

Youth Must Ensure Victory

Victory — reaching all our unreachable stars — is the most important thing, SGIPresident Ikeda says. The key to the SGI's success has been the united efforts of many people. And it is the youth who must ensure our continued victory and the happiness of the people in the coming century.

SGI President Ikeda gave the following speech at the Youth Division March 16 Commemorative Meeting at the Soka International Friendship Hall in Sendagaya, Tokyo, March 13.

March 16, Kosen-rufu Day. The spirit of this day lies not in magnificent ceremonies or high-sounding words. It lies in being victorious. That is the most crucial thing in all endeavors. In life and in kosen-rufu, we either win or lose. I would like you to be absolute victors in both. No matter what excuses we try to make, giving in to defeat brings misery and loses us the respect of others. I hope each of you without exception will adorn your life with indestructible triumph.

The Most Meaningful of Lives

Allow me to describe an incident that occurred 40 years ago, shortly before that famous ceremony on March 16. Commemorative pilgrimages to the head temple [celebrating the completion of the Grand Lecture Hall] were being conducted throughout the month. One day we received a report that a wanted murderer had been spotted heading for the temple grounds. We were told an elderly couple had been robbed and murdered in Izu in Shizuoka Prefecture (the same prefecture in which the head temple is located) and that the killer was now at large on the head temple premises. We launched a thorough search, but by the time we found any trace, he'd already fled.

President Toda, who was in extremely poor health, was resting in one of the lodging temples. When I reported the incident to him, he said: "What a sad affair! I feel so sorry for the elderly couple and for their family. Please chant daimoku for them. I feel sorry for that young man, too. He'll suffer for what he's done for the rest of his life."

The fugitive was finally caught and arrested. His actions had inflicted great pain and suffering not only on his victims and himself but on his and his victims' families, friends and acquaintances. This is the state of Hell. Please never ever create such hell for yourself or anyone.

Buddhism is about bringing happiness, joy and fulfillment to all. It enables us not only to become happy ourselves but to make causes for the enlightenment of our ancestors seven-plus generations back and for the happiness and prosperity of our children, grandchildren and descendants throughout future generations. This is the great benefit of Buddhism.

Lamenting over the murder, President Toda said: "What a tragedy! The taking of human life is never permissible under any circumstances." I will never forget these strict words. We have recently seen a spate of incidents in the news where people casually inflict injury or take others' lives without any apparent understanding of the enormity of their crime.

It is absolutely vital that you, my young friends, walk the correct path in life. Life is very precious. You are leading the most valuable and meaningful of lives. A youth such as yours is noble and happy beyond compare. A debased, decadent life that produces nothing of value or meaning, no matter how fun or cool it may seem on the surface, is empty and vain.

It is a destructive and wretched existence. Please use wisdom and good sense in all things and lead wonderful, fulfilling lives.

A Century of Youth Has Begun

Commemorative events to mark March 16, Kosen-rufu Day, are being held by the youth division throughout Japan and around the globe. Everywhere, we can see the vibrant passion of youth determined to create a new age. The century of youth has begun, and I am watching your endeavors with great delight. The youth division has achieved remarkable development and growth. I commend you all on the outstanding job you have done. It further underscores that the age of the youth division is well and truly here.

I am reminded of the day the young men's division was founded [1951]. The event took place in the cramped facilities of the old Soka Gakkai Headquarters in Tokyo's Nishi-Kanda. Whereas many other religious organizations at the time had fine facilities, the Soka Gakkai, champion of the highest Buddhist teaching, was headquartered in the most humble and run-down of buildings. Only around 180 youth attended that inaugural meeting.

President Toda said to the participants that day: "The next president of the Soka Gakkai will no doubt appear from among you who are here today. I am firmly convinced that he is here now.... I wish to offer that person my heartfelt congratulations." President Toda clearly foresaw the future.

Today, in turn, I say to you, the members of the youth division: "All of you are president of the Soka Gakkai. Please advance with this awareness."

We are no longer in an age when one person can shoulder everything. Today our great people's organization has grown into an international body of immense size and diversity active in all parts of the world. And we have achieved this phenomenal development independent of state protection or patronage, while enduring constant harassment and attack. Such progress is not possible through the efforts of one or two people. It has been solely dependent on the united effort of our many members.

