SOCIALIST LAW STUDY IN JAPAN*

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Here in this paper will be given some informations about the present situation of the socialist law study in Japan by pointing out the general outlines and tendencies with some characteristic features of it.

There are only few informations in western languages about this subject up to now. A short sketch of this problem has ever written by Prof. J. N. Hazard,¹⁾ which was written by reference to an article of Japanese author?²⁾ But it is too short and old to show the present situation substantively. There are also some informations written in Russian by Japanese authors.³⁾ But the informations written in Japanese, if any, are hardly of any use for foreigners for the time being.⁴⁾

* This paper is based on the following article of the same author, recently printed in other law journal, with necessary revisions and modifications: K. Nakayama, The study of socialist law in Japan, *International Bulletin for Research on Law in Eastern Europe*, vol.11, 1978 1/2.

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1. J. N. Hazard, Research and teaching in socialist law in Japan, "*International Bulletin for Research on Law in Eastern Europe*", vol.7, 1972.

2. H. Momose, Soviet studies in Japan, "*Annual review of the Japan Institute of International affairs*", vol.5, 1969–1970.

There is also an information about the Chinese law study in Japan. Y. Taniguchi, Some characteristics of Japanese Studies on Contemporary Chinese law, in "*Contemporary Chinese Law: research problem and perspectives*", ed. by J. A. Cohen, 1970.

3. Ц. ИНАКО, Изучение Советского Права в Японии, "*Советское государство и право*", 1978, №1; С. ТАДАКАВА, Изучение Советского гражданского права в Японии, "*Вестник МГУ*", Серия Х11, Право, 1975, №3.

4. The latest information of detailed substance written in Japanese about this subject appeared very recently. A. Komorida, The Soviet law study in post-war Japan, *Horitsu-jiho*, vol.51, No.10–Vol.52, No.7, 1979–1980.

KENICHI NAKAYAMA

I. PRE-WAR SITUATION

The study of socialist law in Japan has begun already some years after the October revolution in Russia, especially with the background of the growing influence of socialist movement in the various fields of Japanese society of those days. But, as long as the study of Soviet law was connected with the sympathetic interest towards socialism, the authorities tried to suppress it by keeping a strict watch over this tendency.

However, in the period of somewhat liberalized circumstances until 1930, not a few professors of the national universities were actively engaged in the study of Soviet law and published books and articles especially in the field of constitutional, civil, criminal, family and labor law systems and theories. Although they did it partly in connection with their specialties of Japanese law study and used the second materials of German or French instead of the original Russian, it was characteristic that the early Soviet law and its theory did exert a considerable influence over the academic field of Japanese law science of those days.

But, in and after 1930's, when the Japanese political situation had increasingly been oriented by the military preparation for the war-time social order, the study of socialist law could not help facing severe suppression by the authorities, especially by the secret political police. The unfamous special law of preserving public peace and order, which was introduced in 1925 and amended in 1928, aiming at the suppression of the socialist and communist thought as well as activity, provided the severe punishment up to death of all kinds of attempts contributing more or less to change the "Tenno" regime and private property system, regardless of the activities of the scientific character.

And in fact almost all the studies on Soviet law in the academic field had been rapidly disappeared. However, one professor named Yamanouchi (1896–1959) did not stop studying and publishing on Soviet law. He used the original Russian materials and tried in real earnest to translate the original texts of Soviet Codes and other materials into Japanese. He retired the university and was isolated from the academic society, but he continued to work until he was entirely deprived of the chance of publishing his works. He is well known as a founder of the studies on Soviet law in Japan. In the

SOCIALIST LAW STUDY

face of difficulty not a few books and translations were published, but many words and sentences were kept dark by the censoring authorities.⁵⁾

Before the war, there was no chair of Soviet law in the universities, no public institute of researching socialist law in Japan. Among the civilian fields, however, some private researching groups, organized mainly by the marxist scientists, such as the law and state division of the proletarian seientific institute, engaged partly in the study of Soviet law, but they were soon forced to be suppressed by the authorities. But, it must be mentioned that some researching groups were organized within the Ministry of Justice, Foreign Ministry, Military service authorities and national companies in order to make researches about the Soviet Union including its legal system, and some researches were made in the base of Manchuria near the boarder to Siberia. There were clearly oriented by the political and militaristic standpoint of getting the strategy of knowing enemies. Not a few legal informations were gathered by them, and some of them were worthy of scientific interest, but they were kept secret to the public until the end of the war.

