

SPECIAL REPORT

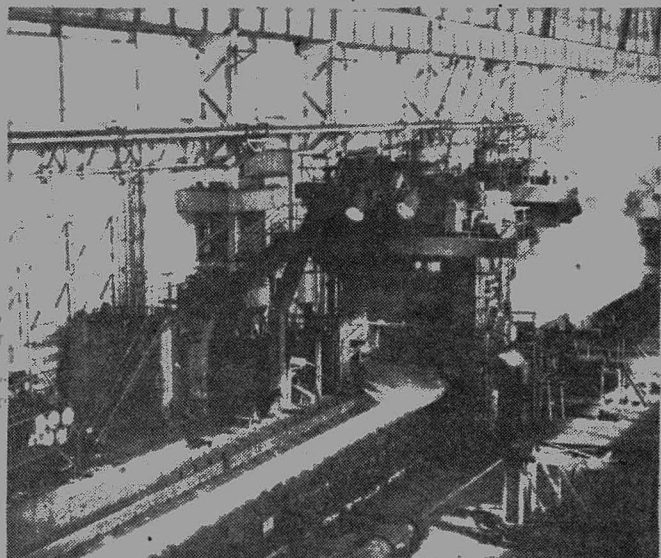
JAPANESE AID TO AFRICA INCREASING BUT... Channel for aid



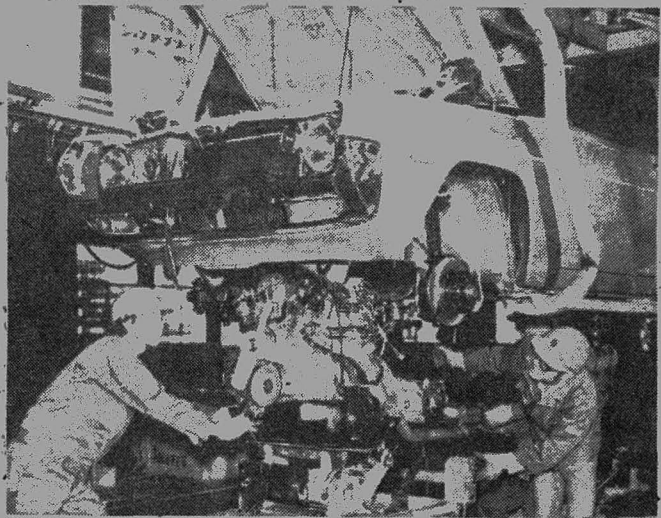
ASSEMBLY of colour television sets at the Matsushita Electric and Industrial Company. President Moi will visit the company's colour television plant at Ibaraki where 74,000 employees produce some 90,000 sets every month for export to 150 countries.



THE Japanese camera industry has been a world leader since 1962. In recent years it has been producing annually more than 10 million cameras, most of them for export. The picture shows the Nippon camera factory.



PRODUCTION of metals in Japan, especially that of iron and steel, has expanded remarkably since World War II. Japan now produces more than 110 million tons of crude steel, making her the world's third largest steel producer after the US and the Soviet Union. Steel is among Japan's major export items, with exports accounting for 30.9 per cent of the world steel market. She depends heavily on imports for its raw materials such as iron ore, cooking coal, and scrap iron.



JAPAN'S motorcar industry is the second largest in the world after that of the United States, producing more than 10 million units every year more than half of which are exported. The picture shows the Nissan automobile factory, makers of Datsun cars.

FOR historical and geographical reasons Japan has had little contact with Africa. Until the 1970s, Japanese contact with Africa was limited largely to the sale of cheap Japanese merchandise such as cameras, transistor radios, cars and textiles.

But in the last decade Japanese-African contacts have developed very rapidly, particularly in the area of official development aid. During the 1960s Africa received less than 2 per cent of Japanese aid while the bulk of Japanese aid went to Asia, particularly those countries that Japan has traditionally been associated with such as China, South Korea, Indonesia and other South east Asian countries closer to Japan. Today more than 12 per cent of Japanese aid goes to Africa, particularly for communications, rural development and promotion of agriculture, development of human resources, the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises, and aid to refugees.

The African share of Japanese aid still remains small in comparison to Asia which received more than 70 per cent of Japanese

aid in 1980. But the Japanese Government is becoming more and more aware of the need to get more involved in African development.

In terms of natural resources and potential for development Africa is the continent of the future. Africa is also becoming an influential voice in international forums such as the United Nations. And Japan, a country that relies so much on world trade and imported raw materials, would want to have closer ties with Africa.

Consequently, Japanese interest in Africa has increased tremendously in the last 10 years and Japanese scholars, researchers and economists are studying African developments and making the data available to the Japanese Government and businessmen.

A "White Paper on Economic Co-operation" released by the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry last February reported that Japan must increase economic aid to developing countries from the standpoint of helping their self-supporting efforts to raise

productivity and increase national income. The report specifically urged the Japanese businessmen to try to transfer a wide range of technology, know-how and their unique development experiences to newly industrializing countries including those in Africa.

While most of the African countries are receiving Japanese aid there are a few which for one reason or another have not been getting any Japanese aid. These include Angola, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Lesotho, Chad and the Seychelles.

Japanese activities in Africa of course closely follow those of the United States which is Japan's largest and most important single trading partner (Japan also has a security treaty with the US).

The largest recipients of Japanese aid in Africa is Zaire, followed by Kenya and Tanzania. Zaire, with its vast mineral resources and other raw materials is of obvious attraction to Japan, a country which has few natural resources of its own.

JAPAN's major economic, social and cultural co-operation projects are channelled through the Japan International Co-operation Agency, (JICA).

JICA is the chief executing agency of the government of Japan mainly in the field of technical co-operation with the Third World. The agency has more than 20 offices in the developing world including one in Nairobi.

A JICA official in Nairobi explained that the agency lays emphasis on technical co-operation in the fields of human resources development in the Third World.

The development of human resources not only ensures a wide range of people participation in development, he said, but also enhances self-reliance and fair distribution of available resources.

JICA's programmes in the developing countries include:

• Technical co-operation in conjunction with Japanese government agencies, local

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