

# Running for peace and love

<<Read This Way>>

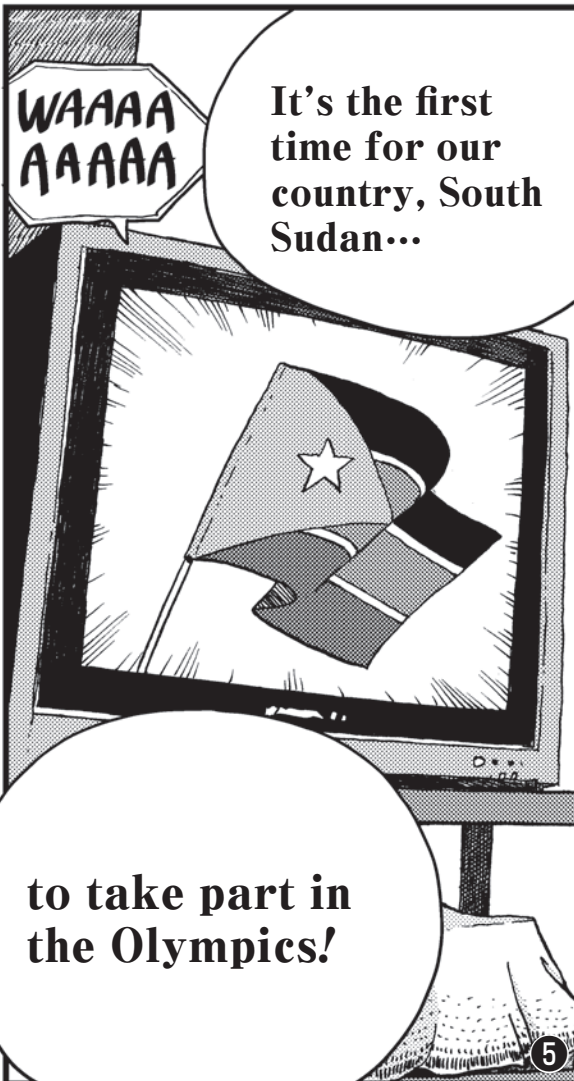


I was training with my high school track team.

Six months after the first National Unity Day (NUD)

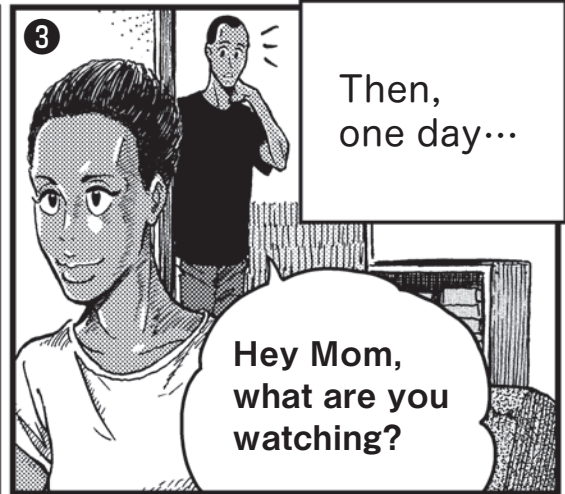
in August of 2016...

1



It's the first time for our country, South Sudan...

to take part in the Olympics!



Then, one day...

Hey Mom, what are you watching?

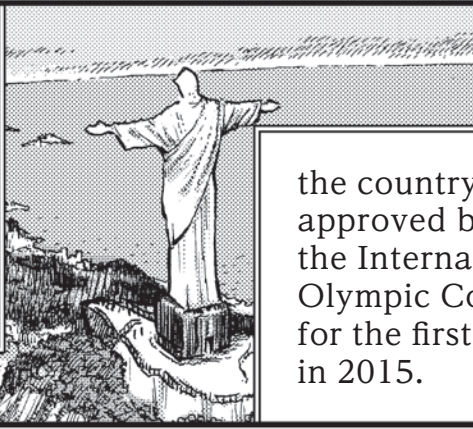


It's the opening ceremony of the Rio Olympics, dear.

Isn't it amazing?

Olym... pics?

