho," May 3 issue), and "March on to overthrow the Suga government, which is rushing to hold 'the Tokyo Olympics,' change the constitution, carry out war, and form a wartime national system" (Anti-mainstream faction of Kakurokyo Kaiho-ha

(Liberation Faction of the Revolutionary Workers' Association), organ paper "Kaiho," May 20 issue), and they also mobilized activists for protests by forces claiming that "the Olympics are a disaster that will destroy the host city." Among them, Chukaku-ha (Middle Core Faction of the Revolutionary Communist League) held demonstrations in downtown Tokyo prior to the opening of the Tokyo Games, and carried out street propaganda in conjunction with the Torch Relay and the visit of the International Olympic Committee officials to Hiroshima, calling for "forcing the cancellation of the Olympics," and at the opening ceremony, mobilized activists from the National Federation of Students' Self-Government Associations and others in front of the National Stadium to stage a protest calling for "the cancellation of the Olympics" (a Chukaku-ha activist was arrested for obstruction of performance of public duty). In addition, Chukaku-ha held demonstrations calling for the cancellation of the Tokyo Paralympics, and also took action to request the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to cancel the Games.

On the other hand, while many right-wing groups were in favor of holding the Tokyo Games, some of them took issue with then-Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's manner at the opening declaration of the Tokyo Olympics by His Majesty the Emperor, and

carried out propaganda activities in the streets calling on him to "apologize for his disrespect to His Majesty the Emperor and resign immediately."

Also, right-wing affiliated groups held

demonstrations against holding the Tokyo Olympics in the corona disaster, claiming that "the Tokyo Olympics should not be held for the sake of vested interest, neglecting the lives of the people."

The Public Security Intelligence Agency worked to collect and analyze information on trends that threaten the Tokyo Games

The Public Security Intelligence Agency, under the "Special Intelligence Task Force for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games" established in 2013, worked to collect and analyze relevant information that would contribute to ensuring the safe and smooth hosting of the Tokyo Games in cooperation with related organizations.

In particular, from the perspective of preventing terrorism, cyber-attacks, unlawful incidents, sabotage, and other threats and obstacles to the Tokyo Games, the Public Security Intelligence Agency contributed to the government's concerted efforts to ensure the safe and smooth hosting of the Tokyo Games by collecting and analyzing relevant

information with the full cooperation of the agency and providing the obtained information to the relevant organizations in a timely and appropriate manner.

In the future, as Japan is scheduled to host the G7 Summit in 2023 and the Japan International Exposition (Osaka-Kansai Expo) in 2025, the Public Security Intelligence Agency will continue to strengthen its information collection and analysis of various trends that may pose threats and obstacles to these events, based on the experiences and lessons learned from the Tokyo Games, and will also work to develop the necessary structure.

Appendix

(Major domestic and international public security trends from Jan. to Nov.)

January

1st (Fri)

- The mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Aleph") held intensive year-end and new year seminars (Dec. 25, 2020 - Jan. 11, 2021 in Hokkaido, etc.)
- The Joyu group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Hikari-no-Wa") held intensive year-end and new year seminars (Dec. 29, 2020 - Jan. 2, 2021 and Jan. 9 - 11, 2021 in Tokyo, etc.).

2nd (Sat)

- In the Tillabéry region of western Niger, an armed group attacked two villages, killing at least 100 residents.

4th (Mon)

- The Iranian government announced that it has begun work to increase the enrichment level of uranium to 20% at an underground enrichment facility in Fordow, Iran.

5th (Tue)

- North Korea's Workers' Party of Korea held its 8th Congress (~12th), and elected Kim Jong Un as its General Secretary.

6th (Wed)

- The Public Security Examination Commission decided to renew the period of surveillance disposition against Aum Shinrikyo (for the seventh time) in accordance with the Act on the Control of Organizations.

9th (Sat)

- China's Ministry of Commerce promulgated and enforced the "Regulations on Preventing the Unjustified Extraterritorial Application of Foreign Laws and Measures."

11th (Mon)

- In North Sinai governorate in northeastern Egypt, an improvised explosive device (IED) targeting a vehicle of Egypt's military exploded, killing several soldiers, including a major of the military. "Sinai Province," an affiliate of the "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL), issued a statement claiming responsibility (on the 14th).

14th (Thu)

- North Korea held a military review ceremony to commemorate the 8th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea. A variety of weapons were unveiled, including "Pukguksong [Polaris] 5," a new submarine-launched ballistic missile, and short-range ballistic missiles.

15th (Fri)

- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps announced that it had conducted test launches of various ballistic missiles during military exercises.

17th (Sun)

- Russian activist Alexei Navalny was arrested by security authorities at Moscow airport after returning from Germany, where he was undergoing medical treatment.

18th (Mon)

- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov held a press conference to review Russian diplomacy in 2020. Although he evaluated Russia's relations with Japan as good, he also expressed concern about the possibility of the deployment of US intermediate- and short-range missiles in Japan.

21st (Thu)

- Joseph Biden was inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States.
- Two armed men carried out a suicide bombing targeting Shiite residents in Tayaran Square in the Iraqi capital Baghdad, killing 32 civilians and wounding 110 others. ISIL issued a statement claiming responsibility in the name of "Iraq Province - Baghdad."

