

**THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION**  
**A NOVELIZED HISTORY OF THE SOKA GAKKAI**  
**'EARLY SPRING', VOLUME 7, CHAPTER 3, PARTS 13-14**

*Shin'ichi Yamamoto tells the European members, 'Each of you is the sun, bringing the spring of happiness and peace to your family, your community, your workplace and the society in which you live.'*

Shin'ichi Yamamoto's gentle jesting gradually relaxed the members gathered for the meeting. He sat down and, smiling warmly at those present, began to speak: "We packed lots of gifts for you before we left Japan, but Vice General Director Jujo thought they were too heavy to carry all the way to Europe, so he gave them all away in the United States.

"When I asked him what we were going to give our European members, he said we could buy things in Europe for you. But people living in France aren't going to be that excited about receiving a present from France, are they? I knew this would happen, so I put aside some medals, prayer-bead cloths and other items from Japan, and later I will give them to you.

"Surrounded by leaders like this, I'm sure you can see that my troubles are never-ending!" The members all laughed at Shin'ichi's wry humor, and the atmosphere changed completely.

"I want to talk with you today," he continued, "as if we were all conversing over coffee in a café in Montmartre.

"My first visit to Europe was in October 1961. At the time, there were only about 10 member households in all of Europe. I remember the leaders accompanying me expressing their concern and asking me if I thought our membership here would ever grow. But in the year and three months since then, we have made steady advances in propagating Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism in a number of European countries. The foundation for future growth has been firmly established, and this is the product of your efforts, the fruit of your brave struggles.

"In light of this progress, I have decided to establish a Europe General Chapter. All in favor?" Everyone raised his or her hands.

Shin'ichi continued, "I want to ask Eiji Kawasaki, who has been our European contact up to now, to head the general chapter."

He then proceeded to introduce the young men's and young women's division leaders for all of Europe, as well as the leaders of Germany Chapter, appointments that already had been announced in West Germany.

Next he announced the establishment of Paris Chapter and the names of those leaders. Eiji Kawasaki's wife, Yoshie, was named leader of the chapter, which would include three districts: Montmartre, Champs Elysées and Normandy.

He also announced the establishment of a new district in Norway, with Koji Hashimoto as the district leader and his wife, Keiko, as district women's division leader.

After President Yamamoto announced the formation of Europe General Chapter and Paris Chapter and the new leadership appointments, Vice General Director Eisuke Akizuki shared the results of the Study Department exams.

Following was a Q-and-A session with Shin'ichi, moderated by Kawasaki. Questions came in a steady stream, topics including Buddhist concepts such as the three assemblies

in two places from the Lotus Sutra, and how best to proceed with Gakkai activities.

Winding up the session, Shin'ichi said: "Today we have vice general directors and directors from Japan with us, so why don't you all break up into groups so that you'll have a chance to talk with them at length? I hope you won't hesitate to take this opportunity to ask any further questions you may have or discuss any problems or concerns that are on your mind.

"I have just come from the United States. Traveling around there and seeing the tremendous growth of our organization and the benefit enjoyed by our members in the two short years since my last visit, I felt that spring had come to the United States. And now, seeing your enthusiastic faces, I have a profound sense that spring has finally arrived in Europe, too.

"It snowed this morning, but now the sun is shining. It feels like early spring. Wherever the sun shines, all is bathed in the light of hope. Flowers of happiness bloom in profusion.

"Where does this sunshine that announces the arrival of spring come from? Your hearts.

"Each of you is the sun, bringing the spring of happiness and peace to your family, your community, your workplace and the society in which you live.

"I firmly believe that as long as that sun shines, the snows of the East-West Cold War will eventually melt away. Let me close by wishing all of you, brilliant suns without exception, boundless success."

The members then divided into groups, each headed by one of the leaders who came with Shin'ichi, to participate in informal discussions. Just as everyone was rising to reorganize the seating, there was a sudden loud crash. One member tripped on her chair and fell, knocking the chair over and breaking it. All of the hotel furnishings were quite luxurious and of top quality. The woman who had tripped went as white as a sheet. She looked extremely upset and anxious.

Shin'ichi flew to her side. "Are you hurt?" he asked.

"No, I'm fine," she replied.

"That's good," said Shin'ichi.

"But the chair!" protested the member.

"Don't worry about the chair. Your safety is all that matters. We can always buy another chair, so there's nothing to worry about."

Shin'ichi smiled, and the woman looked relieved.