

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A demonstration to protest U.S. imperialism in Okinawa and Japan will take place on Hiroshima Day, Wednesday, August 6th, at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. The participating groups will deliver three demands to Ambassador Charles Yost, the highest ranking representative of the U.S. government in New York City. The demands are:

- 1) The immediate removal of all U.S. forces and all nuclear and chemical weapons from Okinawa.
- 2) The immediate and unconditional reversion of Okinawa to Japan.
- 3) The end of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.

The demonstration will begin with picketing and leafletting outside the U.S. Mission to the U.N. located at First Avenue and 45th Street at 12:00 noon. At 12:45, there will be a rally opposite the U.S. Mission. The following persons will speak: Mrs. Mary Kochiyama, a Japanese American who was interned in a concentration camp during World War II, and Mr. Hideo Shinagawa, a Japanese citizen and participant in the 1960 Tokyo demonstration against the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty.

This demonstration has been organized by Asian Americans for Action, Committee of Returned Volunteers, and Movement for a Democratic Society, in close conjunction with the Vietnam Peace Parade Committee.

For further information, contact:

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The following is a short explanation of the Okinawa situation and the reasons for this demonstration:

Although Okinawa legally is a part of Japan, it is nevertheless controlled directly by a military appointee of the U.S. government, who is accountable not to the people of Okinawa, but to the President of the United States. Recent elections clearly show that the majority of Okinawans want Okinawa, and the Ryukyu Islands Prefecture returned to Japan, and the U.S. occupation troops out of Okinawa. Presently, the Okinawans have only token representation in the governing of the island.

The military buildup in Okinawa is one of the main factors behind the anti-U.S. sentiment of the Okinawans. The nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons which are stored there endanger their lives. They live in constant fear of accidental explosion of ammunition, of radioactive wastes in their drinking water, and of the deadly nerve gas which recently hospitalized 25 American soldiers.

The U.S. makes its military presence felt not only in Okinawa itself, but also in Japan proper. The U.S.-Japan Security Treaty authorizes the stationing of 45,000 U.S. troops in mainland Japan. Most Japanese oppose this treaty; it is clear that in June, 1970, when the treaty becomes open to change and discussion, that the Japanese government will be under pressure to bring the treaty to a permanent end.

Okinawa and Japan are now being used by the U.S. government to support the war in Vietnam. In fact, the U.S. vitally needs the bases in Okinawa and Japan in order to continue its imperialist policy in all of Southeast Asia. To further an unjust war in Vietnam, the U.S. must also further an unjust occupation of Okinawa and Japan.