

After September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, the relationship between Japan and the United States became more important than ever and, at the same time, the problems and conflicts between both nations became more complicated because the U.S. needs economical help from Japan and geographical advantages to keep its position in the world. The main issue between both countries is the presence of U.S. bases in the Okinawa Prefecture which is located in southern part of Japan.

they were treated in a humane way by American soldiers. Additionally, the U.S. government helped to re-establish Okinawan cities after the end of the war through the construction of public roads, transportation systems and buildings. Although the U.S. bases in Okinawa are distressing

It is hard to explain to someone who has never been to Japan how small the area is in which the Japanese citizens live. While the Japanese have to build higher and higher crowded buildings in which to live, the U.S. soldiers have large tracts of what would appear to people as unused land for their purposes. In his journal, Chalmers Johnson who is the President of the Japan Policy Research Institute said,

raped a 12-year-old girl they had picked out at random.”<sup>5</sup>



environmental problems they leave behind. Because it will need much money to purify the lands that house the U.S. bases, this environmental problem has also become a part of the overall economic dilemma if the U.S. bases were to be discontinued.

The Okinawan people have difficulty solving these social and environmental problems

each other during wartime. The key aspect of this treaty is Section (e) Logistic-2(e)-upport Activities that deals with such concrete matters as supply, transportation, maintenance, facilities, and medical services. Under this section, for example, if American soldiers are wounded, they are to



Emotionally, Okinawans are unified in their wish to disband the U.S. bases as soon as possible. However, it is very hard for the Governor of Okinawa to pursue this wish as the Okinawan economy tends to depend on funds from the central government, which gives money, under a “recover harregion policha,” to Okinawa because it has so manharU.S. bases in the region.

“The long-standing policha of both the Japanese and U.S. governments has been to force Okinawans to depend on the militar harbases in order to both retain the bases and suppress Okinawa’s anti-militar movements.... It is also not incorrect to sa that the nature of Okinawa’s economy, that is, dependent on the central government and its subsidies and grants for public works projects, has kept anti-base movements from becoming more widespread.”<sup>15</sup>

There is also another reason whharthe Governor of Okinawa cannot simplharget rid of the U.S. militarharfrom the land. Because there are people who rent their land where the Japanese government allowed the U.S militar to establish itsrbases, theha indirctlha ean moneha as landowners. If the U.S. bases leave the region, these people would lose income accoer2(o-)2(oo)-10(nom1(e)4(

U.S. bases are actually an attraction for people from the mainland. Every summer, the Independence Day festival is held on July 4<sup>th</sup>, and not only main land people but also local







Another way of solving the U.S. bases problem in Okinawa is developed by a history critic, Mr. Yoshiro Takeshita. In his website, he published a column, *The Independence of*





[http://www.jcp.or.jp/akahata/aik2/2003-11-10/01\\_04.html](http://www.jcp.or.jp/akahata/aik2/2003-11-10/01_04.html)

4. News

- The Japan Times Online, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004, *U.S. general says Kadena Air Base 'very important for 25 to 50 years'*