

No. 10625

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and
JAPAN**

Exchange of notes constituting an agreement concerning preparatory measures for transfer of administrative rights over Okinawa to Japan. Tokyo, 3 March 1970

Authentic texts: Japanese and English.

Registered by the United States of America on 3 August 1970.

**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE
et
JAPON**

Échange de notes constituant un accord relatif aux mesures tendant à préparer le transfert au Japon des droits d'administration sur Okinawa. Tokyo, 3 mars 1970

Textes authentiques: japonais et anglais.

Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 3 août 1970.

EXCHANGE OF NOTES CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT¹
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
JAPAN CONCERNING PREPARATORY MEASURES FOR
TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE RIGHTS OVER OKI-
NAWA TO JAPAN

の返簡が両政府間の合意を構成することを合衆国政府に代わつて確認されれば幸いであります。
本大臣は、以上を申し進めるに際し、ここに重ねて閣下に向かつて敬意を表します。

昭和四十五年三月三日

日本国外務大臣

愛知揆一

アメリカ合衆国特命全権大使

アーミン・H・マイヤー閣下

¹ Came into force on 3 March 1970 by the exchange of the said notes.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

*The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
to the American Ambassador*

Excellency:

[See note II]

Kiichi AICHI

His Excellency Armin H. Meyer
Ambassador of the United States of America

II

*The American Ambassador to the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Japan*

No. 124

Tokyo, March 3, 1970

Excellency:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's note of today's date, which reads in the English translation thereof as follows:

"I have the honour to refer to paragraph 10 of the Joint Communiqué issued on November 21, 1969 in Washington following talks between Prime Minister Sato and President Nixon, in which the Prime Minister and the President, recognizing the complexity of the problems involved in the reversion of Okinawa, agreed that the two Governments should consult closely and cooperate on the measures necessary to assure a smooth transfer of administrative rights to the Japanese Government in accordance with reversion arrangements to be agreed to by both Governments. They agreed that the Japan-United States Consultative Committee in Tokyo should undertake overall responsibility for this preparatory work, and they decided to establish in Okinawa a Preparatory Commission for the purpose of consulting and coordinating locally on measures relating to preparation for the transfer of administrative rights, including necessary assistance to the Government of the Ryukyu Islands.

"I wish to confirm on behalf of the Government of Japan the following understandings reached between the two Governments concerning the consultation and coordination which the two Governments, seeking further to promote the welfare and interests of the inhabitants of Okinawa, are to undertake on the preparations for the return of the administrative rights over Okinawa to Japan, including the measures necessary in laying strong foundations for the Okinawa Prefecture to be established at the

time of reversion and local preparatory work as necessary to facilitate the application to Okinawa of the Status of Forces Agreement.¹

"1. The functions of the Japan-United States Consultative Committee, as set forth in paragraph 2 of the Exchange of Notes of April 25, 1964,² and as broadened by the Exchange of Notes of April 2, 1965,³ are hereby further expanded so that the Committee will undertake overall responsibility for the preparations for reversion and accordingly coordinate the basic policies of the two Governments in respect thereof, and will establish principles and guidelines for these preparations.

"2. (1) A Preparatory Commission (hereinafter referred to as 'the Commission') is hereby established in Naha as the sole official channel for local consultation and coordination between the two Governments on specific measures necessary for the carrying out of the preparations for reversion. The Commission shall function according to principles and guidelines established by the Consultative Committee.

(a) The Commission will be composed of a representative of the Government of Japan with ambassadorial rank and the High Commissioner of the Ryukyu Islands as representative of the Government of the United States, respectively supported by appropriate staff, which will include one alternate representative.

(b) The Chief Executive of the Government of the Ryukyu Islands will participate in the Commission as adviser to represent the views of the Government of the Ryukyu Islands. The Chief Executive will be supported by an appropriate staff, which will include one alternate adviser.

(2) The main functions of the Commission will be as follows:

(a) To decide, in accordance with the principles and guidelines established under paragraph 1 above, on the measures for the preparations for reversion to be taken locally as well as on implementation schedules of such measures;

(b) To undertake necessary surveys and studies in connection with (a) above;

(c) To formulate recommendations as necessary to the two Governments on the preparations for reversion; and to report from time to time on its activities under (a) and (b) above. Such recommendations and reports will be made through the Consultative Committee.

(3) The Commission may establish subcommittees as necessary.

(4) Each Government will defray support expenses for its representative, alternate representative, and supporting staff. Based on prior approval of the two Governments, common costs related to the activities of the Commission will be shared by them according to proportions to be agreed upon, subject to availability of appropriated funds.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 373, p. 207.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 530, p. 61.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 546, p. 397.

“3. In carrying out the above-mentioned consultation and co-operation, the two Governments will take into full consideration the interests of the inhabitants of Okinawa and the views of the Government of the Ryukyu Islands and, in order to achieve speedy and effective implementation of the preparations for reversion, will take appropriate measures, including necessary cooperation with the Government of the Ryukyu Islands, in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of the respective countries.

“4. The Advisory Committee to the High Commissioner of the Ryukyu Islands established under the Exchange of Notes of January 19, 1968¹ will be abolished at the earliest possible date to be agreed to by the two Governments.

“I would appreciate it if Your Excellency would confirm on behalf of your Government that the foregoing is also the understanding of your Government and the Government of the Ryukyu Islands has no objection thereto and that the present note and Your Excellency’s reply constitute an agreement between our two Governments.

“I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.”

I have the honor to confirm on behalf of my Government that the foregoing is also the understanding of my Government and the Government of the Ryukyu Islands has no objection thereto and that Your Excellency’s note and the present note in reply constitute an agreement between our two Governments.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

Armin H. MEYER

His Excellency Kiichi Aichi
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Tokyo

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 697, p. 239.