

October 27, 2005

Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
United States Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Rumsfeld,

We, Nature Conservation Society of Japan, are opposing to the construction plan to relocate the U.S. Marine Corps Futenma Air Station to the Henoko Reef and Oura Bay off the U.S. Marine Corps Camp Schwab.

We have sent you a letter on October 4, in which we have opposed to the downsized runway option in Henoko Reef because it risks the last remaining dugong population and an integrated reef ecosystem of Henoko as well as the present plan.

However, we are very sorry to learn that the Government of Japan and the U.S. agreed on Wednesday, October 26 to construct a military airport with 1800 m runway to reclaim the coast of Henoko and Oura Bay.

We found a couple of environment problems on this new option as stated as follows and ask the Government of Japan and the U.S. NOT TO INCLUDE THIS OPTION during the 2 + 2 Minister level negotiation to be held in Washington D.C. on October 29.

<Environmental Problems in Oura Bay>

1. We conducted the seagrass survey on September 19, 2005 and found that Oura Bay is home to a kind of seagrass *Halophila* that is different from two *Halophila* species known to Okinawa. Further investigation will be needed to determine the taxonomy of the *Halophila*, but it will possibly be an unknown species to Japan. Since a kind of coral *Porites cylindrica* that is home to anemone fish and *Oulastrea crispata* that parasite on a kind of seashell *Strombus canarium turtulella* were found here in Oura Bay, reclamation works in Oura Bay may risk rich biodiversity of Oura Bay.

<Environmental Problems in Henoko Coast>

2. According to the Okinawa Jangusa (seagrass) Watch conducted in October 2004, we found six of seven seagrass species (*Syringodium isoetifolium*, *Cymodocea rotundata*, *Cymodocea serrulata*, *Halodule pinifolia*, *Halophila ovalis* and *Thalassia hemprichii*), off the coast of the Camp Schwab. The study of the Defense Facility Agency revealed that there were at least two dugong feeding trails along the coast of Camp Schwab. Reclaim operation in Henoko Coast may risk the largest seagrass bed and last remaining dugong population in Okinawa.

Best regards,

Sadatoshi Tabata

Director General

Nature Conservation Society of Japan

Appendix 1, Supposed Camp Schwab Coast Option in the Henoko reef overlaid with distribution of seagrass and dugong feeding sign