



Serious disputes arose among students at our educational institution;
the stormy times and the subsequent resolution

No.13

1. The disputes are triggered when a police vehicle enters the campus

A student member of the Wandervogel Hiking club reported a theft from the club's room in Building number 5 on the evening of June 5, 1968. (This building was more commonly known as the SPS building; it was torn down in 1981.) The university security officials passed on the report to the metropolitan police station in Kojimachi. In response, plainclothes police officers entered the campus in a police vehicle, which was parked on campus while the officer conducted their investigation. When some students saw the police vehicle, they organized a student meeting to protest its presence, and some students prevented the vehicle from exiting the campus.

Academic Vice-President Mutsuo Yanase soon apologized to the university community for defects in the paperwork needed to allow such a vehicle on campus. The police vehicle left the campus in the dead of night.

From the following day, using the entrance of the police vehicle as a rallying point, students with various objections and demands, such as "Give us collective bargaining against the entrance onto the campus of outside authorities" formed a cell of the



The start of the student disputes can be traced to the police vehicle shown in this picture. It was parked in front of the SPS building when metropolitan police came on campus to investigate reports of a theft from the clubroom of the Wandervogel Hiking club.



This picture shows Zenkyoto students (masked, helmeted, brandishing wooden sticks as weapons) menacing ordinary Sophia students.

Association of All Students Joined in Battle. (In this translation, Zenkyoto will be used.) Some of them stayed overnight in Building 5. Others created gigantic signboards. They held zigzag line dances on campus and obstructed the ordinary functions of the university in several ways, including hunger strikes. Later, in the early morning of July 2nd, a group of masked Zenkyoto members wearing helmets and wielding wooden clubs rushed through a large group of ordinary students and faculty members, who

opposed their presence. They entered Building number 1 and erected barricades. Because of the growing demands of students who opposed these barricades, they were taken down about 18 hours later without any force being exerted. A meeting of Zenkyoto representatives on July 5th dissolved the local branch of the organization.

Many meetings of teachers, including faculty meetings and meetings of the Academic Senate, considered seriously the chain of events connected to the barricade incident and some later incidents in which a teacher was injured. The thirteen Sophia students found to be responsible for constructing the barricades were punished by either expulsion or suspension without time limit, effective August 22nd. However, if the punished students reflected on their unacceptable behavior and

expressed a sincere will to study seriously at Sophia University, the



The Zenkyoto student organization restarted daily anti-university administration demonstrations in October 1968, to protest against the expulsions or suspensions of thirteen Sophia students who were leaders in the one-day barricading of Building 1 on July 2nd.

suspended students could have their suspensions terminated and the expelled students could have their punishments reconsidered in a friendly way. However, some students who were opposed to any punishments being imposed by the university started daily activities in opposition to the university. On October 18th, the previous decision of the representatives' meeting was ignored and a Zenkyoto section was re-established at Sophia University. A document with four demands was presented to the university authorities. These demands were:

- (1) The 13 unjustly punished students were to have their punishments completely rescinded.
- (2) The entrance onto the campus of government authorities must be officially censured.
- (3) Three sections of the rules for students must be rejected. There is a picture of the cover of the relevant document on this page. The objections related to rules regarding student political activity, rules requiring the stamped approval by a university official for holding any student meeting or distributing any flyers, and rules requiring all Sophia circles to have a faculty moderator.
- (4) The university must acknowledge the student government organizations created in each faculty.



This is a picture of the cover of a university document containing rules for student behavior. Three sections of these rules offended some students and there were calls for their revision or removal.

To these demands the university authorities refused to respond, arguing that Zenkyoto is not an officially recognized student organization of Sophia, so no official answers are possible. Consequently, on November 7th just after 1800, about 180 armored Zenkyoto students armed with wooden sticks and divided into three squads, rushed into Buildings 1, 3, and 4 and erected barricades.

2. Sophia takes a policy of an exceptional six-month shutdown of educational activities

President Oizumi resigned his post on November 12, 1966. Professor Mikao Moriya, who had been dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, became the next president. Mr. Norio Izumi became the leader of the Sophia Student Association. President Moriya would receive the help of this leader and the help of the chairpersons of the student representative meetings. Together, they would start on a program of student reforms. Suggestions about improvements to the Student Handbook had been given to a special committee.

