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*Editors' Note.* This special *JASO* issue on Japan arose out of an international conference of anthropologists that was held in March 1984 at the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford, and organised by Dr J. Hendry. The Conference was devoted to the themes of time and space, religion and the life-cycle, economic and leisure activities, as well as general considerations regarding the social anthropology of Japan. Of the papers to be found in this special issue of *JASO*, only one however was actually delivered at the Conference - that by Ok-pyo Moon Kim; the complete collection of the conference papers themselves will, it is hoped, be published by *JASO* in 1985 as No. 5 in the *JASO Occasional Papers* series, under the title 'Understanding Japanese Society: An Anthropological Approach', edited by Joy Hendry and Jonathan Webber; price to be announced.