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Autumn this year has brought winds of change, some already documented in the media and some now in *The Ryukyuanist*. First there was Okinawa's globally newsworthy referendum, and then came three conferences, reviewed here in chronological order. The September conference took place outside Okinawa, but with Okinawa rightly a dominant topic. The October conference took place in Okinawa, but with Okinawa's role somewhat subordinate, and is reviewed under a penname reminiscent of an observation made by the keynote speaker, John Galtung: the virtue of barbarians is that no one values them enough to want to colonize them. The review for the third conference, which took place in November in Okinawa, concerns only the keynote address and is adapted from a report published in *The Ryukyu Shimpo*. Finally, we report on a different kind of gathering which occurred in mid December, while this newsletter was in press. Our next issue will center on the text of Governor Ota's statement to the Japanese court.

This year, a late autumn drifted into winter, but we expect the winter issue to follow soon as our new team, including now a new printer, gets into the swing of a new calendar.

JPRI Conference Takes Okinawa as a Key Topic

A two-day conference on "Legacies of the Cold War: Constraints on Post-Cold War Security in East Asia" was held at the University of San Francisco on September 27 and 28, 1996. It was convened by the Japan Policy Research Institute (Chalmers JOHNSON, president) with the support of the New Mexico US-Japan Center and the University of San Francisco Center for the Pacific Rim.

With the South Korean court's having sentenced an ex-president to death still fresh in the memory of the participants, the first day of the conference opened with eye-witness accounts of the Kwangju Massacre. Topics that day then ranged over all the problem areas and events of the Cold War era—the Vietnam War, China's rise as a great power, the China-Taiwan conflict, etc.—and covered also the reactions and strategies of the United States government, of business, and of intellectuals during and after the period of the Cold War.

The second day was devoted to Okinawa—two Okinawas, actually. Under the heading "The Ticking Timebomb: Okinawa Since the Clinton-Hashimoto Summit," Chalmers Johnson, JPRI president, led off with his now-famous critique of the post-Cold War U.S. East Asian policy in which a redefined US-Japan alliance would play an enhanced role. Following that came the findings of a most original research project concerning another Okinawa, Colonia Okinawa in Bolivia, as reported by Dr. Kazuko AMEMIYA. Dr. Koji TAIRA then discussed recent developments in Okinawa-Japan-US relations under the heading "Justice for Okinawa: The Perspective of a Long-time Observer." Finally came a roundtable discussion

among the above three presenters and two others, Dr. Michael MOLASKY and Ms. Chikako YOSHIDA.

The report on Colonia Okinawa was enhanced by the showing of slides, which had an enormous impact on the audience. Amemiya provided a vivid account of the experiences of Okinawan migrants/settlers in the jungles of Bolivia since their first arrival in the 1950s and exposed the extent of their incredible hardships and tragedies. Many died of a mysterious disease [uruma fever]. Many others fled to Brazil and Argentina. Those who remained finally triumphed and at the sight of their splendid residences, an audible sigh of relief arose within the audience.

Amemiya was concerned with two sets of questions, one concerning the origin of the emigration program and the other concerning the results of that program: How did the Okinawan program for emigration to Bolivia come about? and Who were those emigrants and what happened to them? Her quest for the origin and development of the emigration plan turned up the name of an American scholar who almost singlehandedly determined Bolivia to be the best destination for postwar Okinawan emigration: James L. TIGNER. Tigner's voluminous writings contained passages that suggested links between emigration seen as a safety valve for population pressures on small islands—made even smaller by land expropriations for U.S. bases—and the military occupiers' fear of Communist threat to the safety of those bases. The Cold War in effect evicted thousands of Okinawans from their customary island habitats and dumped them in the land-locked jungles of Bolivia.

Amemiya explained how she first visited Okinawa Prefecture for background research and then with carefully designed research plans, she undertook field work into Bolivia's Colonia Okinawa. Upon return from her trips, she wrote a paper titled "The Bolivian Connection: U.S. Bases and Okinawan Emigration," published as JPRI Working Paper No. 25 (October 1996). Her presentation in San Francisco was based on this paper, which had already been put in the mail for JPRI members.

Taira brought the audience's attention back to recent developments in Okinawa-Japan-US relations as he spoke of "Justice for Okinawa." His thoughts on "justice" were inspired by the Rawlsian theory of

"justice as fairness": A just outcome of a relationship is a product of negotiations between the interested parties on an equal footing and under fair rules; however, if the negotiating parties are unequal and/or if the rules of negotiation are unfair, the outcome will be unjust to the disadvantaged party.