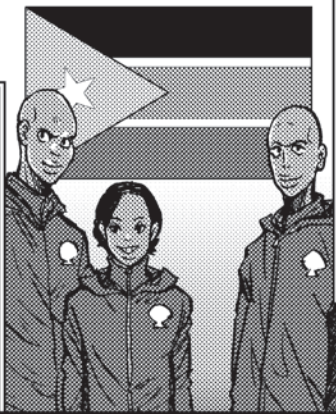
South Sudan made its first-ever appearance in the Olympic Games, in Rio de Janeiro.



After independence in 2011 the country was approved by the International Olympic Committee for the first time in 2015.

6

They stepped into the Rio Olympic Games with the weight of South Sudan on their shoulders.



Three track and field athletes were granted special permission to participate.

7



9

I will too!  
I will do that someday!!



8

For their country...

They ran with the weight of their country...





For me,  
this event was  
full of so many  
happy things.

Hey!

Hey!  
Brother!



10

In January  
2017,  
the second  
NUD was  
held.



13

*clasp*

Hey,  
watch out!  
This year I'm  
going to beat  
you!

I'm super happy  
to see you  
again too!



12

Ha ha, I'm so  
happy to see  
you again!

You guys!!



15

*huff*  
*huff*

and also,



Hey!  
Abraham!!

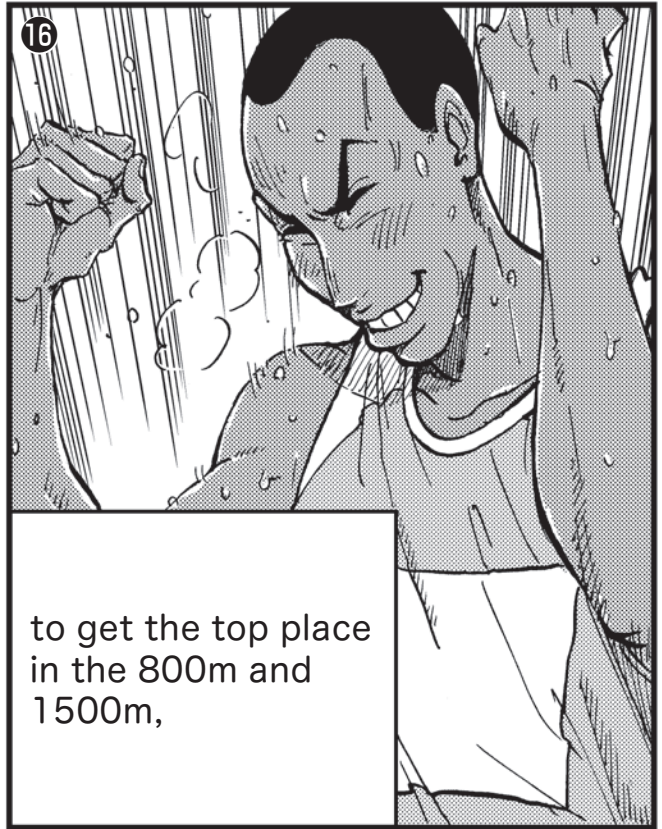
No way!  
I'm not going  
to lose!

Being able to  
meet my  
friends after  
one year,

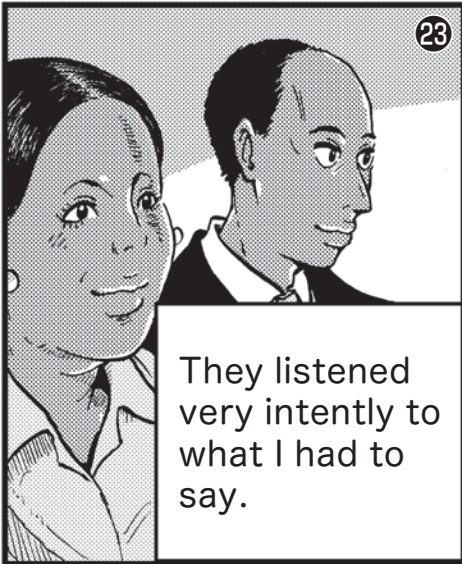
It will be  
awesome!