II. POST-WAR SITUATION

After the war, the study of Soviet law has been reopened on the liberal background of democratization of the law study as a whole. Yamanouchi returned back to the university and began to be active in his study and bringing up the new staffs. Firstly, some scholars, who had been captured and kept custody in the Soviet Union and returned back to Japan, joined the group around Yamanouchi, with the ability to master the Russian language. Secondly, soon the new generation of younger scholars who began to learn Russian after the war also joined them.

It was the time when the Soviet socialism with its solid authority and

5. The main translating works by Yamanouchi in pre-war times were as follows: Е. Б. Пашуканис, *Общая теория права и марксизм*, 1927; А. К. Стальгевич, *Путь развития советской правовой мысли*, 1928; Д. Магеровский, ред., *Основы советского права*, 1927; *Очерки международного права*, 1935. There were also some other translations by other authers. For example: Н. Б. Крыленко, *Беседы о праве и государстве*, 1924, by ОТАКЕ; А. А. Пионтковский, *Марксизм и уголовное право*, 1927, by ИТО.

KENICHI NAKAYAMA

priority gained increasingly the popularity among Japanese people including lawyers. For some years after the war the influence of Marxism upon the Japanese law society was considerably strong, which was as a whole oriented by the socialist perspectives. The class-oriented point of view was put forward when the methodology of sociology of law was disputed in the early 1950's. Also in the dispute concerning the freedom in socialist society, the completely different character of Soviet democracy was affirmatively presented.

The group of scholars headed by Yamanouchi organized the scientific association of Soviet law study, and they began to study Soviet law more systematically. Many books about Soviet law and translations of Russian books were made public, including the re-publishing of pre-war books. In 1955 appeared a special law journal, "Soviet law science", which accounted 8 volumes for the following several years. They included mainly the introductory articles and translated materials from the Soviet literatures.

Furthermore, since 1949 when People's Republic of China was established as a strong socialist state in the orient area, the interest in Chinese law was rapidly expanded among Japanese lawyers. The group of scholars who were especially interested in Chinese law joined the above association, which changed the name into "Scientific association of socialist law study" in order to include the Chinese law and East-european law.

There was then not yet any chair of Soviet law in the universities, but already in 1946 the Social science research institute was established in Tokyo University, where Yamanouchi once became its director. And in 1950 Japanese association of comparative law study was established, where the Soviet law division was organized. It can be said that during 10 years after the war the socialist law study marked a smooth development as a whole in spite of the growing difficulties from the reactionary tendencies in and out the Japanese political affairs.⁶⁾

6. The main works in the early 10 years after the war were as follows: Yamanouchi, The law of the socialist state, 2 volumes, 1950; T. Taniguchi, The theory of Soviet civil law, 1950; T. Gomamoto, The Soviet civil and labor law, 1950; several translations from the Soviet books, such as, М. П. Карева, ред., Теория государства и права, том 1, 2, 1949, by FUJITA; С. С. Студенкин, Советское административное право, 1949, by TANIGUCHI; Н. Г. Александров, ред., Советское трудовое право, 1949, by YAMANOUCHI; М. П. Карева, Право и нравственность в социалистическом обществе, 1951, by GOMAMOTO.

