OKINAWA WOMEN'S AMERICA PEACE CARAVAN

(February 3-17, 1996)
Okinawa, Japan's southwesternmost prefecture, is composed of more than 160 islands, of which 50 are inhabited, that are scattered over a wide sea area spanning 620 miles from east to west and 250 miles from north to south. Okinawa Prefecture currently has a population of 1.26 million. The prefecture is located in close proximity to Southeast Asia and other Pacific nations: two and a half hours to Tokyo (approximately 960 miles), one hour and 30 minutes to Shanghai, China (approximately 400 miles), and one hour to Taiwan (approximately 370 miles).

Ideally situated in Asia, Okinawa, once known as the Ryukyu Kingdom, entered into trade relations with China and Southeast Asian countries in the 14th century, establishing the Great Era of Overseas Trade. During the Kingdom Period, there developed a rich culture which gave birth to Okinawa's beautiful arts and crafts, such as the Ryukyuan performing arts, dyed textiles, lacquerware, and pottery. Furthermore, as the only Japanese prefecture with a subtropical, oceanic climate, Okinawa is blessed with a rich natural environment that includes emerald-green seas and white sandy beaches. With the introduction of bio-technology suited to the subtropical climate, Okinawa has become the nation's leading cultivator and exporter of orchids and the second leading producer of chrysanthemums.

Okinawa's natural beauty, along with its unique culture, attracts nearly 3.2 million tourists every year, from places such as Taiwan, Korea, and mainland Japan.
OKINAWAN WOMEN ACT AGAINST MILITARY VIOLENCE

c/o Space Yui, 3-9-1 Makishi Naha City, Okinawa 900 Japan
tel/FAX 098-864-1539

AMERICA PEACE CARAVAN
February 3-17, 1996
San Francisco - Washington, D.C. - New York - Honolulu

While Okinawa Prefecture comprises only 0.6% of the total land area of Japan, it bears the burden of 75% of the total U.S. military presence in Japan. Under the exceedingly unjust treatment by the Japanese government, the Okinawan people have suffered through the 27 years of U.S. military control and 23 years since Okinawa's reversion to Japan. Their livelihood and human rights have been violated throughout the 50 years of the postwar era by high-level noise pollution from military drills, aircraft accidents, environmental destruction, and the many crimes committed by U.S. military personnel. Since Okinawa's reversion to Japan in 1972, the total number of officially confirmed crimes and incidents numbers over 4,700, with 509 of those being particularly brutal.

The abduction and rape of an elementary school girl by three U.S. military personnel that occurred in September 1995 makes us realize that we must change the situation of living side by side with military bases and military personnel in an atmosphere of constant fear and tension, so that our children may grow up in a healthy environment. During the 50 years since the U.S. forces landed in Okinawa, untold numbers of girls and women have been attacked by U.S. military personnel. These crimes of sexual violence must be seen not merely as crimes committed by individual soldiers, but as crimes produced by the military system. We feel deep anger when we realize that most of these crimes have been ignored. At the same time, we issue a strong appeal for the implementation of a public system to heal the deep wounds of the victims and restore their human rights. Responding to this critical need, we have established the Rape Emergency Intervention Counseling Center - Okinawa (REICO) volunteer hotline and counseling program.

"Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence" was organized on November 8, 1995, as an outgrowth of the participation of 71 Okinawan women in the Beijing Women's Conference NGO Forum last September. We base our position on the section of the Platform of Action approved by the Beijing Women's Conference that clearly states: "Rape that takes place in a situation of armed conflict constitutes both a war crime and a crime against humanity." We are proceeding on the premise that the same holds true for Okinawa, which has long suffered a foreign military military presence. Okinawan women have resolved that we will no longer tolerate this violence and violation of human rights, and have thus petitioned the Japanese government to consolidate the U.S. bases and withdraw U.S. military personnel, review the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the Status of Forces Agreement, and award full compensation to all victims. We have conducted a signature campaign, engaged in a 12-day sit-in demonstration, and visited the both Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to issue our appeal. We have received wide support for our efforts from women throughout Japan.
Addressing the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women and the NGO Forum in her capacity as the Honorary Chairperson of the U.S. Delegation, Hillary Rodham Clinton lifted specific examples of human rights violation suffered by women in countries around the world, and issued an appeal to the women of the world, declaring, "If human rights are not protected, women's dignity cannot be guaranteed," "Women's rights are human rights," and "As we face the 21st century, let us break the silence." We issued this same appeal to women from around the world who gathered at our NGO Forum workshop on "Military Violence and Women in Okinawa."

