

Urgent Appeal against the Passage of Security Related Bills

Today, on September 19, the *Security Related Bills* were passed by the plenary session of the House of Councilors (the Upper House) of the Japanese Diet. Rissho Kosei-kai deeply deplores the forcible passing of these bills in the midst of opposition expressed by a large number of the Japanese people.

Nikkyo Niwano, the Founder of Rissho Kosei-kai, spoke at the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly devoted to Disarmament, which was held in 1978 in the midst of the intense arms race between the Eastern and Western blocks during the Cold War era. Founder Niwano made an appeal to world political leaders, including those of the United States and the Soviet Union: "Instead of taking risks with arms, please take great risks for peace and disarmament."

We, inheriting this ethos, have engaged in ongoing activities for peace, believing that even under current international circumstances, confidence building through dialogue and cooperation is still *the* means of guaranteeing genuine security and developing a harmonious human society in which all lives are respected.

On September 2, Rissho Kosei-kai issued a statement titled: "In Pursuit of Safeguarding All Lives on Earth: Grave concerns about the security related bills," which sought the rejection of these bills. Furthermore, after the release of this statement, Rissho Kosei-kai strongly urged both the government and the Liberal Democratic Party to continue conducting a prudent and fair deliberation of the Diet.

We are deeply concerned about the possibility that the *Security Related Legislation* approved in this diet could not only open the door to the use of military force by Japan, but also increase the number of conflicts in the international community and eventually threaten all lives on earth.

Rissho Kosei-kai strongly urges the Japanese government to avoid, no matter how diplomatic affairs develop, the use of military force enabled by the *Security Related Legislation*, and also to make the utmost effort to settle disputes peacefully based on confidence-building through dialogue. In the meantime, we are determined to continue acting and praying for the safeguarding of all lives on earth, with which we live together.

September 19, 2015
Rissho Kosei-kai