After that theoretical introduction, Taira reviewed the unfolding of actions and responses between the three parties involved in the determination of the nature, scope, and future of the U.S. bases in Okinawa, giving special emphasis to the 1995-6 court battles between the prime minister of Japan and the governor of Okinawa. The Japanese judiciary determined that the "Okinawa problem," which centered on Okinawa's preponderant and disproportionate share of the U.S. bases in Japan, was not a matter for judicial adjudication. The courts declared it a "political" problem and refused to lend a sympathetic ear to the Okinawan argument that the discriminatory distribution of the U.S. bases and troops in Japan, damaging to the public interest in Okinawa, was unconstitutional. Subsequent to judicial doors being closed to the Okinawa's entreaties, a temporary "political" compromise was quickly reached between Japan and Okinawa. However, it was too early to tell whether the compromise did, or would do, justice to Okinawa's grievances.

Taira's presentation was followed by a roundtable discussion of "The Future of Okinawa in the Context of Japanese - American Relations." The speakers were Kazuko Amemiya, Chalmers Johnson, Michael Molasky, Koji Taira and Chikako Yoshida. Molasky had recently returned from Japan and gave an eye-witness account of how the Tokyo-Okinawa relations were developing during the period when he was in Japan. Yoshida, who hailed from Okinawa, gave in a private capacity her observations on the Okinawan side of the issues at hand. Questions and comments from the floor were also vigorous, ranging widely over both planned and unplanned topics.

Readers interested in further details of the above conference are encouraged to contact Professor Chalmers Johnson, President, Japan Policy Research Institute, 2138 Via Tiempo, Cardiff, CA 92007. Tel: (619) 944-3950. Fax: (619) 944-9022.

Peace and conflict

It was no trick-or-treat prank that brought to Okinawa a two-day conference, October 30-31, housed at Okinawa's Convention Center, but rather a cooperative effort between Okinawa International University and the University of Ulster, in Northern Ireland, along with INCORE (INitiative on CONflict Resolution & Ethnicity, an enterprise jointly established by the University of Ulster and the United Nations University in Tokyo for the purpose of conducting global-wide research and training activities in the field of conflict). The theme of the conference was "Coming Out of War and Ethnic Violence," and apparently the presenters and panelists were invited by the organizers of the conference, for which reason the fact that women were conspicuously in the minority may perhaps reflect the organizers' concerns to limit the domain of potential conflict.

Though simultaneous translation in both English and Japanese was available for both morning and afternoon sessions, in the following critical review reference is made mostly to those who addressed the audience in English, the language in which perhaps as much as twenty to thirty percent of the taped conferences was originally presented.

The keynote speaker, Prof. Johan Galtung, identified as founder (1959) and ex-director of the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo, Norway (currently Visiting Professor of Soka University, and Professor of Peace Studies at Universitat Witten Herdecke, European Peace University, Universitetet i Tromsø; and Director of TRANSCEND: A Peace Network) reported that he had met with a number of women of the "*Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence*" [see items five and twelve here in the publications section of *The R*] the evening of October 28 and he made specific reference to their efforts in his address, along with passing regrets for the paucity of women in the program of the conference. (The relative absence was particularly regrettable because women's voting rate exceeded that of men in the recent referendum, something perhaps easily overlooked.)

The belated apology was perhaps welcome to the women, if present, who had comprised at most ten percent of those invited to the gala reception the

evening before, where John Darby, Director of INCORE, spoke of recent increases in refugees and victims of ethnic violence as he addressed a large but polite and attentive audience who stood patiently waiting to enjoy a bountiful repast spread under the glistening lights of a ballroom usually filled with wedding parties who listen to a different variety of speech. Perhaps under such circumstances it was not appropriate to mention that the majority of refugees and victims are women and children. Darby's closing remarks at the final "Summation" session, October 31, however, took cognizance of the circumstances: "Your views about peace depend on where you live. If you live in an area which is undisturbed, it's likely that your views would be different than if you live in one which is affected by violence or is likely to be affected by violence" [transcribed from tape].

