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UNITED STATES POLITICAL ADVISER  
FOR JAPAN

1947 SEP 30 AM 11 40

Tokyo, September 22, 1947.

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CONFIDENTIAL FACILITIES BRANCH

No. 1293

Original to FE  
Mr Malone

SUBJECT: Emperor of Japan's Opinion Concerning the Future of  
the Ryukyu Islands.

10/6/47 CB

The Honorable  
The Secretary of State,  
Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose copy of a self-explanatory memorandum for General MacArthur, September 20, 1947, containing the gist of a conversation with Mr. Hidenari Terasaki, an adviser to the Emperor, who called at this Office at his own request.

It will be noted that the Emperor of Japan hopes that the United States will continue the military occupation of Okinawa and other islands of the Ryukyus, a hope which undoubtedly is largely based upon self-interest. The Emperor also envisages a continuation of United States military occupation of these islands through the medium of a long-term lease. In his opinion, the Japanese people would thereby be convinced that the United States has no ulterior motives and would welcome United States occupation for military purposes.

YR  
811.24590

Respectfully yours,

*W. J. Sebald*

W. J. Sebald  
Counselor of Mission

lpm

Enclosure:

Copy of memorandum for General MacArthur, September 20, 1947.

Original to Department.

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WJSebald:lh

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By [signature] NARA Date 2/6/98

Enclosure to Despatch No. 1293 dated September 22, 1947 from the United States Political Adviser for Japan, Tokyo, on the subject "Emperor of Japan's Opinion Concerning the Future of the Ryukyu Islands".

COPY

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS  
SUPREME COMMANDER FOR THE ALLIED POWERS

Diplomatic Section

~~TOP SECRET~~  
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20 September 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR: General MacArthur

Mr. Hidenari Terasaki, an adviser to the Emperor, called by appointment for the purpose of conveying to me the Emperor's ideas concerning the future of Okinawa.

Mr. Terasaki stated that the Emperor hopes that the United States will continue the military occupation of Okinawa and other islands of the Ryukyus. In the Emperor's opinion, such occupation would benefit the United States and also provide protection for Japan. The Emperor feels that such a move would meet with widespread approval among the Japanese people who fear not only the menace of Russia, but after the Occupation has ended, the growth of rightist and leftist groups which might give rise to an "incident" which Russia could use as a basis for interfering internally in Japan.

The Emperor further feels that United States military occupation of Okinawa (and such other islands as may be required) should be based upon the fiction of a long-term lease--25 to 50 years or more--with sovereignty retained in Japan. According to the Emperor, this method of occupation would convince the Japanese people that the United States has no permanent designs on the Ryukyu Islands, and other nations, particularly Soviet Russia and China, would thereby be estopped from demanding similar rights.

As to procedure, Mr. Terasaki felt that the acquisition of "military base rights" (of Okinawa and other islands in the Ryukyus) should be by bilateral treaty between the United States and Japan rather than form part of the Allied peace treaty with Japan. The latter method, according to Mr. Terasaki, would savor too much of a dictated peace and might in the future endanger the sympathetic understanding of the Japanese people.

/s/ W. J. Sebald

W. J. Sebald

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BY	<u>Roby N. Gibson - RMS</u>

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