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Department of State

42

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 2940, June 18, 7 p.m. (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

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SENT DEPARTMENT 2940; REPEATED INFORMATION NAHA 89

On Japan bases, YOMIURI says Japanese grateful to US for defense. However, "only natural" that US forces should be withdrawn and security treaty revised as defensive strength increases; Japanese people have so understood situation, and "responsible US officials have on many occasions expressed this view. Even if Japan's defense effort does not come up to US expectations, issue must be decided in light other factors, including anti-rearmament sentiments Japanese people, limitations Japanese economic strength, and "changed world conditions." YOMIURI speculates statement may have been intended as "shock treatment, but whatever intention result has been to arouse anti-US sentiment in Japan."

On status Okinawa, YOMIURI reminds US that Japan retains nes* full sovereignty, and that peace treaty certainly did not mean annexation islands by US. Paper has never believed that US intended detain Okinawa permanently from Japan; however, Price Committees recommendations suggest plans to do just that by confronting Japan with "accomplished fact". As means coping with situation YOMIURI, while asking that government take up matter urgently with US, places main ore* on "good sense" of US to achieve wise solution. YOMIURI recognizes that while international tensions continue problem must be viewed in light defense of free world, also US treaty rights. However, at time when pressure increasing for modification excessively military aspects NATO and SEATO, Japan cannot be regarded as exception to general trend.

Only significant variation from common editorial line was that followed by YOMIURI's english-language affiliate JAPAN NEWS, which took "realistic" approach, sternly advised Japanese to abandon hopes for reacquisition former territories. News editorial (which may well not have been cleared with mother paper) reads in part as follows: "US, which has no intention giving Okinawa back to Japan, can hardly press for Russian withdrawal from Southern Kuriles. For their part, Russians will certainly make no territorial concessions as long as America is using Okinawa as powerful

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powerful military base. These are facts of life. They are direct result of Pacific war and it is no use Japan pretending they do not exist--or that if there is patience they will go away"

Less polite TOKYO SHIMBUN column says US statements in midst upper house elections "nonsensical." Price Report might seem advantageous from US point of view, but not from that of Japan or Okinawans themselves; US "silly" to think such action will assure permanent control Okinawa base. Paper recalls that in past US gave "presents" to Yoshida on eve elections; now US has reversed policy, to great disadvantage Government and Liberal-Democratic Party.

ALLISON

MGG:BLB-14

* As received. Will be serviced upon request.

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