23rd (Sat)

- Right-wing groups carried out propaganda activities in the streets against the "70th Educational Research National Convention of Japan Teacher's Union" calling for the "crushing of Japan Teacher's Union" (in Tokyo).
- In Russia, protests demanding the release of activist Navalny took place, and according to the human rights organization "OVD Info," some 4,000 people were detained by security authorities in 125 cities.

31st (Sun)

- In Russia, protests demanding the release of activist Navalny took place, and according to the human rights organization "OVD Info," some 5,800 people were detained by security authorities in 86 cities.

February

1st (Mon)

- Law on Governing the Coast Guard of the People's Republic of China went into effect in China.
- The Vice Chairman of the Security Council of Russia, Dmitrii Medvedev said in an interview, citing the passage of the revised Russian constitution (in July 2020), "We have absolutely no right to discuss the transfer of sovereignty over Russian territories. From the official standpoint, the subject of negotiations has disappeared in the first place."
- Iran's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics announced that the first ballistic flight test of the new "Zorjana" satellite launcher was successfully conducted.

3rd (Wed)

- The US and Russian governments announced that they have reached a formal agreement to extend the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) for five years.
- In Mopti, central Mali, ten soldiers were killed when a group of armed men attacked a military unit of the country. "Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims" (JNIM) issued a statement claiming responsibility on the attack (on the 12th).

7th (Sun)

- On the occasion of the Northern Territories Day, right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "recapture of the Northern Territories" (all over Japan).

8th (Mon)

- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in Florida, US, announced that the concentration of sodium hydroxide in the tap water was about to be raised to more than 100 times the normal level due to a cyber attack designed to poison the tap water.

10th (Wed)

- In a joint interview with several Russian media sources, Russian President Vladimir Putin commented on the impact of the enactment of the revised Russian constitution (in July 2020) on relations with Japan, saying, "We want to develop relations with Japan, and we intend to do so, but we will not do anything against the Basic Law (Note: Constitution)."

11th (Thu)

- On the occasion of the National Foundation Day, right-wing groups carried out shrine worship and held "Kigensetsu" celebration activities (all over Japan).
- US and Chinese leaders held a phone conversation.

13th (Sat)

- Right-wing groups held propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "crushing of Zenkyo (All Japan Teachers and Staff Union)", against the "38th Regular Convention of Zenkyo" (~14th, in Tokyo).

14th (Sun)

- Kakumaru-ha (Revolutionary Marxist Faction of the Revolutionary Communist League) held "general rally of workers' anger" (in Tokyo).

17th (Wed)

- The US Department of Justice announced the indictment of three hackers belonging to the North Korea's General Reconnaissance Bureau for their involvement in destructive cyber attacks and cyber financial crimes.

22nd (Mon)

- On the occasion of Takeshima Day (designated under a Shimane Prefecture's ordinance), right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "recapture of Takeshima" (all over Japan).

23rd (Tue)

- Right-wing groups carried out "Tenchoetsu" celebration activities on the occasion of the Emperor's birthday (all over Japan).
- The Government of Iran suspended the implementation of transparency measures under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), including the Additional Protocol to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in accordance with prior notice.

26th (Fri)

- Right-wing groups held memorial services, calling it "February 26th Incident Day" (all over Japan).

March**3rd (Wed)**

- US President Joseph Biden released the "National Security Strategic Guidance (interim version)," in which he defined China as "the only competitor."

4th (Thu)

- The Panel of Experts of the UN Security Council's North Korea Sanctions Committee released its annual report. It pointed out that North Korea had acquired more than \$300 million in cyber attacks targeting financial institutions, etc. in the approximately two years to November 2020, and that it had laundered stolen crypto assets within China.

5th (Fri)

- The Fourth Session of the 13th National People's Congress was held in Beijing, China (until the 11th).

8th (Mon)

- The Joyu group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Hikari-no-Wa") filed a lawsuit with the Tokyo District Court seeking revocation of the decision to renew the period of surveillance disposition (for the seventh time) based on the Act on the Control of Organizations.

11th (Thu)

- China's National People's Congress approved the "14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and the Year 2035 Long-Term Targets" (announced on the 12th).

12th (Fri)

- Leaders of Japan, US, Australia, and India held a teleconference.

18th (Thu)

- Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau and Director of the General Office of the Central Commission for the Work of Foreign Affairs of the Communist Party of China and Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and National Security Advisor Jacob Sullivan of the US in Anchorage, Alaska, US (until the 19th).
- Three Chinese naval vessels sailed northward through the Tsushima Strait toward the Sea of Japan. On the 25th of the month, the same three vessels sailed southward through the Tsushima Strait toward the East China Sea.
- In response to US President Joseph Biden's characterization of him as a "killer," Russian President Vladimir Putin cited the US atomic bombing of Japan and criticized it as "completely useless from a military point of view, and it was a massacre of civilians."

21st (Sun)

- On the occasion of the "88th Convention of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan," right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "enactment of an independent constitution" (Tokyo).

22nd (Mon)

- The European Union (EU), the US, the UK and Canada announced sanctions against Chinese individuals and organizations in connection with the Uyghur issue. In response, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed "firm opposition and strong condemnation" and announced countermeasures.