In view of Darby's views on views, it should therefore be stressed that in the program held a collection of five printed "messages" from key organizers and sponsor representatives (all male), and that Professor Sir Trevor SMITH, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ulster, pointedly characterized the conference as an "important academic event." Fortunately, prior to Smith's ominous warning, the message of Okinawa International University's President, Yoshiharu HESHIKI, appeared at the lead and prominently referred to more important events: the "repeated slaughtering of people...on the basis of religious differences, ethnic identity, or struggle for supremacy" and the need for "people of the world to hear the message of peace emanating from the island of Okinawa in the midst of vast military bases."

Two more of the program's "messages" also made pointed reference to Okinawa's burden of military bases. Masahide OTA, Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, anticipated the conference to "contribute to the building of world peace and to suggest ways of solving Okinawa's base problems." (Indeed, the keynote address by Galtung provided a specific recommendation: make Okinawa the Geneva of Asia.) And Shinichiro ASAO, President of the Japan Foundation, one of the generous supporters of the conference, acknowledged that "still today the presence of U.S. military bases presents a problem that has not yet been solved" and confessed that he could "imagine how

eager the Okinawa people are for peace." Asao also stressed that the citizens' attendance at the symposium would be a key message for peace from Okinawa to the rest of the world. (Perhaps one can view the symposium as a distant echo of the voice of the September referendum.)

The conference was comprised of four sessions, the first containing the keynote address and then a "mini keynote panel," followed that afternoon by session two, "Coming Out of War." The next morning saw session three, "Coming Out of Ethnic Violence," followed by session four, "Summation." Each session had one or two commentators coordinators (all male) and then four panelists/reporters.

It was in those gangs-of-four that the "minorities" were to be seen and heard: women comprised twenty-five percent of the four-person sets for the three regular sessions, but were absent from the final "summation" session. Okinawa was a somewhat more privileged minority: though only twenty-five percent of three of the sessions, including the summation session, a clear fifty percent of commentators for session two. (In brief, Governor OTA and Prof. Masaaki ANYA, of OIU, in sessions one and four, respectively; and in session two, OIU's Prof. Masaie ISHIHARA presenting "The Existence of U.S. Military Bases as a Result of War, and the Okinawan Philosophy of Peace," with Prof. Etsujiro MIYAGI, Director of the Prefectural Archives, as commentator.) However, Okinawa was not represented at all in the session on ethnic violence. One might surmise, therefore, that one of the salient features of ethnicity is violence: from time to time during the conference praise was bestowed on Okinawa for its peaceful, non-violent handling of the burden of U.S. military bases.

One of the ironies of a conference such as this one is the discrepancy between the rhetoric and the reality, the disparities between the speakers and those spoken about. (There were exceptions, however, such as in the moving address by Tran Quoc VUONG, Professor of Hanoi National University, whose first-person, experiential narrative though obscured somewhat by language imperfections was nonetheless uncharacteristically eloquent for an academic conference.) Mentioned here already is the example of under-representation of women — except as ushers,

assistants, and functionals at the conference.

As for another example, repeatedly during the conference one heard spoken the need to give audience to those who felt repressed or neglected. In particular, John GROOM (Professor, University of Kent) and Valerie MORGAN (Research Director, INCORE), both spoke of the importance of having adequate representation on decision-making boards. And yet, despite the printed claim of the chairperson of the organizing committee that "all sessions will be open to the public," the attending audience must have felt excluded when reading in the program that there was an additional, evening session with two intriguing presentations, by Ching-Shan SUN (Tunghai University, Taiwan) and by Christopher WU (Yonok University, Thailand) — a session which was closed to the public. Upon inquiry, one learned that as at the reception (and the closing party, which did not appear on the program), attendance was "by advance invitation only." Thus the one session at which there was likely to be discussion of current topics (concerning important neighbors) that might significantly affect Okinawa in the future was the one session which was closed to the Okinawan public — kept only for privileged Okinawans and their distinguished guests from outside the prefecture.

Unfortunately, though the conference was no doubt by all invited participants considered a resounding success, until those who are hungry can dine on the same delicacies, until those who are oppressed or under-represented in decision-making functions are granted not only participation but also a respectful audience, the future for conflict resolution is not likely to offer alternatives which will substantially alleviate the underlying problems of devaluation.

"Barb Aryan"

[Editorial comment: The above essay was submitted as a personal interpretation and is not to be understood as indicative of editorial opinion or reflective of the position of *The Ryukyuanist*. Readers are invited to contact the Organizing Committee of International Peace Studies Symposium '96 in Okinawa, at Okinawa International University, 276-2 Ginowan, Ginowan-shi, Okinawa, Japan; Tel: +81-98-892-1111; Fax: +81-98-893-3271. A publication, in both English and

Japanese, is planned and is currently being undertaken by faculty and staff of OIU.]

