

琉球大学学術リポジトリ

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)

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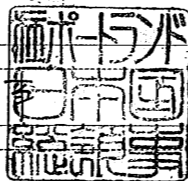
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井上総領



沖縄問題に関する新聞論評(報告)

9月25日付当地 Oregonian 紙は "Okinawa Occupation Irks Japanese" と題して在ワシントン
Columnist, Charles Bartlett 氏の沖縄問題に関
する要旨次の通りの評論を掲げているので何等参考
考まことに報告する。

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要研究	要連絡
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記

- (1) 沖縄の返還を要求する日本人の感情は米國務省が友好国日本を如何に遇すかの試金石として見守つており、左翼のせん動が始まったこの返還要求は今や全国民の関心を集めてゐる。然し沖縄問題と同時にベトナム戦争に関連して、日本が戦争に引きずり込まれる危険な人質的存在として日本人から危惧の念をもつて見られてゐる。
- (2) 佐藤総理は11月の訪米の際、選挙民と米國軍部(ベトナム戦争が終らない内は沖縄を返還する考えはないと言つてゐる)との間の何等かの橋渡しをしなければならぬが、現在の見通しとしては、精々、適當な時期が到来すれば返還するとの米側の意思表示を本國に持ち帰るの下落などはないかと思われる。

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(3) 沖縄の施政権の問題については、米軍の作戦上
沖縄に於ける完全な自由行動が何れも必要で
あることから見て、その返還交渉を行うことは困難
である。この自由を獲得するためには沖縄人の
協力を得ることが必要であり、そのために米国は
多くの施しを行ってきた（米国は1947年以来沖
縄に対して256百万円の援助を与えてきた。又
米国は現在年間200百万円の資材を沖縄に
投じて居り、基地労働者として5万3千人^を雇
傭しているが之等労働者の個人所得は日本
を除いてアジア諸国の中最高である）。

(4) 然しダレス長官が1952年の平和条約交渉の際
述べた意見「如何に仁政を施そうとも、他国の
支配下にあるものの体面を保つことは出来ない」
が広く支持されてあり、鼻っ柱の強い国防者の

専門家と雖も、沖縄人が何時迄も現状のま
で満足するとは思っていない。従って問題は今
後3年か5年か10年か分らないが、将来米国が
沖縄を返還するのと引換えに、日本が中国封じ
込めの役目を引受ける日の来ることを希望する
と言っている^り。その時に始めて血と財宝を
守り育てた沖縄の価値が判断されるであろう。

(別紙添付)

本信字送付先 在米大使

The Oregonian, Sept. 25, 1967.

Okinawa Occupation Irks Japanese

—BY CHARLES BARTLETT

WASHINGTON — Foreign military bases are slippery pawns these days in the games that nations play and Okinawa, often described as the keystone of American defense in the Far East, is proving to be no exception.

Japanese emotions for the return of the island are running so high that they may severely test the State Department's disposition to treat Japan as an equal partner. What began as a left-wing agitation has become a national cause.

The Communists and Socialists assail the American tenancy of Okinawa with good reason. The Soviets quickly discerned its strategic potential and argued vehemently through the Japanese peace talks that the Ryukyu chain should be returned to Japan. Embellished now with 117 bases that cost over \$1 billion, Okinawa has become a dagger pointed at the heart of Communist Asia.

But this emotionalism is also rampant among less prejudiced Japanese. Many find it surprising that a practical people should grow so exercised over an island which they themselves won in a medieval war and whose people they never deigned to treat as equals. Okinawa is only one-third of the size of Rhode Island and it was a wretchedly poor and crowded part of prewar Japan.

But the issue has become tied in Japanese minds to the distaste for the war in Vietnam and to a fear that it may be enlarged into something more dangerous. Okinawa is regarded by a nation of fervent peace-lovers as a hostage which could drag Japan into war. At the very least its bristling military character is said to expose its 950,000 Japanese inhabitants to the peril of enemy attack.

The turmoil over Okinawa is above all an expression of the postwar generation's impatience to assert its independence of the United States and to erase the last vestiges of

the defeat. Even Premier Sato has said that "Japan's postwar period does not end" until Okinawa's reversion to the homeland is accomplished.

Sato, due in Washington Nov. 14, must somehow bridge the gap between his voters and the American military, which has no intention of loosening its grip on Okinawa until the war in Vietnam is over. At best he is likely to go home with no more than a fresh expression of the American intention to return the island when the moment is ripe.

"We may need this base for a long time," declared Maj. Gen. William Yarborough in Senate hearings last January. Certainly no alternative is equally responsive to the needs of current strategy. Even the end of the war in Vietnam may not lessen Okinawa's significance because the United States is committed to retain no bases on the mainland.

Political control of the island is difficult to negotiate because Okinawa's most attractive feature is the total freedom with which the American military operates there. It is the only base outside U.S. territory where such freedom exists and the commanders prize it highly.

The key to this freedom is the cooperation of the natives, an acquiescence which is being wooed at an increasing cost in dollars. The Okinawans are Japanese in culture and aspirations but their nationalism has so far been deflected by the blessings which are poured upon them.

They have absorbed \$256 million in American aid since 1947. The Japanese have joined the Americans in a joint effort to supply them with all the welfarisms of modern society. American personnel spend \$200 million a year in their stores and the bases employ 53,000 of their laborers. Their per capita wealth has become the greatest in Asia outside Japan.

But John Foster Dulles objected during the 1952 treaty

negotiations that "dignity cannot be developed by those who are subjected to alien control, however benign." This tenet is now so widely held that not even the hardnosed experts in the Pentagon believe the Okinawans will live indefinitely with the status quo.

The debate is whether it will be three or 10 years and the hope is that enough time will elapse to enable the United States to exchange Okinawa for Japan's acceptance of a responsible role in the containment of China. If she accomplishes this, the "floating dragon" will be judged worth all the blood and treasure that was lavished upon her.