Q8 What Will be the Impact if the Japanese and U.S. Governments Forcibly Relocate Henoko?

As has previously been stated, a majority of the people of Okinawa Prefecture oppose construction of a new base at Henoko. Japan is a democratic state and the Okinawan people have demonstrated their public will. The position of the U.S. with respect to the Japanese government’s disregard for democracy, dismissal of public opinion, and forcing through construction of a new base, which the U.S. regards as “Japan’s domestic issues”, is utterly incomprehensible.

The repeated crimes and accidents stemming from the U.S. military bases and the Japanese government’s push to construct a new base at Henoko have and will incite greater sentiment among the people of Okinawa in opposition to this plan, which could transition into protests against the entire U.S. military. Such a situation would likely make stable operation of U.S. military bases in Okinawa, including Kadena Air Base, even more difficult.

We hope that the governments of both Japan and the U.S. will stop pressing ahead with this new base project in such a hasty manner, that they will look beyond the archaic stereotypes, take into account the transformation of the international situation, and rethink moving Marine Corps Air Station Futenma outside of Okinawa Prefecture or even outside of the country.

There are serious concerns that strong-armed attempts to press ahead with construction of the new base at Henoko will have an adverse effect not only on U.S. military bases in Okinawa, including Kadena Air Base, but also on the Japan-U.S. security arrangement.

Main U.S. Facilities on Okinawa