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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF THE RYUKYU ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATOR
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96248

29 September 1967

IIOKI-OA

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting on 27 September 1967 Between Civil Administrator CARPENTER and Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Special Committee for Military Related Problems Concerning Kadena Jet Noise

On 27 September 1967, Civil Administrator CARPENTER met with Chairman CHAMA and Deputy Chairman CHIBANA of the Legislative Special Committee for Military Related Problems at their request to discuss the problem of Kadena jet noise.

- 1. The CA informed the legislators that he was aware of their request that the entire committee meet with him. However, he felt the committee was well represented since the Chairman was from the government party and the Deputy Chairman from the opposition and that a smaller group meeting would be more effective. The Chairman acknowledge these reasons and said he would so advise the members of his committee.
- 2. Chairman OHAMA reported that during the first part of July, the mayor of Kadena and 14 other representatives presented a petition requesting that some measures be taken to lessen the jet noise in Kadena. As a result of this, members of the committee conducted an on-the-scene investigation and requested a meeting with Air Force officials. The investigation revealed that the intensity of the noise was affecting the people's health, the education of children and development of the village. The petition was forwarded to the Air Force requesting that necessary action be taken to correct this condition.
- 3. The CA expressed his sympathy and informed the legislators that he had been advised that various steps had been taken to correct this problem; that over \$4 million had been expended for this purpose, which included the soundproofing and air conditioning of schools, the building of a large earth embankment, and the repositioning of planes so that engine noise would be turned away from the village. The Air Force was continuing to work on the problem in further efforts to correct the situation. The CA stated that this problem was not only affecting the Kadena village but American families living on the base and a military dependent school in the base compound. It was a fact of life that in this modern age all airports had a noise problem.

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and CHIBANA Concerning Kadena Jet Noise

- 4. Chairman OHAMA said that, according to petitions submitted to the committee, one on 30 June and the other on 18 July, the noise registered over 100 phons which from a medical standpoint is harmful to health. He was aware of the fact that the Air Force was taking action to prevent the noise, but the fact remained that the noise continues to increase. He asked Deputy Chairman CHIBANA to give further details since he lives in Kadena village and represents the people there.
- 5. Mr. CHIBANA asked the CA if this meeting was for the purpose of seeking information only or whether he planned to relay whatever transpired at this meeting to the Air Force. The CA replied that he was meeting with them as the Civil Administrator who has a direct interest in civil matters, and that he would inform the Air Force of this meeting. The CA further said that he was aware that the Kadena AB Commander, Colonel Marek, had been meeting regularly with the mayor.
- 6. Mr. CHIBANA reported that the mayor of Kadena and several other representatives were presently in Japan petitioning the GOJ for assistance in solving this problem. The people of Kadena were now suffering from mental strain and they had reached a point where they were not able to endure this any longer. He said he was also a victim since he lived there. However, he was happy to report that with the soundproofing and air conditioning of the village schools the children were able to study without interruption. He expressed his appreciation to the Air Force for this help.
- 7. Mr. CHIBANA said that, despite the new noise deflectors, earth embankment and other noise preventing devices, the noise had increased. He set forth the following information which experts had gathered using a noise measuring device. He claimed this device registered an average of more than 70 phons for 104 times a day (in actual time this amounted to 2 hours 32 min 47 sec). He further claimed that over 70 phons affects the health.

On 12 March 66 the data showed that on 39 occasions the phons measured more than 100 (2 hrs 23 min 18 sec). During daylight hours (0500-1800) the average recording on 70 occasions came to more than 80 phons (1 hr 24 min), and more than 100 phons for an average of 37 times (46 min 48 sec). During evening hours (1800-2300) the phons measured more than 80 on 3.7 occasions (28 min); during midnight hours (2300-0500) on 18 occasions the phons registered more than 80 (41 min).

In a survey of 996 families 77.4% reported that they were awakened 3 to 6 times each night by jet noise. On TV and radio reception during 1800-2100 hours they were not able to hear anything on an average of 5 times daily (amounting to 17 min 19 sec). During the hours of 2100-2300, they claimed they could not hear anything an average of 6 times (1 hr 6 min 23 sec).

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- 8. To the CA's query as to the period of the survey, Mr. CHIBANA, replied that for the phons most of the information was acquired between 9-15 March 67 and for radio and TV reception 25 April 66. He noted further that on 27 June 67 the Kadena Assembly meeting had to move to a borrowed hall in Yomitan village because of the jet noise. At this meeting the assembly passed a resolution which again requested the elimination of jet noise. On 26 September 67 a delegation, led by the mayor, was sent to Japan to petition the GOJ on this problem.
- 9. Mr. CHIBANA suggested that the only possible solution to this problem would be for the Air Force to move its testing place to another area, maybe to the southern part of the landing strip. The people are not asking that the Air Force move out or restrict the planes from landing or taking off they only ask that the noise coming from the testing area be eliminated. He thought that if the testing station were moved and the tail end of jets faced toward the ocean, this should not affect Kadena and Isahama villages.
- 10. The CA responded that he would study these suggestions and bring them to the attention of the Air Force. He emphasized, however, that there would be undoubtedly difficult technical problems and great expense in trying to relocate the testing areas and he could not make any commitment on this. Mr. CHTBANA said he would be going to Japan in a day or so and requested the CA's permission to inform the Kadena representatives in Japan of this meeting and of CA's assurance that the problem would be studied further. He further requested that any changes in locating the testing station be coordinated with the mayor which would improve relations between the people and the Air Force. The CA agreed to these two requests.

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