

THE NEW HUMAN REVOLUTION
A NOVELIZED HISTORY OF THE SOKA GAKKAI
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Shin'ichi Yamamoto arrives in Paris on his second visit to Europe.

When the applause had subsided, Eisuke Akizuki continued: "President Yamamoto also asked me to convey the following message to you. He said: 'I want to name the chapter Germany Chapter. In my heart, there is no West Germany or East Germany. All of you have a mission to bring down that tragic symbol of division, the Berlin Wall, and to create peace. Achieving that will be the purpose of the Germany Chapter.'

"In accord with his wishes, and as you can see written on this sign on the wall, we want to call the new chapter Germany Chapter. What do think?"

The members applauded loudly in approval.

"As is clear from the message I just read," Akizuki went on, "President Yamamoto has very high expectations for those of you living here in Germany. Standing in front of Berlin's Brandenburg Gate in October the year before last [1960], he said, 'I am sure that in 30 years, this Berlin Wall will no longer stand.' I believe this is not simply a prophecy, but an expression of President Yamamoto's firm determination that it will be so. And it is each one of you here who, with the same heart as President Yamamoto, will create a tide of happiness and peace in Germany. I look forward to seeing your energetic endeavors."

The gathered members sensed the profound significance of the chapter's formation.

Next, Soka Gakkai Director Shoichi Tanida rose to the microphone to announce the leadership appointments for the new chapter.

Eiji Kawasaki, the Soka Gakkai's central contact person for Europe, was appointed chapter leader. Although living in Paris, he would henceforth travel regularly to West Germany to fulfill his new responsibility.

Koichiro Sada was appointed chapter vice leader. Appointed to the position of chapter women's division leader, meanwhile, was a Japanese woman whose husband had been transferred to West Germany by his company. Michiya Moro'oka and Matsuko Takaishi were appointed the leaders of the young men's and young women's divisions, respectively — for all of Europe.

Also announced was the formation of four districts within the new chapter: Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Heidelberg and Nuremberg districts. The newly appointed leaders then rose to share their spirited determinations on this fresh beginning.

Next on the agenda was guidance by directors Yoshihiko Ohya and Shoichi Tanida, and finally there was a lecture on the Goshō "Earthly Desires Are Enlightenment" by Akizuki. The inaugural chapter meeting then came to a close.

The following day, Jan. 13, Akizuki and the other leaders from Japan flew to London. There, as in Düsseldorf, they administered a Study Department Entrance Exam and held a discussion meeting. At the discussion meeting, a district was also formed in London, and Shizuko Grant, the contact person for the United Kingdom, was appointed as the district leader.

Shin'ichi Yamamoto arrived in Paris on Jan. 15, touching down at Orly Airport at 10:00 p.m. Soka Gakkai Vice General Director Kiyoshi Jujo and America General Chapter Leader Nagayasu Masaki accompanied him from the United States. The three were wel-

came at the airport by Akizuki's party, which had flown in from London the previous day, along with Kawasaki and other members living in France. For Shin'ichi, his arrival in Europe marked the second phase of his overseas trip, following on from the United States.

On arriving at the hotel, Shin'ichi immediately had Akizuki brief him on how things had gone in Sweden, West Germany, the United Kingdom and France. Akizuki and his team had also held Study Department exams in France and begun preparations for forming a Paris Chapter, with a draft for the new organization ready. Together with Shin'ichi, they then went over the grading of the study exams held in each part of Europe and discussed the leadership appointments for the Paris Chapter.

Shin'ichi said: "In addition to forming a Paris Chapter tomorrow, I want to establish a Europe General Chapter. And I want to appoint Dr. Kawasaki as the general chapter leader."

"Yes, I'll do my best!" Kawasaki responded unhesitatingly, his voice ringing with enthusiasm and determination.

The inaugural meeting for Paris Chapter was scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. the next day, Jan. 16, with members from throughout Europe attending.

Shin'ichi and the other leaders had stayed up until well after midnight deliberating on the leadership appointments. At that same midnight hour, some of the youth division members from West Germany — Sada, Moro'oka and two others — left Düsseldorf for Paris in their beloved Volkswagen, *The Young Lion*. Traveling by car was their only alternative, because they couldn't afford the cost of plane or train fare.

The drive from Düsseldorf to Paris usually took about 12 hours, but on this particular night, a cold wave had struck. Ice on the road forced them to drive slowly and with extreme caution. Then, not long after leaving Cologne and crossing the border into Belgium, they drove into a blizzard.

Along the way they passed a number of cars that had been in accidents because of the snow. They even saw one car that had tumbled down a ravine. They chanted daimoku earnestly, and the driver gripped the steering wheel hard as he drove with intense concentration. Nevertheless, several times they became bogged in the snow and had to get out of the car and push.

The youth had arranged with Akizuki and his team to arrive at the hotel where Shin'ichi was staying in Paris on the morning of the 16th and there meet with Shin'ichi. But it looked unlikely that they would make it to Paris by the agreed-upon time. They began to feel anxious and frustrated.