

Okinawa Within Missile Range of Every Eastern Asia Trouble Spot

Editor's note: The United States is building its strategy in the Western Pacific around the stronghold of Okinawa, a semi-tropical island 75 miles long, some 1,000 miles south of Tokyo. Last week the island capital of Naha installed its second leftist mayor. How reliable is Okinawa as a base? What is its future?

By ARNOLD DIBBLE
United Press Correspondent
Tokyo — The biggest American stronghold in the Pacific is Okinawa. It is within 1,500 miles — range of an intermediate range ballistic missile — of virtually every potential trouble spot in Eastern Asia.

But this works two ways. So is Okinawa really a vitally valuable base in the atomic age?

This reporter spent 10 days in Okinawa recently and proposed this question to many persons. Very few doubted that Okinawa was a highly-prized piece of military real estate, but with important qualifications.

First, though virtually no one will talk about it, it must be realized that Okinawa today is fully ready for instant atomic retaliation. There are rockets and planes ready to strike at once.

Medford Man to Address ABA Group

Dick Finch, Medford appliance dealer, plans to go to Phoenix, Ariz., Feb. 3, 4 and 5, where he will address the installment credit commission of the American Bankers association on dealer sales financing problems.

Finch recently was presented a plaque for his report on a national survey of sales financing methods and problems of appliance dealers. The presentation was made during a convention of the National Appliance Radio Dealers' association in Chicago Jan. 11-13. He was elected a member of the board of directors of the association for the second term.

Finch also will serve as chairman of the national manufacturers relations committee which serves as a liaison group between dealers and the General Electric company.

And secondly, with the rough, tough 3rd Marine Division camped there, Okinawan forces are ready to move at once to intervene in so-called "brush fire" wars. The Third Marines, for instance, were put on transports and headed for sea when the Indonesian crisis was at its height.

Could Be Neutralized
But the qualifications are important, too. There is no doubt that three well-placed nuclear bombs from the Red Chinese mainland could put the island out of business. And in case of war, there could be sabotage of considerable proportions behind the lines by Communists.

However, this is true of virtually every base in the world which rings Russia or Red China. Meantime, what has the military made of Okinawa?

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Chicago—Vice President Richard M. Nixon, in a filmed television program sponsored by the American Medical association, on our relations with the peoples of the world:

"In my travels . . . I have often observed how a hand outstretched in friendship—a heart full of good will—can do more to win the affection and support of people than all the guns in our arsenal."

Nashville, Tenn.—Board Chairman Ernest R. Breech of Ford Motor Co., in a speech attacking the "unbridled" growth of union power and United Auto Workers demands for profit-sharing and higher pay:

"Free industry begins to see its very existence threatened by that (union) power, and it will have no choice but to fight as effective a defense as it can."

Detroit—Henry R. Hall, South Bend, Ind., delegate to the United Auto Workers bargaining convention, on the reactions of Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), Harlow H. Curtrice, General Motors president, and L. L. Colbert, Chrysler president against the union's profit-sharing proposal:

"They always did give us the blame for the rain that fell and took credit for the sun that shined."

Seoul, Korea—President Syngman Rhee of the Republic of Korea, on whether his government will accept American intermediate range ballistic, or any other missiles:

"It is our position that if Americans and our own military men consider missiles—IRBMs or any other type—essential to Korean defense, we shall be glad to accept them."

Ankara, Turkey—Gen. Maxwell Taylor, Army chief of staff, arriving here for Baghdad Pact military committee talks, on proposals for Defense department reorganization:

"The Army is willing to discuss any step to improve American combat readiness."

There are 40,000 Marines, Army, Air Force and Navy men on the island. Many of them — Marines excepted — have brought dependents.

There are row upon row of one story, modern type houses in neat, grassy housing areas, many overlooking the beautiful China Sea.

The Americans have brought their cars, too. But traffic is kept running smoothly and a 30 m.p.h. speed limit is strictly enforced.

It also is an island of giant PXs, of fabulous military clubs, swimming pools and a much criticized golf course. This course is primitive indeed by U.S. standards, but because arable land is so scarce, it is the target of bitter propaganda by the leftists.

Claim PXs Too Big
There also is the charge that Okinawa is one giant post exchange.

It is true that the PXs cater to just about every need. American businessmen complain that the PX has far exceeded its original purpose of supplying necessities to servicemen away from home.

Inevitably, the PX has led to black marketing. It is estimated that at least 50 per cent of the coffee in Japan is smuggled from Okinawa. And there are shops along the main highways openly selling spare parts for American refrigerators, stoves and autos. These parts could come from only one source.

But it all adds up to a comfortable place for Americans to live. And this is reflected by the reenlistment rate which, for the Air Force, is the highest in the world.

Los Angeles Aim Of Underworld

Los Angeles—Big-time underworld leaders and Mafia hoodlums have moved into the Los Angeles area and hope to take over control of city government, Police Chief William Parker warned Thursday.

In an appearance before a meeting of the City Council's special committee on Government Efficiency and Economy, Parker urged doubling the city's present police force of 4,478 men.

"We have lost control of the crime problem in the city," Parker declared. Crime so far in 1958 is running 35 per cent ahead of last year, and last year was bad."

Parker charged that while the city has increased in population by 400,000 persons since 1950, the force has only 25 more men than it did eight years ago.

"It is only a matter of time until a Costello mob moves in here and turns Los Angeles into another Chicago," the chief declared. He added that members of the underworld have been spotted in San Fernando Valley, but investigation showed "they are not necessarily engaged in illegal actions at this time."

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