24th (Wed)

- In Palma City, Carbo Delgado Province of northern Mozambique, an armed group attacked and occupied the city, and dozens of people were killed or injured. ISIL affiliated organization "Central Africa Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility (on the 29th).

25th (Thu)

- North Korea launched two ballistic missiles. Both missiles flew about 450 kilometers and fell into the Sea of Japan.

28th (Sun)

- A couple riding a motorcycle blew themselves up near the main gate of a Catholic church in Makassar, South Sulawesi Province, central Indonesia, injuring at least 20 residents. Authorities pointed out that the attack was carried out by "Jamaah Ansharut Daulah" (JAD) (on the 29th).

29th (Mon)

- Two Chinese military aircraft flew back and forth from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean over the airspace between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island.

April

3rd (Sat)

- Six Chinese naval vessels sailed southward through the sea area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island, heading for the Pacific Ocean. On the 26th, they sailed northward through the sea area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island, heading for the East China Sea.

4th (Sun)

- A Chinese military aircraft made a round trip flight from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean over the area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island. Also, a Chinese naval vessel sailed southward through the sea area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island toward the Pacific Ocean. On the same day, the vessel sailed northward in the sea area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island toward the East China Sea.

5th (Mon)

- Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a telephone conversation, and both expressed hope that exchanges and dialogues will be promoted in a wide range of fields in preparation for the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China in 2022.
- In Lamu County in southeastern Kenya, a bomb targeting a vehicle carrying Kenyan soldiers exploded, killing the driver and wounding several soldiers. "Al-Shabaab" confessed to the attack.

6th (Tue)

- North Korea announced its decision not to participate in the Tokyo Olympics.
- The Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear issue was held (in Vienna, Austria), and indirect talks between the US and Iran began with the aim of returning the US to the JCPOA, etc.

8th (Thu)

- The US Department of Commerce added seven Chinese supercomputer-related companies and institutions to the "Entity List."

9th (Fri)

- At a regular press conference, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova spoke about the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's textbook certification (results released on March 30), which required new high school history, geography, and public education textbooks to describe the Northern Territories as "Japan's inherent territory," and criticized that it was "stirring up a campaign of unfounded territorial claims against our country."

10th (Sat)

- On the occasion of the "Nuclear Technology Day," the Iranian government announced, among other things, the start of operation of new centrifuges at its nuclear facilities in central Natanz, which were restricted for use under the "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action" (JCPOA).

11th (Sun)

- At a nuclear facility in Natanz, central Iran, an anomaly occurred damaging part of the electrical system. The Iranian government determined that this was a "sabotage" by Israel.

13th (Tue)

- Iran announced that it would begin work to increase the enrichment of uranium up to 60% at its nuclear facilities as a countermeasure to the anomaly at the facilities, which it determined to be "sabotage" on April 11.

15th (Thu)

- The US government issued an executive order to counter malicious cyber activities by Russia, including the deportation of 10 Russian diplomats stationed in Washington DC and sanctions against 6 Russian companies.
- Four civilians were killed and 20 others injured when a vehicle carrying a bomb exploded in a market in the Sadr district of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. ISIL issued a statement claiming responsibility under the name of "Iraq Province - Baghdad" (on the 16th).

16th (Fri)

- US-Japan Summit was held in Washington, DC.

17th (Sat)

- The Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department arrested a live-in member of the mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Aleph") on suspicion of obstructing the execution of official duties (on the 28th, disposition not to institute prosecution (suspended prosecution)).

18th (Sun)

- Annual Meeting of Boao Forum for Asia 2021 was held (until the 21st, Hainan Province, China).

20th (Tue)

- Russia's Eastern Military District announced that it conducted a field exercise using the "S-300V4" surface-to-air missile system deployed in the "Kurile" Islands (in December 2020) in connection with military exercises that began on the 19th in Sakhalin and the "Kurile" Islands (the Kurile Islands and the Northern Territories).
- In relation to the cyber-attacks on JAXA and other organizations, the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department sent a man, a member of the Communist Party of China, to the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office for allegedly signing up for a rental server in Japan under a false name on a total of five occasions between September 2016 and April 2017.

21st (Wed)

- In his annual address, Russian President Putin, referring to the situation in Ukraine and Belarus, said, "I hope that no one will cross the so-called red line in relations with Russia."
- A car bomb exploded in a hotel in Quetta, the capital of Pakistan's southwestern province of Baluchistan, killing at least 5 people and injuring 12 others. "Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan" (TTP) issued a statement claiming responsibility.

23rd (Fri)

- The mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Aleph") held intensive Golden Week seminars (~25, 28 - 9 May, in Aichi, etc.).
- A man attacked and killed a police officer with a knife at a police station in Rambouillet, near Paris, France. The country's authorities pointed out the man's commitment to Islamist extremism.

27th (Tue)

- Twelve soldiers were killed in an attack by an armed group on a military position in Lak Region, western Chad. ISIL affiliated group "West Africa Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility.

29th (Thu)

- Right-wing groups visited Musashino-ryo Imperial Mausoleum on the occasion of Showa Day and conducted activities to honor the legacy of Emperor Showa (throughout Japan).

