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米国管理下の南西諸島状況雑件 沖縄関係 外紙報道（在米その他公館関係）(1)

メタデータ	言語: Japanese 出版者: 公開日: 2019-02-13 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: - メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12000/43804">http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12000/43804</a>

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シ大第 573 号	昭和 42 年 9 月 22 日
外務大臣殿	在 鹿取 總領事
引用公・電信番号	
送付資料及び備考 沖縄問題に關するマシフィールド上院演説 発言に關し記者団に	

Seattle Post-Intelligencer  
Sept. 16, 1967

## Okinawa Talks Urged By Mansfield

BY ROBERT TRUMBULL

The New York Times

SHIMODA, Japan — Mike Mansfield, the majority leader of the Senate, proposed yesterday that Japan, the United States and possibly the Soviet Union should open "a joint consideration of the security questions of the Western Pacific.

The Democratic senator from Montana offered the proposal as a new approach to the rising demand in Japan for the return of Okinawa and other former Japanese islands that have been retained by the U.S. as military bases for the protection of American interests in Asia.

Mansfield declared that Washington could restore the Bonin Islands and Iwo Jima to Japanese jurisdiction "without delay."

**IWO, THE SCENE** of one of the bloodiest battles of World War II, and the Bonins are administered by the U.S. Navy but are said to have little in the way of military installations. Mansfield said that "there would appear to be no major blocks" to their immediate return to Japan.

Okinawa, on the other hand, is a key American air base in the Western Pacific, said to represent an investment of more than \$1 billion in installations and equipment. The island plays an important role in supporting the combat operations in South Vietnam as a transportation and supply center.

Mansfield made his proposal for tripartite consultations on Okinawa in a speech to a conference of professional and business leaders of the U.S. and Japan and relations between the two countries.

**THE FOUR-DAY** unofficial meeting, attended by about 35 delegates from each side, opened Thursday.

The Japanese and American delegates to the conference agreed earlier today, with virtual unanimity, that further procrastination by Washington in meeting Japanese demands for the restoration of Okinawa would pose the threat of a serious rupture in the friendly relations between the two countries since World War II.