



JAPAN TRAINING SQUADRON WELCOMES YOU ABOARD

On behalf of the officers and men under my command, I most heartily welcome you aboard. This training squadron, which consists of the training ship "Katori" and the destroyer "Yamagumo", left Tokyo on 28th of June and arrived here just now.

The training squadron has some 700 officers and men on board, including 163 newly commissioned officers who graduated from the Officer Candidate School in March of this year.

The mission of this cruise is to provide the newly commissioned officers with practical knowledge and experience in seamanship, to widen their intellectual horizons and, above all, to strengthen the bonds of friendship with the visiting countries and people.

I sincerely hope that our visit may contribute in many ways to the promotion of greater mutual understanding and friendly relations.

REAR ADMIRAL UMEICHI IMAI, JMSDF

Rear Admiral Imai was born in Yamaguchi-ken on eighth of December, 1918. Being graduated from the Imperial Japan Naval Academy in July, 1939 and commissioned Ensign in May, 1940, he served in the Imperial Japan Navy until the end of World War the Second.

He joined the newly organized Japan Maritime Self Defense Force in 1952, as Lieutenant Commander. After serving as Commanding Officer of LSSL, ASW Officer of a destroyer, he studied at the Maritime Staff College in 1955.

In August, 1955, he was promoted to Commander. He was assigned for J-3 Division of the Joint Staff Office, and then Plans and Program Section of the Maritime Staff Office. In 1960, he was accepted Commanding Officer of the destroyer "Shikinami" (DD106), and in 1961, he was appointed to Chief of Staff, Second Escort Flotilla.

In July, 1961 he was promoted to Captain. He later served as a Staff of J-3 Division, the Joint Staff Office, the chief of the Plans and Program Sub-Section, Maritime Staff Office, the Commander of the Thirty-second Escort Division, the Chief of the Education Affairs Division (Vice Superintendent), Officer Candidate School, the Commander of the Third Escort Flotilla, until June, 1969.

He was promoted to Rear Admiral on the first of January, 1969. He was appointed to the Chief of the Intelligence Division, Maritime Staff Office in July, 1969.

Admiral Imai assumed Commander of the Training Squadron, on the sixteenth of December, 1970.