14





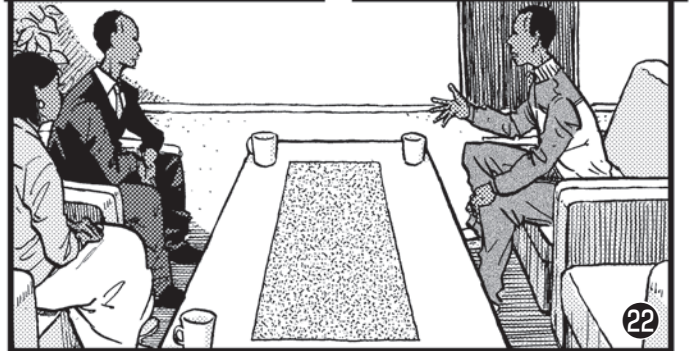




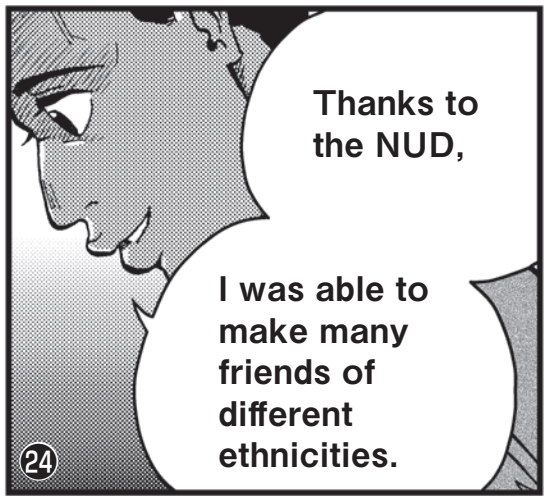
They listened very intently to what I had to say.

meet with politicians.

And that's how I got to

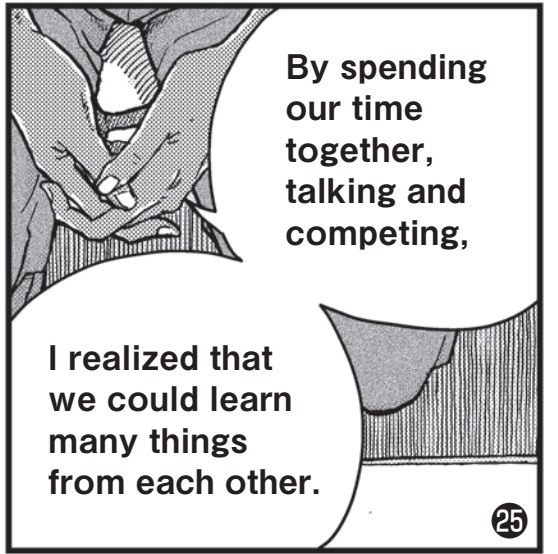


**I could affirm that, "Through sports we can unify our country"!**



Thanks to the NUD,

I was able to make many friends of different ethnicities.



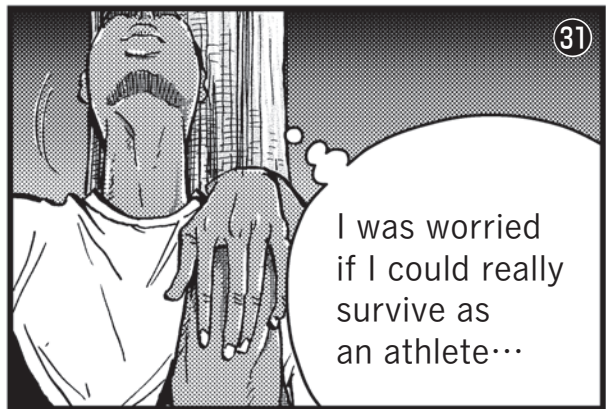
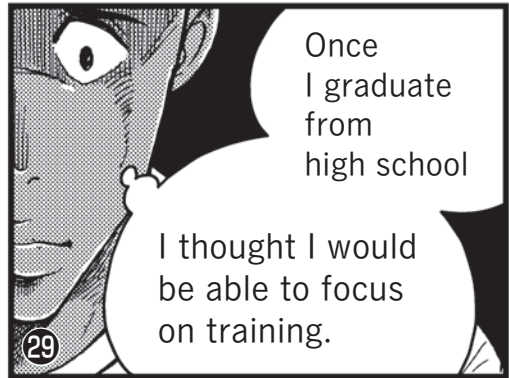
By spending our time together, talking and competing,

I realized that we could learn many things from each other.



