



Peace Depot Newsletter

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●The "Peace Depot Newsletter" reports the activities of the Peace Depot, a non-profit and independent peace research, education and information institution.

●For subscription, please write to the office below. The "Newsletter" is free to overseas subscribers for the time being. Those who read Japanese are encouraged to subscribe to our bi-weekly journal "Nuclear Weapon & Nuclear Test Monitor" by sending ¥ 5,000 per year.

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"India-Pakistan Special Update" started

The nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan respectively were an enormous shock to people in Japan. Both Houses of the Japanese Diet passed a unanimous resolution to protest against the tests. Also, local authorities, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki, made similar resolutions or issued statements against the tests. NGOs and grassroots organizations across Japan added to the protest by demonstrating in front of the

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Indian and Pakistani embassies or in the streets of Japan.

Unfortunately this spate of protests was not necessarily supported by adequate analysis of both nations' nuclear tests, nor future prospects for global nuclear disarmament. The Peace Depot took up the role of providing accurate information about the tests, including their impact on global nuclear disarmament, to citizens, journalists, specialists, local governments, NGOs and grassroots organizations. The Peace Depot collected, organized and analyzed the enormous amount of information that was generated by the mass media and on the Internet.

In order to disseminate this information, on June 29, the Peace Depot started issuing "India-Pakistan Special Update (IPSU)", a Japanese-language report sent by fax and e-mail. IPSU, which is revised about every 3 days, has as many as 50 readers to date. Please refer to the sidebar at the right for a list of the titles

of major reports in IPSU to date.

IPSU is issued by the Peace Depot India-Pakistan Project Team which has a full-time staffperson in charge of its editing. The Team, financially supported by citizens, will carry out the project during its first phase, which will end early August.

Some titles from the "India-Pakistan Special Updates (IPSU)" thus far:

- ◆ Vajpayee's speech in the Indian Parliament, May 27, 1998
- ◆ Sharif's statement on nuclear test, May 28, 1998
- ◆ Summary of responses to the I-P nuclear tests:
 - G8 Summit statement, May 15, 1998
 - CD statement, Jun. 2, 1998
 - P5 ministerial meeting joint statement, Jun. 4, 1998
 - UNSC resolution, Jun. 6, 1998
 - 8 nations foreign ministers joint statement, Jun. 9, 1998
 - G8 ministerial meeting, Jun. 12, 1998
 - other countries, such as Iraq, UAE and Saudi Arabia
- ◆ U.S.-China agreement regarding I-P nuclear tests and non-proliferation, and India's response
- ◆ Summary of outside assistance to I-P nuclear programs
- ◆ Indian NGOs' and scientists' statements against the nuclear tests
- ◆ Summary of Japanese political parties' response to I-P nuclear tests and nuclear weapon policies
- ◆ Daily chronologies of global response to I-P nuclear tests

The Peace Depot in the Media and the Public

One of the most controversial issues in the current Japanese politics is the new Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation along with related new bills to the Diet. (Please refer to the articles on page 3.) Almost everyday, the Peace Depot has been giving interviews to the mass media on issues of great interest to people, such as the Guidelines and the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan. Also, the Peace Depot responds to frequent requests from local governments and citizens for information about various subjects related to peace and security.

The Peace Depot's main activities in the Japanese mass media or public institutions

(from January to June, 1998)

[Jan. 20]

NHK, a semi-national broadcasting station, broadcasted a TV program, which introduced the Peace Depot's survey activities of U.S. Forces Japan based on U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

[Feb. 11]

The Okinawa Times ran a commentary by UMEBAYASHI Hiromichi, the Executive Director of the Peace Depot, about the refusal by OTA Masahide, Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, of building an offshore heliport which has been planned in exchange for the return of the U.S. Base Futenma, Okinawa.

[Mar. 3]

UMEBAYASHI lectured on the Japanese Constitution and the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty at the Peace and Human Rights Class sponsored by Kanagawa Prefecture.

