

A call to arms for the Japanese

The occupation of Japan was the break of a lifetime for Yoshio Tachibana. Because of the ban on Japan's wartime leaders, he leaped 20 years in seniority to a top official's post in the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Like most Japanese, Tachibana feels life is worth living again. "The Korean war is a bad thing for Americans," he says, "but it has given us new hope. Until it happened we were ashamed of our defeated status. . . . Now you need our help. That makes us feel important once more." Tachibana wants to regain "face" for Japan—and he hopes the Korean war will do it.

There was strong evidence last week that Tachibana's hopes would come true. The State Department sent a ringing note to Jacob Malik, Soviet delegate at the United Nations. The United States, it said, was going ahead with a Japanese peace treaty—with or without Russia. It noted bluntly that arrangements would be made for Japan's security and they "could include . . . troops of the U.S. and other nations" stationed in Japan.

Self-defense. In his fifth annual New Year's message to the people of Japan, General Douglas MacArthur gave strong hints of what lies ahead. If international lawlessness continues, he said, it will force Japan to join the free world and "mount force to repel force."

Already the plaza in front of Tokyo's Imperial Palace is swarming with khaki-clad Japanese marching in military cadence, looking suspiciously like soldiers, armed like soldiers and barking orders in clipped soldier fashion. Officially they aren't soldiers. They are the volunteer members of the 75,000-man police force created to garrison Japan when U.S. occupation divisions were rushed off to Korea. The police will soon number 200,000 and military men think that, if necessary, 10 to 16 Japanese divisions could be raised in a few weeks—from volunteers.

Premier Shigeru Yoshida, writing in the January issue of *Foreign Affairs*, says: "We can ill afford to sit on the fence. . . . We are definitely on the side of the free world. If that doesn't suit the other side, we can't help it."

On Stalin's List. Why are 84 million Japanese so firmly against sitting on the fence? The reason, according to Tachibana and others, is that the Japanese are convinced that Stalin's No. 1 goal in the Far East is control of Japan.

The Japanese, old enemies of the Chinese and the Russians, are ready to take up arms to help stop them. Pointing up the feeling of the leaders of new Japan is a story going around Tokyo. When the Korean war broke out in June, a former Japanese army officer sought out General MacArthur, saluted and said, "General, I can have my old regiment ready to go by Monday morning."