



Mr Anderson

PRESS RELEASE

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February 9, 1950.

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Canadian Government has extended an invitation to a delegation of Japanese Members of Parliament to visit Ottawa. The delegation which is now in the United States numbers fourteen. It includes leading members of all major parties, with the exception of the Communist Party, from both Japanese Houses. The group is expected to arrive in Ottawa on February 22 and leave on February 24.

The purpose of the visit to Canada is to give an opportunity to the Japanese Members of Parliament to study the Canadian parliamentary system. Under the post-war constitution, Japan's system of government bears a strong resemblance to our Canadian system. The delegation therefore is particularly interested in such problems as the process by which bills are passed, the working of party government, and any background information as to how political parties are formed and developed in a democracy. Included in the delegation are members of the secretariat of the Japanese Diet who are concerned with administrative details. The delegation has been visiting state legislatures and the Federal Congress in the United States. A suitable programme for the delegates in Ottawa is now being prepared.

Three interpreters are accompanying the group in order that language difficulties be minimized. In addition, certain members of the delegation speak English.

The visit of the Japanese group to North America, which will last about 40 days, has the full approval of General MacArthur's headquarters. Besides interpreters, the group is accompanied by two representatives of the Government Section, Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

Following is a list of the members of the delegation:

YAMAZAKI, Takeshi

Chairman of the delegation.
Secretary General of Democratic Liberal Party.

ASANUMA, Inejiro

Member of Central Executive Committee, Social Democratic Party.

HATANO, Kanae

Member of House of Councillors.

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