

NEWSBRIEFS

BRAZIL

Toda's Declaration Commemorated

The São Paulo State Legislative Assembly convened for a special session on Nov. 28, 1997, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Soka Gakkai second president Josei Toda's Declaration for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. In conjunction, the Latin America Youth Conference was held. Five hundred representative SGI youth division members from Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela and Argentina were invited by the assembly to participate in the conference.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

JAPAN

SGI President Meets With Russian Scholar

SGI President Ikeda and his wife, Kaneko, met with Moscow State University Associate Professor Leon A. Strijak and his wife, Irina, in Tokyo on Nov. 29, 1997. On President Ikeda's first trip to the Soviet Union in 1974, Mr. Strijak — who is a Japanese language and literature specialist — served as the SGI leader's interpreter during meetings with Soviet Premier Aleksei Kosygin, Nobel laureate and writer Mikhail Sholokhov and former Moscow State University Rector Rem V. Khokhlov. Mr. Strijak is currently teaching at Soka University as an exchange scholar.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

NEW MEXICO

First New Year's Meeting Held in Santa Fe

Fifty-nine SGI-USA members and guests gathered at the Eldorado Hotel in historic downtown Santa Fe for a New Year's Day world peace prayer meeting. It was the first-ever New Year's meeting to be held in northern New Mexico, which includes Taos, Espanola and Nambe.

— *KIM MELLOR and DELLA CHAVEZ*

GHANA

Construction Begins on Ikeda Garden in Ghana

A ground-breaking ceremony was held on Jan. 4 for the construction of the Dr. Daisaku Ikeda Garden in Kwabre District, Ghana. The park, which will occupy about 5.25 acres along both sides of the Aboabo River, is located near the city of Kumasi, where the second SGI-Ghana culture center is currently under construction. The decision to create a park bearing President Ikeda's name was made by the Kwabre District Assembly in honor of his international contributions to peace, education and culture. The assembly hopes the park, which is located in the Ashanti region, an area noted for its rich cultural tradition and abundant natural beauty, will aid in the preservation of the environment.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

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