[Mar. 14]

UMEBAYASHI lectured on

environmental pollution by U.S. military bases in Japan at a meeting of the Association of Health Insurance of Kanagawa Pref.

[Mar. 16]

HATTORI Manabu, the President of the Peace Depot, talked with the former crew of the Fifth Fukuryu-maru, a fishing boat exposed to radiation by a U.S. nuclear test off Bikini in the Pacific in 1954.

[Mar. 28]

UMEBAYASHI lectured about Okinawa at a peace seminar sponsored by Urayasu City, Chiba Pref.

[Apr. 27]

The Urban Chemical Laboratory, a private institute, visited the Peace Depot to collect information about Okinawa.

[May 12]

UMEBAYASHI was interviewed by a NHK TV news program right after India carried out nuclear tests.

[May 13]

NHK visited the Peace Depot to interview and video-tape its staff for a program featuring India's nuclear tests.

[May 23]

UMEBAYASHI said, in his commentary in Mainichi Shimbun Newspaper, a nationwide paper, that the ruling and opposition parties should debate Japanese policies on nuclear weapons. A similar article appeared in the June 24th issue of The Japan Times, before the election of the Upper House of Japanese Diet on July 12. (Refer to page 4)

[Jun. 12]

KAWASAKI Akira, a staffperson of the Peace Depot, briefed the Chair of the Editorial Board of The Asahi Shimbun Newspaper, another nationwide paper, on NGO arguments for inclusion of the use of nuclear weapons into war crimes under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Commentary:

New Japan-U.S. Guidelines on Defense brings instability to the Asia-Pacific

■New Guidelines Agreed

The Japanese and the U.S. governments agreed to the Guidelines for Defense Cooperation on September 24, 1997 in New York. The former Guidelines were agreed to by the two governments in 1978, during the Cold War era. The Guidelines became out-of-date and not well-suited for the U.S. post-Cold War strategy which anticipated the increased likelihood of regional conflicts. In the Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security that was announced in Tokyo in April 1996, renewal of the Guidelines was identified as one of the most important bilateral matters along with relocation of the U.S. bases in Okinawa.

The Guidelines, renewed in the fall of 1997, can be seen as Japan's diplomatic commitment to the U.S., in which Japan, in effect, agrees to totally alter Japan-U.S. defense system and even Japan's own security policy, as explained below.

■Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan

First, the Japan-U.S. joint defense operations will be done in a larger area. The area of operations which was defined in the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty of 1960 and the former Guidelines of 1978 was "within the Japanese territory" and "the Far East." "The Far East", according to the Japanese government's official statement, was clearly defined as north of the Philippines. This definition includes areas outside of Japanese territory, but it was officially explained that the Self-Defense Forces (SDF), the Japanese military forces, would be allowed to operate only within the Japanese territory.

In the new Guidelines, "the Far East" was replaced with a vague term, "Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan", which is defined abstractly as follows: "The concept, situations in areas surrounding Japan, is not geographic but situational." This means Japan can cooperate with U.S. military operations whenever "the situation of the matter" requires.

■Expansion of Military Cooperation

Second, the new Guidelines substantially expand and concretely specify activities that the Japanese forces are supposed to do in cooperation with the U.S. Forces as follows:

(1) Logistics;

It includes vague operations in various categories: from cooperations in communication, transportation of goods, supply and repair work at U.S. bases in Japanese territory, to similar operations in the vicinity of battlefields outside Japanese territory.

(2) Operations related to search and rescue of wounded U.S. soldiers;

(3) Inspection of ships based on the U.N. Security Council resolution;

Most of these operations, according to the Japanese government's statements thus far, have been included in the categories of "the use of force" or "the use of collective self-defense rights", which are banned by the Japanese Constitution. The promises Japan made to the U.S. in the new Guidelines ensure a virtual realignment of the Japanese Constitutional system.

■Integration of Military Management

Third, both U.S. and Japanese military forces will further tighten their already integrated management. The governments carefully and rather vaguely call it "Coordination mechanism" or "Comprehensive mechanism" in the new Guidelines. But the governments' real objective is to establish a thoroughly integrated, U.S.-led operation command, to effectively collect information, and to plan and carry out operations.

