Ikeda Will Make Trip To Niigata Tomorrow

Trans-Pacific Telephone Hookup

Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda and American President Lyndon B. Johnson made a Trans-Pacific undersea telephone cable Friday to express sympathy to the victims of Thursday's devastating earthquake.

Ikeda is scheduled to leave Tokyo Station at 7:30 a.m. Sunday and arrive in Niigata on Sunday afternoon. He will make a car tour of the areas hit by the earthquake.

A fairly strong earthquake, believed to be an aftershock of the Niigata earthquake, shook northern Japan and Kantō areas around 5:55 p.m. Friday. The Meteorological Agency plenary session of the Niigata government and estimated the depth of the epicenter to be about 100 kilometers. The magnitude of 5.0 on the Richter scale was reported.

Socialist Offer Defense Ministry Bill

Defense Minister Billing Bill

The Government has given up on its plan to propose the bill to promote the Defense Ministry's status as a full-fledged ministry, the bill becomes certain.

U.S. Officials to Confer

Defense chief, U.S. officials to confer

The administration's drive to win Senate passage of the measure, as expected, will be based on the argument that the bill is necessary to strengthen the U.S.-Japan security alliance.

Phouma Says Bombings of Lower House Passes Bill To Increase Its Number

The Public Education Law Amendment Bill, which raises the quota for the House of Representatives from 490 to 496 members, was passed by the Lower House Friday.

The bill also has a good chance of being passed by the House of Councillors before the current Diet session closes next Friday.

The bill increases the quota for 12 senators by 10 persons. When it is passed, Tokyo and sixth district will be represented by 490 members, exactly the same as the present five.

The Senate's first and fifth districts will have 49 members each.

The proposal for the passage of the bill in the current Diet session was once regarded as remote, because Liberal-Democrats, who hold a majority in the Senate, are opposed to the bill. Nevertheless, the bill is expected to pass, according to the timetable established by the Diet.

Two Thai observers pass by a Malaysian border post as they inspect the border area of the withdrawal of Malaysian border troops on Thursday.

Macapagal Asking for Afro-Asian Conciliation Panel

By United Press International

African and Asian statesmen met Friday to open a summit conference of their leaders today in an attempt to solve the dispute over foreign policy conserations.

Chief ministers of the three Southeast Asian nations met for 10 minutes Friday afternoon to open a conference among Indonesian President Sukarno, Philippine President Diosdado Macapagal and Indonesian President Juan Chichiln, the three leaders met Friday afternoon to open a conference among Indonesian President Sukarno, Philippine President Diosdado Macapagal and Indonesian President Juan Chichiln, the three leaders met Friday afternoon to open a conference among Indonesian President Sukarno, Philippine President Diosdado Macapagal and Indonesian President Juan Chichiln, the three leaders met Friday afternoon to open a conference among Indonesian President Sukarno, Philippine President Diosdado Macapagal and Indonesian President Juan Chichiln.
Cable Line

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change of messages in the course of the opening ceremony, which was held from 10:30 a.m. in Japan at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.

Similar ceremonies were held simultaneously at the White House in Washington and the Iolani Palace in Honolulu.

The newly laid cable was connected with the existing cable between Oahu and San Francisco.

The cable, which will considerably improve telecommunication service between Japan and the United States, was formally opened in ceremonies held Friday morning in Tokyo, Honolulu and Washington.

During the ceremonies, messages were also exchanged between Postal Services Minister Shizuo Koike and Rosel H. Hyde, vice chairman of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission.

This was followed by a conversation between Governor Ryotaro Azuma of Tokyo and Governor John A. Burns of Hawaii, and a three-way conversation among Katsuo Ono, president of the Kokusai Denwa Co. (KDD), Board Chairman Frederic R. Kappel of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. and President Douglas S. Guild of the Hawaiian Telephone Co.

The general public will be allowed to book calls through the trans-Pacific cable from 2 p.m. Friday.

The rates will be much lower than the present radiotelephone charges.

The rates for station-to-station calls will be ¥3.240 for the first three minutes and ¥1.080 for every additional minute, compared with the ¥4.320 and ¥1.440 by radiophone on weekdays.

The rates for person-to-person calls will be ¥4.320 for the first three minutes with the charge for every additional minute remaining the same as that for station-to-station calls.

The waiting time will be reduced considerably to less than 10 minutes from the 30 minutes required in the past.

Meanwhile, the Postal Services Ministry issued commemorative stamps Friday to mark the opening of the new cable.

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Ikeda

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vent accidents in the heavy and chemical industries.

The revision of the Fire Law will also be discussed.

Tokuyasu Fukuda, the director of the Defense Agency, reported to the Cabinet meeting Friday on countermeasures for natural calamities worked out by the agency following the Niigata quake.

The countermeasures explained by Fukuda included the reinforcement of helicopters, building and maintenance of local heliports and the strengthening of the Maritime Self-Defense Forces and its ships stationed along the Japan Sea coast.

The MSDP station in Niigata will, for instance, be promoted to the status of a local base under the newly-devised countermeasures programs so that relief goods may be stored in it against any sudden national disaster.

The Cabinet meeting approved the Defense Agency's programs.

Eisaku Sato, director of the Science and Technology Agency, said at a press conference Friday that studies to predict earthquakes are important, but it is more important at present to prepare various measures to be immediately carried out in time of need against earthquake damage.

He said that he planned to send a technological survey team comprised of high officials from early ministry to the earthquake-stricken areas at the end of the month and to institute a preventive study on earthquakes as a start of a series of studies on natural disaster prevention methods.

He continued that although there is an opinion favoring the establishment of a large seismological study program entailing a large amount of money, there would be numerous difficult problems to be solved before the plan could be realized.

He concluded that it was most important at the moment to study measures to precisely estimate the scale of an earthquake in its initial stage and to properly counteract it by using past seismic records as reference.