Of course, for the day-to-day running of the organization, someone will still be officially designated as president, but ultimately our future development hinges on every member having the commitment required of a Soka Gakkai president. With this spirit, this sense of responsibility, this leadership in your activities, may you always work for kosen-rufu and for the victory of the people. May you also build a Soka Gakkai where everyone can advance joyfully, a Soka Gakkai of undying progress.

Your mission is to ensure that this precious organization endures for all time, to create a Soka Gakkai that nothing can ever destroy. That is the only way to secure the eternal flow of kosen-rufu, our movement to realize lasting peace and happiness for all humanity.

You must never allow our organization to be thrown into disarray by people of ill intent who seek to exploit the Soka Gakkai for their own motives. You have to be able to see through their schemes.

What needs to be done to ensure that the Soka Gakkai lives on forever and the kosen-rufu movement is perpetuated? This is something that all of you talented young people yourselves will have to think about and work for.

This subject can be looked at from various angles. I would like to talk about one important aspect today in the hope that it might provide you with some food for thought.

Why Christianity Spread

Christianity spread widely throughout the world in what could be described as a momentous achievement. What made this possible?

The early Christians were relentlessly persecuted by the rulers of the Roman Empire, the

most powerful authority of the day, many followers laying down their lives for their beliefs. Despite this intense opposition, Christianity ultimately became a force that shook the very foundations of the Roman Empire. After the empire's collapse, it continued to spread around the globe and become one of the world's major religions. Why was this?

I think we can say that Christianity triumphed over persecution and oppression because of its believers' willingness to give their lives for their beliefs. Christianity didn't compromise with the ruling authorities. Religions that capitulate to pressure from political authority ultimately become slaves to those powers, losing their integrity and committing what amounts to suicide. This is a strict lesson of history. Only religions that resist oppression can emit light and gain lasting strength. This is because, whatever their fortunes in society, they triumph in the realm of the spirit. That paves the way for the next phase of development. The spirit of believers to put their lives on the line for their faith is of fundamental importance.

Because our lives at each moment encompass all things (in accord with the principle of a life-moment possesses 3,000 realms), that spirit, that resolve to devote ourselves utterly, is the only way *kosen-rufu* can be achieved.

Christianity started out as a very small and impoverished community of believers. Nobody paid any real attention to them, or if they did, it was with scorn and contempt. How was it that Christianity, which began from such humble beginnings, spread so widely throughout the world as it has today? I discussed this with the great British historian Dr. Arnold Toynbee (1889–1975), who, incidentally, thought very highly of Mahayana Buddhism.

Christianity occupies a pre-eminent place in world history. Dr. Toynbee said that Christianity gained wide support because of its believers' unwavering commitment to stake their lives on their beliefs, and because it won the hearts of the masses. With his characteristic insightfulness, he maintained that Christianity's powerful appeal to the people lay behind its success in building a foundation that would not be defeated by the ruling authorities or by changing times.

Of foremost importance are the people — not celebrities, the powerful, the rich, scholars and others whom society deems great or praiseworthy. The purpose of all things must be the happiness of the people. Everything else should be but a means to that end. Those who fail to recognize this fundamental point and look down on the people and exploit them are thoroughly vile and contemptible; they are a hindrance to the people's happiness.

This perversion is widely apparent in Japan. There are also many unscrupulous individuals who seek to take advantage of the Soka Gakkai. Unless this sorry state of affairs is rectified, there will be no victory of the people.

Sharing Others' Sufferings as Our Own

Now, why is it that Christianity had such appeal for the masses? Dr. Toynbee offered three reasons. First, he noted, Christianity treated people "not as proletarians, but as human souls." In other words, Christianity taught that each person is important, each person's life is precious, each person has a soul. It didn't simply lump people together as "workers" or "the lower classes" but placed importance on the welfare of each person.

The Soka Gakkai has also always identified with and extended a helping hand to individuals who were suffering amid the harsh realities of daily life. Selfless members — like you and many of your older sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers — have striven earnestly to tell others about Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, visiting one friend after another and lending a sympathetic ear to their problems and worries. The amount of time and effort spent in supporting and encouraging a single

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person is truly awe-inspiring.