SOCIALIST LAW STUDY

After 1956 the situation of socialist law study in Japan has been considerably changed. So-called Hungarian event and especially criticism against Stalin in the Soviet Union itself have exerted a severe impact upon the scientific field of law including socialist law study. The authority and prestige which Soviet socialism had kept in mind of the Japanese people could not help moving to drop down, as the result of which an emotionally-oriented interest in Soviet socialism considerably cooled down. The political situation of Japanese society has also become to be more conservative. In these circumstances the study of socialist law in Japan had to be confronted with the difficult and severe situations.

And to make matters worse, after the criticism of Stalin the disputes and conflicts between Soviet Union and China appeared to the front, which brought about inevitably the unnecessary confusions and bad influences upon the study of socialist law. Unfortunately, this political contradiction was introduced partly into the scientific field, which made it difficult to keep a good cooperation between the Soviet and Chinese law study. It cannot be denied that both parties represented the standpoint of the respective countries.

However, although these events seemed to bring outwardly the negative effects on the smooth development of socialist law study in Japan, they also gave substantially the severe but good opportunity for the scholars concerned to reconsider the aim and method of studying socialist law more objectively. Firstly they felt a terrible shock, but soon they accepted the criticism against Stalin more calmly, which however could not help pushing on them to criticize themselves for their simple dependent attitude to the Soviet Union. The methodology of socialist law study was disputed again, and the so-called Import-oriented character of socialist law study was under criticism. It was also pointed out that the socialist law study had almost lost its impact upon the academic study of Japanese law.

Thereafter, although above-mentioned situation surrounding the socialist law study in Japan cannot necessarily said to be fully improved, the study of socialist law in Japan seems to have overcome gradually this confusion to develop slowly but rather steadily.

Since 1960's the official system of socialist law study has been somewhat improved by the fact that the government allowed to establish the new chairs

KENICHI NAKAYAMA

of Soviet law in two universities, Tokyo and Kyoto, and the law department was established in the Institute of Slavic Studies in Hokkaido University. And the younger generations of scholars who are interested in the socialist law study, although still not so many, are beginning to increase in recent years.

One of the most disputing problems after Stalin criticism was the problem of socialist legality, where the relationship to the so-called rule of law in capitalist society has been especially disputed. But, as a whole, as the Soviet society has become to be stabled in a steady way, the Soviet law study has also settled on a stable line. And recently, more sociological approach to the Soviet law in action seems to be promoted, as well as the historical approach to the socialist principles. However, in case of the Chinese law study, the basic methodology is still difficult to the established, as long as the vibration of Chinese society itself is still unforeseeably furious.

III. PRESENT SITUATION OF TEACHING SOCIALIST LAW IN JAPAN

There are now in Japan about 70 universities which have law faculties. And about 70 percent of them are not national but private universities.

It must firstly be noticed that among national universities there are now only two universities in which the special chair of Soviet law existed. These chairs were established at the end of 1960's, which guaranteed the special staffs of professor, assistant professor and assistant in each chair. But, in other most national universities as well as private universities there exists no independent chair of socialist law, no special staff who can be engaged entirely in the socialist law teaching and study.

Nevertheless, teaching on socialist law in Japanese universities has been considerably expanded since early 1960's, which can be said mainly pushed by the requests and proposals from the students' side in connection with the new reform of student participation in the university affairs.

Now in Japan, lectures in the name of Soviet law, Socialist law, Chinese law, Comparative law and so on are given in 15 or 20 universities, national and private. For example, national universities such as Hokkaido, Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Kobe, Osaka, Okayama, and private universities such as

SOCIALIST LAW STUDY

Waseda, Chuo, Hosei, Aoyamagakuin, Aichi, Kansai, Ritsumeikan, Ryukoku and so on.⁷⁾

But, the problem is that the teaching staffs who can give lectures on socialist law are too small to meet the demands. So, not a few professors must give lectures in two or three different universities in the same school year. And furthermore, these professors cannot devotedly be engaged in these lectures on socialist law, but often have more to give lectures on Japanese law fields. In fact they are almost firstly the professors of some fields of Japanese law, and then secondly they are sometimes in charge of socialist law. This situation may threaten to prevent them from concentrating their energies on the teachings and studies of socialist law, but at the same time it also seems to have a merit of avoiding the isolation of the study and teaching of socialist law from those of Japanese law.

