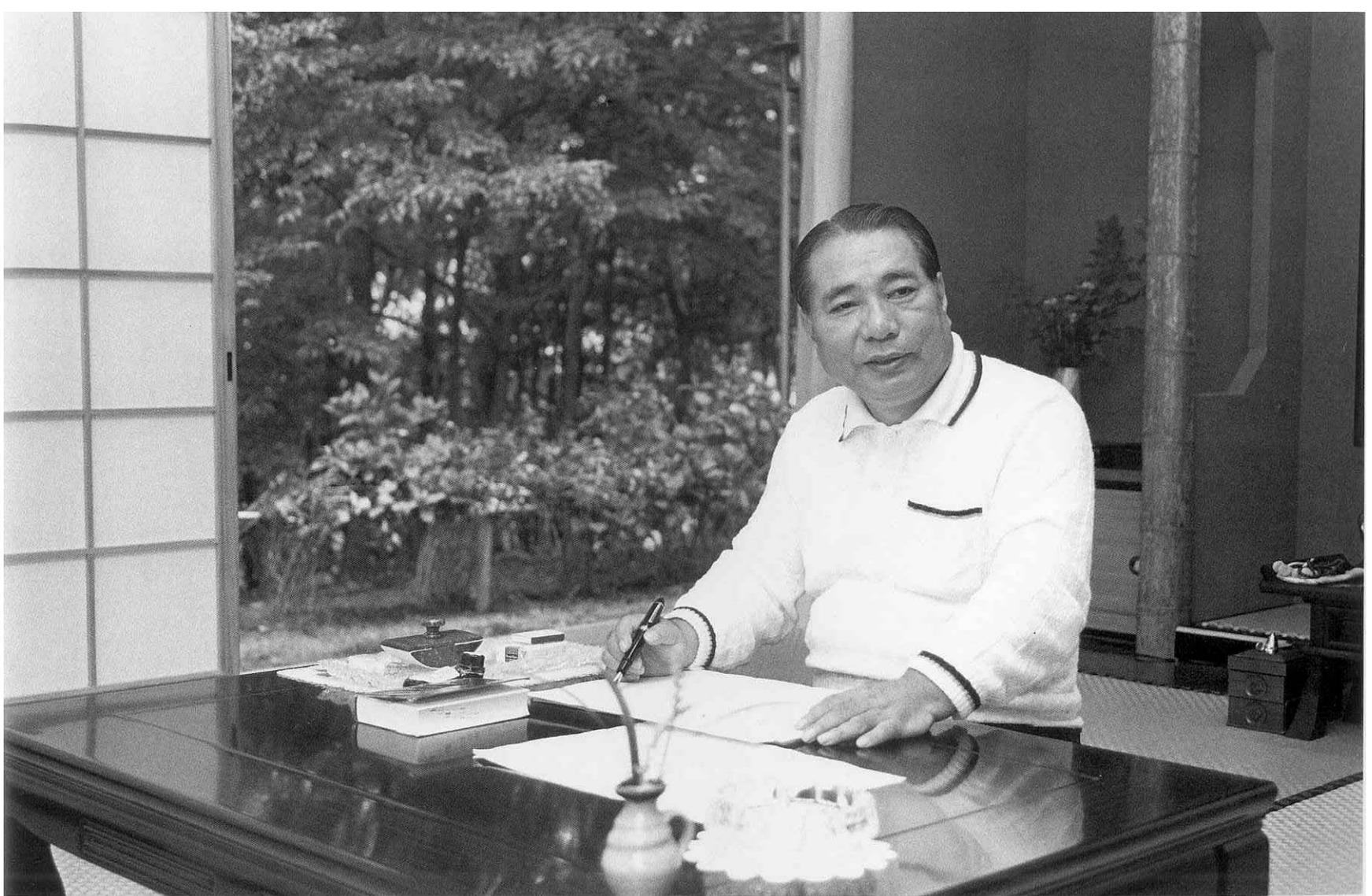


It is clear in light of the Gosho, the writings of Nichiren Daishonin, that even though an error is temporarily made, the slander will be eradicated if there is apology for it. It is even clearer that there can be no fundamental slander on the part of those who actually embrace, believe in and practice true Buddhism. The deviation of the Soka Gakkai, which is the only lay organization to have made a great achievement in widely propagating true Buddhism, might eventually result in slander if not corrected, but it is a great error to criticize it as slander at this time, now that the Soka Gakkai is already determined to correct it and is actually so doing.

Let me take this opportunity to say a few words about the problems of the wooden Gohonzons. **When it comes to the Gohonzon, everything should depend upon the judgment of the high priests, who alone inherit the profound significance of the Gohonzon.** Nittatsu Shonin, the late sixty-sixth high priest, taking all aspects of this matter into consideration, issued a decree to the priesthood and took measures prohibiting all further discussion of the subject. Therefore, those who do not obey his decree and arbitrarily insist on arguing the propriety of the matter commit slander.

June 1980 Seikyo Times



小説『人間革命』第11巻の執筆を開始（東京 1980年7月）

Writing manuscripts in Tokyo, July 1980

**SGI President Ikeda's guidance or speech was not appeared in Seikyo Shinbun in late '79 and early '80 because of pressure from inside and outside of Soka Gakkai. Out of concerns for members, he decided to restart the 11<sup>th</sup> vol. of *Human Revolution* in July, 1980, almost three years had passed since the completion of Vol. X.<sup>37</sup>**

**It was 19 years ago, on May 28, 1981. I was on another long journey for world peace and kosen-rufu, and had just completed visits to the Soviet Union, West Germany, Bulgaria and Austria. On that May afternoon, my party and I disembarked at Pisa International Airport to make our way to Florence. It was my sixth trip to Italy, two decades after my first visit there, in 1961.**

**And it was two years after my 1979 resignation as third Soka Gakkai president. In Japan, I found myself in a situation where, because of the insidious schemes of a Traitor and the impediments created by the envy-ridden priesthood, I was still unable to freely attend meetings, and this saddened many of our members.**

**My feeling was, however, that **though my movement in Japan might be restricted, there was still a big, wide world waiting beyond its shores. I decided that I would stand up as SGI president and launch a fresh phase of kosen-rufu, making the entire world the focus of my activities.****

**I put that decision into action. And so it was that I visited the beautiful city of Florence—renowned birthplace of the Renaissance—and began my work of bringing a glorious new flower of kosen-rufu into bloom.**

**Essay by President Ikeda WT 1/12/01**

**Countries that SGI President visited during 1981.**

**America in January  
Panama in February  
Mexico in February  
West Germany in May  
Austria in May  
Soviet Union in May  
Bulgaria in May  
Italy in May and June  
France in June  
Canada in June  
America in June and July  
America in August**



地下鉄でパリ市内に向かう（フランス 1981年6月）

Paris, June 1981

**Creating a poem, 'To my Dear Young French Friends who embrace the Mystic Law', on the way to a meeting in Paris by subway.**