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CORRECTIONS (Supplement December, 1969)

Page	Paragraph-Line	Error	Correction
1	2-4	to not only	not only to
3	7-4	about 65,000 casualties.	sustained casualties estimated around 65,000.
4	5-4	U.S. Governments on	U.S. Governments at
4	5-6	conference	meeting
6	6-1	intensions	intentions
7	1-2	dinner	luncheon

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JAPAN-U.S. FRIENDSHIP TO BE STRENGTHENED FURTHER BY
OKINAWA'S REVERSION

- 1 -

Prime Minister Eisaku Sato visited the United States November 17-25, 1969. He was accompanied by his wife, Hiroko, as well as by Foreign Minister Kiichi Aichi, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Toshio Kimura and other officials.

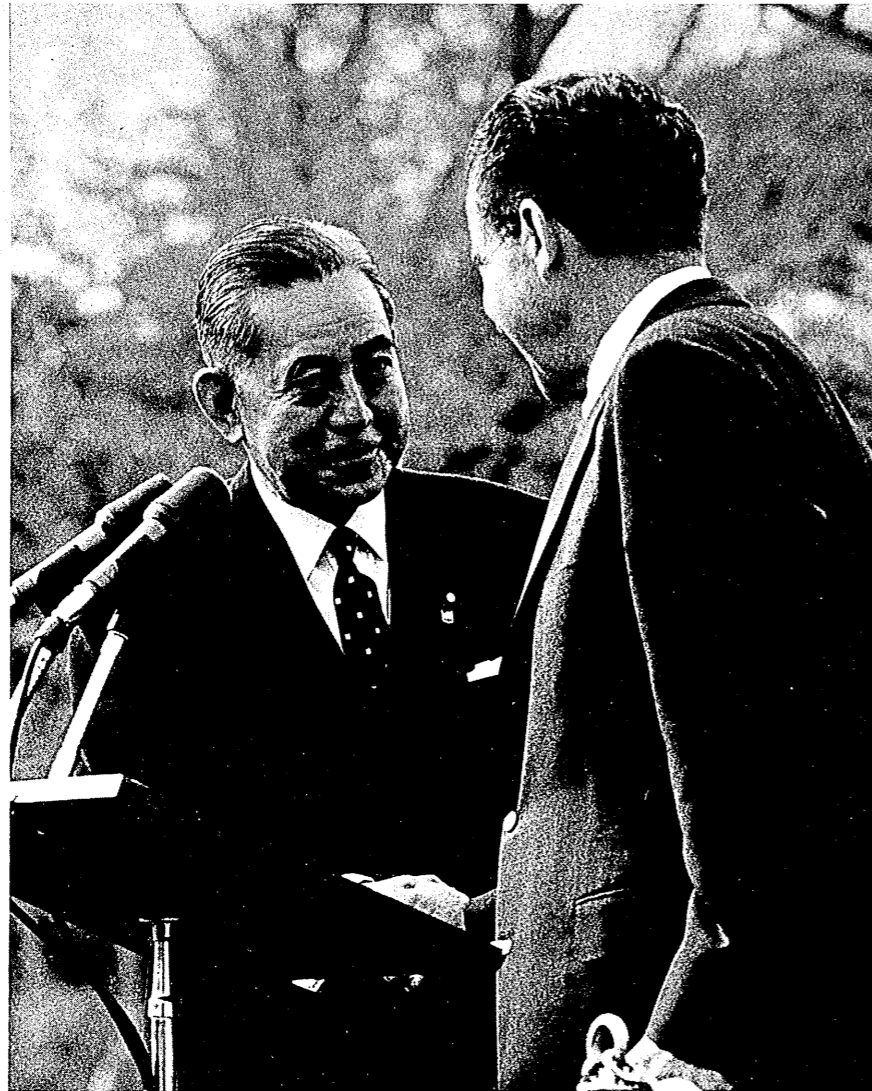
In Washington, the Prime Minister conferred with President Richard M. Nixon three times on November 19, 20 and 21. The two leaders exchanged frank opinions in a friendly atmosphere with regard to not only Japanese-American problems but also international questions in general.



Prime Minister Eisaku Sato and Mrs. Sato being welcomed by President and Mrs. Richard M. Nixon at ceremonies held in the White House gardens, Nov. 19, 1969. Standing in the background from the left are Foreign Minister Kiichi Aichi, Deputy Cabinet Secretary Toshio Kimura, and Ambassador to the United States Takeso Shimoda.