As far as the subjects of these lectures are concerned, they are often titled Soviet law, but it covers usually not all but some parts or fields of Soviet law which professors are mainly interested in, on the one hand, and it covers also sometimes the law of other socialist countries, on the other hand. The lectures on Chinese law has also become to be the main subject in some universities. But, for the time being, the law of other East-european and Asian socialist countries has not yet been the independent subjects of these lectures.

The interest of the students in socialist law is not so high. Generally speaking, the number of the students who attend to hear the lectures on socialist law is rather small. One of the reasons seems due to the above-mentioned general atmosphere of image-down toward Soviet socialism, which is still now seemingly not so attractive to the students at large. But, mainly it seems to be the result from the fact that the students are mainly interested in the Japanese law subjects from the practical point of view. They seem to have not enough time to learn foreign law including socialist law, and this tendency seems to be moved forward in recent years because of the growing increase of the Japanese law subjects. It must also be mentioned that the

7. A table of teaching situation including the names of the universities and professors was manifested in the above-mentioned article of prof. Hazard, which shows the situation in 1969-1970. Some changes are necessary to be made up to now.

KENICHI NAKAYAMA

foreign laws including socialist law have never been included in the subjects of the national examination for jurists.

But in some universities, not only lectures but also seminars on socialist law have been carried out, and furthermore the post-graduate course on socialist law has been set up in order to bring up the new staffs of scholars in the field of socialist law. It is, however, rather difficult for the graduates from this course to get the suitable job in the field of socialist law study.

In this connection, it seems necessary to mention about the situation of the teaching of Russian and Chinese languages in Japan. Although foreign languages are taught since junior high school, English can be said to have a monopoly of it. In the universities other languages are also taught, such as German, French, Russian, Chinese and so on, but these are taught voluntarily when the students choose them. And among them, German and French are markedly more popular than others, which is due to the fact that the modern science and culture in Japan have been mainly formed under the influence of the western advanced countries.

Such being the case, it is in fact considerably difficult for the students to master Russian or Chinese in addition to the learning of English, German or French. Chinese is an orient language, but it is not necessarily easy for Japanese people to learn, because Japanese and Chinese are completely different each other in grammar and pronunciation only with something common in letters.

However, it must be noticed that in Japan there are some special colleges for foreign languages, where so many foreign languages including Russian, Chinese are taught in a more specialized way. But, it is only in a few cases for the graduates of these colleges to enter the field of law study.

The language is one of the most difficult problems in Japan especially in view of the growing necessity of the international communication. It is said that in Japan for elementary or junior high school pupils to learn Japanese language itself is a considerably heavy burden, and so the start of learning foreign languages cannot help being rather later.

SOCIALIST LAW STUDY

IV. PRESENT SITUATION OF STUDYING
SOCIALIST LAW IN JAPAN

As mentioned above, now in Japan there are only two chairs named Soviet law in two national universities. But in some other national universities several specialists of socialist law hold the respective chairs named comparative law or foreign law. Furthermore, in some private universities there are also some more specialists teaching and studying socialist law. The number of them may be said approximately 30.

There are now two institutions in Japan which have played an important part in the development of socialist law study. One is the Social science research institute of Tokyo University, which has had a rather long history of 30 years. It has a research division on socialist area comprising economics, politics and law, although the law department was established rather later. This institute is characterized firstly by the relatively high gravity of area study divisions, including the laws of European, Anglo-American and socialist countries, and secondly by its inter-faculty and inter-disciplinary character, which makes it possible to organize the more synthetic research activities.