Having graduated from high school,

I joined the South Sudan national team...







36

The top performing athletes at this event will qualify to travel to Japan for the Olympic Games.



Then, my opportunity had arrived.

Well, as you all already know... the African competition will be held in Morocco soon.

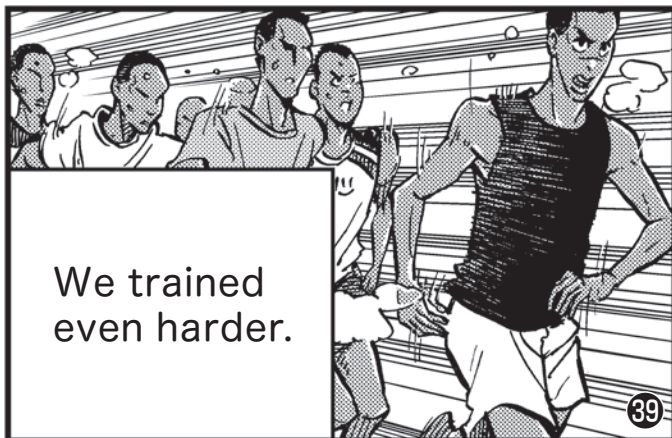
35



Abraham. He is really training hard...

From then on, we trained day after day.

38



We trained even harder.

39



Japan... Tokyo...

The Tokyo 2020 Olympics!!

37





41

A new meet record!!



40

We put all our energy in getting prepared for the Games.



Yes! Thank you so much!!

43



Hello?

Yes!

Then...

42



I did it!!

I did it...

45



Yes...

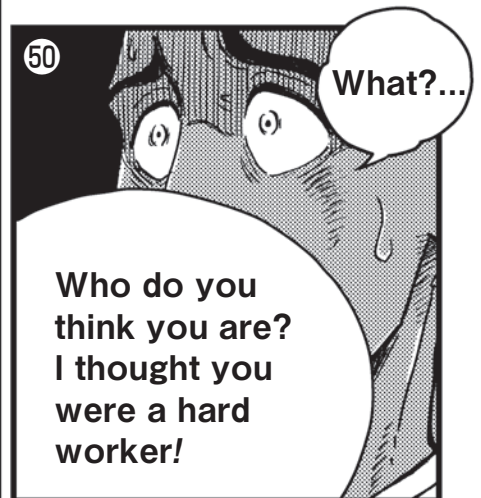
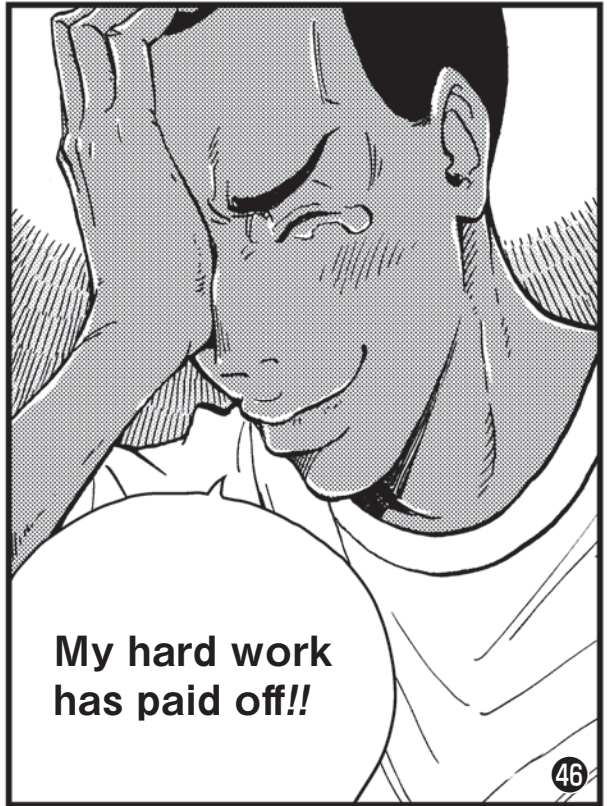
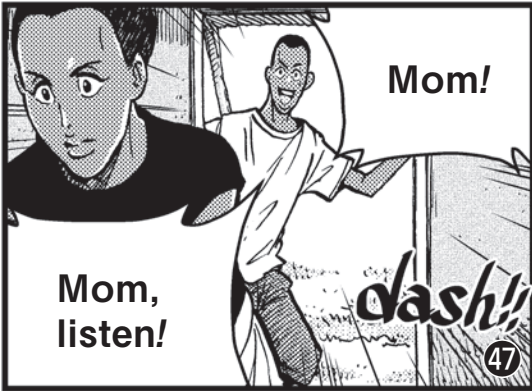
YES!!

