

## NEWSBRIEFS

### JAPAN

#### **SGI President Meets With Canadian Cancer Specialist**

SGI President Ikeda and his wife, Kaneko, met with Dr. René Simard, rector of the University of Montreal in Canada, and his wife, Françoise Yven, at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji on Jan. 6. Dr. Simard, a noted pathologist and expert on cancer, and Mr. Ikeda have engaged in an ongoing dialogue since they first met in December 1990.

The dialogue, which is being serialized, beginning in February 1998 in the Japanese magazine *Ushio*, is titled "Discussion on Birth, Aging, Sickness and Death." The serialized discussion will also include input from Dr. Guy Bourgeault, professor of education and bioethics at the University of Montreal and a close colleague of Dr. Simard. During the course of this, their fourth, meeting, the two men discussed such topics as the health of society, mental and spiritual health, the role of women in bringing more humanism to medical treatment, and the spirit to serve people as a requirement for doctors.

— *Courtesy of SGI Newsletter*

### JAPAN

#### **SGI President Meets With Former Colombian President**

On Jan. 12, SGI President Ikeda and his wife, Kaneko, welcomed Cesar Gaviria Trujillo and his wife, Ana Milena Munoz de Gaviria, to the SGI International Conference Hall in Shinanomachi, Tokyo. Mr. Gaviria, who served as Colombia's president from 1990 to 1994, is secretary-general of the Organization of American States.

During his term as president of Colombia, Mr. Gaviria promoted the democratization and modernization of that country by carrying out political and economic reforms, including the implementation of a new constitution. He was also instrumental in holding peaceful negotiations with guerrilla organizations and the enforcement of drug control. Mr. Gaviria said that President Ikeda is well known in South America for his commitment to peace and humanity and his efforts to create bonds of friendship between South America and Japan and among people throughout the world.

— *Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER*

### WASHINGTON

#### **Music Group Performs at King Day Celebration**

The Tacoma youth division Crescendo Group performed Jan. 19 at the Tacoma Community Center in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The members of the group — a rainbow ensemble of diverse races, ethnicities and ages — had pushed themselves to the utmost in preparation for the event.

— *STEVE McKNIGHT*