These were passed on to the association of student representatives. Their proposals were passed by a vote of students that finished on November 19th. President Moriya thus adjusted the three points in the Student Handbook that were the third demand in the four demands presented by Sophia students and Zenkyoto students. The announcement of these changes was made at a university-wide meeting held on November 21st; the changes were scheduled to be implemented from December 1st. From that time, the voices from the regular students calling for the removal of the barricades became stronger. The student government leader Mr. Izumi publicly advised the Zenkyoto to follow a policy of voluntarily removing the barricades. The university posted several public announcements calling for the cancellation of the occupation. However, Zenkyoto showed no intention of removing the barricades. In the middle of December, the student association tried to remove the barricades by their own initiatives. The Zenkyoto students resisted, pelting the association students with rocks and pouring ammonia on them from the roofs of the school buildings. Some association students suffered injuries and their attempt to remove the barricades ended in failure. There was a strong possibility of a new blockade and occupation being started in what



President Moriya explained that he took full personal responsibility for the decision to invite the riot police onto the Sophia campus. His primary reason was to prevent further bloodshed due to conflicts involving groups of college students.

was then Building 2. President Moriya then issued a final statement, which gave some pre-conditions for negotiations: no take-over of Building 2, no terrorist activities directed at any individual, no destruction of university furnishings, and no entrance into the Sophia campus of young persons who were not Sophia students. Zenkyoto rejected all these conditions. The president then requested that the riot police enter the campus on December 21st just after six in the morning. Father Pittau, the chancellor, spoke to the leaders of the riot police and requested that no occupying students be injured. The occupying students resisted the riot police by throwing rocks and in other ways. The riot police flushed out all the students by firing canisters of tear gas. Fifty-three male students who refused to leave were arrested. On that same day the university authorities declared that, starting immediately, there would be a six-month special cessation of normal university operations. This decision was posted and the university gates were locked. This combination of tactics, inviting the riot police onto the campus and then declaring a university-wide shutdown, became known as the Sophia method. Also called the Sophia model, it became one model tactic for later efforts elsewhere to end student troublemaking.

3. The institution of a variety of reforms

During the several months of academic disruption, President Moriya organized a number of committees that considered proposals for reform. Each committee made sure that the voices of students were included. Several reforms were enacted:

- (1) A sentence in the basic document of the university was revised to say that the unique positions of both teachers and students were to be respected. The original version had said that the teachers and those taught formed a spiritual community.
- (2) The rule that a student who missed more than two-thirds of the classes had to be failed was scraped. The limitation of registration for general education courses to freshmen and sophomores was also abandoned.
- (3) For extra-curricular activities, the need to receive the permission of the university student affairs office regarding the content of all signboards and



This picture shows a fight between ordinary Sophia students and Zenkyoto members on the playing field of the university during an assembly of all the students.

flyers was retained, but the procedure was simplified into a report. It also became possible for students to set up an extra-curricular activity that did not have a faculty advisor.

Even during the lockout, entrance examinations were held and a graduation ceremony took place. An entrance ceremony took place on April 7th, 1969. After this ceremony, a student assembly was held on the theme that the university lockout should end and that classes should begin again. The university and the student association had reached a consensus on this policy on March 31st. A university-wide assembly sponsored by the student association was held from 1430 on April 7th on the Sanadabori playing fields. A picture shows the violent confrontation between ordinary students and some helmeted Zenkyoto students. The student assembly president Mr. Izumi presented a request to abandon the lockout to the university authorities. President Moriya announced that the lockout was ended, subject to some conditions. Thus, the university closure that started on December 21st, 1968, and had been announced for six months, actually ended after 108 days. Afterwards, the university returned to relative tranquility and the branch of Zenkyoto connected to Sophia University evaporated. On December 18, 1969, the Board of Trustees announced the new version of the Basic Educational Principles for the Sophia School Corporation. These show the directions for educational and research activities up until the present.



This picture shows ordinary Sophia students celebrating after the announcement on April 7th 1969 that the lockout had been ended.