

Society for the Dissemination of Historical Fact

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H. E. Ambassador Alphons Hamer
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Shibakoen 3-6-3, Minato-ku
Tokyo 105-0011

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

On November 20 of this year, the Dutch Parliament passed a resolution denouncing Japan for past actions in connection with the so-called comfort women. The resolution demands that the Japanese government take full responsibility for its involvement with the comfort women and issue further apologies and compensation, on the grounds that past gestures in this direction are insufficient. We must state our objections to this resolution in the strongest possible terms. We are stunned by the request to revise our teaching materials; this is clearly an attempt to interfere in internal Japanese affairs — behavior that we consider intolerable. The news that the passage of a resolution that insults Japan's honor is due largely to the active support of Foreign Minister Verhagen is exceedingly disheartening.

Worst of all, the resolution is founded on distorted perceptions of history. Its second paragraph reads, in part: "Japan, publicly and without any restraints, should take full responsibility for the system of forced sex slavery which it operated in the years before and during the Second World War." The Japanese military operated no such system during, before or subsequent to World War II. Military personnel were never authorized to coerce women into serving as comfort women. What did exist during the era in question (and we remind you that prostitution was lawful then), were brothels whose operators and operations were overseen by the military. American military personnel interrogated comfort women taken prisoner toward the end of the war, and in a report issued by the United States Office of War Information, Psychological Warfare Team Attached to U.S. Army Forces, India-Burma Theater, stated that "[c]omfort girls are nothing more than a prostitute or professional 'camp follower.'" At that time, such camp followers were present, to some extent or other, at the encampments of the armies of every nation. Other reports, which we shall not refer to at this time, attest to the veracity of this statement.

Furthermore, the aforementioned U.S. military report goes on to state that comfort women earned ¥750 per month, on the average, an amount equivalent to 25 times the monthly salary of an army sergeant (then ¥30). Do you, Mr. Ambassador, believe that "sex slaves" is an accurate description of women with earning power 25 times that of an army sergeant? Does common sense not dictate that the sex-slave argument is false?

The third and fourth paragraphs of the resolution in question mention an advertisement carried by the *Washington Post*. I am one of the signers of that advertisement. I would like

to ask you, Mr. Ambassador, to indicate which portion or portions of the advertisement disagree with historical fact. The purpose of the advertisement, entitled "THE FACTS," was to allow the facts to speak for themselves against accusations that, deliberately or otherwise, distort historical fact. The language in these paragraphs implies disagreement with the content of the advertisement, but condemning it without stating a reason is unconscionable. Please have the good grace to indicate which statement in the advertisement you consider incorrect or inaccurate. We will be happy to provide any necessary explanations.

The resolution deems the apologies and compensation offered to the comfort women insufficient. However, as already described, the armies of many nations were accompanied by comfort women during World War II. American troops stationed in Vietnam and South Korea were serviced by prostitutes (comfort women). We are fully aware that some comfort women endured great hardships. However, to the best of our knowledge, only Japan has issued apologies to comfort women. The Japanese government apologized not because it forced women into sexual slavery, as your resolution would have it, but out of empathy for them.

We do not know whether Dutch nationals abused Indonesian prostitutes when Indonesia was a colony of the Netherlands. However, we have heard countless accounts of Dutch abuse of Indonesians during that era. Japanese soldiers, only 40,000 strong, could not have defeated 100,000 Dutch troops only nine days after landing on Java without support from Indonesian inhabitants of the island. Why do you suppose Indonesians supported the Japanese so enthusiastically? **We are unaware of any instance in which the Netherlands has apologized to the Indonesians, or paid compensation to them, for past abuses.**

Our firm belief that the Netherlands was a friendly nation has been shattered by this resolution. We have no choice but to protest such unjust criticism, but are hopeful that you will respond to this missive and state your opinions in good faith.

For your information, we are enclosing a copy of "No Organized or Forced Recruitment: Misconceptions about Comfort Women." By reading this report, prepared by Professor Hata Ikuhiko, the foremost expert on this subject, you will gain access to unadulterated historical fact.

Very truly yours,

Kase, Hideaki
Chairman