Publications (XXI)

We gratefully acknowledge the gift of the following publications:

Entropy Association, Okinawan Conference Program Committee. 1996. *Shima, kichi, entoropii* (Islands, [military] bases, and entropy). Proceedings of the association's 1995 conference held in Okinawa in memory of the late Professor TAMANOI Yoshiro, who devoted almost all of his post-retirement life to teaching, research, and pacifist leadership in Okinawa. 212pp. ¥600. A majority of presentations are on environmental impacts of economic developmental measures, such as agricultural land policies which induce soil runoff the consequence of which is death of the coral reefs which are smothered by the sediment. One of the papers calls attention to Okinawa's endangered indigenous species of rare birds and animals. Several presentations deal with military bases, issues of Okinawan autonomy/independence, theories and applications of entropy, etc.

Kusa no kanuri (The Crown of Grass). 1996. A newsletter of the Association for the Study of Gods and Woods of Miyakojima, No. 5 (March). 4pp. Topics: traditional "insect cleansing" rites (*musu sozu*); notes from a lecture by Professor TANIKAWA Kenichi; *Jurukunitsu* (New Year in Afterlife); a meeting to remember the Providence, which shipwrecked on the *Yaebisi* Reef in 1797. [The captain of the ship was William Robert BROUGHTON, the author of *A Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean* (London, 1804).]

Okinawa International University Institute of Ryukyuan Culture. *Nanto Bunka: Bulletin of the Institute of Ryukyuan Culture*, No. 17 (March), 133, 27pp. All contributions, save one, are in Japanese with bi-lingual titles. Their English titles are: "Landowners of the 20s of Meiji in Miyako Island and Abolition Movement of *Nintozei* (Poll Tax)"; "B. J. Bettelheim's System of Description Orthography in English-Loochooan Dictionary"; "Process of Becoming *Gono* (Wealthy Farmers): Aspects Peculiar to Okinawa--Analysis of the Yohena Family Land Acquisition Process"; "Materials for

Contrastive Study of Okinawa Folklore and Korean Mythology: The Birth of Kings in Korean Mythology and in Okinawan Folktales"; "Antei Hiyane: Life and Works"; "Guides to Source Materials and Commentary: Meiji 30th Year Fair Report". The sole English-language article is "Ryuka (Ryukyuan Poems) and Alabama Folktales: the Challenge of Translation" by Karen LUPARDUS.

---. 1995. *Taramajima chosa hokokusho* (Report on *Taramajima* Investigations), No. 3. 158pp. Five articles in Japanese and one in English. The Japanese articles are on religion, population, dialect, prayers, and folk songs. The article in English, "*Tarama-Minna* Report" by William T. RANDALL, is on "contacts with Americans by the people of *Tarama* and *Minna* Islands in the period of the American military occupation of Okinawa" and "Christian influence on those islands in the same period."

United Okinawa Association of Hawaii. 1996. *Uchinanchu: A Newsletter*, vol. 51 (January), vol. 52 (March). According to vol. 51, on December 15, 1995, a civil lawsuit was filed against Former President Wil HOKAMA alleging that he improperly and illegally converted HUOA funds to his personal account. Volume 52 reports that in February 1996, members of the group "Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence" stopped over on their way back to Okinawa after a two-week tour of the United States. [See also the last entry in the publications section of this edition of *The Ryukyuanist*.] At a forum the group reiterated a five-point action plan: (1) investigation of all past crimes of U.S. military personnel on Okinawa, (2) concrete plan to reduce and ultimately remove all U.S. troops from Okinawa, (3) intensifying the troops' human rights education and sensitivity training, (4) implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at the Beijing women's conference and re-examination of the Japan-US Security Treaty, and (5) inquiry into the Okinawan situation by experts on human rights and the environment.

[United States Government] 1996. *Ambassador Mondale's Remarks on Futenma Air Station After the April 12 Meeting with Prime Minister Hashimoto*. A transcript, 4pp. An announcement of plans to return Futenma to Okinawa. But ... "central to

our efforts [to resolve base-related issues] had to be an attempt to relocate to other U.S. facilities the important capabilities now located at Futenma."

