

November 4, '88

Dear Yuri,

Thank you for the information flyers. It's impressive to learn how you are kept aware of what's happening here in terms of social issues.

Two of our sisters are involved in the finger-print issue of the Koreans especially. Recently they assisted at the court - one, a case of a Korean woman, and ^{the} other a priest who is refusing to be finger printed.

As to your question whether the Japanese women are protesting the treatment of other Asian women here as "Snack" hostesses - and most cases leading to prostitution. I must say, in general, the women don't seem to be much impressed. Except ^{for} women who claim to be feminist, the traditional attitude is "Shi Kataga-nai". From ^{the type of} Japanese practice. The society divided women into two groups - one to get married to and reproduce heirs, the other

to "enjoy". It was a practice, they say, for men not to "enjoy" their wives who bore them children so they went to prostitutes if and when they can afford one! Women knew that, too. So the so-called "good women" - Marias - thought and still think of the "bad women" as not one of them. Now, other Asian women have come to take up the role because the Japanese women have now become scarce and so expensive! The tragedy is - since the Philippines and ^{the} Chinese do not know our culture and language, ~~and~~ they are easy prey of "Go kuzas" - Japanese mafias - they are undeniably ^{men} merciless. Usually, they rip them off of every "yen" and I have heard of two cases where when they became "useless" (because of some illness) they were injected - left in coma - ^{dumped dead} one in the Philippine Embassy compound and the other just on one of the streets. There is one in a mental institution after nightmarish experience. But the Japanese women, in general, hearing

This, will say, "Oh how awful!" and leave it at that. There hasn't been any public demonstration against this "trafficking of women".

There is a center called "HELP" - conducted by a Protestant church (near where I live), where women can escape to. I go once a week to do some volunteer work there. The volunteers are mostly foreigners.

I'll try to get some furniture and send them to you. I am trying also to get involved in one way or other with anti-Apartheid movement. Things go slowly here - much discussion, little action. Nevertheless, I think it takes more courage to get involved in these "issues" that embarrass the government here than in the U. S. A. And it's almost a wonder that there are activists at all here.

I'll write again in more details when I have a
desk to write on.

I do think of Manhattan and wish I were there
again - but one thing, good about being here is that
it is much more safer to be out at night here
and so I continue to get around.

Would you ever come around? Please be sure
to let me know. Depending on the day or week, you
can stay with us, you know.

Best regards to your husband and Aichi,
In solidarity,
Maydalena.