

琉球大学学術リポジトリ

沖縄関係 外紙報道（在アジア、欧州等公館関係）

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フィンランド大

Hufvudstadsbladet, 31.8.1971

ISLAND FORTRESS OKINAWA IS INDISPENSABLE TO USA
(Commentary for Hbl by Megens Kjelgaard, summary)

(Okinawa, August) The night to August 11, an American Air Force soldier threw a stone on a prostitute in Naha, Okinawa. Unfortunately for everybody except the woman he happened to hit a taxi driver in his face, instead of the woman. Within a couple of hours about two hundred angry taxi drivers had tried to storm a police station to get hold of the soldier, maltreated five American militaries and set fire on two cars.

The incident serves to illustrate what an American spokesman calls an increased "awareness of the occupation" among the inhabitants of Okinawa. The time is past when an American could step on the toes of a local inhabitant, who apologized for his feet being in the way. Many Americans consider this a positive development, even if all Americans don't.

The American military presence on Okinawa is so massive, that is rather strange that the friction has not been bigger. The garrison comprises almost 50000 militaries, and families and civilian employees included, there are 95.000 Americans on Okinawa, which is about 10% of the whole population. Part of the garrison are war veterans from Vietnam, which does not facilitate the contacts with the local inhabitants. War Veterans have a tendency to behave more ruthlessly towards civilians than soldiers who have never been in war.

The incidents have as a rule been irritating but not grave. What the population reacts against is that American soldiers are sentenced by American military courts and not by local civilian courts for crimes directed against the local inhabitants. All this will change when Okinawa and the other Ryukyu islands will be returned to Japan 1972. Americans committing civilian crimes will be sentenced by Japanese courts in accordance with Japanese laws.

The majority of the inhabitants on Okinawa do not want any military bases, but at the same time they want to keep their jobs. The civilian governor of the Ryukyu Islands, Chōbyō Yara was 1968 elected on the basis of an anti-base programme, but has since then been forced to modify his stand because of economic realities.

GNP for the Ryukyu Islands will 1971 be almost one milliard dollar. One third of this are a direct effect of American military expenditure, American state loans and credits, private American investments and domestic deliveries of goods and services to USA.

35.000 inhabitants of Okinawa are directly or indirectly working for the American military power. In addition to this there are the restaurants, furniture and souvenir shops that are dependent on the

Americans. If families are included, it seems probable that almost one fourth of the one million inhabitants are dependent on the American presence for their living.

Both industry and agriculture are overshadowed by services and the deficit in the trade balance of the area was 1970 367,1 million dollar.

Japan's economic life has so far not promised any big investments on Okinawa. An aluminium factory has been planned and Japanese business circles are interested in tourism, but nothing on a scale that could counter-balance the loss of the bases. An economic depression seems inevitable.

The problems of the Ryukyu Islands is not made easier by the fact that the Japanese Self Defence Forces are to take over some of the bases. The dislike against Japanese soldiers is strong on the islands and has its origin in the fights 1945. It is said that at least part of the civilian population then wanted to surrender to the American invasion but that they were forced with terror by the Imperial Army to offer resistance to the bitter end. The price was a total devastation and between 75000 and 85.000 civilian victims. The number of inhabitants was then less than half a million..

北米一課長

西欧二課長

事務印記(赤色)

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第 10 号
昭和 47 年 1 月 8 日

外務大臣 閣下

在在フイン



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沖縄復帰批判記事

引用公・電信
日付・番号

12月29日付社民党機関紙 Suomen

Sosialidemokraatti 紙は 別添英訳の如く

「沖縄住民は日本人の復帰と英米諸人との間に」

記事と掲載 (2) 記事は 甚く

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当館提報者Pに本記事執筆者Jorma

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政治活動をしてきたと云ふ執筆者と云ふ

匿名の人物の由である。

当館にこの^近道なる新聞記者を選定して

本印紙に依り、毎朝各紙を寄附し

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尊請の旨に即配慮を為す。

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外務省 2

Suomen Sosialidemokraatti, 29.12.1971

Inhabitants of Okinawa not too pleased with the come-back of the Japanese (Summary of commentary by Jerma Kivimaa)

The return of Okinawa to Japan does not mean that the Americans will completely leave the island. All the present 88 military bases of USA, as well as the arms deposit, will be preserved. There will be no reduction of armament; on the contrary Laird has made it clear that Okinawa will be made an even stronger fortress against Asian communism than it is now.

So far, the change of administration has for the aborigines only meant that the 50.000 yankee soldiers on the island have got company by 7.000 Japanese soldiers. This brotherhood of arms of the former and present occupation powers has caused some feeling of uneasiness among the aborigines.

In the Far East, Japan has on the whole an as bad reputation as master and occupation power as Germany has had in Europe. This is probably admitted by the major part of the Chinese, the Manchurians, the Koreans or the Philippine. Nor do the inhabitants of Okinawa have very warm memories of the Japanese. From 1879 to 1945, when Okinawa was a province of Japan, it was remembered only when there was a war. Otherwise the island was left alone and no attention was given to its development. Nor has the final phase of World War II, when 20.000-30.000 of the inhabitants of the islands were killed in military operations, left a very pleasant image of Japan. The helpless aborigines were pushed as gun-fodder for the Americans in the first place and school children were forced to take part in the defence of the island in hopeless circumstances.

Moreover, the inhabitants of Okinawa have not in these twentysix years experienced "American democracy" in the same concrete and rough-handed way as e.g. the peoples of Indo-China but have been allowed to spend a comparatively quiet life with their own cultural traditions. As we further know that during the time of American occupation the employment situation has been good, the school system developed to a high level, roads and streets constructed on a western scale and that the national income per person has in the last fifteen years increased six times, it is no wonder that the inhabitants of Okinawa are not as enthusiastic about the change as the nationalists in Japan.

Under the protection of USA, Okinawa has had a comparatively far developed autonomy with i.a. local administration, schools and postal service of their own. Now Japan will be only one of the 47 prefectures of Japan. In addition to the economic menace: the loss of 40.000 jobs and a sharp decline of the living standard, the islanders also fear

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that the unique character of their culture will be lost. The Americans have come and gone, leaving after them only the chewing gum, the dances in vogue and a number of children of mixed blood, without even trying to americanize the people. But it seems evident that the Japanese will demand that Okinawa as a Japanese prefecture should adopt Japanese customs, manners and beliefs, Japanese ambition and Japanese working pace. This will not be easy for the inhabitants of Okinawa, who still have much of the child of nature in their character.

It is true that if you believe the promises made today, the inhabitants have nothing but good to expect from the future. Japan has promised to support the economy of Okinawa in various ways, to respect its unique character and to safeguard its future i.a. by systematically developing tourism. Another question is whether the inhabitants of the islands have confidence in all these promises.

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Jorma Kivimäki is not on the staff of Suomen "oisliedemokratia" but writes occasionally articles on international politics for this paper. He lives in Paimio outside Turku and is not known to engage actively in politics. He was born in 1938 and has inherited a small painting business.