30th (Fri)

- Two Chinese military aircraft flew back and forth from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean over the area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island. Also, a Chinese naval vessel sailed southward between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island toward the Pacific Ocean.

May

1st (Sat)

- The Joyu group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Hikari-no-Wa") held intensive seminars during Golden Week (~4th, 15th-16th, in Tokyo, etc.).

3rd (Mon)

- Right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "enactment of an independent constitution" on the occasion of Constitution Memorial Day (throughout Japan).

7th (Fri)

- A ransomware attack occurred on Colonial, a US petroleum products pipeline operator, causing the company to temporarily halt pipeline operations. A group of Russian hackers "DarkSide" confessed to involvement.

10th (Mon)

- Kyoto Police arrested a live-in member of the mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Aleph") on suspicion of violating the Act on Specified Commercial Transactions (on the 20th, disposition not to institute prosecution).
- Kanagawa Prefectural Police arrested a lay member of "Aleph" on suspicion of fraud (on June 3, disposition not to institute prosecution).
- Military clashes broke out between Israel and Hamas, which was active in the Gaza Strip and other areas of the Palestinian Authority. 256 people were killed in the Gaza Strip, and 13 people were killed in Israel. A ceasefire came into effect on the 21st of the month.

11th (Tue)

- Chinese government announced results of the "7th National Population Census."
- The "Mujahidin Indonesia Timur" (MIT) beheaded and killed four residents in Poso, Central Sulawesi, central Indonesia. ISIL claimed the attack was carried out by "ISIL East Asia Province" (on June 3).

16th (Sun)

- Three Chinese naval vessels sailed southward between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island toward the Pacific Ocean. On November 12, they sailed northward between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island toward the East China Sea.

19th (Wed)

- In a lawsuit filed by the Joyu group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Hikari-no-Wa") seeking revocation of the decision to renew the period of surveillance disposition (in 2018, for the sixth time), the Tokyo High Court dismissed the appeal by "Hikari-no-Wa" (final).
- Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for a nuclear power plant to be built in China via videoconference.

20th (Thu)

- European Parliament frozen debate on ratification of "Comprehensive Investment Agreement" with China.

- Local newspapers in Nigeria reported that "Boko Haram" leader Abubakar Shekau was attacked by the ISIL affiliate organization "West Africa Province", and as a result, detonated a suicide vest and died.

21st (Fri)

- US-South Korea summit was held (in Washington, DC).
- At the Global Health Summit (online), Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that "we will provide 3 billion dollars in aid to developing countries over 3 years to fight infectious diseases and support their economic recovery."

25th (Tue)

- A major Japanese electrical equipment manufacturer disclosed a cyber-attack on a tool for sharing information on the Internet with internal and external parties.

30th (Sun)

- Japanese Red Army members and supporters held a rally to commemorate the Tel Aviv airport shooting incident (in Tokyo).

31st (Mon)

- At a group study session on "Strengthening China's International Communication Capacity Building," General Secretary Xi Jinping said, "we must possess humbleness and humility and strive to shape a reliable, beloved and reputable image of China."
- Three Chinese naval vessels sailed eastward through the Osumi Strait toward the Pacific Ocean.

June

3rd (Thu)

- US President Joseph Biden signed an executive order prohibiting investment in companies that cooperate with the People's Liberation Army of China in developing weapons.
- In the Kadhimiyah district of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, a bomb planted by ISIL fighters exploded, killing four civilians and injuring at least 20 others. ISIL issued a statement claiming responsibility under the name of "Iraqi Province - Baghdad."

4th (Fri)

- At a press conference held in the framework of the Petersburg International Economic Forum (on June 2-5, in St. Petersburg, Russia), Russian President Vladimir Putin mentioned the necessity of taking into account the revised Russian constitution (approved in July 2020), which included a clause prohibiting the cession of territory, in the negotiations for a peace treaty with Japan, but said that he did not think that the negotiations should be suspended.

6th (Sun)

- A suicide car bombing occurred at a checkpoint in the southern Libyan province of Sebha, killing two people, including a senior police official. ISIL admitted to carrying out the attack (on the 7th).

10th (Thu)

- The Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress passed the "Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law," which was promulgated and came into effect on the same day.

11th (Fri)

- G7 Cornwall Summit (~13th, in UK) was held.
- Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau and Director of the General Office of the Central Commission for the Work of Foreign Affairs of the Communist Party of China spoke with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken by phone and expressed opposition to "'pseudo-multilateralism' based on group politics."

- In Niger's capital Niamey, armed men attacked the residence of the Speaker of the National Assembly, killing a security guard and wounding another. ISIL-affiliated "West Africa Province" confessed to the attack (on the 22nd).

13th (Sun)

- The G7 leaders issued a joint statement at the G7 summit, which included a commitment to "emphasize peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait."

15th (Tue)

- The Third Plenum of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was held (-18th). General Secretary Kim Jong Un issued a "special order" on the food issue. Regarding relations with the US, General Secretary Kim said, "We must be prepared for both dialogues and confrontations."

16th (Wed)

- US President Joseph Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin held their first face-to-face summit in Geneva, Switzerland, and agreed to start a dialogue on "strategic stability." And, President Biden presented President Putin with a list of 16 critical infrastructure sectors and proposed that these facilities be exempted from any attacks, including cyber attacks.