The day had come!

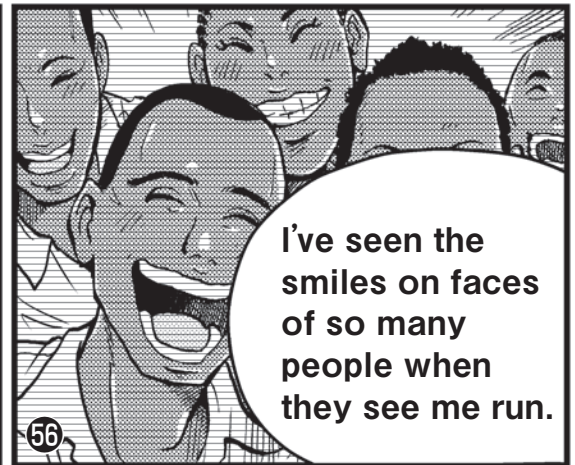
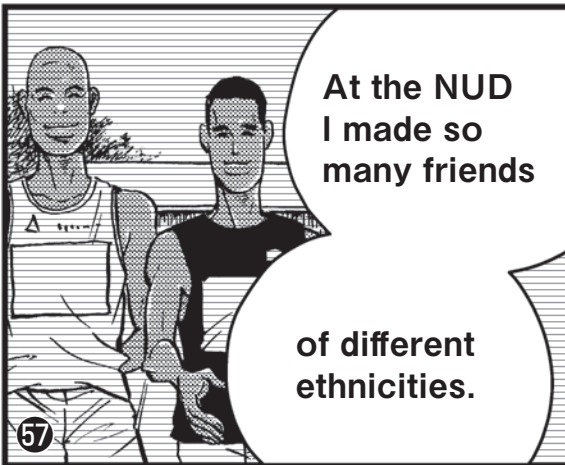
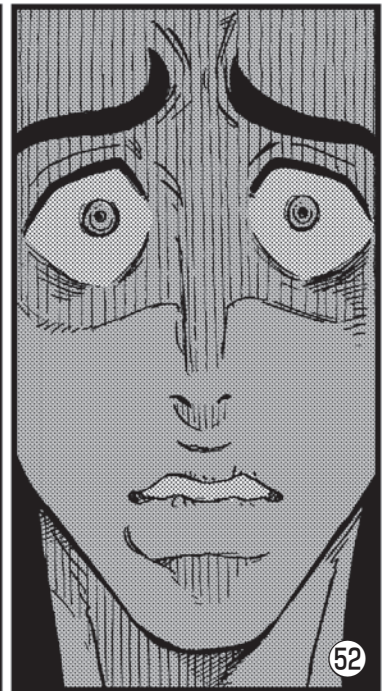
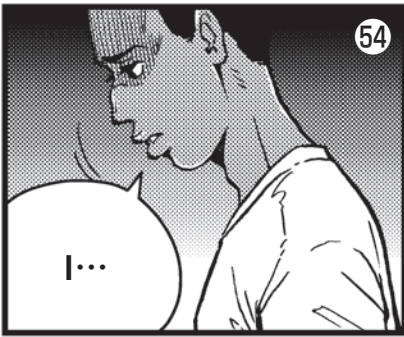
I was finally able to receive authorization to travel to Japan.