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Prime Minister Eisaku Sato and President Richard M. Nixon shaking hands following their exchange of greetings at welcoming ceremonies in the White House gardens, Nov. 19, 1969.

The major achievement of the summit conference was that basic agreement was reached on the Okinawa reversion issue -- one of the most important problems outstanding between the two nations since the end of the war. As a result, the administrative rights over the island chain will be returned to Japan during 1972.

World history has few cases in which territory lost by war has been returned through peaceful talks. But this was exactly the case with the reversion to Japan of the Amami Islands and then the Bonin Islands, both Japanese territories over which the United States was given administrative rights following the Pacific War. Now agreement has again been reached on Okinawa's reversion through peaceful talks. This is, more than anything else, the fruit of a relationship of mutual friendship and trust, built up by the Japanese and American peoples since the end of the war.

The Okinawa issue is the last vestige of the war between Japan and the United States. Therefore, its settlement has put an end, both in name and reality, to the "postwar era" in the relations between the two nations.

In this sense, the solution of the Okinawa issue resulting from the recent conference between Prime Minister Sato and President Nixon means a great deal more than the mere fulfillment of the Japanese people's long-cherished desire. That is, it has not only placed the Japanese-American bond of friendship and trust on a still firmer foundation, but has also laid the groundwork for even greater cooperation between the two nations in promoting the cause of peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and the world with the advent of the 1970's.

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The reversion of Okinawa means that the United States will return to Japan the administrative rights it is now exercising in Okinawa in conformity with Article 3 of the Peace Treaty.

Okinawa consists of a 390-mile-long strand of 73 islands between Kyushu, southwestern Japan, and Taiwan. Called the Ryukyu Islands, they have been Japanese territory from olden times, and before the war, constituted one of the national prefectures -- that is, Okinawa Prefecture.

In the Pacific War, Japan and the United States fought the last fierce battle in Okinawa. During the battle lasting from March 26 to June 23, 1945, a total of about 186,000 Japanese, including civilians, lost their lives, while the U.S. Forces about 65,000 casualties. Okinawa finally fell and came under American occupation.

Regarding Okinawa, Article 3 of the Treaty of Peace with Japan, concluded in 1951 at San Francisco, provides: "Japan will concur in any proposal of the United States to the United Nations to place (the Ryukyu Islands, etc.) under its trusteeship system, with the United States as the sole administering authority, ... Pending the making of such a proposal and affirmative action thereon, the United States will have the right to exercise all and any powers of administration, legislation and jurisdiction over the territory and inhabitants of these islands, including their territorial waters."

Explaining the implication of this clause, the then Secretary of State John Foster Dulles said "the U.S. felt that the best formula would be to permit Japan to retain residual sovereignty."

At present, about one million Japanese live in Okinawa, and the demand for the island chain's reversion to the fatherland has been very strong both in Okinawa and the Japanese mainland. It is a very unnatural phenomenon that part of Japan's inherent national territory and one million compatriots are still under the rule of a foreign nation despite the lapse of more than 20 years since the end of the war. On the other hand, the U.S. military bases in Okinawa are playing an important role in the security of Japan and the Far East as an integral part of the U.S. war deterrent power. With this fully in mind, the Japanese Government has been negotiating with the U.S. Government under a basic policy of obtaining the earliest possible reversion of Okinawa in a manner that would not undermine the security of the whole of Japan, including post-reversion Okinawa.

In November 1967, Prime Minister Sato visited the United States and conferred with the then President Lyndon B. Johnson. As a result, the Japanese and U.S. Governments agreed for the first time to keep the status of Okinawa under a joint and continuing review in line with the policy of returning the administrative rights over Okinawa to Japan.

It was also agreed to set up an advisory committee to the High Commissioner for the Ryukyu Islands to expedite the identification of the Okinawa residents and their institutions with the Japanese mainland and to promote their economic welfare with the object of minimizing frictions that might arise at the time of Okinawa's reversion.