By sharing with a friend that we once suffered too, or that we are going through a rough time in our personal lives now but that we're really challenging the situation, we can encourage him or her. Our own problems and struggles enable us to understand and empathize with others' pain and suffering and allow us to encourage them to overcome their problems as we ourselves have been doing or are resolved to do. There is nothing more noble than the openhearted and generous spirit of a person sharing and empathizing with the sufferings of others.

The Soka Gakkai is fundamentally different from those forces in society who regard the people as faceless masses and look down on them as the poor, laboring classes. No one is superior or inferior. At the most fundamental level of life itself, there are no distinctions of rich and poor. All are equal in the eyes of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. That is the world of the Soka Gakkai.

This same spirit of equality in faith was one reason why early Christianity found such tremendous support among the people.

Reaching Out to the Unfortunate

The second reason Dr. Toynbee offers for Christianity's appeal is that "it showed its consideration for them [the people] in a practical way by taking care of the widows and orphans, the sick and the aged, for whom neither the municipal governments of the city-states nor the ecumenical government of the empire performed any comparable services."

Christianity extended a helping hand to those who were suffering most — to those whom neither the local administration nor the central government took care of. The Soka Gakkai has also always gone out of its way to reach out to such people and to protect and fight for their welfare. Because of this, the Soka Gakkai was scorned in Japan for the longest time as a gathering of the poor and sick.

An international leader was indignant when he heard this, saying: "What ridiculous criticism! Isn't that what true religion is all about? Mercenary religious groups only treasure the rich. I assert that, in reaching out to the poorest of the poor, the Soka Gakkai only proves itself a religious group of genuine integrity."

For many religious groups, money is more important than people. The Nikken sect is a prime example. Such is the way of all fraudulent religious groups. The Nikken sect indisputably stands condemned by the Daishonin. Abandoned by the Buddhas and bodhisattvas of the ten directions and three existences of past, present and future — the protective functions of the universe — the Nikken sect is destined to ruin. The same principle applies to individuals who turn their backs on the people.

Sincere and Selfless Devotion to Faith

Dr. Toynbee's third reason for Christianity's popularity was that "it did all this [the aforementioned charitable deeds] disinterestedly, under the inspiration of Christian ideals and not with the ulterior aim of recruiting supporters."

The spirit of the Soka Gakkai is the same. It has no ulterior motive. It is driven simply by the lofty spirit to enable others to become happy, to enhance the country's cultural richness, to bring peace to the world. We of the Soka Gakkai are earnestly devoting ourselves to practicing the quintessential teachings of Buddhism. Our spirit is identical with that of the original Buddha, Nichiren Daishonin.

Never has it occurred to me to take advantage of the members. In fact, any increase in our membership only makes me the target of even greater jealousy and persecution from forces in society who oppose our movement. The more members there are, the more I am driven to support, encourage and protect them with my entire being.

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Nevertheless, it is imperative that we keep striving for kosen-rufu. If we are to secure happiness for the people, we must continue promoting our movement. As Buddhists, we have no choice but to brave all obstacles, weather all hardships, and endure all in order to lead people to true freedom and enlightenment. This is the spirit of a genuine Buddhist.

Dr. Toynbee concluded: “The Christian church won the hearts of the masses because it did more for the masses than was done for them by any of the rival higher religions or by either the imperial or the municipal public authorities....” In other words, Christianity represented the only hope. People then could not rely on the government, politicians or wealthy citizens to help them.

This prepared the way for Christianity’s rapid spread in the following period and the start of an era of mass conversions. This is how Christianity built the foundation for a new age.

The Soka Gakkai has always devoted itself to the people, and it continues to do so to this day. That is why it has won the people’s hearts. There is no greater strength than this. Devotion to the people is what wins a religion widespread support — this formula will never change. I hope you will remember this lesson of history throughout your lives. It is this point that I especially wish to impress upon you today.

Noble Dedication to Kosen-rufu

Who is worthy of the greatest respect? It is the people, ordinary citizens. Though perhaps not boasting wealth or education, the truly great are found among the people. The three martyrs of Atsuhara, whose heroic behavior is a model for all who are dedicated to widely spreading the Daishonin’s Buddhism, were the epitome of the common person.

When we look at who is earnestly propagating the Daishonin’s teachings, who is working with single-minded purpose to realize kosen-rufu, we find that it is ordinary people with no particular name or position in society — and more often than not it is women.