■Cooperation of Local Governments

Finally, the range of collaborators connected to U.S. operations includes not only the central government and the SDF, but also local governments, private sectors and citizens. According to the new Guidelines, Japanese civilian ports and hospitals, which are under the control of local authorities, would also be forcibly involved in the operations.

■Bills to be Deliberated

In April 1998, a series of bills to facilitate the implementation of the Japan's above-mentioned commitments was presented to the Japanese Diet. The Opposition Parties and peace movements point out that, in addition to the above-mentioned geographical and quantitative expansion of cooperation with the U.S., the bills would enable the Japanese government to provide enhanced assistance to the U.S. by means of a quite simplified legal procedure which only requires the government to report to the Diet, not to seek the Diet's approval. The bills, one of which is called the "Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan Act", will be deliberated in the Diet after the election of the Upper House on July 12.

However, the new Guidelines have actually been already applied without waiting for the legal procedure in the Diet.

■Warship Diplomacy

In early September 1997, the aircraft carrier Independence, which is homeported in Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, visited Otaru port, a civilian port located on Japan's Sea of Hokkaido. This was the first time a U.S. aircraft carrier had visited a Japanese civilian

port. During its visit, the Otaru City and private companies had to provide all the necessary assistance. From September 1997 to June 1998, as many as seven warships of the U.S. Pacific Fleet visited civilian ports. It can be described as "warship diplomacy" to celebrate the new Guidelines.

When a showdown between the U.S. and Iraq seemed imminent early in 1998, the Independence left Yokosuka with its escort boats. The fleet was on duty in the Middle East without visiting any other port in other nations before it came back on June 5, 1998. Peace advocates were on alert, saying that "Situations in Areas Surrounding Japan" could be interpreted widely enough to include conflicts in the Persian Gulf.

■Kobe at Stake

Another critical event happened in Kobe port. Since 1975, Kobe City has ordered any foreign warship entering its port to submit a document certifying that it

is nuclear-free. All 17 warships that visited Kobe, including three vessels from France, one of the nuclear weapon states, had submitted the certificate and were allowed to use the port, until late May 1998 when a Canadian supply ship came to Kobe without submitting the required certificate, but with the Japanese government's comment that Canada is a non-nuclear weapon state. The incident clearly demonstrates that the Japanese government wants to preemptively remove any obstacles such as local governments' approval that could prevent U.S. warships from using civilian ports in Japan.

■New Guidelines lead instability in Asia-Pacific

Thus Japan, ten years after the end of the Cold War, is on a slippery slope to militarism under the new Guidelines. The Guidelines will nurture neither trust nor understanding, but bring only suspicion, threat, and elements of instability to prompt an arms race in the Asia-Pacific region. (TAMAKI Kazuhiko)

(This is a reprint from the article in [The Japan Times](#))

Peace activist wants defense policy to steer upcoming election

The Japan Times

Jun. 24, 1998

by YAMAGIWA Hiroshi

Yokohama-based peace activist UMEBAYASHI Hiromichi hopes the July 12 Upper House election will be a critical test for Japan's defense policy.

UMEBAYASHI said campaign issues should include whether Japan should expand defense cooperation with the United States as well as how it should address the global risk of nuclear proliferation.

"The peace policies of the political parties have become unclear because of the ongoing political realignment," he said in an interview, adding that the coming election will help sort things out.

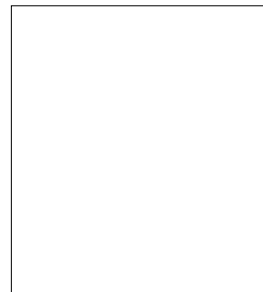
UMEBAYASHI, who has a doctorate in physics, is an international coordinator for the Pacific Campaign for Disarmament and Security, a civic group. Born in 1937, he has engaged in numerous activities against war and nuclear weapons.