In consequence, the Okinawa problem took a big step forward in the direction of solution. For about two years after that, talks for the settlement of the issue were continued between the Japanese and U.S. Governments on various levels. This finally culminated in basic agreement on the reversion of the administrative rights over Okinawa at the recent conference between Prime Minister Sato and President Nixon. Salient points of the agreement regarding the Okinawa reversion issue, as contained in the joint communique published on November 21, are as follows:

1. Japan and the United States recognize the vital role played by the U.S. Forces in Okinawa in the present situation in the Far East. It was agreed that the two Governments would immediately enter into consultations regarding specific arrangements for accomplishing the early reversion of Okinawa without detriment to the security of the Far East including Japan.

2. The consultations will be expedited with a view to accomplishing the reversion during 1972.

3. Upon return of the administrative rights, the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security and its related arrangements will apply to Okinawa without modification thereof.



Prime Minister Eisaku Sato and President Richard M. Nixon relaxing in the latter's office in the White House following their meeting on Nov. 20, 1969.

4. The President expressed his deep understanding as regards the particular sentiment of the Japanese people against nuclear weapons and the policy of the Japanese Government reflecting such sentiment. He assured the Prime Minister that, without prejudice to the position of the U.S. Government with respect to the prior consultation system under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, the reversion of Okinawa would be carried out in a manner consistent with the policy of the Japanese Government as described by the Prime Minister.

On November 21, the day the joint communique was issued, Prime Minister Sato delivered a speech at a luncheon meeting held at the National Press Club and referred to the Okinawa issue as follows:

"Okinawa, with its one million Japanese inhabitants, has been left under the administration of the U.S. as a strategic stronghold for the maintenance of peace in the Far East. The biggest problem in the negotiations between Japan and the U.S. for the return of the islands was nothing more nor less than the role that Okinawa was playing in the maintenance of peace. Japan and the U.S. agree in their basic recognition of the importance of U.S. military bases on Okinawa. The peace-keeping function of the bases on Okinawa must continue to be kept effective.

"However, the fact that our territory, Okinawa, and the one million Japanese who live there have been kept under the administration of the U.S. since the end of the war has left an unresolved feeling in the hearts of the Japanese people -- in other words, it has remained in our thoughts as a symbol of defeat, and this mental block has been exerting a subtle influence on the relations between Japan and U.S.

"President Nixon and I have agreed on the return of Okinawa on the recognition that to maintain and promote the friendship and trust of the peoples of Japan and the U.S., and to take this opportunity to greatly strengthen the partnership gradually build up, over the 20-odd years of the postwar period, and based on mutual interests and common ideals, would serve the national interests of both countries and would also contribute toward the peace and development of Asia."

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The Prime Minister and the President clarified their intentions to maintain and strengthen Japanese-American cooperation in promoting the cause of peace and prosperity through the relaxation of international tensions, the acceleration of economic development and contributions toward the stabilization of the people's livelihood in the world in general and Asia in particular on the basis of close cooperative relations between the two countries in various fields.

The two leaders exchanged opinions on the current international situation, especially developments in the Far East. From a viewpoint of ensuring stability in the Far East, they highly valued the role played by the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security in maintaining peace and security of the Far East including Japan, and affirmed the intention of the two Governments firmly to maintain the Treaty on the basis of mutual trust and a common evaluation of the international situation.

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Prime Minister Eisaku Sato addressing the National Press Club, Washington, D.C., at a dinner in his honor, Nov. 21, 1969, following the conclusion of his talks with President Richard M. Nixon.

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The two leaders also agreed to step up economic cooperation with the developing nations from the standpoint that there can be no international peace and stability without the settlement of the North-South problem. Prime Minister Sato said: "Since the U.S. plays the central role in preserving global peace and also holds great responsibility for the security of Asia, I believe that it is Japan rather than the U.S. that should take the leading role in such fields as economic and technical assistance towards the nation-building efforts of the Asian countries." (Speech before the National Press Club)

From this point of view, he clarified the "intention of the Japanese Government to expand and improve its aid programs in Asia."

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Furthermore, the two leaders exchanged views on the economic relations between Japan and the United States, including trade and capital liberalization, and a broad range of problems, such as disarmament and space development. Their talks thus conduced to further solidifying the foundation of Japanese-American relations in general.

In this way, it may be said, Prime Minister Sato's recent visit to the United States has laid the groundwork for redoubled collaboration between the two countries for the peace and prosperity of the world on the basis of their bond of friendship and trust, which was further strengthened by the agreement on Okinawa's reversion.

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