



Will Jesse Ventura will run for Senate!!
Nope, but he is still considering it.
Write to him!



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Japan 13,000 protest USS George Washington

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Author

Message

Ry

Free Palestine



Joined: 27 Jun 2005
Posts: 15371
Location: Japan

Posted: Mon Jul 14, 2008 11:18 am Post subject: Japan 13,000 protest USS George Washington



About 13,000 people gathered in Yokosuka yesterday to protest the US Navy's plan to station the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS George Washington at the naval base there. Ryan Dawson was there raising hell.

Anyone remember me posting [this](#) in 2005?? All I can say is I had foresight.

The story is how Bush got Japan to lift the ban on nuclear craft and allowed the US to come to Yokosuka. On the same day the US agreed to removed half the marines from Okinawa a huge trade. However then...

Japan got stuck with half the bill and how the fuck it cost ten billion dollars to remove and relocate marines is beyond me as I [wrote](#).

Quote:

POLITICS
Japan willing to pay 50% to move Marines to Guam, not 75%
Monday, March 27, 2006 at 07:07 EST

TOKYO — Japan would be able to shoulder 50% at best of the U.S. government-projected \$10 billion cost of relocating U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam, not the 75% that Washington wants Tokyo to pay, a key member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said Sunday

But thensuddenly the price tag went up to 26 Billion!! Hiroko Tabuchi reported this and it got almost no news in the US or Japan. And 26 Billion is more than half of what Japan spend in total on defense in a year.

Quote:

April 26, 2006

Cost of U.S. Military Shuffle Stuns Japan
By HIROKO TABUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP) - Top Japanese officials on Wednesday expressed shock at a U.S. estimate that put the price tag for the planned reshuffling of U.S. forces in Japan at **\$26 billion or more**.

"My impression is that's an incredibly huge amount of money," Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe told a news conference, saying he couldn't comment further because he wasn't aware of the details.

"**Where did you get that number?** Don't tell me groundless stories," a shocked-looking Foreign Minister Taro Aso earlier said on TV Asahi. "We shouldn't overreact over one official's estimate."

Japan and the United States are negotiating details of a plan that would streamline the 50,000 U.S. forces based in Japan and to give Japan's military greater responsibility for security in the Asia-Pacific.

U.S. Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Richard Lawless said Tuesday he estimated costs of the overall realignment at about \$26 billion. Japan's annual defense budget is \$42 billion.

"This is a huge investment on their part in the alliance, and we recognize it as such," Lawless said Tuesday.

The estimate includes the \$6 billion Tokyo has agreed to pay to move 8,000 Marines from the Southern Japanese island of Okinawa to Guam, a U.S. Pacific island territory.

The U.S. has said it will contribute \$4 billion toward transfer costs.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi tried to dispel Japanese worries over the price tag late Wednesday.

"Mr. Lawless must be heeding U.S. public sentiment that though the U.S. bears so much responsibility for Japan's defense, Japan's burden is too light," Koizumi told reporters at his official residence.

A Defense Ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing protocol, said the Japanese government hadn't been given an official cost estimate for the reshuffle.

"We understand the details of the realignment, including costs, are still under negotiation," the official said.

The planned realignment has met with some opposition in Japan. Local governments and civic groups have argued that priority should be given to reducing those forces and returning the bases to Japanese control.

Others oppose plans to deploy a nuclear-powered naval carrier to Japan for the first time, citing security concerns.

Japan is Washington's top ally in East Asia and has been a staunch supporter of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, dispatching troops there in 2004 to carry out humanitarian tasks. Japan's navy also provides fuel for coalition warships in the Indian Ocean.

(from the Las Veags Sun)

But see you had to follow this story over a yar through obscure newspapers to figure out what was happening because the TV news ignored it.

My question on April 27, 2006 was "How can the US make a deal and lie about the cost saying they would be about 5 billion and then it ends up being over 5 times that amount after the fact?"

It is not like the LDP listens to the people. At the same time as this bogusly overpriced troop

shifting occurred the US also shifted troops elsewhere in Japan, in Iwakuni (near Hiroshima) the public voted the troop deployment as well as more war planes down in a referendum with 90% opposed to any more troops or planes coming, but this was simply ignored!

Quote:

Iwakuni even against it with 90% of voters opposed to a referendum calling for expanding the base. Koizumi just ignored the people.

Quote:

Iwakuni residents are strongly opposed to a boost in the number of U.S. warplanes at Iwakuni base with thousands of troops, Ihara said.

About 90% of votes cast in the March 12 plebiscite opposed the relocation while Ihara, himself an opponent of the relocation, won the March 23 mayoral election



"As president I will implelement a Memeorandum of Understanding to provide \$30 billion in [defense] investments to Israel - not tied to any other nation"-Obama

"Dignity does not consist in possessing honors, but in deserving them." -Aristotle

"The man enslaved to wealth can never be honest."-Democritus

"It doesn't matter who we are underneath. It is what we **do** that defines us." Batman



I will do everything in my power to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Everything in my power. Everything." Obama

Last edited by Ry on Mon Jul 14, 2008 11:42 am; edited 4 times in total

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Posted: Mon Jul 14, 2008 11:23 am Post subject:

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