Recognizing that the governments of all nations have pledged themselves to implementing the Platform for Action ratified in the Beijing Declaration to ensure that all governments examine their policies from the viewpoint of gender, we sincerely hope that the April meeting of Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto and U.S. President Clinton shall result in an improvement of the Okinawan situation, and in particular, that the security of the lives of women and children shall be guaranteed.

The Okinawan Women's two-week American Peace Caravan will visit four cities to share information about Okinawa and the U.S. military presence there with American women, U.S. Congresswomen, citizens, and members of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the Human Rights Commission, and discuss our common concerns for peace. We seek your support, that these encounters and exchange may build a network that results in a society that guarantees the dignity of every person, a peaceful society achieved without weapons.

January 1996

Suzuyo Takazato and Keiko Itokazu, Co-chairpersons
Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence

America Peace Caravan Schedule

Feb. 3-6: San Francisco
Feb. 6-10: Washington, D.C.
Feb. 10-14: New York City
Feb. 14-16: Honolulu

Contact

M. Matsuoka: tel 415-788-3666 fax 415-788-7324
P. Harvey: tel 202-544-7198 fax 202-544-7767
Patterson: tel 212-870-2021 fax 202-870-2055
R. Takumi: tel 808-456-2665 fax 808-586-6171
OKINAWAN WOMEN'S AMERICA PEACE CARAVAN

Caravan Coordinators

Takazato Suzuyo  Naha City Assemblywoman
Kuwae Teruko  Okinawa City Women's Affairs Department Chief
Carolyn Francis  United Methodist Missionary, Okinawa District, UCCJ

Caravan Members

Ginosa Eiko  Gushikawa City Commercial High School English teacher
Kubota Toshiko  Naha City Assemblywoman
Minamoto Hiromi  Radio Okinawa Broadcasting Corporation Producer
Miyagi Satoko  Nago City Assemblywoman
Miyagi Toshiko  Okinawa Prefecture Hospital Nutrition Section Chief
Tengan Mayumi  Ginowan Seminar House Staff, "Young Voice" Co-organizer
Toguchi Sumiko  Secretary-general, Okinawa Prefecture Liaison Council of Women's Organizations

Tomiyama Mitsue  Katsuren Town Assemblywoman
Utsumi Emiko  Instructor of Japanese Constitution
Yamauchi Sueko  Ishikawa City Assemblywoman

Yonamine Kazue  Okinawa Times reporter

Ryukyu Shimpo reporter

Takazo Suzuyo  Carolyn Francis  Kuwae Teruko  Utsumi Emiko  Ginoza Eiko
Kubota Toshiko  Tomiyama Mitsue  Toguchi Sumiko  Tengan Mayumi  Minamoto Hiromi
Miyagi Satoko  Miyagi Toshiko  Yamauchi Sueko
### Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence
#### America Peace Caravan
#### Schedule (as of Jan. 30)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat., Feb. 3: 2:20 pm</td>
<td>Depart Naha (JAL 894)</td>
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<td>4:05</td>
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<td>7:00</td>
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#### SAN FRANCISCO

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sat., Feb. 3: 11:40 am</th>
<th>Arrive in San Francisco (United flt. 810)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Check-in to The Terrace Motel, El Cerrito (tel 510-235-8335 FAX 510-235-7101)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>San Francisco contact: Martha Matsuoka (tel 415-788-3666 FAX 415-788-7324)</td>
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<td>5:00</td>
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<td>Sun., Feb. 4: daytime</td>
<td>Group 1: Visit to former Presidio military base, now national park</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group 2: Visit to Ft. Ord, military base scheduled for closure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
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| Mon., Feb. 5: 8:00 am | Breakfast meeting with the San Francisco Labor Council |
|                       | Naval Air Station tour |
|                       | Visit Asian Women's Shelter/women's groups |
|                       | Press conference |
|                       | 6:30 pm | "Survival and Self Determination" Public Forum |

| Tues., Feb. 6: 8:55 am | Depart San Francisco (United flt. 970) |

#### WASHINGTON, D.C.

| Tues., Feb. 6: 4:40 pm | Arrive Washington, D.C. (Dulles Airport) United flt. 970 |
|                       | Check-in to Holiday Inn Central (tel 202-797-1078 FAX 202-483-2000) |
|                       | Washington, D.C. contact: Pharis Harvey (tel 202-544-7198 FAX 202-544-7767) |

| Wed., Feb. 7: daytime | Visits with Congress members/staff |
|                      | Sightseeing |

| Thurs., Feb. 8: 10:00 | Visit with top staff of Sen. Barbara Boxer |
|                       | Visits with Congress members/staff |
|                       | Networking with peace, justice, women's groups |

| Fri., Feb. 9: daytime | Visits with Congress members/staff |
|                      | Networking with peace, justice, women's groups |
Depart Washington, D.C. (Dulles Airport) United Express flt. 6595

