

Interim Report on the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations (Extract)

June 11, 2003

Chapter III Summary

The Special Committee on the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations has conducted examinations in accordance with the Resolution on the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations adopted in 1990. In particular, after the Prime Minister presented to the Diet the report submitted by the Council for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations, the Committee conducted intensive examinations on various aspects including national consensus, social and economic circumstances and a comparison of candidate areas with Tokyo.

In the Committee, a considerable number of members were of the opinion that we should select one area immediately and implement the relocation of the Diet and other organizations. On the other hand, some members felt that we should take time to address this issue, given the present situation. Thus, the Committee could not reach an agreement on whether or not the Diet and other organizations should be immediately relocated. Some political groups have expressed that the Diet and other organizations should not be relocated.

However, under the current situation in which all functions are concentrated in Tokyo, the occurrence of a major earthquake in Tokyo or the exposure of Tokyo to any other great risk could disrupt the core functions of our country, potentially leading to a grave crisis not only in our country, but across the world. Considering the above, a majority of Committee members were of the opinion that it is inappropriate for all core functions of the nation's administration to remain concentrated in Tokyo and that in particular, core functions related to disaster and crisis management should be immediately relocated.

Given the above, this Committee feels that the relocation of the core function of disaster and crisis management should be preceded and other functions should also be relocated to a selected relocation area, considering factors such as current economic and financial conditions and the level of public consensus.

The relocation of the Diet and other organizations is an extremely important issue that will impact the future of the nation. Therefore, we must continue deliberations in close collaboration with both Houses and based on the interim report of this Committee.

Special Committee of the House of Councillors for the Relocation of the Diet and Other Organizations