People who have fine-sounding titles tend to be so puffed up with vanity and self-importance that they are unwilling to risk everything they have to stand up for the cause of justice. What’s great about a person like that? Viewed both in the light of Buddhism and human integrity, absolutely nothing. And what is more, such self-centered individuals even stoop to exploiting and manipulating our noble organization to realize their own lowly ambitions. This is a truly fearful thing. President Toda strictly warned against giving such persons important positions in the organization.

Today I have spoken about Christianity, not to engage in a doctrinal discussion but to look at why it spread so widely.

Ultimately, the religion that devotes itself most to the people is the one that wins the greatest popular support and makes the greatest contributions to humankind. The Soka Gakkai has developed in accord with this formula and is now laying the foundation for the next great stage of development — the foundation for the century.

The Buddhist Law is eternal. The Daishonin’s Buddhism, moreover, has existed for 700 years, but only the Soka Gakkai in this century has worked wholeheartedly for the people’s happiness based on this essential teaching. The priesthood has distinguished itself only by its arrogance and indifference to serving the people. That’s why it never gained wide popular support for the Daishonin’s teachings. The scope of worldwide kosen-rufu that we of the SGI have achieved today is the result of our tireless dedication day in and day out on behalf of the members’ happiness.

For four, five decades, I have striven for the members’ welfare each day from morning to night. The Gohonzon knows all of my efforts. I mention this fact not as self-praise but as

a reminder for future generations. Because of these efforts, the Soka Gakkai has become the foremost organization in Japan and the world. Please never think that this was accomplished easily.

Members Are the Guiding Force

If, in the future, there are leaders who sit back nonchalantly on the foundation that has been built by their predecessors, who maneuver their way skillfully to avoid hard work or responsibility, who are reluctant to devote every ounce of their energy to serving the members, then it will spell ruin for the Soka Gakkai. Indeed, I'm afraid that there are already such people in our organization. It is vital that you, youth division members, strictly remonstrate and take to task such negligent and self-complacent leaders. Mr. Makiguchi insisted that the constituent members of a body or organization must direct the actions of the leaders.

The most important things in faith are the Daishonin's teachings and the Soka Gakkai spirit. To protect them, you may have to strictly admonish people in senior leadership positions. There is nothing to be afraid of. When you reflect on the sincere commitment of the members in our great organization and how a single leader's directive can affect thousands or tens of thousands of people, any leader who takes lightly or abuses that grave responsibility is a disgrace and cannot be condoned. If such individuals come to prevail, then the very life and spirit of the Soka Gakkai will die, causing it to degenerate into an organization that betrays the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin. But as long as you, the youth division, are there, I am confident that this will never happen.

There was a person who quietly watched my devoted endeavors for the people. This was Chinese premier Zhou Enlai (1898–1976). He said: "The Soka Gakkai enjoys broad support among the people. We should pay great attention to this organization." Premier Zhou's focus was also always on the people. Our shared commitment to work for the people fused to create a golden bridge of friendship between Japan and China.

On my departure from Tokyo's Haneda Airport on my first visit to China in 1974, I declared publicly: "I have come this far with people who have been dismissed as the poor and the sick — without relying on power or money." Many people came to see me off, including officials of the Chinese embassy in Tokyo.

I want all of you to be proud of this spirit of the Soka Gakkai. Above all, religion must help the sick, the poor, those who are suffering the most. Wouldn't you agree? To be valued and looked up to are not corrupt, arrogant individuals who despise the people. I want you to inherit my spirit — a spirit of ungrudging service to the people — and put it into magnificent practice in your lives.

The Sun and the Moon Shine in Your Sparkling Eyes

Tonight (March 13) we have a full moon. That March 16, 40 years ago, was a cold, fine day. A majestic Mount Fuji watched solemnly over the participants. Today, from high on in the heavens, a luminous full moon is watching over all of you, watching over us who share the profound bonds of mentor and disciple.

Until just a short while ago, the sky was overcast and the full moon hidden from view. I wholly presumed we were going to have cloudy weather or rain again today — following the tradition of big youth division events! But the sky seems to have cleared at last. Congratulations!