NEW YORK CITY

Arrive New York City (LaGuardia Airport) United Express flt. 6595
Check-in to Hotel Edison (tel 212-840-5000 FAX 212-596-6850)
New York City contact: Patricia Patterson (tel 212-870-2021 FAX 212-870-2055)

Mon., Feb. 12: morning
11:30 a.m.
evening

Appointments at UN with human rights, status of women staff
Group 1: UN Tour
Group 2: Exchange with Prof. Kent Calder and Princeton University faculty and students at Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
Free

Group 1: UN Tour
Group 2: Exchange with Prof. Kent Calder and Princeton University faculty and students at Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
Free

Depart New York City (Newark Airport) United flt. 837

HONOLULU

Arrive Honolulu (via San Francisco) United flt. 185
Check-in to Pagoda Hottel & Terrace (tel 808-941-6611 FAX 808-922-8061)
Honolulu contact: Roy Takumi (tel 808-456-2665 FAX 808-586-6172)
Reception at Washington Place (Governor’s Mansion)

Thurs., Feb. 15: morning
12:00

Lunch meeting with University of Hawai‘i - Manoa Women’s Studies Program staff, Women’s Center, Office of Women’s Research
Visit Hawai‘i Okinawa Center
Meeting with students and public at University of Hawai‘i - West O‘ahu
Candlelight Vigil and Public Forum at State Capitol building

Fri., Feb. 16: 8:00 am

Depart Honolulu (United flt. 827)

* * * * *
Dear Friends of Women:

Thank you for the many ways you have supported us in our struggle against military power and the accompanying sexual violence experienced by women and children in Okinawa. We want to continue to share with you the basic issues related to the massive U.S. military presence in Okinawa, together with a brief update on the actions that women in Okinawa have taken since the Fourth U.N. World Conference on Women and NGO Forum.

SEPTEMBER 10: Return from Beijing to learn of the rape of a 12-year-old Okinawa girl by 3 GIs.
SEPTEMBER 11: Press Conference to protest the rape and announce a women's rally on September 23.
SEPTEMBER 23: "Women's - Children's - Islanders Rally to Protest the Rape of a Young Girl" accompanied by a procession to Kadena Air Base gate for small demonstration.
OCTOBER 21: "Okinawa Prefecture Citizens' Protest Rally against the Rape of a Young Girl," attended by 85,000 Okinawans, including many women, youth and young families.
OCTOBER 25: Rape Crisis Counseling Center is established to provide telephone counseling and face-to-face interviews with women psychiatrists and professional counselors.
NOVEMBER 8~20: Women's Sit-in/Signature Campaign in front of Okinawa Prefecture Office.
NOVEMBER 17 ~18: Twenty-five women travel to Tokyo to protest U.S. bases in Okinawa and sexual violence against women and girls, present 55,000 signatures to the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and speak about Okinawa at citizen rallies.
NOVEMBER 29: "Okinawa Women Act against Military Violence," organized around 4 themes:
1) Regional teach-in/speak-outs on the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, the Status of Forces Agreement, and the implementation of the portions of the Platform for Action approved in Beijing that relate to military violence against women;
2) Providing information updates to women in mainland Japan and overseas;
3) Monitoring trial of three U.S. military personnel charged with rape of girl;
4) Organizing a networking tour to the U.S. in February 1996.

FEBRUARY 3~17: America Women's Peace Caravan networks with citizens/leaders in four U.S.cities.

Keiko Itokazu and Suzuyo Takazato
Co-chairpersons
To: U.S. President Bill Clinton
    Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama
    U.S. Consul - Okinawa Aloyius M. Oneal
    Commander, U.S. Forces - Okinawa Wayne E. Rollings

The Declaration of the
"Children-Women-Citizens' Rally on Violence and Human Rights Violations Against Girls and Women"

We, who have gathered today to protest the kidnapping and rape of the Okinawan elementary school girl by three U.S. military personnel on September 4, feel once again both the enormity of the terror and suffering thrust upon the young girl as she went about her daily life, and the shock and anger felt by her mother and other family members. The attack by the three assailants upon "anyone female" was not an attack upon only this one young girl and her family. Rather, it represents the violence perpetrated against all girls and women in Okinawa, and is a gross violation of human rights.

We recall and feel deep anger from the bottom of our hearts as we recognize this act as an unpermissable violation of the dignity of this young girl. At the same time, we also remember the countless numbers of other girls and women whose dignity has been trod upon these past 50 years, from the day the U.S. military forces landed on Okinawa until today, 23 years after Okinawa's reversion to Japan.

