

Messrs. BRAC Commission

August 10, 2005

Apology and correction

Our correspondence dated August 9, 2005 contained the following mistake. When it arrives, please substitute with this correspondence.

Correct: In 1971, we concluded an agreement with Japanese government that they "will make utmost efforts to let the U.S side reduce the presence of Camp Zama".

Incorrect: In 1971, the U.S. government concluded an agreement with Japan stipulating that the U.S. side "will make utmost efforts to reduce the presence of Camp Zama".

Katsuji Hoshino

Mayor, Zama City, Japan and Chairman of the Zama City Association

Opposing to Strengthened Base Presence as a result of transfer of the

I Corps to Camp Zama

August 10 , 2005

Messrs. BRAC Commission

To our friends at the BRAC Commission:

We represent the people of the city where Camp Zama, one of your country's Army bases, is located in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan.

As we presume you are already aware, following the WWII, a lamentable period for both our countries, the U.S. Army Garrison known as "Camp Zama" came to be located across the border of the cities of Zama and Sagami-hara, which abuts to the north of Zama.

U.S. Armed Forces have now been stationed at Camp Zama for 60 years. Since the base takes up 3.5% of our small, densely populated city of 17.58 square kilometers (7,339 people per square kilometer), it constitutes a serious obstacle to our city planning projects. Therefore, for many years we have demanded the Japanese government to downsize the base and return the land to the city in the future from the viewpoint of the city's basic comprehensive urban planning. In 1971, we concluded an agreement with Japanese government that they "will make utmost efforts to let the U.S. side reduce the presence of Camp Zama". With this as the cornerstone, the residents of Zama have hoped that Camp Zama will be phased down in size and the land eventually returned to the city.

However, in November 2003, we were stunned at the news that, as part of the realignment of U.S. Armed Forces announced by President Bush, the I Corp, which is currently stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington, would be transferred to Camp Zama. Should this media report prove true, such plan would certainly run counter to the future plan of our city, and would of course destroy the dream of the citizens. Despite our repeated inquiries about the supposed transfer of the I Corps, both the Japanese and U.S. governments have been reluctant to clarify their true intentions, insisting that the issue is still under discussion

As the planned transfer of the command of the I Corps to our city would lead to reinforcement of the base, making it more permanent one, it would be incompatible with our comprehensive plans for the future of the city, and the increased burden of the

base would be intolerable for us. The "Zama City Association Opposing to Strengthened Base Presence" organized by the mayor and city council (26 members) and the local community has therefore united with the people of Zama to protest the transfer.

We are aware that the BRAC Commission assumes an important responsibility, but we hereby petition not to place the burden of base realignment and closure issues on us. As Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has professed that "the U.S. military would not go where they are unwelcome," we would prefer to see his words be put into action.

It has been reported in Japan that the Office of the Secretary of Defense's plans for base realignment and closure are making a huge impact on local communities and residents in your country who benefit from the bases. We are informed that in areas where bases have been closed or had their presence reduced, opposition movements are supported and they are working to have the decision repealed. If the people of the United States themselves have such strong intentions concerning closure and downsizing of the bases and are appealing for their continued existence, we, of the city of Zama, would strongly urge you to give up the plan to force the I Corps to move from Fort Lewis to Camp Zama.

It is a principle of democracy to respect the will of both the people of the United States and the city of Zama, and we believe that the American people are the leaders of democracy.

We would like to, ask the BRAC Committee to understand our earnest appeal and support our efforts in the petition to withdraw the planned transfer of the I Corps to Camp Zama.

Sincerely yours,

Katsuji Hoshino



Mayor, Zama City, Japan and Chairman of the Zama City Association
Opposing to Strengthened Base Presence as a result of transfer of the
I Corps to Camp Zama

親愛なる BRAC 委員会の皆様へ

私たちは、日本の神奈川県にある貴国軍隊の陸軍基地であるキャンゾ座間が所在する街の市民です。

貴方達は、すでにご存知であると推察いたしますが、私たちの街座間市には、日米両国にとって悲しい時代であった第2次世界大戦以後『キャンゾ座間』の名で呼ばれる貴国の陸軍司令部基地が、北部で市域を接する相模原市とまたかつて所在しています。

貴国軍隊が駐留し60年が経ちますが、17.58km²と市域の狭い私たちの街にとって、基地の存在が市域の3.5%を占めているうえ人口が密集(7,339人/km²)している市街地にあり、都市計画上非常に障害となっていることから、市の根幹である総合計画において、将来的には基地を縮小し返還してほしい旨の要望を、長年にわたり日本政府に求めてまいりました。また、1971年には、「基地の縮小に最大限の努力をする」との協定を日本政府と交わしており、座間市民は誰も、それを拠り所としキャンゾ座間の土地がいずれ縮小され返還されるであろうと信じて、夢を持って生活を送ってまいりました。

しかしながら、2003年11月に貴国のフツジュ大統領が言う米軍再編のなかで、ワシントン州フォートライスにある第一軍団司令部をキャンゾ座間に移動させるという報道が伝えられました。もし事実とすれば、当局といたしましては、この計画は市の将来像に逆行した動きであり、市民の夢を裏切るものと言わざるを得ません。日本政府と貴国政府に対して第一軍団司令部等移動の事実関係の真意を求めています。私たちが地元自治体には協議中であるとして確たる考えが示されないうまま今日に至っています。

もし、再編によって貴国の第一軍団等の司令部が当市に移転して来た場合は、今まで以上に基地が強化・恒久化に繋がることから、市の将来像である総合計画と相容れないものになるとともに、これ以上の基地負担増には耐えかねます。そのため、市長・市議会議員(26名全員)・自治会代表で組織した「キャンゾ座間米陸軍第一軍団司令部等移動に伴う基地強化に反対する座間市連絡協議会」が市民と一体となって移動の反対運動を進めております。

貴国でのBRAC委員会が重責を担っていることは承知しておりますが、あなたたちの基地の再編・閉鎖問題を私たちの街に負わせないでください。貴国のラムズフェルト国防長官が「歓迎されない所に米軍が行かない」と明言されましたが、私たちはそれを実行していただきたいと思えます。

貴国では、国防総省が進める貴国内基地再編・閉鎖計画は、基地の恩恵を受ける地方自治体や住民に大きな衝撃を与えていると日本でも報道されています。特に閉鎖や縮小されるころでは、反対運動を支持し撤回されるよう頑張ると聞き及んでいます。米国民自身が基地の閉鎖・縮小に対しこれほど強い意思をもち、存続を訴えているのであれば、わざわざフォートライス基地の第一軍団司令部を日本にあるキャンゾ座間に移動させること案について、是非とも取りやめていただきたいと座間市民は強く願っています。

米国民及び座間市民の民意を重んじていただくことが民主主義の原則であり、米国民は民主主義のリーダーであると信じております。BRAC委員会におかれてはどうか真剣なる私たちの願いに深い理解を示され、第一軍団のキャンゾ座間への移動計画を撤回していただきたくお力添えをお願いいたします。

2005年8月10日

キャンゾ座間米陸軍第一軍団司令部等移動に伴う

基地強化に反対する座間市連絡
会 長 座間市長 星 野 勝