His particular focus in the July election is on the Democratic Party of Japan, because it is the largest opposition party and the only capable of challenging the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The DPJ has not clarified its position on security and

disarmament matters, he said, pointing to the party's internal differences on defense issues. The DPJ was expanded in April through a merger with three other forces.

The government has



UMEBAYASHI Hiromichi

submitted controversial bills to the Diet that would enable Japan to provide support for U.S. military in emergencies in areas surrounding Japan. Opponents such as UMEBAYASHI fear the expanded security arrangements would only throw the Self-Defense Forces into the U.S. global strategy.

The bills are intended to implement measures spelled out in updated bilateral defense cooperation guidelines, which were adopted last fall.

Passage of the bills would "change the postwar social order based on the pacifist Constitution," he said. "For or against, we must face the issue and debate."

UMEBAYASHI said the point of pre-election debate is to decide the fate of the bills. He said he hopes the DPJ will present a counterproposal on how Japan can ensure regional security.

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“Nuclear Weapon & Nuclear Test Monitor (NWNTM)”

NWNTM, a bi-weekly Japanese periodical co-published by the Peace Depot and the Pacific Campaign for Disarmament and Security (PCDS), provides information on nuclear disarmament to about 700 subscribers at present. Please refer to the main articles and resources as follows.

The Peace Depot also published a booklet of copies of NWNTM bounding from its first issue to the 50th (From July 15 1995 to August 1 1997). This booklet has been regarded highly valuable as an information source, and sells well.

Some Items from the recent issues of NWNTM

(from April 1 to July 1, 1998)

Articles

April

- ◆ New Indian coalition government needs monitoring because of its new nuclear policy
- ◆ U.S. conducted the 3rd subcritical test: aged plutonium was used for the first time
- ◆ Introduction of Australian NGO's work to extend municipalities' resolutions to support Nuclear Weapon Convention
- ◆ 1st session of Conference on Disarmament (CD) closed; no agreement achieved on ad hoc committee nor special coordinator on nuclear disarmament
- ◆ A jury at Reading Crown Court in the U.K. was unable to reach a verdict in the case of two peace activists on trial for causing damage to the fence at a nuclear weapon facility. It was the first time that a Crown Court accepted an international law defense involving the Advisory Opinion of International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the legality of nuclear weapons.
- ◆ U.K. Air Force has dismantled all its nuclear bombs

- ◆ Commentary on the International Law's framework banning wars
- ◆ U.S. Department of Defense announced the need for new rounds of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), while a land owner sued for the reversion of his land in the U.S. Communication Base Kamiseya, Yokohama, whose lease contract has expired.
- ◆ Abolition 2000 International Petition “Missiles to Sunflowers” is spreading in Japan

May

- ◆ Introduction of a new report, “Nuclear Futures: Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and U.S. Nuclear Strategy” (Hans Kristensen): New U.S. nuclear doctrine is designed to increase the U.S.'s ability to target facilities of weapons of mass destruction in the Third World.
- ◆ 93% of Canadian public supports the negotiation for a treaty to ban nuclear weapons: a report from an opinion poll
- ◆ France and U.K. ratified Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- ◆ Introduction of the arguments for establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC): Timeline, complementarity, independence of prosecutor, roles of U.N. Security Council and definition of

war crimes, especially inclusion of the use of nuclear weapons

- ◆ Four Parties Talk on peace on the Korean Peninsula: background and current situation

June

- ◆ India and Pakistan conducted nuclear tests: Nuclear weapon abolition movement came to a turning point.
- ◆ Editorial: The Democratic Party of Japan, the largest opposition party, should make clear its position regarding how its nuclear weapon policy differs from that of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.
- ◆ Taking Okinawa to the Hague: a report of the meeting of the Organizing Committee of Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 (HAP99) in Geneva
- ◆ A call for support of the 8 nations which announced the need for “New agenda for nuclear-weapon-free world”
- ◆ Introduction of the arguments of NPT 2nd PrepComm in Geneva, as well as the arguments and proposals of NGOs, including those at the Annual Meeting of Abolition 2000