21st (Mon)

- A suicide bombing targeting a French reconnaissance unit near Gossi in northern Mali's Timbuktu Province injured six French soldiers and four local residents.

22nd (Tue)

- ISIL issued an audio statement by spokesman Abu Hamza al-Qurashi. This was the fifth statement by the same person since last October.

23rd (Wed)

- The Russian Ministry of Defense announced that the Eastern Military District and the Pacific Fleet started a large-scale exercise in the waters of Sakhalin Island, Etorofu Island, Kunashiri Island and the Sea of Japan. According to the announcement, the exercise would last for 5 days and would mobilize more than 10,000 soldiers, about 500 military vehicles, about 32 military aircraft, and about 12 naval vessels.

25th (Fri)

- In northern Mali, near the village of Ishagara, Gao Region, a vehicle carrying a bomb rammed into the base of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), injuring 13 people, including 12 German servicemen and one Belgian serviceman. "Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims" (JNIM) confessed to the attack (on July 2).

26th (Sat)

- In Bari State, northeastern Somalia, an IED targeting a vehicle carrying the Minister of Security of Puntland Autonomous State and others exploded, killing one soldier and injuring three others. The Minister was not affected by the explosion. ISIL-affiliated organization "Somalia Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility.

27th (Sun)

- A man carried out a suicide bombing targeting Christians gathered in a bar in North Kivu Province, northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, killing only the perpetrator. The ISIL-affiliated "Central Africa Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility (on the 29th).

28th (Mon)

- Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping met by videoconference to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation Between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, and announced a five-year extension of the treaty.

29th (Tue)

- The Workers' Party of Korea of North Korea held the second enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau for the eighth term of the Central Committee. General Secretary Kim Jong Un reprimanded senior officials for "causing a serious incident" in the prevention of the new coronavirus epidemic. Ri Pyong Chol, a member of the Standing Committee of the Party Political Bureau, and others were ousted.

July

1st (Thu)

- Right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "overthrow of the Communist Party of China" in view of the 100th anniversary of the Party's founding (all over Japan).

- The Communist Party of China held a congress in Beijing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Party.

2nd (Fri)

- The supreme Court of Japan dismissed special appeals by Asahara's wife and second son and Asahara's fourth daughter in a trial concerning the delivery of Asahara's remains, and confirmed the decision to allow Asahara's second daughter to receive the remains.

- The mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Aleph") filed a lawsuit in the Tokyo District Court seeking to revoke the decision to renew the period of surveillance disposition under the Act on the Control of Organizations (for the seventh time).

- "Kaseya," a US information and communications company, announced that it had suffered a cyber-attack on its products. It was later revealed that the attack was a ransomware attack that affected up to 1,500 companies.

5th (Mon)

- The mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo (the "group led by Yamada") filed a lawsuit in the Tokyo District Court seeking to revoke the decision to renew the period of surveillance disposition under the Act on the Control of Organizations (for the seventh time).

6th (Tue)

- Leaders of the Communist Party of China and World Political Parties Summit (online) was held.

8th (Thu)

- In a speech, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, "The Japanese side is distorting the agreement between President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on negotiations for a peace treaty with Japan, including the Northern Territories issue. Our Japanese colleagues are constantly talking about their desire to move toward concluding a good (peace) treaty which they see in a form where the 'territorial problem' is to be solved first, but such agreement does not exist."

12th (Mon)

- In Muidumbe, Cabo Delgado Province of northern Mozambique, an armed group attacked a military unit of the country, killing a soldier. ISIL-affiliated organization "Central Africa Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility (on the 13th).

16th (Fri)

- The US issued a letter warning its companies of the risks of doing business in Hong Kong and imposed sanctions on seven officials of China's central government office in Hong Kong.

19th (Mon)

- ISIL fighters carried out suicide bombings targeting Shia residents in a market in the Sadr district of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, killing 35 and wounding 60. ISIL issued a statement claiming responsibility under the name "Iraq Province - Baghdad."
- The US government announced that a cyber threat entity linked to China's Ministry of State Security infiltrated tens of thousands of computers and networks around the world in a cyber-attack that exploited vulnerability in the messaging platform provided by "Microsoft," the US telecommunications company.
- The US Department of Justice announced the indictment of 4 persons in total, 3 officials of the State Security Department of China's Hainan Province and a hacker employed by a Chinese information and communications company, for their involvement in a global cyber-attack campaign aimed at stealing intellectual property and trade secrets. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan also referred to the indictment in a spokesman's statement.

22nd (Thu)

- The Japanese Communist Party Chairman Kazuo Shii issued a statement calling for the cancellation of the Tokyo Olympic Games.

23rd (Fri)

- Chukaku-ha (Middle Core Faction of the Revolutionary Communist League) held a protest on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympic Games, calling for the "cancellation of the Olympics" (in Tokyo).
- China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it would impose sanctions on former US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and others under the "Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law" in response to the US sanctions imposed on Chinese officials over the situation in Hong Kong.

