The “1968” Report as Seen from the Perspective of Specialist Correspondents of the University of Tokyo Struggle Focusing on Kunio Naito, *Mainichi Shimbun*

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This paper clarifies the extent of the involvement of specialist correspondents of the University of Tokyo Struggle in the “1968” report with a focus on Kunio Naito (1937–1999) who was the local news correspondent of *Mainichi Shimbun*.

In the first section, the authors examine the characteristics of the general reports that regarded the students of the movement as “rioters” regardless of the motivations of their actions. This representation was amply demonstrated in the falsification incident pertaining to Sanyo Shimbun, and in the Oji demonstration report written by Kunio Naito. The strongly rooted bias of executive editors forms the background of this depiction of the agitated students.

The second section of the paper is devoted to Kunio Naito, who was the reporter in charge of universities, and who became a specialist correspondent for the University of Tokyo. This section discusses Naito’s influence on coverage of President Kazuo Okochi’s resignation, and lists the lineup of the University of Tokyo Reporters’ Club which comprises a gathering of all news organizations and of their crews.

Section 3 delves into the incident of “assault” on a *Yomiuri Shimbun* reporter in which tensions between the University of Tokyo specialist correspondents and the students of the movement were heightened, and led to the restriction of daily coverage by Naito. In the wake of this incident, the students’ distrust of newspapers intensified, demonstrating that there was a gap between Naito’s opinion that his reporting was meant for the students and the perception of the students themselves.

In section 4, the authors examine the issue of the independence of the reporters including Naito and attempt to ascertain what the University of Tokyo Struggle and its news coverage meant for the reporters. This concern is highlighted by the clock tower broadcast during the Yasuda Hall incident. Along with this event, the skillful infiltration of the police at the site of the demonstration and the realities of the student measures are also discussed.

Naito exploited the advantage of being the University of Tokyo, Department of Law graduate, and secured several scoops by making inroads into the source of the news. However, as symbolized by the perception of the students as “rioters” at the site of the incidents, the attitude of the reporters who tried to face the facts and the press organizations is also questionable. Further, the course of
the reporting of various facts was constrained by the mismatch between the perception of the site reporters and the editorial executives. Based on the structure of the power relationship at news organizations, in the case of the “1968” report too, reporting of the multifaceted reality to the readers was hindered by the authority of the desk and the editorial executives. Finally, the authors’ opinions with regard to the problem of violence in the University of Tokyo Struggle and during the student movements are also presented in this paper.

Key words: Report of demonstration, reporters responsible for universities, University of Tokyo Press Club, the incident of “assault” on a Yomiuri Shimbun reporter, the clock tower broadcast enquiry