July

- ◆ Japanese government did not call for inclusion of the use of nuclear weapons as a war crime at the

Nuclear Weapon & Nuclear Test Monitor

Diplomatic Conference in Rome to establish ICC

others

Essays from advisors, Japanese journalists

Resources (in Japanese)

India-Pakistan

- ◆ Excerpt from the National Agenda of BJP-led new coalition government in India, mentioning India's exercising of the nuclear weapons option, Mar. 18, 1998
- ◆ A letter from U.K. Nuclear Free Local Authorities Association to Indian new government requesting stop of nuclear weapon development, Mar. 25, 1998
- ◆ The Indian government's Announcement of the nuclear tests, May 11, 1998
- ◆ The Indian government's Press Release on the nuclear tests, May 13, 1998
- ◆ Joint Statement by Indian Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO), May 17, 1998
- ◆ Questions and answers at the press conference attended by persons in charge of DAE and DRDO
- ◆ Summary of the technical information of the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan
- ◆ Daily chronologies of the global/national response to the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan

NPT PrepComm

- ◆ Statement by Ambassador A. Hayashi representing Japan, Apr. 27, 1998
- ◆ Working paper submitted by Japan on "Practical aspects of nuclear disarmament", Apr. 29, 1998

- ◆ Working paper submitted by Japan on "Some additional elements to be incorporated in the recommendations to the 2000 Review Conference", May 1, 1998
- ◆ NGO's proposal entitled "Some short-term steps towards achieving the nuclear disarmament goal of Article VI of the NPT", May 5, 1998

Subcritical tests

- ◆ Resolution of European Parliament on subcritical tests, Feb. 19, 1998
- ◆ Announcement of U.S. Department of Energy on the 3rd subcritical test to be conducted, Mar. 19, 1998

Other nuclear issues

- ◆ Shinjuku City Council's resolution, adopted on Mar. 25, 1998, to support the Civilian

Leaders Statement for Nuclear Weapon Abolition issued on Feb. 2, 1998

- ◆ Statement by foreign ministers from 8 nations including Ireland, South Africa and others entitled "Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: The need for a New Agenda", Jun. 6, 1998
- ◆ Japanese Cabinet's reply in the Diet that "the use of nuclear weapons is consistent with the Japanese Constitution.", Jun. 17, 1998

U.S.-Japan Military Alliance

- ◆ Comparison of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between U.S.-Japan and U.S.-Germany

others

Daily Chronologies of Japanese Diet and national/global politics on nuclear disarmament and security

Peace activist wants defense policy to steer upcoming election

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His own idea is to form a nonnuclear zone covering Japan and North and South Korea, coupled with a reduction in SDF and U.S. forces in Japan.

UMEBAYASHI's other major concern is the danger of global nuclear proliferation, especially after the recent atomic tests conducted by India and Pakistan. He said Japan, the only country attacked with nuclear weapons, should take the initiative to campaign for global nuclear disarmament.

"Political will is indispensable," he said, lamenting that no party is ready to take action. Eight countries including Ireland and New Zealand launched a joint antinuclear initiative earlier this month, he added.

It is often said that Japan itself is protected by the U.S. "nuclear umbrella," which makes Japanese nuclear protests appear hypocritical. But UMEBAYASHI said Japan can now take a nonnuclear stance by separating the issue from its security treaty with the U.S.

Unlike during the Cold War, when the security treaty virtually meant a nuclear-oriented treaty, the U.S. has changed its stance, he said.

"A security treaty without nukes would not shake the entire U.S. nuclear strategy any more."

The bilateral security treaty should eventually be replaced by a regional security framework, he said, but adding that gradual steps are necessary to avoid worrying Japan's Asian neighbors, who fear a resurgence of the Japanese militarism.

