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Editor's Remarks

The International Symposium on Order Orientation and Liberalizing Tendencies in Soviet and East European Societies was held at Hokkaido University on August 23-25 in 1983. Since then only seven months have elapsed. That we had such a short period of time made preparing this record for publication extremely difficult. In addition, we are altogether inexperienced in such undertakings. In retrospect, many technical faults can be blamed on our tight schedule and our lack of experience.

At first, we had no unified vision of what the publication process would entail. We were able neither to hire stenographers nor to confirm the spelling of proper nouns after each speaker had finished. Sometimes the tape recorder failed to catch the voices of those who had left the podium to stand at the blackboard; occasionally chairmen did not record the names of speakers during the discussions. These technical slips created enormous problems in the editing process. The use of English and Russian made it difficult for many of the participants to express fully their ideas—a problem that was compounded by our hurried schedule, which in some cases prevented us from confirming the meaning of ambiguous phrases.

Despite these difficulties we have completed our task. The preparation of this record, which required and was given warm support and eager cooperation by many people, has at last been finished. We can only hope that we have fully overcome our difficulties; we are afraid that there may still be many neglected mistakes.

Those who were able to attend will remember that the Symposium itself was a lively event. Its contents were rich and varied, its arguments interesting and well-considered, and its discussions heated. We have tried throughout the preparation of this record to capture that spirit and energy — and I think that to a large extent we have succeeded.

Someone once referred to Japan as the “black hole of the universe.” Japan has grown and prospered, in part because it has gathered culture, knowledge and technology from abroad. And like a black hole it has rarely sent anything out in return. But now it seems that Japan has reached the point where it must accept certain responsibilities as an equal member of the world community. It must be willing not only to share with the world its manufactured goods and traditional culture, but also to make a contribution to the ongoing development of contemporary knowledge and science.

The Slavic Research Center presents this record in the hope that it will help scholars outside as well as in Japan to broaden our knowledge of the modern world.

In order to avoid confusion we decided not to use the participants' titles within the text. The language of the Symposium was English: all papers were presented in English, and with the exception of Session 8 all comments were made and all discussions conducted in English. The comments and discussion of Session 8, which were in Russian, have been published in that language. Everything else has been published in English. We used the Library of Congress transliteration

system except with commonly known names.

I would like to thank the regular faculty of the Slavic Research Center for summarizing the general discussions. Professor Takayuki Ito, whose temporary leave in West Berlin made his participation in the editorial work impossible, was the architect of the symposium and is most responsible for its success. Masayoshi Hata, Takeki Okumura, and Takako Akizuki provided us with all the necessary administrative help for the publication as well as for the symposium itself. I would also like to express my appreciation to Kazuo Aihara, whose support for the project was indispensable. Mikiko Sawada typed and retyped most of the manuscripts, with the help of Michiko Sakuma, Chizuko Tamura, and Kazue Kaneko. Furthermore, I would like to thank Jun Matsuda, who was the actual locomotive behind the whole operation.

We wish to thank everyone who participated in the symposium, particularly the speakers and discussants, for making it an exceptionally creative and instructional event.

The editorial board would also like to acknowledge its indebtedness to four people who have helped with technical matters. Dale Ann Sato and Yuko Tahara transcribed sessions recorded in English and Russian, respectively. Eric House and Shoji Sasaya were responsible for correcting English and Russian during the preparation of the manuscripts and for final proofreading.

Last but not least, we are grateful to the Ministry of Education for having provided financial support, without which this publication would have been impossible.

Kiichi Mochizuki
Director of the Slavic Research Center
and Editor-in-Chief