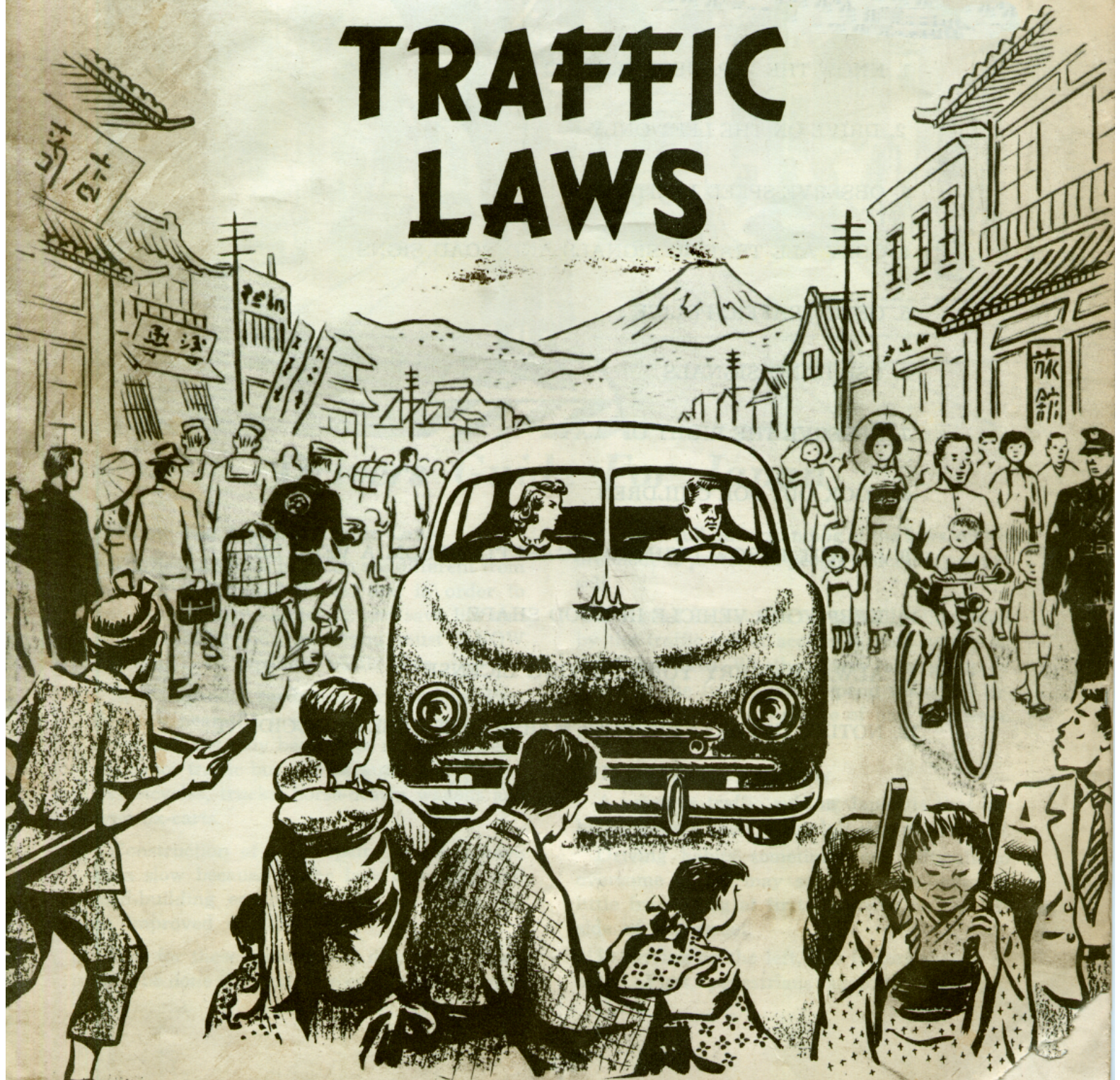


FEC
TROOP
INFORMATION

BULLETIN

NO. 2

TRAFFIC LAWS



PREPARED BY THE TROOP INFORMATION AND EDUCATION SECTION

HQ - FEC

DRIVER'S GUIDE FOR JAPAN

1. KNOW THE JAPANESE TRAFFIC LAWS
2. DRIVE ON THE LEFT ONLY
3. OBSERVE SPEED LIMITS
4. OBEY ALL TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND ROAD SIGNS
5. OBEY TRAFFIC POLICE
6. USE HAND SIGNALS
7. OBSERVE THE RIGHT OF WAY
8. LOOK OUT FOR CHILDREN
9. DO NOT THROW LIGHTED CIGARETTES FROM A VEHICLE
10. KEEP YOUR VEHICLE IN GOOD SHAPE
11. ALWAYS CARRY YOUR DRIVING LICENSE
12. NOTIFY THE AREA PROVOST MARSHAL IN CASE OF ACCIDENT



Drivers Guide For Japan

1. Know The Japanese Traffic Laws

Traffic conditions in Japan are different from those in the United States, and in order to drive safely, avoid accidents and save life and limb—perhaps your own—you must **KNOW** and **OBEY** all Japanese traffic laws.

Most Japanese roads are very narrow. Particularly near the larger cities, the roads are congested, not only because of rapidly increasing motor traffic but also because of the countless bicycles, trucks, horse-drawn wagons and even ox-carts.

Construction of and repairs to roads have been slow because of the lack of money and road-building equipment, and they will not be improved quickly.

It is for these reasons that driving in Japan must be done with extreme care, with patience,

and with a full understanding of the laws, which are made to protect **all** people—including yourself.

The need for caution is tragically illustrated by the traffic toll of accidents, particularly in the Tokyo area. Whether these rates go up or down in the future will depend upon the individual driver's knowledge of and obedience to the laws.

2. Drive On The Left Only

A primary traffic rule in Japan is that vehicles always keep to the left side of the road.

Driving habits sometimes are difficult to overcome and it may seem strange—even a little frightening at first—to drive on the left side of the street.

In driving on the left, two factors should be noted. First, pedestrians keep to the right,