44

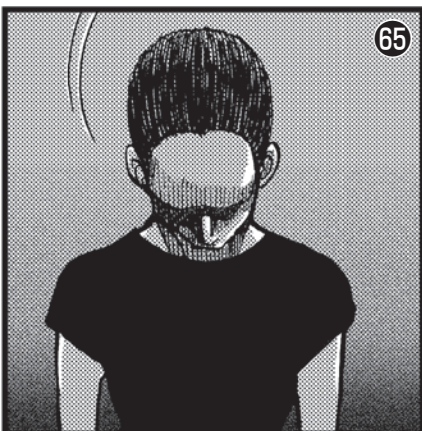
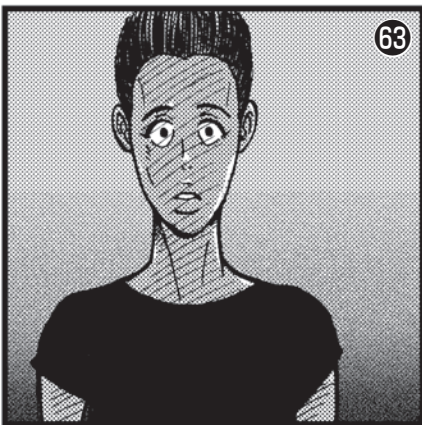




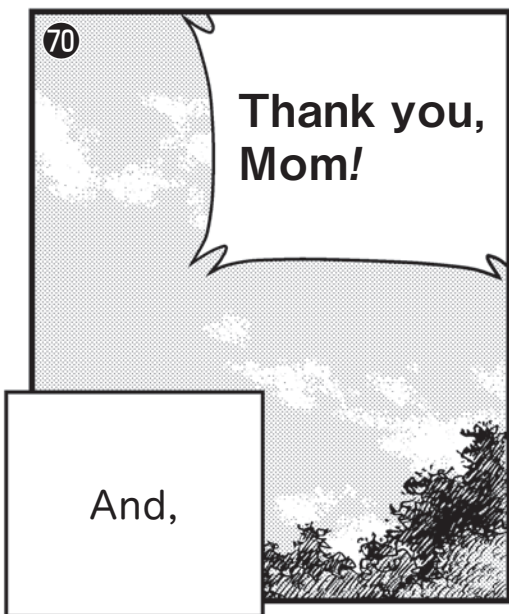
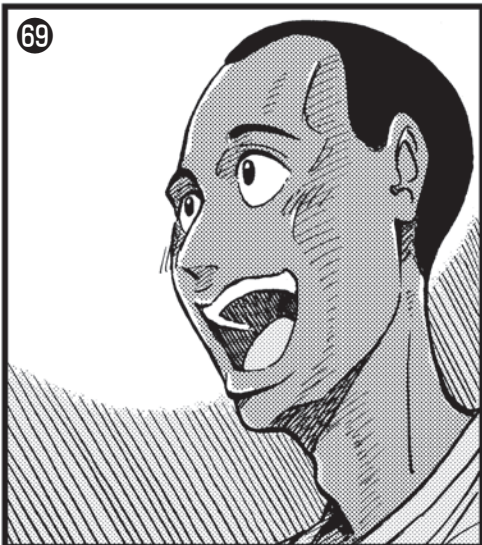
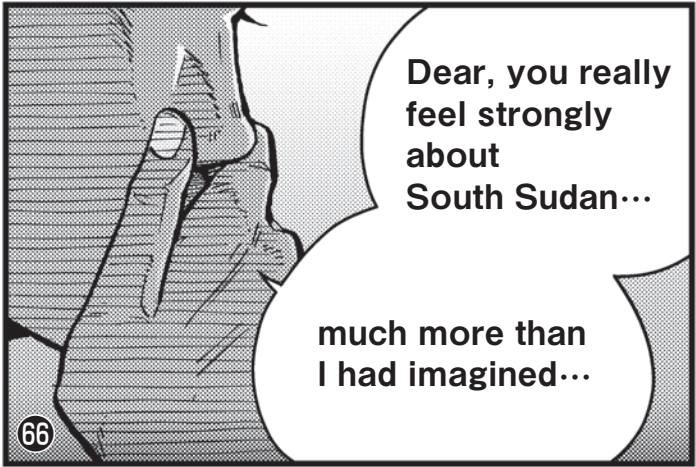