24th (Sat)

- In the Extreme North Province of northern Cameroon, an armed group attacked a military base in that country, killing 8 soldiers and wounding 13 others. The ISIL-affiliated "West Africa Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility (on the 25th).

26th (Mon)

- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Vice Foreign Minister Xie Feng met with US Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman in Tianjin, China.
- Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin visited the island of Etorofu and inspected a hospital, a fish processing plant and other sites. Also, he said that the idea of introducing tax exemption system to the "Kurile" Islands (the Kurile Islands and the Northern Territories) "would be a good decision for Western countries and Japanese investors."
- During his visit to the island of Etorofu, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin commented on the plan to convert the fuel source in the Northern Territories to liquefied natural gas (LNG), saying, "There are valuable biological resources here (Note: the Northern Territories). This is why LNG is a breakthrough," and referred to the need for the federal budget to fund the plan.

27th (Tue)

- North Korea and South Korea announced the restoration of the North-South communication line. On the same day, communication and liaison operations resumed (on August 10, the North Korean side again interrupted communication).
- The Supreme Court of Japan dismissed the appeal of a lawsuit filed by the officials of Hiroshima Korean Elementary and High School against the government, claiming that the exclusion of Korean schools from the "free high school education" system was illegal. The school side lost all of the lawsuits filed in five locations across the country.

28th (Wed)

- In Geneva, Switzerland, the US and Russian governments held the first round of vice-ministerial-level talks on "strategic stability" since the June summit, and agreed to continue the talks.

30th (Fri)

- A major Japanese heavy industry manufacturer announced the results of an internal investigation into a cyber-attack on the company that was announced in December 2020. The report mentioned the possibility that some servers in Japan and overseas were unlawfully accessed via overseas bases and information was leaked.

August**3rd (Tue)**

- The "Japan Regional Committee for the Implementation of the June 15 Joint Declaration," in which General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon) and the Korean Federation for Democratization and Unification in Japan participate, as well as representatives of Japanese organizations, held a protest around the US Embassy in Japan, calling for "a halt to US-South Korean joint military exercises" and other actions.

4th (Wed)

- The Japanese Communist Party held a lecture to commemorate the 99th anniversary of its founding (in Tokyo).
- The US decided to sell self-propelled artillery and other weapons to Taiwan.

6th (Fri)

- Right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets criticizing the US atomic bombings on A-bomb Day (and on the 9th, in Tokyo, Hiroshima, etc.).

7th (Sat)

- The Joyu group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Hikari-no-Wa") held intensive summer seminars (~8th, 11th~14th, in Tokyo, etc.).

9th (Mon)

- Right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "recapture of the Northern Territories" on the "Anti-Russia Day" (all over Japan).

11th (Wed)

- Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi held a telephone conference with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to discuss negotiations for a peace treaty, joint economic activities in the Northern Territories and other issues.

14th (Sat)

- A Chinese naval vessel sailed northeastward through the Tsushima Strait toward the Sea of Japan. On the 31st, it sailed southward through the Tsushima Strait toward the East China Sea.

15th (Sun)

- Right-wing groups visited Yasukuni Shrine and Gokoku shrines on the day of the end of WWII, and participated in memorial services for the war dead (all over Japan).
- The "Taliban" took control of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan.

17th (Tue)

- Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it has decided to suspend the implementation of the 2021 exchange program between the four northern islands in light of the situation of the new coronavirus infection.

18th (Wed)

- China's Ministry of Public Security and Tajikistan's Ministry of Internal Affairs conducted a joint anti-terrorism exercise "Anti-Terrorism Cooperation - 2021" (~19th, Dushanbe, Tajikistan).

19th (Thu)

- Kazuo Shii, Chairman of the Japanese Communist Party, issued "Urgent Proposal to Save Lives from Corona" (addressed to Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga) calling for expansion of the medical system, cancellation of the Tokyo Paralympic Games and other actions.
- Right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "crushing of All Japan Teachers and Staff Union (Zenkyo)" against the "Zenkyo Education Research National Meeting 2021" (~22nd, in Tokyo).

22nd (Sun)

- Three Chinese naval vessels sailed northeastward through the Tsushima Strait toward the Sea of Japan. On the 24th, four Chinese naval vessels, including the said three vessels, sailed eastward through the Soya Strait.

24th (Tue)

- Three Chinese naval vessels sailed southward through the sea area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island, heading for the Pacific Ocean. On the 26th, these vessels sailed northward through the sea area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island, heading for the East China Sea.

25th (Wed)

- Three Chinese military aircraft flew back and forth from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean over the airspace between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island.

26th (Thu)

- Three Chinese military aircraft flew back and forth from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean over the airspace between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island.
- Near the international airport in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, an explosion occurred, killing more than 180 people, including 13 US soldiers. ISIL affiliated organization "Khorasan Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility.

27th (Fri)

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) released a report stating that there were signs that the 5-megawatt graphite-moderated reactor at North Korea's nuclear facilities in Nyeongbyeon resumed operations in early July. The report also pointed out signs that the reprocessing facility for spent nuclear fuel started operating between mid-February and early July this year.

September

2nd (Thu)

- In an interview, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Trutnev spoke about the establishment of a special duty-free zone in the "Kurile" Islands (the Kurile Islands and the Northern Territories), saying, "The new system in the 'Kuriles' is also for Japan. But we do not choose investments based on nationality."