facing traffic. Second, although your automobile is probably equipped with a steering wheel on the left, most Japanese vehicles have the steering wheel on the right. This makes it difficult for you to watch for hand signals from the driver in front of you, if the vehicle is equipped with a Japanese-style steering wheel. Exert caution in such a situation and if you are unable to see his signal, be especially alert, just in case he should turn suddenly without warning. Remember, the driver behind you may be up against the same problem. So be sure and give hand or mechanical signals every time you slow down, pass or turn. U turns are not allowed.

3. Observe Speed Limits

The top speed limit anywhere in the country is 35 miles per hour. In congested areas the limits are lower, as designated by signs.

Study the Japanese speed signs. Where you see figures representing certain speed limits, the figures **do not mean miles per hour**, as a rule, but **kilometers**, which are approximately five-eighths of a mile. The figure "50" for example, doesn't mean that you can go 50 miles an hour, but approximately 31 miles an hour. Nearly all speedometers on Japanese cars (and some foreign cars) register in kilometers rather than miles.

Of the traffic accidents in Japan caused by non-Japanese drivers, the greatest number, according to Tokyo police figures, are from the following causes:

1. Unreasonable overtaking and passing.
2. Excessive speed.
3. Failure to observe "slow" signs.
4. Failure to watch the road.

Slow down when:

1. On a steep or winding road.
2. In the vicinity of a school, hospital, children's playground, park or tunnel.

REMEMBER

SPEED LIMITS

1 KILOMETER = $\frac{5}{8}$ MILES. UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED—OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING SPEEDS

CITY OR CONGESTED AREA DANGER AREA



25 MILES PER / HR.



15 MILES PER / HR.

35 MILES PER / HR. ON DESIGNATED-HIGHWAYS

3. Traffic is congested or at an intersection where you intend to make a turn.

4. Visibility is poor.

5. Near the top of a hill, road corner or pedestrian crossing. (Strictly observe **all** road signs which caution you to slacken your speed).