[United States Government], White House, Office of the Press Secretary. 1996. Remarks by the President to the Diet, Tokyo, Japan. (April 18). A transcript, 5pp. "... the United States will maintain 100,000 troops in East Asia, including a strong presence in Japan at about current levels, with the help of your host nation's support." [Currently, there are 47,000 American troops in Japan, including 29,000 in Okinawa.] "... peace has its price. But the price is much less than the cost of putting peace at risk. Consider what might happen if the United States were to withdraw entirely from this region. It could spark a costly arms race that could destabilize Northeast Asia." [Implication: Japan might participate in this race, massively rearming itself.]

[United States Government] 1996. The SACO Interim Report, April 15, 1996, by Minister for Foreign Affairs Ikeda, Minister of State for Defense USUI, Secretary of Defense Perry, Ambassador to Japan Mondale. 5pp. The Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) was established in November 1995 by the Governments of Japan and the United States. This interim report enumerates several measures thus far worked out by the committee, including the return of Futenma. As a consequence, "the total acreage of US facilities and areas in Okinawa is estimated to decrease by approximately 20 percent."

[Editorial comment: At present, roughly 11% of the entire prefecture of Okinawa, including about 20% of the Island of Okinawa, is occupied by the U.S. military. However, only about 5% of Okinawa's gross domestic product (GDP) originates in the bases (from rental for use of the land, wages paid to civilian employees, income from local expenditures of troops and their dependents, etc.). Therefore, the area occupied by the bases can be viewed as only one fourth as productive per acre as the entire area of the Island of Okinawa. Such calculation implies that the bases cause Okinawa to forego 15% of its GDP annually, in return for which Okinawans get nothing! Certainly they are not getting the "peace" which is hyped as the

product of American military presence in Japan. If "Japan" is getting some sort of benefit called "peace" it is clearly at the expense of Okinawa.] University of Okinawa, Institute of Regional Study. 1996. *Nenpo*, No. 7 (Annual Report for 1995). 119pp. Six articles, two of which are on Taiwan. An unusual article is multiple-authored "Attitudes toward Tenno System in Okinawa and Tokyo." Other articles are on education and community development, flour food culture, and regional public corporations.

University of Okinawa, Institute of Regional Study. 1996. *Shoho*, No. 12 (Institute News). 54pp. ¥500. Five informal, often highly personal, accounts on a wide range of topics: a trip to Hawaii, regional differences and international private law, drama and group therapy, agricultural/consumer cooperatives, and methods of field work.

University of the Ryukyus, College of Law and Letters. 1996. *Economic Review*, No. 51 (March). 389pp. A special issue in honor of Professor Shoko YAMAZATO, who has been with the Department of Economics since 1957 and has recently retired. True to form for this type of publication, a eulogy comes first by the incumbent department chairman (Professor OSHIRO Hajime), followed by the honored's vitae and publications. Then a number of usual journal articles fill the volume. Several of the articles concern various aspects of Okinawan economy.

Urban Habitat Program. 1996. A packet of materials concerning Okinawan Women's Peace Caravan in the United States, February 3-17, 1996. From Martha MATSUOKA, Director, Economic Conversion Project. The Okinawan women's U.S. peace caravan was organized and carried out by a women's association called "Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence," an outgrowth of Okinawan women's participation in the Beijing Women's Conference NGO Forum in September 1995. Their position is based on the Platform of Action approved by the Women's Conference: "Rape that takes place in a situation of armed conflict constitutes both a war crime and a crime against humanity." Coincidentally, while the women were at the NGO Forum in Beijing, an Okinawan school girl was abducted and raped by three U.S. servicemen on September 4,

1995, in Okinawa.

The perpetrators of the September 4, 1995 crime were tried, found guilty, and sentenced by the Naha District Court. However, as is pointed out by Suzuyo TAKAZATO and Keiko ITOKAZU, leaders of "Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence," the Naha District Court did not address the issue of the violent nature of the military system. Takazato and Itokazu further point out that "the U.S. military personnel are not stationed in Okinawa as individuals. We must press for the examination of the reality that [they] are trained in violence, murder, and destruction by the U.S. military forces." The limitations of Japanese law were also exposed by the outcome of the trial: "[the law] views rape more lightly than robbery." Further evidence for that view is that the culprits got away with rather light sentences.