I can't help commenting on your sparkling eyes. In Buddhism, our eyes are likened to the sun and the moon. In fact, our whole body is viewed as a microcosm of the universe itself. For instance, the roundness of our heads represents the celestial sphere; the hair on our heads, the stars; our eyebrows, the Big Dipper (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 567). Whether the

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full moon is visible in the sky or not, your shining eyes are the most brilliant moon and sun one could hope to see.

In praise of the strong, pure faith of one of his followers, the Daishonin writes:

The sutra states that those who are possessed by demons are unable to believe in the Lotus Sutra, while those in whom Shakyamuni's spirit has entered are able to take faith in it. Just as the moon reflected in the water renders it clear, so the moon of Shakyamuni Buddha must be mirrored in the water of your mind. I find this most reassuring. (*Gosho Zenshu*, p. 1379)

This is an important teaching. Buddhism speaks of evil demons, or negative forces, taking possession of people (*The Lotus Sutra*, p. 194), and when viewed from the recent state of the world, it appears that such demons have indeed taken over people's minds. Society today is disordered and polluted. Darkness prevails. People lack a source of genuine light and hope.

The demons, or spirits, that Buddhism speaks of refer to functions that disrupt the proper rhythm and order of life and rob people of their vitality and benefit. These functions arise out of deluded and misguided thought and from acting counter to the Law. In the "Rissho Ankoku Ron," the Daishonin cites the passage from the Ninno Sutra: "When a nation becomes disordered, it is the spirits which first show signs of rampancy. Because the spirits become rampant, all the people of the nation become disordered" (MW-2 [2nd ed.], 37).

People of evil intent, people who are driven by personal ambition rather than concern for the welfare of others, people who lie and deceive, people who abuse the organization for their own private ends — the likes of these are possessed by demons and find it impossible to practice correct faith.

In contrast, this Gosho passage states that Shakyamuni Buddha resides in the hearts of those with sincere faith. Read in terms of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism, "Shakyamuni" here refers to the original Buddha, the Daishonin himself. The life essence of Nichiren Daishonin resides in the lives of genuine practitioners of his teaching. This is a truly wonderful thing. For this reason, it is important that we respect one another in the SGI.

Championing the Cause of the People

The other day I received a gift from the youth division members of France as an expression of their determination toward March 16. It was a book by the great French author Émile Zola (1840–1902). I humbly offered it to the Gohonzon with a prayer of deep appreciation.

I have spoken a number of times about Zola in the past. Today I'd like to share with you an impassioned letter he addressed to the youth, which is included in this book.

Zola ranks alongside Victor Hugo as one of France's great literary giants. A leading exponent of naturalist literature, his works such as *Drunkard*, *Nana* and *Earth* are well known in Japan.

Zola is said to be at his best in his starkly honest portrayals of the lives of the working class. He championed the cause of the common people throughout his life. I would like you to remember this.

It is the people who are all-important. Nichiren Daishonin was also one of the people. He wrote proudly, "I am merely the son of a commoner" (MW-5, 293). The majority of high-ranking priests in those days were from noble or titled families. Nevertheless, the Daishonin, the original Buddha, purposely chose to be born into the lowest social class of the times, into a family without money, title or position. This is profoundly significant.

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To seek to embellish one's worth with titles and honors is a pretentious way to live. What is great about someone who lords it over others and discriminates against people of humble backgrounds? A genuine Buddhist pursues human greatness bare of all vanity or embellishment.

Zola's life was not all smooth sailing. He lost his father when he was 7. He failed his university entrance examination. His hopes of academic study dashed, he took a job at a publishing house and embarked on the road to becoming a writer. He had been hired to wrap and pack books and do other odd jobs, but he worked hard at this and, in his spare time, contributed articles to small newspapers and gazettes. As a result of his perseverance, he came to be known as the best-selling French novelist of the 19th century.

How Can We Remain Silent?!

In his later years, Zola involved himself with what was known as the Dreyfus Affair. The military authorities had accused a Jewish French army officer named Alfred Dreyfus of spying and had tried and sentenced him to life imprisonment on an island penal colony. The man, however, was innocent of the crime. This travesty of justice had been caused in no small part by the deliberate exploitation of existing anti-Semitic sentiment. Zola could not remain silent. Though almost 60, he stood up unhesitatingly to fight for the truth. For him, age was no barrier to speaking out for justice. As human beings, we are finished if we can no longer speak out. It signals spiritual death.