Other Activities

of the Peace Depot

● International Participation

1. *International Conferences*

The Peace Depot sent delegates to international conferences to strengthen collaboration with overseas NGOs. It selected its younger staffperson as delegates.

a. **Attending the Annual Meeting of Abolition 2000**

In May 1998, the Peace Depot sent one of its staffperson, KAWASAKI Akira, to Geneva to attend a series of NGO events, including the Annual Meeting of Abolition 2000, a global network to eliminate nuclear weapons, which was held in connection with the 2nd NPT PrepComm (the Second Preparatory Committee on the Strengthened Review Progress of the Non-Proliferation Treaty of Nuclear Weapons). His trip was entirely paid for by the donations raised from among the members of the Peace Depot.

b. **Attending the 2nd Korean and Japanese Youth Forum**

The Forum was held in Seoul and other cities in R.O.K. from June 24 to June 28. The theme of the Forum was what peace activists should do to bring about peace in Northeast Asia, amidst political and social transformation in the Korean Peninsula. Representing Japan, KASAMOTO Takao, a staffperson of the Peace Depot, attended the Forum and raised issues. Many young peace activists including Koreans, Japanese and Koreans living in Japan, had a good time and exchanged friendship with each other.

2. *Preparatory works for the Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 (HAP99)*

While introducing HAP99, a global peace event to be held in Hague in

1999, to Japanese people, the Peace Depot appeals to Japanese NGOs and local governments, particularly those in Okinawa, to participate in it. Hopefully Okinawans' participation will prompt profound discussions at HAP99 of peace issues from the viewpoint of those who suffer from human rights abuses and environment destruction as a result of military bases. Refer to page 8 on Okinawan Campaign for HAP99.

● Supporting the Disarmament and Security Seminar (DSS)

The Peace Depot supports the Disarmament and Security Seminar (DSS), a voluntary peace study group in Yokohama, launched in April 1998, to develop and expand thinking on disarmament.

DSS has dealt with the following materials thus far:

- ◆ Headquarters, U.S. Forces Japan "Environmental Governing Standards" [Jan. 1997]
- ◆ Effects of the Depleted Uranium (DU) Exposures in the Persian Gulf War [Mar. 1998]
- ◆ United States General Accounting Office "Issues Involved in Reducing the Impact of the U.S. Military Presence on Okinawa" [Mar. 1998] - Especially the problems associated with the planned sea-based facility
- ◆ NRDC Nuclear Program "Taking Stock: Worldwide Nuclear Deployments 1998" [Mar. 1998]

● Planned publication

1. *"Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Free Local Authorities 1998"*

This 100 page booklet, to be

published on July 21, intends to provide information about the past year's global/national events and efforts towards nuclear disarmament and to offer practical strategies and policies that can be adopted by nuclear free local authorities in Japan. The booklet is supervised by UMEBAYASHI Hiromichi and MAEDA Tetsuo and commended by KYAN Kaoru, the Chairperson of the National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities which has about 300 members from among nearly 2300 local authorities that have declared for freedom from nuclear weapons in Japan.

2. *A booklet based on the International Forum "Dialogue, not Forces!—Roles of NGOs in Asia-Pacific Regional Security"*

A booklet based on the Forum co-sponsored by the Peace Depot and PCDS, November 1997, simultaneously held with the Peace Depot's first general assembly, is going to be published soon.

3. *"U.S. Forces Operations in Japan as grasped by FOIA"*

UMEBAYASHI visited Washington in February 1998 to gather information as a final part of the Peace Depot's continuous survey of the operations of the U.S. Forces Japan. The summary report will be published this year.

● Launching preparatory work to be incorporated

Thanks to the extensive activities by Japanese citizens, the Non-Profit Organization Act (NPOA) was passed in the Japanese Diet in March 1998. NPOA, which is coming into force by the end of 1998, facilitates NGOs and NPOs in becoming corporate bodies. The Peace Depot has launched preparations to be incorporated by NPOA.

Take OKINAWA to The Hague!

