



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

CONFIDENTIAL

October 20, 1971

Honorable J. W. Fulbright
Chairman, Committee on
Foreign Relations
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Since early 1970, the Navy has been forced to restrict visits to Japan by nuclear powered warships because Japanese monitoring procedures were causing us serious security problems. For many months we have been attempting to persuade the Japanese to modify their monitoring procedures to meet our security interest without degrading their ability to protect the health and safety of the Japanese public.

I am pleased to inform you that we now have reached agreement with the Japanese on mutually acceptable monitoring procedures which will permit US nuclear powered warships to visit appropriate Japanese ports on a normal basis ^{again}. The first visit to a Japanese port by a US nuclear powered warship under the new agreement could occur in a few weeks, most likely before the end of the year.

Our agreement is particularly timely since the monitoring procedures in force in Japan will be applied in Okinawan ports as well after reversion, contingent of course on approval of the reversion treaty by the Senate and Diet. With the new procedures we hope to avoid any interruption of access to Okinawan ports upon reversion.

By mutual consent our negotiations with the Japanese on monitoring procedures have been in confidence. No public announcement regarding the agreement will be made unless specifically agreed by our two governments.

CONFIDENTIAL

"Okinawa Reversion"

Box 26

History of the Civil Administration
of the R. I.

RG 319

CONFIDENTIAL

2.

Difficulties with the Japanese monitoring procedures have been a long-standing irritant in our relations with Japan. The new agreement removes this irritant, and opens Japanese ports once again to full, routine use by US Navy ships. The agreement will greatly enhance the flexibility of our fleet. Equally important, it will directly benefit the officers and men who serve at sea in our growing nuclear powered fleet.

Sincerely yours,

/signed/

David M. Abshire
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

Reversion will be carried out in accordance with President Nixon's November 1969 commitment to Prime Minister Sato to carry out reversion in a manner consistent with the policies of the Japanese Government concerning nuclear weapons. Japanese policy prohibits the manufacture, possession or introduction into Japan of nuclear weapons. Any costs involved in carrying out this USG commitment will be covered by the \$320 million.

QUESTION: HOW MUCH WILL LABOR COSTS INCREASE?

There will be two types of increased costs. First our severance pay obligation to Okinawan employees will increase by about \$20 million following reversion because of the application of the Master Labor Contract formula to Okinawa. In addition, the annual labor cost on Okinawa will increase about \$17 million for appropriated fund, and about \$6 million for the non-appropriated fund activities at the time of reversion, although this gap in wages and benefits between Okinawa and Japan would probably be closed by 1977-78 if reversion did not occur, since the gap in labor costs between Okinawa and Japan has been steadily closing in recent years.

QUESTION: WILL THE EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS INVOLVE APPROPRIATIONS?

ANSWER: No appropriations will be required. The funds will be drawn from the \$320 million overall settlement.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority: NND 947020
By: K.C. NARA Date: 7/25/07

A/111/3

QUESTION:

What is the value and area of facilities to be released?

ANSWER:

The investment value of these facilities is about \$56 million.
The area is about 13,000 acres.

A/VII/3

QUESTION:

How much?

ANSWER:

There will be two types of increased costs. First our severance pay obligation to Okinawan employees will increase by about \$20 million following reversion because of the application of the Master Labor Contract formula to Okinawa. In addition, the annual labor cost on Okinawa will increase about \$17 million for appropriated fund, and about \$6 million for the non-appropriated fund activities at the time of reversion, although this gap in wages and benefits between Okinawa and Japan would probably be closed by 1977-78 if reversion did not occur, since the gap in labor costs between Okinawa and Japan has been steadily closing in recent years.

CONFIDENTIAL

Over a five year period this decreasing gap in wages and benefits would total approximately \$42 million. Thus the overall total in increased labor costs will be approximately \$62 million.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NNI 947020
By K.C. NARA Date 7/25/02

D/5

QUESTION:

Statement on adequacy of Japanese defense effort.

ANSWER:

See Answer E-24.

E/15

Question: What is the total US troop strength on Okinawa?
What will it be after reversion?

Answer: 49,770, broken out as follows:

ARMY (14,398 Personnel)

1 Corps Hqs
1 Air Def Bde Hq
2 Air Def Msl Bns
(1 Hawk, 1 Hercules)
1 Spec Forces Gp (ABN)
1 Logistics Cmd (2D)
1 Strat Comm Unit
1 USA Med Center

MARINE CORPS (18,835 Personnel)

III MAF
Hq, 3rd Div
3 Inf Bns
3 Arty Bns (105/155mm)
1 Tank Bn
1 Engr Bn
1 AM Trac Bn
1 Force Svc Rgt
3 Helicopter Sqs (45 Helos)
1 Observation Sq (11 OV-10)
1 Tanker Sq (6 KC-130)
1 Recon Bn
1 Attack Sq (12 A-6)

AIR FORCE (14,084 Personnel)

3 Tac Ftr Sq (12 F-105/
45 F-4)
1 Tac Recon Sq (16 RF-4)
1 AS RSC/RCVY Sq (4 HH-3/
2 HH-43)
1 Strategic Wg (21 KC-135)
2 Strat Recon Dets (3 SR-71)
1 Strat Recon 4 RC-135)

NAVY (2,453 Personnel)

1 Patrol Sq (7 P-3)
1 Flt Comp Sq
(3 US-2)
(3 UH-34)
(2 DP-2)
(4 A-4)
1 Mobil Const Bn

After reversion only minor adjustments will be made as some forces are removed from the air defense function and other forces redeployed from Southeast Asia.

✓
W/d/d

E/19

QUESTION:

Will nuclear powered warships be able to use Okinawan ports?

ANSWER:UNCLASSIFIED

After reversion, use of Okinawan ports by U.S. nuclear powered warships will be on the same basis as the use of ports in mainland Japan.

CONFIDENTIAL

Although we have had some problems in use of Japanese ports in the past, we are confident that there would be no impediments to normal use of ports, both in Japan and Okinawa before reversion.

(See attached letter to Senator Fulbright)