

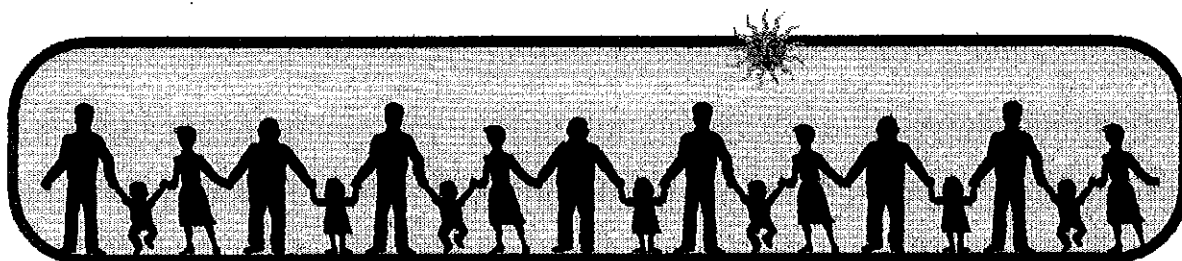
Please join in . . .

A Vigil in Support of the Okinawan People

Tuesday, September 10

Noon - 1:00 p.m.

**Gather at the Eternal Flame Memorial on Beretania St.
across from the State Capitol**



In April President Clinton met in Tokyo with Prime Minister Hashimoto and declared that U.S. military personnel in Japan would have to remain at the present level of approx. 59,000. Close to 75% of the land which U.S. forces occupy is on Okinawa. Attempting to quiet the opposition to this, Clinton offered to reduce U.S. military holdings of Okinawan land and to shift some U.S. military personnel and facilities from current locations in Okinawa to other places in Okinawa and mainland Japan.

This last proposal had an effect contrary to what was intended: it intensified anti-bases sentiment both in Okinawa and mainland Japan, particularly in areas singled out for the re-assignment of U.S. military personnel and facilities. In Okinawa, this presence has created numerous social problems, as well as devastation to the environment due to live fire exercises. An Okinawan election held on June 9th gave the prefectural assembly a majority of representatives who oppose the bases. Now both the governor and legislative body of Okinawa are in opposition.

The September 8 vote of the citizens of Okinawa in a referendum on the presence of U.S. military bases on their island is a reflection of the rapid growth of popular opposition to the bases. A negative vote will perhaps have its fullest effect in November, when a joint committee of Japanese and U.S. military and foreign service officials delivers a final report on the disposition of U.S. bases in Japan, as mandated by the Clinton-Hashimoto meeting in April.

We stand with others across the nation in support of the Okinawan people as they struggle to be rid of the burden of U.S. military bases. Likewise, we stand with brothers and sisters here in Hawai'i who seek the end of U.S. military occupation of Hawaiian lands.

**U.S. Military Bases
Out of Okinawa * * * Out of Hawai'i**

Sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee - Hawai'i, 988-6266.

A VIGIL IN SUPPORT OF THE OKINAWAN PEOPLE

September 10, 1996

An island occupied by a disproportionate number of US military troops, bases, and warships. Land held by foreigners with access denied to local residents. Live fire exercises that devastate the environment and disturb surrounding neighbors. A contained lifestyle system provided by the military, segregated from that of the islanders, and often tearing at the social fabric of the resident community. A national government that supports all this in the name of "security."

Okinawa

About 20% of Okinawa's land is taken up by the US military. Okinawa is Japan's poorest region with twice the national average of unemployment and one-half the average income. US military occupation has created numerous social problems on Okinawa. Its governor and legislature are in opposition to its presence. In a non-binding referendum held September 8, 1996, 90% of the Okinawan citizens voting said yes to the proposal of reducing the number of US bases.

Last April, President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto declared that US military personnel in Japan would have to remain at the present level of approximately 59,000. More than 75% of the land which US forces occupy in Japan is on Okinawa. In an attempt to quiet a growing opposition, Clinton has offered to reduce US military holdings of Okinawan land and shift some troops and bases to other places on Okinawa and mainland Japan.

Anti-base sentiment has intensified both on Okinawa and mainland Japan, particularly in areas singled out for possible re-assignment of US military personnel and facilities.

This issue has re-awakened Okinawan aspirations for self-determination. The island, formerly an independent nation was annexed by Japan in 1879.

Hawai'i

The US military occupies 10% of the land in Hawai'i and nearly 25% of the island of O'ahu. Land is a precious resource, and for many, a sacred one. These vast military land holdings mean that fewer acres are available to civilians for housing, food cultivation, and community activities. Many sites are leased long-term by the military for only \$1 rent.

Nuclear fuel, ammunition, toxic wastes, airplane fuel, solvents, insecticides and herbicides are stored and used on these lands. Live fire exercises and other military training occur regularly. Thousands of kanaka maoli remain on a waiting list for Hawaiian Homestead Land. As many as 20,000 people are homeless in Hawai'i.

Local residents often find themselves competing with military dependents for jobs and housing. In addition, military commissaries and a bureaucratic procurement system force local enterprises to compete against large outside corporations for the small percentage of military dollars which actually leave the base.

The independent nation of Hawai'i was overthrown by foreign businessmen in collusion with US Marines in 1893. Hawai'i was annexed to the US in 1898.

US Military Bases Out of Okinawa • Out of Hawai'i

American Friends Service Committee
Hawai'i Area Program

2426 O'ahu Avenue • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822
Phone (808) 988-6266 Fax (808) 988-4876