Exactly a hundred years ago in 1898, Zola published an open letter to the French president in the newspaper *L'Aurore* (The Dawn). The title shouted out from the page, "J'Accuse" — "I accuse!" Zola roundly denounced the injustice that had been perpetrated. His aggressive stand drew retaliation. He was persecuted and harshly criticized by the authorities. But he refused to budge or give in. Great people are not swayed from their beliefs.

There are two well-known proverbs: "Be still and have thy will," and "Cowardly dogs bark loudest." The more quiet and earnest a person seems to be, the more wholeheartedly they tend to fight for their convictions when the crucial moment comes. Glib talkers and those who always make a lot of noise tend to crumble easily in a crisis.

Unfazed by the attacks on him, Zola continued to speak out. He called out to intellectuals, to the people and to the youth. Eventually, people, mainly youth and students in their mid-20s, rallied in response to his cry.

Zola's campaigning led to thousands of people signing a petition demanding a retrial of the Dreyfus case and served to raise public awareness about the affair.

Four years after Zola's death, Dreyfus was finally exonerated. It was a historic victory; Zola's victory. This towering human rights struggle is still talked about today.

Think of the Great Task That Awaits You!

To be trusted are the youth. Many people, as they age, tend to become more self-protective and timid, more given to doing things with the minimum expenditure of energy. Mr. Toda said: "I'll entrust the job of third president to a member of the youth division. I won't leave it to a disciple from Mr. Makiguchi's day. Why? Because they are too old." I feel the same way as President Toda. I will entrust the 21st century to none but the youth.

At the outset of his struggle, Zola lost no time in addressing the youth. In the letter dated 1897, which is also included in the book I received from the French youth division members, he cries:

Oh youth, I beg of you, think of the great task that awaits you. You are the workmen of the future. You will lay the foundations of the next century which, we firmly believe, will resolve the problems of fairness and truth that this waning century raises....

Youth! Be always on the side of justice. If ever the idea of justice should grow dim within you, you would be a prey to every peril. I am not talking about the justice prescribed by our Codes of law.... It [that justice] must be respected, of course; but the justice I mean is a loftier notion.

Our spirit in the SGI is the same. While striving to be exemplary citizens in our communities, we are working to propagate the supreme truth that is the Mystic Law. This is kosen-rufu. Those whose hearts blaze with the passion to champion justice and truth we call youth.

Zola implored of the youth: “Who will stand up and demand that justice be done — if not you?... you who can speak up in all purity and in all good faith?” There is no one. Only the youth. He continued:

Youth!... be on our side when we affirm that an innocent man is serving an appalling sentence and that our rebellious hearts burst with indignation.... Wherever there is a martyr crushed by hatred, is it not your dream to defend his cause and set him free?

Surely seeing a person of justice being persecuted, Zola declares, is reason enough to stand up and defend him. Our humanity demands it. It is the heart of humanism. This spirit is the complete antithesis of the insidious nature of authority that holds human life cheap. Zola further cried:

If you do not take the most sublime of risks, if you do not launch into a superb and perilous cause, if you do not stand up to an entire nation, in the name of ideal justice, then who will? Don't you feel ashamed to see your elders, the old people, take up this cause today with ardour, carrying out the task...that should be yours?...

Where are you going, you young men, you students...? “We're going to the aid of humanity, truth and justice!”

I would like to present these words to you, the members of the youth division.

Youth must have the spirit to attack injustice, the spirit to refute that which is wrong, the spirit to spread the Daishonin's teaching. Just giving an appearance of promoting kosen-rufu and going with the flow, afraid of making waves, are the actions of self-serving youth who are spiritually old and decrepit.

The Mystic Law, as I have already stated, is of supreme importance. The SGI is an organization dedicated to spreading the Mystic Law throughout the world. Consequently, supporting and solidifying the SGI will contribute to the true victory of the people. The victory of the people is the focus and goal of all our endeavors. Please always remember that. I'm counting on you of the youth division to work all out for a magnificent victory.

Looking forward expectantly to March 16 next year, I would like to close my speech today with an expression of my deep appreciation for the phenomenal strides you have been making in your activities. Please know that I am chanting for your health and endeavors day and night. May you advance with complete confidence.

Thank you one and all.

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