

DR. SESSOMS DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS WITH SGI PRESIDENT

SGI President Ikeda met with Dr. Allen Lee Sessoms, president of Queens College of the City University of New York, on May 31 at the Seikyo Shimbun Building in Shinanomachi, Tokyo. President Ikeda thanked Dr. Sessoms for accepting an honorary doctorate from Soka University the previous day. Citing the educator's statements in his acceptance speech that wisdom is necessary for distinguishing between good and evil and that nurturing such wisdom is the mission of education, the Soka University founder said that Dr. Sessoms' view completely accords with that of Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, the first Soka Gakkai president.

Mr. Ikeda then quoted Mr. Makiguchi as saying: "Evil people band together, while good people tend to isolate themselves. If this state of affairs continues, evil people will become domineering and good people will recoil in fear, and society will grow even darker. Therefore, the forces of good must unite and grow stronger so that they may triumph." The SGI leader talked about how Martin Luther King Jr. repeatedly emphasized that victory for human rights, humanism and nonviolence can only be achieved by a proactive organization, whose members are bound together by trust.