

The original documents are located in Box C8, folder “Japan, 1969-1973 - Documents 17-22” of the Melvin Laird Papers (1941) at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
	<p>Some documents are still withdrawn</p> <p>Please refer to the Calendar of Documents for descriptions.</p>		

FILE LOCATION

LAIRD PAPERS

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by Executive Order 12356 governing access to national security information.
- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- (C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

12 SEP 1972

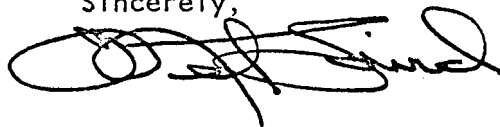
Honorable William P. Rogers
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Bill:

While I greatly appreciate the efforts being made by Alex Johnson and Ambassador Ingersoll to settle the deteriorating situation around Sagami Depot in Japan, I am becoming increasingly concerned over possible confrontations and the safety of US military personnel at this base. CINCPAC and US Commanders in Japan have ordered utmost restraint in dealing with this potentially explosive problem. However, based on the reports from US forces in Japan, it is quite clear that the Japanese agitators are not content with stopping tank movements, but are now embarked on a program of demonstrations and harassments which have already caused personnel injuries and could lead to loss of lives. The fact that the Government of Japan has been unable to curtail these acts of lawlessness, thus failing to uphold its responsibilities concerning freedom of movement between the depot and port facilities, portends a serious threat to our entire logistical base structure in Japan and Okinawa. Time and patience simply have not resulted in visible progress in resolving this issue.

I believe we need to make every effort in established diplomatic channels to bring pressure on the Government of Japan and, therefore, strongly recommend that you give favorable consideration to calling in Ambassador Ushiba and conveying to him in strong terms our concern over inaction by his government in curtailing the Sagami harassments. If the Japanese desire to share the benefits of the Security Treaty, prompt action must be taken to prevent the demonstrations at Sagami from resulting in an incident prejudicial to preservation of the good relations envisaged by President Nixon and Prime Minister Tanaka at the Honolulu summit.

Sincerely,



DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958 SEC. 3.0

date 4/17/09
MR08-09 #12: OSD Ltr 5/9/08

Classified by Director, EAPR

SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 80

BY dal NARA DATE 5/18/09

~~SECRET~~



4533

Sec Def Cont Nr. X-_____

~~SECRET~~

UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

SECRET

October 3, 1972

Dear Mel:

The Department shares your concern regarding the difficulties we have been having in moving military equipment between our bases in Japan. When I spoke to Foreign Minister Ohira at Kuilima on the subject of the Navy's desire to homeport a CVA at Yokosuka I raised this question as well. Ambassador Ushiba and American Affairs Director Okawara were also present. In pointing out the seriousness with which we view this situation, I indicated that we expect Japan to live up to its commitments and obligations under the Security Treaty and to find a solution to the impasse as quickly as possible.

Recent cable traffic from Tokyo indicates that although several shipments of Armored Personnel Carriers (APC's) from Sagami Depot to Yokohama were completed successfully, and the Japanese police mobilized for these occasions performed quickly and effectively, further APC shipments now have been temporarily blocked by the obstructionist tactics of Mayor Asukata of Yokohama. As you may be aware, the issuance of the permits for the APC shipments by the Mayors of Sagami-hara and Yokohama (the latter is a member of the opposition Japan Socialist Party) was the first part of a complicated political compromise worked out between the Japanese government and the Socialist Party and, once the APC shipments question has been resolved, there still will remain the problem of resumption of regular shipments of M-48 tanks to Yokohama's North Pier.

Japan 32061

The Honorable
Melvin R. Laird,
Secretary of Defense,
Pentagon.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 (as amended) SEC 3.3
MR # 08-11, # 13

date by 2/4/09; OSD LIA 9/14/09

By dal NARA, Date 11/9/09

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

Sec Def Cont Nr. X- 4873

C10/14A

SECRET

It appears increasingly that the only permanent solution to this latter problem may be to strengthen the bridges involved in Yokohama. Municipal officials (responding to Socialist Party instructions) and Japanese government technicians already have held discussions concerning a list of specifications for the necessary construction. In the interim, you may wish to consider the earlier proposal made by the Japanese government, and recently reaffirmed, to ship the tanks via the Numazu Beach facility until the bridge construction on the North Pier route is completed.

Ambassador Ingersoll recently has expressed in strong terms to the highest levels of the Japanese government his serious concern that the Japanese government not permit local opposition party officials, such as Mayor Asukata, to further obstruct a solution of the military shipments problem. Marshall Green reiterated these views to Ambassador Ushiba during a September 28 meeting here at State. We will continue, of course, to keep a close watch on this situation and if the Japanese government appears to be easing off in its efforts we will not hesitate to bring our concerns promptly to its attention.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,


U. Alexis Johnson

SECRET