4. Obey All Traffic Signals And Road Signs

Traffic signals and road signs are as much a guide to safe driving as are lighthouses for safe navigation.

The traffic signals you were familiar with in the U. S. also apply in Japan.

Green means "Go!", Yellow—"Caution!", and Red—"Stop!".

Others to remember are:

A yellow **flashing** signal cautions you to keep a sharp lookout for other traffic movements and to proceed slowly.

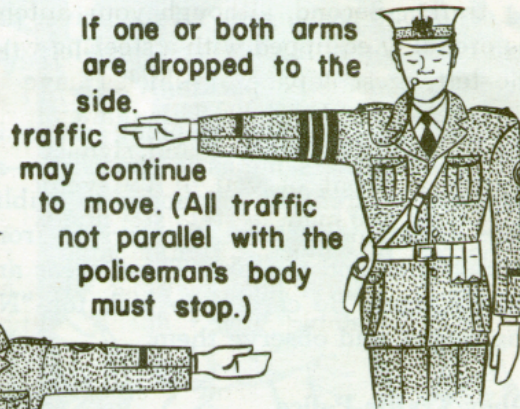
A yellow, directional arrow indicates an approaching streetcar will turn in that direction.

A green, directional arrow indicates that you may proceed in the direction of the arrow.

If you are already in the intersection when



Signal to stop traffic on the left and bring on standing vehicles from behind.

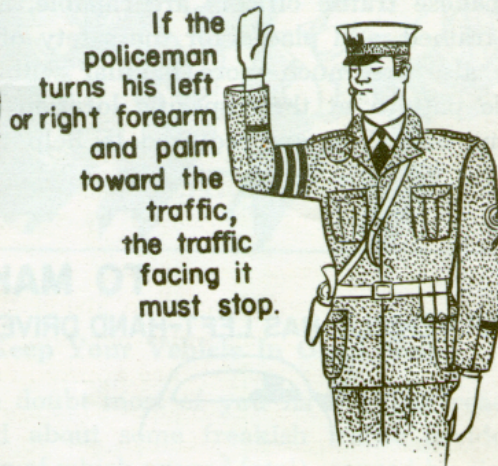


If one or both arms are dropped to the side, traffic may continue to move. (All traffic not parallel with the policeman's body must stop.)

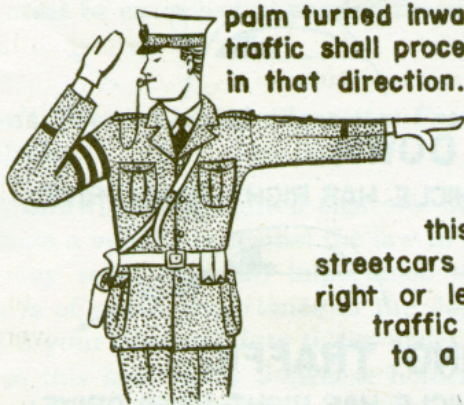


Caution, prepare to stop.

When arms are held in a horizontal position, it is the signal for traffic parallel with the policeman's body to start progress.

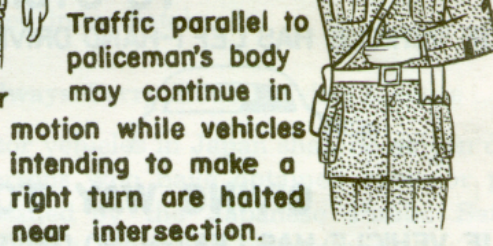


If the policeman turns his left or right forearm and palm toward the traffic, the traffic facing it must stop.



If policeman motions with his right or left palm turned inward, traffic shall proceed in that direction.

With this signal streetcars may turn either right or left; all other traffic must come to a stop.