3rd (Fri)

- Two Chinese navy vessels sailed southward through the sea area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island, heading for the Pacific Ocean. On the 5th, they joined a Chinese naval vessel and sailed northward through the sea area between Taiwan and Yonaguni Island toward the East China Sea.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin announced at the plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum (on 2-4, in Vladivostok, Russia) to introduce a tax exemption system in which the "Kurile" Islands (the Kurile Islands and the Northern Territories) would be exempted from corporate tax, property tax, and other major taxes for 10 years. Also, referring to the issue of concluding a peace treaty with Japan, he said that the absence of a peace treaty between Japan and Russia is "nonsense," and that Japan has not responded to Russia's security concerns regarding the Japan-US alliance.

8th (Wed)

- In a lawsuit filed by the mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo (the "group led by Yamada") seeking to revoke the decision to renew the period of surveillance disposition (in 2018, the sixth time), the Tokyo High Court dismissed the appeal by the "group led by Yamada" (the "group led by Yamada" appealed on September 22).
- In New Zealand, a cyber-attack targeting financial institutions and postal service providers caused disruptions to their websites and other problems.

9th (Thu)

- North Korea held a paramilitary-led military review ceremony on the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of the regime.
- At the 13th BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Summit (online), Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that he would "provide an additional 100 million doses of vaccines free of charge to developing countries by the end of the year."

10th (Fri)

- The mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Aleph") held intensive autumn seminars (~12, 17-26, in Aichi, etc.).
- US and Chinese leaders held a phone conversation.
- Russia and Belarus conducted a large-scale joint exercise "ZAPAD 2021" with a total of about 200,000 servicemen, until September 15.

11th (Sat)

- "Al-Qaeda" issued a statement (video) by Supreme Leader Ayman al-Zawahiri on the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the US, calling for terrorism against Israel and the US.

13th (Mon)

- North Korea's Korean Central Broadcasting reported that "on the 11th and 12th, the Academy of Defense Science conducted a test launch of a newly developed new long-range cruise missile."

15th (Wed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched 2 ballistic missiles. Both missiles flew about 750 kilometers and fell within Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Sea of Japan. The Korean Central Broadcasting reported on the 16th that the "Railway Mobile Missile Regiment" conducted a launching drill.
16th (Thu)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The French Defense Ministry announced that Adnan Abu Walid al-Sahrawi, the supreme leader of the ISIL-affiliated "ISIL Greater Sahara" was killed in a French military operation. China applied to join the "Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership" (CPTPP).
18th (Sat)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Chinese naval vessel sailed northward through the sea area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island, heading for the East China Sea. At a volleyball game in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, southern Philippines, someone detonated a bomb, injuring 8 spectators. Authorities said the crime was committed by the "Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters" (BIFF). ISIL claimed that it was conducted by "ISIL East Asia Province" (on the 23rd).
19th (Sun)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Russia, the lower house elections were held, and the ruling "United Russia" party won 324 seats, more than two-thirds of the total seats, although it had lost seats before the elections.
22nd (Wed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taiwan applies to join the CPTPP.
23rd (Thu)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met on the occasion of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (in New York, US) and discussed urgent issues in Japan-Russia relations, the Foreign Ministries of Japan and Russia announced.
24th (Fri)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Chinese naval vessel sailed northward through the sea area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island, heading for the East China Sea. Second Japan-US-Australia-India Summit was held (in Washington, DC). The European Council issued a statement condemning the Russian government for its involvement in a malicious cyber campaign called "Ghostwriter."
25th (Sat)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "crushing of Japan Teacher's Union" against the "110th Regular Convention of the Japan Teacher's Union" (~26th, in Tokyo).
28th (Tue)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea launched a missile. On the 29th, the Korean Central Broadcasting reported that "the Academy of Defense Science conducted a test launch of the newly developed 'Hwasong [Mars] 8' type hypersonic missile." North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly held its fifth session of the 14th term (~29th). In his policy speech, General Secretary Kim Jong Un announced that the North-South communication line would be restored in early October (communication and liaison work resumed on October 4).
29th (Wed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling to "defend the Senkaku Islands to the death" on the so-called "Anti-Communist China Day" (all over Japan).