Included in the packet of materials are factsheets, "Postwar U.S. Military Crimes Against Women in Okinawa," compiled from several published sources, indicating that Okinawa has been made into a haven for military sex-criminals, and there is a reprint of an article by Daniel B. SCHIRMER, "Japan and the Global Policeman" (originally published in the *Monthly Review*, February 1996), in which Schirmer points out that "military records show U.S. servicemen in Japan have been tried for sexual crimes more than anywhere else."

The Okinawan women's U.S. peace caravan was a great success. Their U.S. hosts, both individuals and organizations, gave them a warm welcome and unstinting help, mobilizing extensive press and media attention as well as large diverse audiences for them. Upon return, the Okinawan women's group wrote to their American friends, "We returned to Okinawa on February 17 from our ... wonderfully rewarding American Peace Caravan, our hearts warmed and spirits strengthened to continue our efforts in restoring peace and human rights to Okinawa." [For more on the caravan, refer to the entry concerning the newsletter *Uchinanchu*, which appears as the fifth entry in the publications section of this edition of *The Ryukyuanist*.]

Miyamoto's Proposals for Okinawa

At a symposium held in Naha at Okinawa University in mid November, Ken'ichi MIYAMOTO, Professor of Public Finance at Ritsumeikan University, spoke of his ideas concerning the development of Okinawa, an interest and concern of his that dates back to the years before Okinawa's reversion to Japan in 1972.

Again he stressed the importance of shedding Okinawa's economic dependency on US military bases as a prerequisite for obtaining a normal, healthy economic development. In his opinion, control of the land, water, transportation, and energy capabilities should all be returned to Okinawa immediately and unconditionally, and decisions concerning utilization of those assets should be the domain of the prefectural government with the consent of the residents of Okinawa. Prof. Miyamoto further stressed the importance of Okinawa's finding its own path to development rather than following the development pattern of mainland Japan, especially in regard to preservation of the environment and culture of Okinawa.

These were the principles of economic development that Miyamoto proposed in 1970, along with Professor Masahiko KUBA (now retired from the University of the Ryukyus)--proposals which have not yet been realized. More particularly, Miyamoto had at that time proposed that the funding for development provided by the mainland should not be in annual increments but should be allocated at one time, and that there should be a referendum to evaluate the laws related to policies of reversion to mainland Japan.

Prof. Miyamoto observed that in the years since reversion, substantial changes have occurred in Okinawa and that Okinawa has succeeded in obtaining at least in part standards of living equivalent to those of mainland Japan. However, Okinawa has failed to achieve independence and autonomy, and remains trapped by the conditions of the peace treaty which force Okinawans into a dependency on military-related income and public investment--a public investment three times greater than that for other prefectures. In Miyamoto's opinion, the concentrated investment policy applied to Okinawa since reversion has failed.

Looking again at Okinawa's situation, and the current dispute concerning mainland policy towards

Okinawa, Miyamoto is concerned whether Okinawa can step beyond the limits imposed by the policies of reversion. It is his belief that success is possible, however, if Okinawa will turn its eyes away from pursuing the path of Tokyo and will abandon the goal of reaching the level of mainland Japan. Miyamoto asks Okinawans to look instead to Asia and to recognize that Okinawa is already substantially developed. What is needed, he believes, is greater recognition that the core of development should be in the local people and that internal development must proceed based on the heart and spirit of the Okinawan people, but with an eye towards quality if Okinawa is to achieve sustainable development and the independence and autonomy that it desires.

In grappling with Okinawa's present conditions, it is Miyamoto's wish that ideas for sustainable development will lead the way not only for the future of Okinawa, but also for the future of Japan and Asia.

The military problem remains

On December 21, Okinawan citizens held a rally to voice their anger and frustration with the decision to relocate the functions of Futenma Air Marine Corps Station to a sea-based heliport. Approximately 20,000 people joined together and heard messages from elected officials of Okinawa, high school students, women's group leaders, and labor union representatives. Following the rally, several hundred participants marched in a demonstration to a gate of Futenma Base to once again express their opposition to the SACO report and US military expansion.

The organizers received expressions of solidarity from world-wide peace activists and human rights advocates concerned about the continuing injustices occurring in Okinawa, and received 70 faxes of concern and protest from mainland Japan and overseas. They express gratitude for the support received and hope others will join in their work for peace and justice. [From a letter to the editors by Yoichi IHA (Okinawa Prefecture Assembly); and Suzuyo TAKAZATO (Naha City Assembly) and Carolyn FRANCIS (Okinawa Christian Heiwa Center), of Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence.]

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