Prof. Yamanouchi, the founder of socialist law study in Japan, was once the director of this institute after the war, and now Prof. Fujita, one of his eminent successors, is an influential member of this institute. But, for the time being, he is only one staff in this institute who is specially engaged in the field of socialist law.

This institute has been very active in the group researches of various kinds of area studies, and as for the socialist area the researching project of "Contemporary socialism", which has been promoted since 1972, is worthy of attention. This institute published some periodicals, journals and other materials, which have been summarized in English almost every year ("Annals of the Institute of Social Science").

Another one is the Slavic Institute of Hokkaido University, which was established in 1953. This institute is characterized by its special aim of slavic studies and also by its inter-disciplinary character. It maintains close contact with similar academic institutes abroad in planning research work, collecting research materials and coordinating the studies in each field.

It publishes the regular journal of the institute, named "Slavic studies".

KENICHI NAKAYAMA

The library of this institute has been well equipped and expanded with the assistance of foreign foundations. It can be said one of the richest collections of Slavic materials in Japan.

This institute has also organized not a few joint studies, such as "Federalism in Eastern Europe", "The Russian revolution" and so on.

However, in spite of its vigorous activities in recent years this institute is still now far from exerting its influence upon the nation-wide studies on socialist law as a whole. One of the reasons is due to its geographical situation, for Hokkaido is situated in the northern frontier of Japan, being far from the administrative and scientific center of Tokyo. And secondly, law division of this institute is still not so strong enough to be the center of the socialist law study on the nation-wide scale.

Such being the case, the factual center of the socialist law study in Japan can be said still be kept in Tokyo, where relatively many specialists gather to live and study. Now about 30 members of specialists join in the Association of socialist law study in Japan, whose bureau is situated in the social science research institute of Tokyo University. This association has planned several joint studies, some of which were published, for example: "The judicial system of socialist countries", 1965. Furthermore, from 1970 "Annual report of socialist law" has been published, although not so regularly. Up to now, the following five were published: "Lenin and the theory of state and law", 1971; "Revolution and law", 1974; "The protection of nature and the utilization of resources in socialist countries", 1975; "Treaties on contemporary socialist Constitution", 1977; "Law and democracy in socialist countries", 1979.

In this connection, it must be necessary to add the fact that the scientific association of comparative law study in Japan has had one section of socialist law, where the specialists of socialist law have organized a scientific conference each year to discuss the various problems in the field of socialist law. In these conferences they have had not a few chances to compare the laws of socialist countries themselves, and sometimes to compare the laws of capitalist and socialist countries. Reports and articles of them have been printed in the journal of this association, "Comparative law science".

As for the countries which have been the object of socialist law study in Japan, Soviet Union is markedly most popular in its studies and publications.

SOCIALIST LAW STUDY

The number of scholars who are engaged in the Soviet law study is relatively large, which has in itself brought about a kind of the division of labour in accordance with the individual branches of Soviet law. It can be said, in this point, that among others constitutional law and the general theory of state and law are most popular, and the number of publications in these fields is also so many. A series of the Soviet Constitutions, from the first 1918 to the latest 1977, have been faithfully translated with a lot of detailed explanations. The historical and general review of this field was made in; T. Inako, *The history of the state system in the Soviet Union*, 1968. In the field of the general theory of state and law, in addition to the translations of Soviet text books of this problem, the works of Prof. Fujita are of worthy to be mentioned, for example, *The historical development of legal theory in the Soviet Union 1917–1938*, 1968⁸⁾