Traffic parallel to policeman's body may continue in motion while vehicles intending to make a right turn are halted near intersection.

the yellow (caution) signal is turned on, keep moving.

Observe all pavement markings—the white stripes marking traffic lanes; the markings to indicate pedestrian crossings; the yellow lines indicating no-parking zones or bus stops.

No-parking zones have a definite purpose.

They are designated to keep traffic moving smoothly. It is true that sometimes parking space is difficult to find, particularly in the larger cities. But that is no excuse for parking in a no-parking zone.

Parking, as defined in Japanese law, means stopping of a vehicle longer than is necessary

to load or unload passengers. (If the driver has stopped even for a minute and has left the vehicle, it is considered parking).

Prohibited parking and stopping areas in Japan are about the same as in the U. S.—at intersections, in front of entrances to public buildings, department stores, theaters, in front of fire hydrants, and the like. These areas are marked by signs. Be careful to look for “No Parking” signs, and observe them.

5. Obey Traffic Police

Japanese traffic officers are capable, alert, well-trained, and placed for the safety of all. They also are much more familiar with the traffic pattern at their specific location than anyone else. You are required to help them

and yourself by keeping alert for their signals and obeying promptly.

Carefully study this guide book's diagrams and illustrations of signals used by traffic officers. Once you become familiar with the signals, show the Japanese officer the respect and obedience you would an officer in your own state, and in doing so, make his job an easier one and Japan a safer place for pedestrians and drivers alike.

6. Use Hand Or Mechanical Signals Always

Until you have a turn indicator installed—which will be compulsory after 28 October 1952—the hand signals listed below are to be used. After that date you will be required to have your car equipped with a turn indicator as specified by Japanese law.

TO MAKE RIGHT TURN

IF VEHICLE HAS LEFT-HAND DRIVE :



IF VEHICLE HAS RIGHT-HAND DRIVE :



TO MAKE LEFT TURN

IF VEHICLE HAS LEFT-HAND DRIVE :



IF VEHICLE HAS RIGHT-HAND DRIVE :



TO STOP OR SLOW DOWN

IF VEHICLE HAS LEFT-HAND DRIVE :

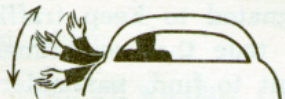


IF VEHICLE HAS RIGHT-HAND DRIVE :



GIVING WAY TO OVERTAKING TRAFFIC

IF VEHICLE HAS LEFT-HAND DRIVE :



IF VEHICLE HAS RIGHT-HAND DRIVE :



7. Observe The Right Of Way

The first vehicle to enter an intersection has the right of way over one not already in the intersection. When vehicles enter an uncontrolled intersection at the same time by way of different roads, the vehicle on the left has the right of way.

Remember to yield the right of way to blind persons who usually will be carrying white canes.

8. Look Out For Children

Playgrounds in Japan, because of the dense population, are fewer than in many western countries. It is by necessity rather than choice that children are sometimes forced to use the city streets for play. So give them a break. This calls for added caution on your part, especially when you are driving through the more congested quarters of a city.

Safety zones—raised concrete platforms for pedestrians—are in evidence on almost every street corner of Japan's larger cities. Observe the approaches to these islands carefully, and keep a sharp lookout for the driver ahead of you. He might swerve suddenly to avoid hitting a straying pedestrian. Special caution, then, must be exercised in passing these safety zones.

9. Don't Throw Lighted Cigarettes From A Vehicle

The throwing of a lighted cigarette or cigar butt from a vehicle is against the law in Japan. This may seem of small importance to you, but it is of grave importance to the Japanese and it is your personal duty to pay strict obedience to this law. Many Japanese homes, constructed of wood and highly inflammable, hug the sides of the road or may be concealed beneath a bridge or a viaduct.

Japan has suffered terribly through the years from disastrous fires resulting not only from earthquakes but from man's own carelessness.



