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INFORMATION OFFICE — UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, VANCOUVER 8, B.C. — TELEPHONE (604) 228-3131

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mr. Shinsuke Hori, the Consul General of Japan, will present a unique centennial gift to the people of British Columbia in a ceremony to take place at 11:30 a.m., Monday, March 22. Deputy Provincial Secretary L.J. Wallace, general chairman of the B.C. Centennial '71 Committee, will accept the gift on behalf of the people of B.C. Mr. Alan Campney, president of the Canada-Japan Society will also be present.

The gift consists of the steel girders which formed the structural components of the Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd.'s pavilion at Expo 70 in Osaka, Japan.

Details of a campaign to raise funds for the reconstruction of the distinctive building as an Asian Studies Centre at the University of British Columbia were made available in a previous press release dated March 18, an updated copy of which is attached for your information.

The 101 girders, which weigh a total of 172 tons, were recently dismantled and shipped to Vancouver. They will be transferred for storage to a cleared area off Wesbrook Crescent on UBC's south campus.

The presentation ceremony will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, March 22 at the Johnston Terminals Ltd. wharf at 505 West First Avenue.

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March 22, 1971

For Further Information:
Doris Hopper, 228-3131

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One of the most popular pavilions of Japan's Expo 70 could be erected as an Asian Studies Centre at the University of British Columbia, provided sufficient funds can be raised, according to Mr. Alan Campney, president of the Canada-Japan Society.

Mr. Campney has recently volunteered to head a fund-raising committee which hopes to raise enough money to cover the costs of re-erecting the building on the UBC campus.

Dr. Norman A.M. MacKenzie, former president of the University of British Columbia, has agreed to act as honorary chairman of the fund-raising committee.

The building is the Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd.'s pavilion at Expo 70 in Osaka. The steel girders that formed the structural components of the building were recently dismantled and have been shipped to Vancouver as a gift from the people of Japan to the people of British Columbia in honor of B.C.'s centennial.

The girders arrived in Vancouver on March 17. They will be officially presented to the people of B.C. by Mr. Shinsuke Hori, the Consul General of Japan. Details of the ceremony are not yet complete.

The girders are to be transferred for storage into a cleared area off Wesbrook Crescent on UBC's south campus.

"It is hoped that the girders will be used in the construction of an Asian Studies Centre at the University of British Columbia, which will serve as a lasting commemoration of relations between Japan and Canada," said Mr. Campney.

Mr. Campney said that the estimated cost of re-erecting the building at UBC is approximately \$1.6 million. He said the necessary funds must be raised through donations from business and industry, and from interested individuals in Japan and in Canada.

A sweeping impression of space and light was created by the roof and four enclosing glass walls of the Sanyo building. The design of its distinctive roof, which was constructed of inter-locking sheet metal, is derived from the appearance of a traditional Japanese farmhouse.

Mr. Campney said that the building was examined in Japan before it was dismantled in order to determine its feasibility as an Asian Studies Centre and the feasibility of dismantling, transporting and reconstructing it on the UBC campus.

He said that the interior of the building would require re-designing to ensure its suitability as an academic facility. The unique construction of the roof and the nature of some of the other components of the building make it impossible to dismantle and reconstruct it entirely from its original components, he said.

He said that duplication of the roof and of the concrete and glass materials used in the construction of the building could most economically be done here.

He expressed confidence, however, in the building's over-all suitability and said that when reconstructed it would resemble the original pavilion in its external details and internally it would meet the needs of an Asian Studies Centre.

The Sanyo pavilion at Osaka was a huge, square, glass-faced structure with a steeply pitched and overhanging roof. It measured 140 feet on each side at thy roof line and was about 70 feet high. If reconstructed at UBC, it would provide space for the University's Asian studies library of 180,000 volumes, as well as space for other academic, social and cultural purposes. The building would be a focal point for activities related to Asian studies on campus, as well as a cultural centre for activities involving the Asian community of B.C. and visiting scholars from the Orient.

Materials in Asian languages now housed in the UBC Main Library include 140,000 volumes in Chinese, 40,000 in Japanese, and small collections in Korean and the languages of India.

Because of the Library's participation in international repository agreements for the reciprocal exchange of official government publications and other publications with China, Japan and India, the quality of the Library's Asian collection is internationally-recognised.

Included in the Library's Asian holdings is a unique collection of local histories of the area of south-east China which is one of the best of its kind in the world.

The Library also owns one of the best collections of Japanese woodblock maps produced during the 17th and 18th centuries.

UBC has developed the largest concentration in Canada of faculty and students interested in Asia.

The Department of Asian Studies deals with the language, literature and cultural history of Japan, China and Asia and has 18 full-time faculty members. More than 1,000 students are studying with the department. Of these 100 are studying Japanese, 60 Chinese and 90 are studying the languages of India.

More than 50 specialists in other departments throughout the University also deal with aspects of the study of Asia, ranging from the economic to the religious.

It is anticipated that the Asian Studies Centre will draw together these specialists and provide a focal point for the continued development of Canadian expertise on Asia.

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