



Title	Remarks by the President of Hokkaido University
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Citation	Acta Slavica Iaponica, 5
Issue Date	1987
Doc URL	http://hdl.handle.net/2115/7962
Type	bulletin (article)
File Information	KJ00000034118.pdf



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Remarks by the President of Hokkaido University

Distinguished scholars and all participants of the Seminar, I would like to express my hearty welcome to all of you and, as the representative of Hokkaido University for this marvellous occasion, I hope you will spend successful two days here on the campus of Hokkaido University.

Because of our geographical proximity and historical circumstances, people in Hokkaido are keenly interested in our neighbor, the Soviet Union. And it is no accident that the Slavic Research Center, which is the only research institute in Japan on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, is located on our campus.

Therefore, this might be a good reason to have a United States-Japan seminar on the Soviet Union at Hokkaido University inviting the distinguished scholars on Soviet Studies from the United States and all over Japan for this conference.

As a result of the enthusiasm and hard work of the staff members of our Slavic Research Center and thanks to the assistance of the American Center in Sapporo directed by Mr. Spector, we are now hosting the Second Sapporo Summer Slavic Studies Seminar here. I hope this tradition of exchange between Japanese and American scholars will further continue.

I am honored to have the world's greatest specialists on the topic today, and I am fully confident that the Seminar will be very productive and pave the way for further development in Soviet studies in Japan as well as in the United States.

Dr. Mikio Arie
President,
Hokkaido University

Opening Remarks by the Director of the Slavic Research Center

President Dr. Arie, distinguished scholars, guests and participants from the United States, the P. R. C., the R. O. K., and Japan, dear colleagues, and ladies and gentlemen.

It is a great honor and privilege for me to welcome all of you to the two-day seminar. This is the second Sapporo Summer Slavic Studies Seminar, the first seminar being held here, at our Center, at about the same time last year.

This seminar has, in my view, several salient features, including the following :

First, this is a Japan-US joint symposium. Although we did hold in the past an international conference, inviting American, French, and scholars from other foreign countries four years ago, this conference is a gathering, consisting mainly of participants from the United States and Japan.

The second characteristic, which stems almost automatically from the first, is that