30th (Thu)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US and Russian governments held their second round of deputy-ministerial talks on "strategic stability" in Geneva, Switzerland, and agreed to establish two expert working groups on "principles and objectives of future arms control" and "capabilities and actions with strategic implications."
October
1st (Fri)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Korea's Korean Central Broadcasting reported that, "on September 30, the Academy of Defense Science conducted a test launch of a newly developed anti-aircraft missile."
4th (Mon)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense announced that a total of 56 Chinese military aircraft entered the air defense identification zone southwest of Taiwan on the day (the highest number of aircraft per day since the Ministry of National Defense began announcing the moves of Chinese military aircraft).
6th (Wed)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yang Jiechi, member of the Political Bureau and Director of the General Office of the Central Commission for the Work of Foreign Affairs of the Communist Party of China, met with US National Security Advisor Jacob Sullivan and said, "We oppose defining China-US relations as 'competition'."
7th (Thu)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida held a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin. While Prime Minister Kishida expressed his willingness to work on the Northern Territories issue as well as the development of Japan-Russia relations, including the issue of concluding a peace treaty, President Putin stated his intention to continue dialogue on all issues between Japan and Russia, including the issue of concluding a peace treaty.
8th (Fri)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a telephone conversation and agreed to cooperate on common issues and to boost economic and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. An explosion occurred inside a Shiite mosque in Kunduz Province in northeastern Afghanistan, killing at least 50 people and injuring more than 100. ISIL-affiliated "Khorasan Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility.
9th (Sat)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the "110th Anniversary Conference of the 1911 Xinhai Revolution" (on 9-10), General Secretary Xi Jinping said, "The historic task of the complete unification of the motherland must be realized."
11th (Mon)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six Chinese navy vessels sailed northeastward through the Tsushima Strait toward the Sea of Japan. On the 18th, five of these vessels and five Russian navy vessels sailed eastward through the Tsugaru Strait toward the Pacific Ocean. On the 22nd, these vessels sailed westward through the Osumi Strait toward the East China Sea. North Korea held the "Defense Development Exhibition (Self-Defense 2021)." General Secretary Kim Jong Un delivered a commemorative speech at the opening ceremony, saying, "It is our Party's invariable priority and goal and unwavering will to possess and further strengthen the military capability."

12th (Tue)

- Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at the 6th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA: online) that "we must look into the nature of the 'Indo-Pacific strategy' of the AUKUS and the US, and oppose attempts to destroy regional stability."

15th (Fri)

- At least 47 people were killed and more than 70 injured in an explosion that occurred inside a Shiite mosque in Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan. ISIL-affiliated "Khorasan Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility.
- A man attacked and killed a member of the UK House of Commons with a knife at a church in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, in southeast England. Authorities in the country announced that the man had confessed to having links to ISIL (on the 21st).

19th (Tue)

- North Korea launched a submarine-launched ballistic missile. It flew about 600 kilometers and fell into the Sea of Japan.

25th (Mon)

- The Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency requested the Public Security Examination Commission for recurrence prevention disposition against the mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Aleph"), based on Article 8, Paragraph 1 of the Act on the Control of Organizations.

28th (Thu)

- Right-wing groups conducted propaganda activities in the streets calling for the "recapture of Takeshima" on the "Day of the Recapture of Takeshima" (all over Japan).

31st (Sun)

- A Chinese naval vessel sailed southward through the waters between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island toward the Pacific Ocean. Also, two Chinese military aircraft flew back and forth from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean over the area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island.

November**1st (Mon)**

- Two Chinese military aircraft flew back and forth from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean over the airspace between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island.

7th (Sun)

- Chukaku-ha (Middle-Core faction of the Revolutionary Communist League) held "National Workers' General Rally" (in Tokyo).

8th (Mon)

- The Communist Party of China held the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee in Beijing (~11th).

13th (Sat)

- Two Chinese naval vessels sailed northeastward through the Tsushima Strait toward the Sea of Japan. On the 18th, they sailed southward through the Tsushima Strait toward the East China Sea.

16th (Tue)

- A Chinese naval vessel sailed northeastward through the Tsushima Strait toward the Sea of Japan. On the 19th, it sailed southward through the Tsushima Strait toward the East China Sea.
- US and Chinese leaders held a teleconference.

- At least three people were killed and 33 injured in a series of suicide bombings near the central police station and the parliament building in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. ISIL-affiliated "Central Africa Province" issued a statement claiming responsibility.

17th (Wed)

- A Chinese naval vessel sailed westward from Japan's contiguous zone south of Yakushima toward territorial waters. On the 18th, it sailed westward through Japan's contiguous waters west of Kuchinoerabu Island.

18th (Thu)

- Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a telephone conversation, and the two foreign ministers agreed to take the opportunity of the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and China in 2022 to boost economic and people-to-people exchanges.

19th (Fri)

- Two Chinese and two Russian military aircraft flew over the southern part of Tsushima from the Sea of Japan to the East China Sea, and then flew back and forth between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean. The two Russian aircraft then flew over the southern part of Tsushima from the East China Sea to the Sea of Japan.
- A Chinese naval vessel sailed northward through the sea area between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island, heading for the East China Sea.
- The Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency withdrew its request for recurrence prevention disposition against the mainstream group of Aum Shinrikyo ("Aleph") following submission of report by the group.

22nd (Mon)

- Russia's Eastern Military District announced that it has conducted a field exercise using the "S-300V4" surface-to-air missile system in the "Kurile" Islands (the Kurile Islands and the Northern Territories).

24th (Wed)

- Two Chinese military aircraft flew back and forth from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean over the airspace between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island.

25th (Thu)

- Two Chinese military aircraft flew back and forth from the East China Sea to the Pacific Ocean over the airspace between Okinawa Island and Miyako Island.

29th (Mon)

- The Joint Commission of the "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action" (JCPOA) and indirect talks between the US and Iran on the Iranian nuclear issue, which had been suspended since June, resumed for the first time in about 5 months (in Vienna, Austria).

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Information dissemination

Various booklets including “Review and Prospects of Internal and External Situations” can also be read online on the PSIA website



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