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Japan Screen Topics

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THE FOREIGN PRESS CENTER OPENS IN TOKYO

109 feet 3 min. 2 sec.

1. (DOOR 17 secs). The Foreign Press Center of Japan opens in Tokyo as a new, improved facility for promoting international communication. The Center is designed to assist reporters visiting Japan from the press, radio and television of other countries. The Center's director, former ambassador to the UN, Shizuo Saito, cuts the ribbon on opening day.
2. (PRIME MINISTER MIKI 20 secs). Members of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Takeo Miki, visit the facility and Mr. Miki, in his opening remarks, emphasizes the importance of the Center's work. --The Finance Minister, Mr. Masayoshi Ohira, chats with guests at the reception, including members of the Tokyo foreign press corps.
3. (CONFERENCE HALL 25 secs). Mr. Miki tours the Center and greets its employes. The Center's news conference hall is equipped with a projection room for slides and films. The Center is supported by various private groups such as the Japan Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association and the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, plus a government subsidy for operating expenses.

4. (ENTRANCE 20 secs). Japan is often a difficult hunting ground for foreign newsmen, especially those coming in for short visits. One barrier is the difficult Japanese language. The Center's staff smooths the way for reporters by directing them to the sources of information needed. The staff can help arrange interviews with informed Japanese. The Center also offers the services of library with books and a wide range of reference material on Japan.

5. (MEETING 48 secs). For visiting newsmen, briefing sessions are offered by knowledgeable people in government and business. -- The Center is equipped with a library of cassette videotapes which can quickly play AV information on Japan on a television screen.

6. (GEISEL 47 secs). The Center is located in the same building as the new Japan Press Club, which provides a forum for speeches and news conferences by high officials of foreign governments. -- These reporters are covering a news conference by Brazilian President Ernest Geisel on a state visit to Japan. -- The Center's press room has work spaces and typewriters for foreign journalists. These are especially helpful for temporary correspondents who have no office facilities of their own in Tokyo.

NEW CABLES, NEW PAINT FOR TOKYO TOWER

101 feet 2 min. 48 sec.

1. (CITY LIGHTS 32 secs). The night lights of Tokyo as seen from 333-meter-high Tokyo Tower, a tourist spot in the Japanese capital. Every year about four million people visit the tower,

which is illuminated at night by 696 electric lights. Mounted near the top are antennas for all of Japan's six television networks. Five thick cables run up the tower and form the final link between the antennas and studios of NHK, Japan's public service radio and television network. The coaxial cables were first installed 17 years ago. Now the time has come to replace them. It is also time for the tower to be completely repainted. Trucks bring in the heavy cables in the predawn hours, when Tokyo streets are nearly vacant.

2. (WORKMAN 38 secs). Installation of the five cables takes about three months. Most of the work is done between sunrise and nine o'clock in the morning, when the Tower opens to tourists. The five cables are 15 centimeters thick. Each has three sections. First, 40 meters of cable are laid in a building at the tower's base. Another section stretches 160 meters from ground level to the tower's mid-section. A third reaches up another 110 meters to the broadcast antennas. The whole job will cost 300 million yen... or slightly more than one million American dollars. Tokyo Tower, completed in 1958, is slightly taller than the Eiffel Tower of Paris.

3. (WORKMEN PAINTING 50 secs). High up on the Tower, a painter works with Mt. Fuji as a backdrop. His shoes are jikatani, a slip-on footgear of canvas with rubber soles, favored by Japanese construction workers for jobs high above ground level. Tokyo Tower is repainted every six years, and this is her third coat. Thirty painters, experienced in high level work, were recruited from all over Japan for the task. The job takes six months and will cost 250 million yen, or around 875,000 dollars. The Tower's

orange and white were chosen for reasons of aircraft safety. The Tower's girders consist of 4,000 metric tons of steel with a surface area of 78,000 square meters. It takes about 35 metric tons of paint to cover them. The surface area of the girders is about twice that of a large baseball park. Somebody calculated that, if all the paint cans used in the project were stacked end-to-end, they would stand twice as high as the Tower itself.

4. (WOMEN ON GROUND 38 secs). The agile painters awe spectators with ant-like journeys through the towering girders. But the watchword is "Safety First," and thus far there have been no accidents among the men.

5. (TOWER. FULL SHOT 5 secs). Tokyo Tower with a face lift... ready for more years of entertaining tourists, functioning as a giant antenna for weather information and serving the radio and TV world.