Okinawan Campaign Being Launched

Okinawans are going to launch a campaign to take Okinawan issues to the Citizens' Peace Conference to be held in The Hague, Netherlands on 11-16 May 1999. This campaign embodies the aspirations of the people of Okinawa to ensure that the global significance of their struggle becomes better known and understood by citizens throughout the world. Okinawans are regarded as having a unique contribution to make to this important event. By bringing their current ideas and activities to The Hague — ideas and activities that are rooted in their tragic history of war — Okinawans will not only call attention to their refusal of U.S. military bases in their communities, but they will call attention to the high moral principle which refuses war itself.

The Citizens' Peace Conference in The Hague in 1999 is an NGO (nongovernmental organization) conference which will be the culmination of the Campaign "Hague Appeal for Peace 1999 (HAP99)." It is planned to take place in close conjunction with the government-level meetings, including those in The Hague on May 17-18 to celebrate the centennial of the Hague World Peace Conference in 1899. The "Hague Appeal for Peace 1999" is also a member of "Friends of 1999," the official body mandated to support and prepare for the government-level events.

Significance of OKINAWA at The Hague

There are two key concepts in the HAP99 Campaign: "the banning of war" and "international law." Related to these, discussed in the Campaign are: 1) disarmament, 2) strengthening the rule of international law and its institutions, 3) conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building, and 4) root causes of war and culture for peace. In the context of these Campaign ideas and objectives, it would be very meaningful to introduce the Okinawan struggle to this important international conference.

First, Okinawa is a direct witness of war. It is a rare historic occurrence that an entire population and its geographical area are victimized by bloody close combat and that there are people who are still alive to recount the island-wide experiences. Their graphic narration reminds us of the sad truths of war such as: "the military didn't protect citizens" and "everything was lost as the daily life space turned into a battle field." In spite of the passage of time and the alleged erosion of these experiences in younger generations, the horrific experiences continue to stream out in the islanders popular and universal sentiment of — "No more war!"

Second, there is a massive popular resistance in Okinawa to

pressure from the Japanese and the United States governments to continue to maintain the overwhelming presence of the U.S. military bases on Okinawa. The consequences of what is virtually a foreign armed occupation and the varieties of resistance activities — including frequent municipality resolutions, election campaigns, refusal of land lease and subsequent court struggles, human chains surrounding the military bases, and massive assemblies and marches — should be made known to the people of the world. Among priorities for achieving the disarmament agenda in the 21st Century, should be the banning of both extraterritorial deployment of the military forces in peace time and exclusive military alliances. The current Okinawan struggle is tackling these crucial themes, which are highly relevant to the HAP99.

ACTIVITIES

The Okinawan group's plan of activities includes the following:

1) Exhibition of the "Cornerstone of Peace"

A small model or set of photo panels of the monument, "Cornerstone of Peace", with a map of Okinawa, would be exhibited. The spirit of the monument is described on a panel.

The Cornerstone of Peace is a multinational stone monument honoring all who perished in the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. The names of 236,000 war dead, including 14,000 U.S. servicemen/women, Korean victims and others, are engraved on the memorial. It demonstrates the moral principle that all human beings, friends or adversaries, are equally the victims of war.

2) Speech by the Okinawan Representative to the Citizens' Peace Conference

It would be very impactful for the Governor of Okinawa (to be elected in November) to address the international audience at the Citizens' Peace Conference in The Hague in 1999.

3) Formation of the Okinawa Citizens Delegation to the Hague

Along with preparing for the exhibition of the "Cornerstone of Peace" and arranging the Governor's speech, it will be important that Okinawa sends a sizable delegation to the HAP99 conference in order to distribute materials about the current situation in Okinawa, raise the profile of the issue, and appeal for global support. Not only written materials but visual materials will be utilized in this case.

CONTACT

Mr. IHAYoichi, Pacific Campaign for Disarmament and Security (PCDS) facilitator on Okinawa and an independent Prefectural Assemblyman of Okinawa Prefecture, is responsible for organizing the Okinawan group. His contact address for this campaign has not been established yet. So tentatively, you can get more information at the Peace Depot's office.