10. Keep Your Vehicle In Good Shape

No doubt most of you have either read or heard about some freakish traffic accidents, (some of which proved fatal), caused by simple defects of one or more of the vehicles involved. Don't neglect your vehicle to the point where it becomes hazardous to drive it.

Muffler, head and tail lights, brakes, windshield wipers and horn should all be checked periodically. If any are defective, have them repaired immediately.

11. Always Carry Your Driving License

Motor vehicles in Japan shall be driven only by persons who have obtained operator permits issued by the Japanese Public Safety Commission—with this exception:

Japanese authorities shall accept as valid the permit or license or military driving permit issued by the United States to members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees and dependents.

Non-United States personnel who operate official or privately owned vehicles of the U.S. Armed Forces and civilian components do not fall into this category, however.

Such operators must either possess Japanese operator permits or have made application for them not later than 30 June of the current year.

You are required to have your operator's permit on your person at all times when operating your vehicle. Complying with this simple requirement may prove more important than you realize. Don't risk driving without it.

12. Know What To Do In Case Of Accident

Despite traffic laws and precautions taken by drivers, there always will be accidents. You should know what to do if you become involved in an accident, whether or not it is your fault.

1. Aid the injured.

You must give every relief, aid and comfort possible to any injured person. If a police officer is present, you must obey his orders.

2. Give your name.

Give a police officer the name and address of the owner and operator (if not the same), and the license number of the vehicle. If no such official is present, this information should be given to the victim, or anyone accompanying him. (Do not move your vehicle from the scene of the accident until you have given that information).

3. Report all accidents.

You are required to report all accidents (both major and minor) to the Provost Marshal of the area in which the accident occurred.

Things To Remember

Certain extra precautions are necessary to



ensure the utmost safety on Japan's crowded streets and highways. Some of the more important ones are:

1. Play it safe at railroad crossings, whether or not there is a watchman on duty or the crossing gates are in operation. Stop! Look! Listen!

2. Dim your lights when meeting an oncoming vehicle.

3. Slow down before turning a corner or before crossing any intersection.

4. If you have engine trouble or anything causing you to stop, pull over as close as possible to the side of the road so you will not obstruct traffic.

5. Before making a turn be sure that your turn indicator or hand signal indicates the direction in which you intend to go.

6. When you leave your vehicle, stop the engine, set the brake and put your car in reverse gear, especially if you are on a hill. To make doubly sure your car won't become a driverless "runaway", turn the steering wheel

toward the curb and block your wheels with a stone.

7. Japanese pedestrians many times "leap before they look" into Japan's crowded streets, depending upon an approaching vehicle's horn to warn them of danger. That is why Japanese drivers are so persistent in their hornblowing. Though perhaps irritating to you, it is a custom of the country to which you must comply for the safety of yourself and others.

8. Driving on car tracks or "straddling" them is prohibited in Japan. Only in the case of emergency or to ensure traffic safety is it permissible.

9. Do not follow another vehicle too closely; he may stop suddenly. Always keep a safe distance from other vehicles so that you can stop without accident in an emergency.

10. Keep your interior dome lights turned off when your vehicle is in motion. (Exceptions are buses or other vehicles which are permitted to do so by appropriate laws.)

And as a pedestrian, also face responsibilities in the matter of traffic safety. You should observe the rule of facing traffic when walking in the street and use safety zones and crosswalks whenever they are available. You should look carefully, first to the right and then to the left (opposite from the United States), before attempting to cross an intersection. Don't "Jay-walk"! Wait until the road is clear, after stepping from a bus or other vehicle, before crossing the street. Don't try to dodge vehicles by running between them; wait for the traffic sig-



nal to change.

In Conclusion

Use common sense at all times, whether you are driving a vehicle or in the role of a pedestrian. This includes such simple things as closing doors of vehicles and fastening any other safety devices. Avoid jumping from moving vehicles or hanging from the sides of them.