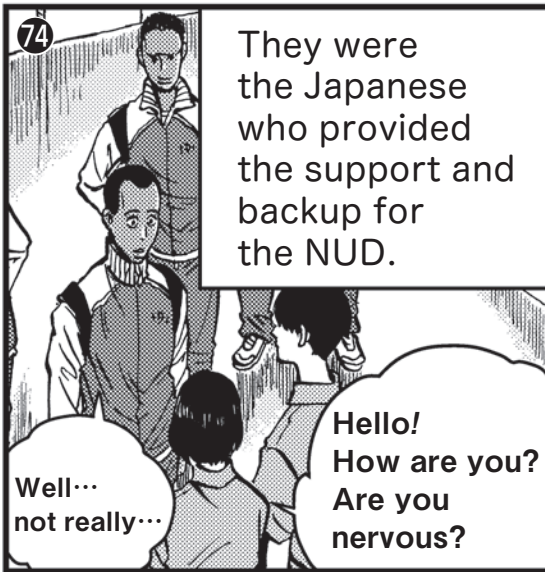
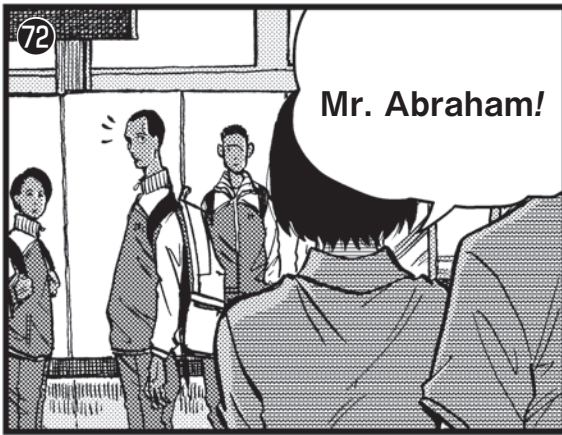




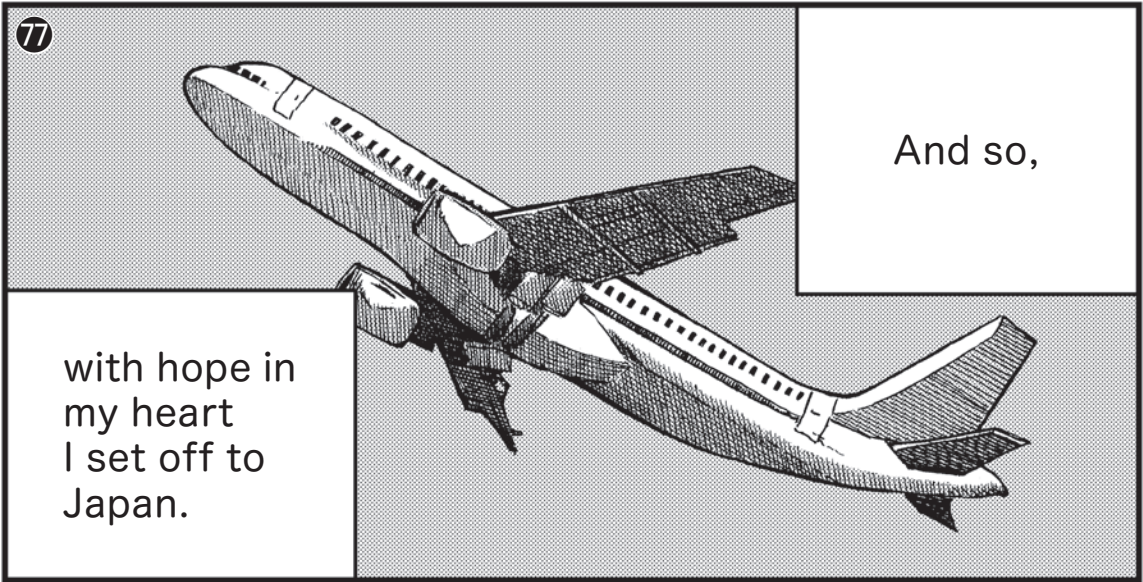












And so,

with hope in  
my heart  
I set off to  
Japan.



something  
unexpected was  
waiting for me...  
or for all of us.



I wonder what  
Japan is like...



I had no idea  
at that time.  
However...

● to be continued...