CONFIDENTIAL

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NSC-10 R=03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USA-12 T-03 GAC-01
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R 172861Z MAY 72
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 889
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO JAPAN
CINCPAC
OAC FORT BUCKNER

CONFIDENTIAL NAHA 100
SUBJ: OKINAWA REVERSION: LOCAL REACTION

1. OKINAWA PUBLIC REACTION TO REVERSION ON 15 MAY HAS BEEN RESTRAINED
WITH VIRTUALLY NO SPONTANEOUS DISPLAYS OF EXUBERANCE. LOW-KEY RES-
PONSE WAS REINFORCED BY HEAVY RAINS WHICH CAUSED CANCELLATION OF SOME
PLANNED COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS.

2. IN STATEMENT 15 MAY, GOVERNOR YARA SAID HE APPRECIATED US AND
GOJ ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION BUT EXAMINATION OF REVERSION
AGREEMENT REVEALED MANY UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS, SUCH AS CONTINUED PRE-
SENCE OF BASES. THEREFORE REVERSION WAS NOT COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY.

3. OKINAWA TIMES LEAD STORY 15 MAY REFLECTED SOMewhat CRITICAL
TENOR OF OVERALL PRESS REPORTING. ARTICLE ALSO NOTED "UNFORTUNATELY"
BASES REMAIN, SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS MUST STILL BE SOLVED
AND SECRETARY ROGERS LETTER TO FONG FUKUDA RE NUCLEAR WEAPONS

REMOVAL WAS VAGUE AND DID NOT ELIMINATE CONCERN FROM MINDS OF
LOCAL PEOPLE.

4. POLITICAL PARTIES TOOK PREDICTABLE PUBLIC POSITIONS, OLD/P
WELCOMED REVERSION, DESCRIBING IT AS REALIZATION OF PREFECTURAL
PEOPLE'S DESIRES. NEXT GOAL SHOULD BE DEVELOPMENT OF PEACEFUL
AND PROSPEROUS PREFECTURE. OSP, OPP, OSP AND KOMEITO ALL
SOUNDED VARIATIONS ON FAMILIAR THEME THAT REVERSION AGREEMENT HAD DISREGARDED LOCAL DESIRES. PRIMARY FOCUS OF REFORMIST DISCONTENT WAS CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S. BASES AND DEPLOYMENT OF JSDF TO OKINAWA. FOR OPP. REVERSION DAY WAS ONE OF "HUMILIATION" AND ANGER TOWARD SATO GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO OPP, REVERSION WAS NEW "SACRIFICE" BY OKINAWAN PEOPLE.

5. BOTH GOV. AND PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT HELD REVERSION CEREMONIES AT NAHA CIVIC AUDITORIUM. RANKING JAPANESE IN ATTENDANCE INCLUDED PMO SECGEN YAMANAKA, AMBASSADOR TAKASE, GOVERNOR YARA, FONMIN PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER ONISHI AND SEVERAL PREFECTURAL GOVERNORS. U.S. REPRESENTED AT BOTH CEREMONIES BY CONSUL GENERAL. NO DELIVERED CONGRATULATORY REMARKS. MILITARY COMMANDERS, AND SOME FORMER USCAR OFFICERS. SPEAKERS AT THESE EVENTS LIMITED THEMSELVES TO EXPRESSIONS OF HAPPINESS THAT REVERSION ACCOMPLISHED.

STATEMENTS OF GOODWILL AND PLEDGES TO PROMOTE OKINAWAN DEVELOPMENT. NOTABLE EXCEPTION WAS NAHA MAYOR Taira (SBMP) WHO USED PREFECTURAL CEREMONY PLATFORM FOR VITRIOLIC ATTACK ON JUST-ENDED U.S. CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

6. WHILE PREFECTURAL CEREMONIES UNDERWAY IN CIVIC CENTER, FUJIKIYO SPONSORED OPPOSITION "PREFECTURAL PEOPLE'S RALLY" IN NEIGHBORING YOGI PARK. APPROXIMATELY 6000 (POLICE FIGURE) REFORMIST PARTY MEMBERS, UNIONISTS, AND MEMBERS OF "DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS" HUDDLED UNDER UMBRELLAS TO HEAR REFORMISTS' SPEAKERS CONDEMN JUM MAY REVERSION AS "INCOMPLETE." ALSO APPEARING WAS UNIDENTIFIED AMERICAN WHO CLAIMING TO SPEAK FOR ANTI-MAR SI'S, ASSAILED "U.S. AND JAPANESE IMPERIALISM." REPRESENTATIVE RALLY THEMES INCLUDED DEMANDS FOR AUTOYOMY FOR OKINAWA PREFECTURE. COMPENSATION BY GOJ FOR FINANCIAL LOSSES PRODUCED BY DOLLAR-YEN CONVERSION WHICH RESULTED IN 8 ARRESTS.

7. COMMENT: LOW KEY RESPONSE OF OKINAWANS TO REALITY OF REVERSION.
IS PROBABLY RESULT OF SEVERAL FACTORS IN COMBINATION, NOT LEAST OF WHICH WAS TORRENTIAL RAIN ON 14 AND 15 MAY. OTHER IMPORTANT ELEMENTS INCLUDE: APPREHENSION OVER LOCAL ECONOMIC FUTURE; WEARINESS INDUCED BY FACT REVERSION HAS BEEN PRIMARY POLITICAL ISSUE FOR 3 YEARS; ADVANCE PREPARATIONS MADE BY USG, GOJ AND GRI; AND FACT THAT IN AT LEAST SOME RESPECTS OKINAWA ALREADY PARTICIPATING IN JAPANESE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES. PETREE GP-4