We recognize the high concentration of military bases in Okinawa and the military system as one that trains its members each day in how to kill, wound and overpower the opponent. This system turns its soldiers into war machines who inflict violence on the Okinawan community, only a chain-link fence away. Thus, this violence is not merely individual crimes committed by individual military personnel but, rather, constitutes the violence of the military system itself, violence that will continue to exist as long as military bases and military personnel remain in Okinawa.

We must alter the present social environment to ensure the physical and emotional health of Okinawan children, and to enable girls and women to live free from daily danger and stress, the same danger and stress suffered by children, women and citizens throughout the world wherever regional conflicts rage. We pledge ourselves to the building of a peaceful society free of all military power and weapons.

The women of the world who gathered this month in Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women and the NGO Forum shared reports of the violence and atrocities committed against girls and women. The Platform for Action approved by the Conference declares "rape in the conduct of armed conflict constitutes a war crime" calling upon governments and related organizations to adopt a strong stance in this regard. It is clear that Japan as a ratifier of The Convention on the Rights of the Child must take responsibility for providing medical treatment and care to restore to wholeness those children who endure human rights violations, physical and psychological wounds.
On the basis of the above, we appeal on the following points:

1) We protest strongly the rape of the elementary school girl, and call for the issuing of an apology and compensation;
2) We call on the U.S. military authorities to make public their programs related to crime prevention, sexually transmitted disease and HIV-AIDS;
3) We call for a reappraisal of the Status of Forces of Agreement;
4) We call upon the Japanese government to implement an adequate policy of protection, assistance and counseling for victims of sexual violence;
5) We call for the removal of U.S. military bases from Okinawa.

September 23, 1995

The Participants in the
Childrens - Women - Citizens' Rally on
Violence and Human Rights Violations
Against Girls and Women
1. We demand the investigation of all past crimes committed by U.S. military personnel in Okinawa, especially those crimes that constitute human rights violations against women and girls;

2. We demand the establishment of a concrete plan for the reduction and ultimate removal of all U.S. military personnel from Okinawa, especially U.S. Marine personnel;

3. We demand that the U.S. military strengthen its orientation and continuing education program to sensitize all U.S. military personnel sent overseas and their dependents to respect and uphold the basic human rights of the citizens of the country in which they are stationed, especially its women and children;

   (See Platform for Action, Article 233h)

4. We demand that the governments of Japan and the United States:

   1) implement the Platform for Action approved at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women,

   2) revise the Status of Forces Agreement, and

   3) re-examine the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, to ensure that these two documents are in accord with the Platform for Action;

5. We demand that experts on such issues as the violation of women’s human rights and the destruction of the environment be dispatched to Okinawa to investigate and evaluate the actual situation existing today.
HANA
(FLower)
Lyrics & score by Shokichi Kina

KAWA WA NAGARETE, DOKO, DOKO IKU NO
HITO WA NAGARETE, DOKO, DOKO IKUNO?
SONNA NAGARE GA TSUKUGORO NI WA
(At the time that the river and the people reach the end,)
HANA TOSHITE, HANA TOSHITE, SAKASETE AGETAI.
NAKINASAI,
WARAINASAI,
ITSU NO HI KA, ITSU NO HI KA
HANA O SAKASOYO.

NAMIDA NAGARETE, DOKO, DOKO IKUNO
AI MO NAGARETE, DOKO, DOKO IKUNO
SONNA NAGARE O KONO UCHI NI
(Where, where have the tears all gone?)
NA#INASAI,
WARAINASAI,
ITSU NO HI KA, ITSU NO HI KA
HANA O SAKASOYO.

HANA WA HANA TOSHITE WARAI MO DEKIRU
HITO WA HITO TOSHITE NAMIDA MO NAGASU
SORE GA SHIZEN NO UTA NA NO SA
(People can shed tears as only people do,)
KOKORO NO NAKA NI, KOKORO NO NAKA NI
HANA O SAKASOYO
NAKINASAI,
WARAINASAI,
ITSU, ITSU MADEMO. ITSU, ITSU MADEMO
HANA O TSUKAMOYO.

(Where, where is the river flowing?)
(Where, where are the people going?)
(May they blossom as the flowers.)
(Cry to your heart's content,)
(Laugh to your heart's content,)
(Someday, someday,)
(Let us make the flowers bloom!)

(Where, where have the tears all gone?)
(Where, where has the love all gone?)
(May they become one with the flowers.)
(Cry to your heart's content,)
(Laugh to your heart's content,)
(Someday, someday,)
(Let us make the flowers bloom!)

(Flowers can laugh as only flowers do,)
(People can shed tears as only people do,)
(This is the natural song,)
(In our hearts, in our hearts,)
(Let us make the flowers bloom,)
(Cry to your heart's content,)
(Laugh to your heart's content,)
(Let us always make the flowers bloom,)
(Let us always make the flowers bloom!)
(Let us hold fast to the flowers!)