Then, criminal law and family law are also popularly studied, mainly because in these fields the systems and problems seem not so different between capitalist and socialist laws. Soviet criminal law and family law have long been the objects of interest of Japanese scholars in connection with their own laws, and especially in the former the theoretical analysis has advanced, the general review of which was given in; K. Nakayama, *General outlines of Soviet law, criminal law*, 1964. The other fields of Soviet law are also studied individually, but in this connection it can be mentioned that especially Prof. Inako has markedly expanded the fields of his study to almost all fields of Soviet law, including economic law as well as land law or collective farm law, where the contemporary problems are well covered with the latest informations. In the Soviet law study, the historical approach, bearing the situation of 1920's in mind, is still of the deep interest among especially young scholars, but recently the interest is increasing in the more practical and functional research of Soviet law in action⁹⁾

Among East-European socialist countries, German Democratic Republic is more popular rather than others in their law studies, mainly because there

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8. In the field of the general theory of state and law, two volumes of translations of Soviet literature were made recently; АН СССР, *Марксистско-ленинская общая теория государства и права*, Москва, 1970.
 9. A group of scholars, headed by Fujita, has begun to make a joint research program, named "The study of the right of freedom in the Soviet Union", in 1979.

KENICHI NAKAYAMA

exists no obstacle in the field of the language problem. But, GDR law study, once rose, seems recently not so systematically to be developed than expected. Other East-European countries have been up to now studied only seldom, but recently the interest can be said getting higher, for example, in Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary and so on. With the growing tendency of so-called pluralistic variations among socialist countries, the respective different characters with historical background of these countries have been of much attention by the scholars.¹⁰⁾

In neighboring Asian socialist countries, Chinese law has been, of course, of the greatest interest among Japanese scholars. Not a few books and articles have been published about Chinese law, but the study is of more general and politically-oriented character, because the Chinese law itself has not yet been divided into the individual branches. The authors of Chinese law, such as Prof. Fukushima, Asai and Haryu, found the character of Chinese law in the more morally and politically oriented mass organizing principle of law administration, aparting from the formal legality with the detailed system of legislation like other European socialist countries including Soviet Union. However, with the recent situation of the large-scale commotions of Chinese political lines, the above estimation of Chinese law seems to be necessary to be reconsidered more cautiously. Recently Prof. Inako demonstrated his negative estimation of the present law administration in China in his book, *Law and politics in China*, 1975. The dispute concerning the character of Chinese law will be continued.¹¹⁾

North Korean and Vietnamese laws have been also the interesting fields for Japanese lawyers, but for the time being there are only small and fragmental law informations which are able to get from these countries. However, it may well be expected in the future for Japanese scholars to make a systematical study of the Asian socialist countries including China as the neighboring

10. In Yugoslavian law, attention has been paid especially to its constitutional principle of so-called self-administration in political affairs. In Polish law, sociological approach with statistical data is noticed; in Nakayama, *Law and society in Poland*, 1978.

11. As for the Chinese law such books were published as: M. Fukushima, *Chinese law and politics*, 1966; S. Haryu, *Law and state in China*, 1970; A. Asai, *Contemporary Chinese law*, 1973. It must be mentioned that the above-mentioned book by Inako was recently translated from Japanese to Russian: Ц. ИНАКО, *Право и политика современного Китая 1949–1975*, Москва, 1978.

SOCIALIST LAW STUDY

countries.

Well, as far as the characteristics of socialist law study in Japan are concerned, at least following two points must be mentioned. Firstly, in Japan so-called Marxian approach to socialist law study has been more popular than western countries. It can be said the reflection of the situation of law study as a whole in post-war Japan, where not a few scholars have had a socialist outlook with them. It seems to originate from the fact that the founder of socialist law study in Japan, Prof. Yamanouchi, was an eminent Marxist and brought up a group of his successors. The above-mentioned Slavic institute seems to have a somewhat different character, with its more practical and functional approach, which is however not the main current in the socialist law study in Japan.