Showing your respect for Japanese traffic laws is an ideal way to become a good, personal ambassador to Japan. It will further cement harmonious relations between the U.S. and Japanese people. It also will reveal our good faith toward them by proving Americans obey the laws of others as well as their own.

CONFERENCE LEADER'S OUTLINE

1. You must **KNOW** and **OBEY** all Japanese traffic laws.

- a. Japanese laws differ in many ways from those back home.
- b. Highways are narrow and overburdened with traffic of all kinds, from bicycles to ox-carts.

2. Drive on the left only.

- a. It is difficult to watch for hand signals from Japanese drivers.
- b. Your signals cannot be seen too clearly from Japanese vehicles.

3. Observe speed limits.

- a. The top speed limit anywhere in the country is 35 miles per hour.
- b. Excessive speed is one of the principal causes of accidents by non-Japanese drivers.
- c. Figures indicating authorized speed are in kilometers, not miles.

4. Obey traffic signals and road signs.

- a. Green is go; yellow is caution; red is stop.
- b. Green arrow means you may proceed in the direction it indicates.
- c. Yellow arrow means an approaching street-car will turn in indicated direction.
- d. Yellow blinking signal means to proceed with caution.

5. Look out for children.

- a. Lack of playground facilities forces many children to play and exercise in the street.

6. Use hand or mechanical signals.

- a. Never make a turn without using the proper hand signals.

7. Obey traffic police.

- a. They are well-trained.
- b. They are to be obeyed.
- c. Familiarize yourself with their signals.

8. Know what to do in case of accident.

- a. Do not leave the scene.
- b. Give your name, address and license number to the proper authorities, or to the victim before proceeding. Render aid and comfort to injured, if such is necessary.

9. Extra precautions.

- a. Stop at railroad crossings, even if watchman is on duty.
- b. Dim lights when meeting a vehicle.
- c. Turn the steering wheel to the curb on hills.
- d. Japanese pedestrians depend a great deal on your horn to warn them of your approach. It is a custom we must comply with.

10. Conclusion.

- a. Obedience to the law will prove to the Japanese that we respect **their** laws as we respect our own.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following are a few suggested questions you might ask at the end of this talk:

1. Vehicles always keep to what side of the road in Japan?
To the left. **DRIVE ON THE LEFT ONLY.**
2. Must you obey the directions of a Japanese traffic officer?
Definitely yes! **OBEY TRAFFIC POLICE.**
3. Is it necessary to carry your driver's license?
Yes. **ALWAYS CARRY YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE.**
4. Should you throw a lighted cigarette out of your car?
No. **DO NOT THROW LIGHTED CIGARETTES FROM A VEHICLE.**
5. Is it necessary to use direction signals?
Yes. **USE HAND OR MECHANICAL SIGNALS ALWAYS.**



INTERSECTION



SHARP RIGHT CURVE



SIDE ROAD AHEAD



RIGHT TURN



MAIN ROAD AHEAD



WINDING ROAD



SCHOOL ZONE



RAILWAY CROSSING



RIGHT TURN FOLLOWED BY A LEFT TURN



STOP



GRADUAL RIGHT CURVE



CAUTION



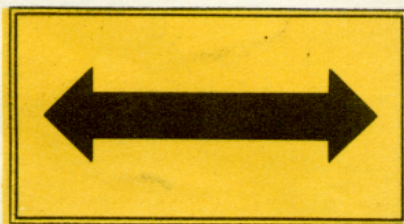
DANGER

CAUTION

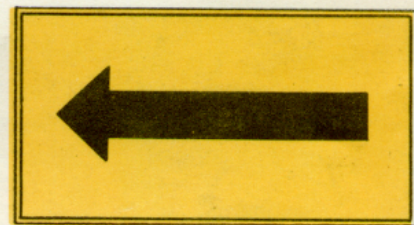
DANGER



FORKED ROAD



INDICATES DIRECTION OF TURN "BOTH WAYS"



INDICATES DIRECTION OF TURN "LEFT ONLY"