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Japan Screen Topics

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PRIME MINISTER VIEWS NORTHERN TERRITORIES

108feet 3min. 0sec.

1. (BOARDING AIRCRAFT, TAKEOFF) Early in September, Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki left Tokyo on a visit to Hokkaido, to observe Japan's Northern Territories.
2. (MAP, CLOSE-UP: AERIAL VIEW) The Northern Territories are four Japanese islands which have been occupied by the Soviet Union since the final days of World War II. The islands of Etorofu, Kunashiri Shikotan and the Habomai Group have yet to be returned to Japan, despite repeated Japanese Government demands. These islands have never been the territory of any foreign country and they are integral parts of Japanese territory from both historical and legal view points.
3. (COASTLINE: FISHERMEN: LIGHTHOUSE) After his helicopter tour of the area, the Prime Minister went by car to Cape Nosappu, at the tip of the Nemuro Peninsula. From there he had a clear view of Kaigara, an isle of the Habomai Group, lying just 3.7 kilometers from the Hokkaido shore. Among the things he saw were Soviet patrol vessels.

In recent years Soviet military activities have increased in the islands, including the construction of permanent military bases.

4. The waters around the Northern Territories are one of the worlds richest fishing ground. Fishing has been a leading industry of the area. The waters off Kaigara Island are famous for the production of tangle a seaweed widely used in the Japanese diet. Local fishermen actively gather seaweed from Kaigara waters.

5. (PRESS CONFERENCE: MEETING) After concluding his observation tour, Prime Minister Suzuki held a press conference at which he stated. "The Soviet claim that there is 'no territorial issue' between our nations is totally unacceptable. I will exert my utmost efforts to achieve the return of the islands at the earliest possible date. "Suzuki noted that Japan recognizes the need for a Japan-USSR dialogue in view of the continuing difficult state of Japan-Soviet relations and strongly urged the Soviet Union to come to the negotiating table with a view to settling the Northern territorial issue and there by concluding a peace treaty.

THE ART OF PAPER FOLDING

112feet 3min. 6sec.

1. (ORIGAMI SAMPLES) 'Origami' may be best translated as "The Art of Paper Folding". But that name fails to describe the many subtleties of this ancient craft.

2. (MASTER: HIS WORKS, ETC.) Sixty year-old Senaki Kato is one of Japan's leading masters of the art of Origami. He has spent some 50 years in developing his skills, which have made him famous as both a teacher and artist throughout the country.

Kato appears frequently on television, demonstrating his art and offering advice to beginners. But even abroad, Origami enthusiasts are familiar with his amazing skills, a sample of which was presented to Queen Elizabeth during her visit to Japan several years ago.

Kato is particularly famed for his creation of 'Crane Families', incorporating one large Crane and numerous 'babies'. One of his most famous pieces includes more than 1,500 individual cranes, all formed from one continuous sheet of paper. This particular piece, made after planning the cuts and folds in advance features 20 cranes -- a basic exercise for Kato.

3. (KINDERGARTEN) These children receive instruction in Origami as part of their kindergarten program. It is both an amusing and a valuable pastime for them, improving their powers of concentration and increasing manual dexterity to an astonishing degree.

Almost all young Japanese children learn the basic skills of Origami, although very few of them keep up with it after early childhood.

4. (COFFEE SHOP) Recently, however, there has been something of a 'boom' in Origami among adults. Here at this Origami Coffee Shop, both the staff and patrons enjoy the art, comparing their designs and abilities. Many people are taking up Origami again, as a relaxing and creative leisure activity.

EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

69feet 1min. 55sec.

1. (STILL PHOTOS) Earthquakes regularly bring major disaster to Japan.
2. (KAWASAKI: CENTER) Here in the industrial city of Kawasaki, south of Tokyo, a new Disaster Evacuation Center was recently completed.
3. (INTERIOR: SUPPLIES) Built in triangular shape to offer maximum resistance to tremors, the Center is expected to easily survive even the most disastrous earthquake. Inside are stored food, medicine, and emergency supplies sufficient for 30,000 people for three days.

The Center is equipped with its own electrical power generators, making it a completely self-sufficient haven for those who may be rendered homeless by a disastrous earthquake. Its advanced communications center would be able to maintain full contact with relief squads after a quake.

4. (LECTURES, PRACTICE, TRAINING) One of the Center's most important roles on a day-to-day basis in providing local residents with the knowledge of what to do, where to go and what to take along in the event of a major disaster. Highly-trained disaster preparedness specialists at the Center provide well-planned educational and training programs.

In addition, the Center also sponsors this "Portable Quake Experience" for local residents, which gives them a vivid impression of the effects of earthquakes at various magnitudes, and of the danger such tremors can present indoors even should the building not collapse.

5. (FIRE PROTECTION) Since in the event of a major disaster thousands of people would take refuge around the center, a fire-fighting system has been arranged to prevent injuries.

Centers of this type are planned for major cities throughout Japan.

ANNUAL "RAFT" RACE

71feet 1min. 58sec.

1. (INTRO SCENE: PREPARATIONS) A popular television program in Japan features various attempts to set new records. One annual event sponsored by the program is a 'race' across Atami Bay by hand-made, strangely decorated rafts and floats.

Every year, a large number of people pour their energy into building unique boats unique both in appearance and, sometimes, in propulsion method. This year, some 80 contestants in 25 strange boats prepared to race across the bay at the famed Atami hot springs resort.

2. (RACE START: BOATS FINISH) When the race began, the rafts presented a most unusual sight. They came in a startling variety of colors, sizes, and shapes, and their propulsion methods ranged from ingenious to absurd to displays of sheer physical strength and stamina.

But as usual in contests of this type, as many of the competitors would end up in the drink, as crossing the finish line. Many of those who join in the fun and games on this program do so as much to create a 'spectacle' as to set a record or claim victory, which is perhaps the secret behind its continuing success.

This year's winner, in a new record time of 13 minutes five seconds, was the colorful "Tomato 3" which was built to look like the Space Shuttle.