However, it can at least be said that as far as the Soviet law study is concerned so-called out and out pro-Soviet attitude of those days in Stalin era seems to have been mostly overcome to be more independent attitude with the careful reservations. And in fact, more self-possessed historical and sociological approach has been more consciously promoted recently. But the situation seems to be different in the field of Chinese law study where still now remains the fundamental difficulty of separating the scientific study from the political attitude to the Chinese authority, although the situation seems to be hopefully improved mainly by the recent change of policy on the side of Chinese society. The similar situation can be seen in the case of North Korean law study. But, as the independent attitude with more objective orientation is becoming popular, the contact and relation with the socialist law study in other western countries will be hopefully improved!¹²⁾

Secondly, the general tendency of the study of socialist law in Japan may be characterized in its systematical analysis of the legal institutions in socialist countries rather than the more wider synthetical approach with sociological research, although it is not necessarily the case in some fields, including family law. In this context, Japanese study of socialist law may be said of similar character as German study, not American. It seems to depend on the

12. The western informations on socialist law have been also introduced into Japan, and some of them were translated into Japanese, for example; R. Schlesinger, *Soviet legal theory, its social background and development*, 2 ed., 1951, by Hasegawa; J. Berman, *Justice in Russia*, 1950, by Akiyama. There are some Japanese authors who try to support the approach of these western writers.

KENICHI NAKAYAMA

character of law study as a whole in the respective countries, although this difference has become recently not so conspicuous by the mutual infiltrations.¹³⁾

Lastly, the present situation of the international intercourse in the field of socialist law study will be necessary to be referred. Generally speaking, in spite of the considerable accumulation of the written works of study on socialist law, there are still only a few scholars who studied abroad to the Soviet Union and East-European countries for a good long time. It is mainly due to the lack of scholarship system offered by the socialist countries, which contrasts markedly with the situation of western countries such as United States and West Germany. But the situation is becoming a little bit better recently, and the number of scholars who go abroad to the socialist countries is increasing steadily, by using the system of the state or university expenses and the exchange program of scholars between socialist countries and Japanese state or universities, although still very small in number. The number of law scientists of socialist countries who visited Japan also is very small in comparison with the Westerners.¹⁴⁾

We did have a somewhat different history of scholars' intercourse between China and Japan. It is characteristic that already in 1950's and 1960's, although then there was no diplomatic relation between two countries, the visiting and inviting programs of lawyers were eagerly and systematically organized, and in fact during 10 years (from 1955 to 1965) 4 visiting and 2 inviting programs were realized. In this period so many Japanese lawyers, mostly advocates, visited China to see the Chinese law in action, although for a short time. However, since then this kind of frequent intercourse has suddenly stopped to fade away, in connection with the political change of so-called cultural revolution. Later there left only narrow exceptions of individual contacts, but recently after the establishment of the diplomatic relation there can be seen a little but increasing hope of improving this

13. Cf. K. Grzybowski, Studies of socialist legal system in USA and the Federal German Republic: similarities and contrasts, "International Bulletin for research on law in Eastern Europe", vol.5, 1972.

14. International conferences which include the socialist delegations in the respective law branches can be said to promote the intercourse of scholars between capitalist and socialist countries. The Soviet-Japanese symposium of law science is reported to be held in the near future.

SOCIALIST LAW STUDY

situation. There has been a long time of awful difficulties in getting the scientific materials on Chinese law, which may also become better gradually in the future.

The situation is still worse in the case of North Korean law, because there is still now no official diplomatic relation between two countries, where the difficult situation will continue for the time being. As for the Vietnamese law, the situation seems a little bit better with some relations of lawyers between two countries.

As a conclusion, socialist law study in Japan can be said to be developing steadily in spite of the difficulties, internal and external. As far as the written works on socialist law are concerned, not only the remarkable increase of its quantity but also the considerable high level of its quality should be duly observed. However, the problem is that these publications were almost written in Japanese, so they are out of any use for foreign scholars. This is also one of the basic reasons which make it difficult for the socialist law study in Japan to be in contact with those in other western countries. Although it is quite difficult to solve at a single stroke, the effort to improve the situation should be expected in the present situation of internationalization of science.