

# MRA Asian Assembly Center Opens; World Meeting Starts

ODAWARA, Oct. 22.—With 1,200 delegates and guests from 41 countries present, the beautiful and modern MRA Asian Assembly Center was formally opened this morning and, with this, a five-day World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament got underway at Odawara.

Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda of Japan and official representatives of seven countries attended the auspicious opening of the MRA Center.

Members of Parliament from six countries, 20 Japanese Diet members, Governor Iwataro Uchiyama of Kanagawa Prefecture and Mayor Juro Suzuki of Odawara City were among those present.

Messages and greetings were received from 31 heads of state and prime ministers, and many members of diplomatic corps were at the opening.

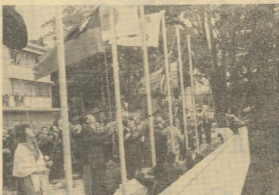
Following the playing of the Japanese national anthem, the flags of other nations were raised to the top of the flag poles.

This was followed by a commemorative program in the auditorium with Saburo Chiba, former Labor Minister, as chairman. Rajmohan Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, introduced the MRA delegates from many lands.

In his speech, Prime Minister Ikeda lauded the efforts being made by MRA, "to build new men who can build a new nation so that we may have a new world."

Peter Howard, British author and playwright, said that "Cabinets, if they are to govern successfully, must know how to change people. Otherwise, they will go downhill. One nation, with men who can change in their own hearts, can lead the world."

Former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi stated in his speech that "the world is in confusion economically, politically and socially and in order to give an answer to this situation, MRA is an ideology that will remake men and bring true peace and prosperity, free-



dom and justice, to the world."

After the playing of the Korean national anthem, Col. Kim Chong Pil, head of the ROK Central Intelligence Agency, made a lengthy speech in which he traced the world current in science, culture, and other spheres, and then emphasized that "history is proceeding toward a one-world society but we lack a proper ideology."

He praised MRA and said he looked forward to the day when all disputes and hostilities will be ended and a one-world society will be achieved as destined by history.

A chorus of singers dressed in colorful national costumes of many lands, sang "The World Can Be One Family."

In the afternoon those present were transported by buses to the Odawara Civic Hall where a special performance of "The Tiger" by former Zengakuren students was presented.

Over 10,000 people and 100 firms had a part in the raising of the money needed to construct the MRA Asian Assembly Center, a six-story building having a magnificent view of Odawara City and Sagami Bay. The site of the center was the former residence of Prince Kan-In.



(Top): Raising the flags of many nations to the top of the flagpoles at the inauguration of the MRA Asian Assembly Center at Odawara.

(Bottom): Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda, on the left, speaking at the opening ceremony of the MRA Center. Interpreting at the right is Masahide Shibusawa.