

December, 2007

Dear

Grave Issues needing Solution between the U.S. and Japan

I think you are fine and vigorously working hard every day in pushing forward your campaigns to be elected as the 44th President of the United States of America.

During the time of your busiest schedules, I thank you for your perusing this letter. I am Tsuyoshi Saito, a former member of the House of Councilors in Japan, which is deemed equivalent to the U.S. Senate. Two months ago in October, as a copy of the letter is herein enclosed, I have sent you my request, asking your opinions about the Agreement on the Facilities and Areas provided for and the Status of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Japan (hereinafter called "Status Agreement") under the Mutual Cooperation that was signed by the both governments almost fifty years ago in 1960. I requested your reply by 17 Nov., 2007.

As the answer from you has not come to my hands yet, I have decided to rewrite to you this letter asking for your answer by the end of this month. Before you received this letter, if you have posted any answer to me on the questions, please forgive me.

I presume, of course, that your situation at present might be busiest. However, since this matter is grave, I wish that you would note and recognize its importance and its need for getting a quick solution in order to keep fair and smooth operation of the Agreement in question.

From the above view points, you are cordially requested to send me your answer by the end of this month on the Questionnaire as hereto attached. For your easy reference, I again have enclosed my personal profile in this letter.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours Sincerely,

Tsuyoshi Saito, Former Member of the House
of Councilors of the Japanese Diet and now
a member of Democratic Party of Japan

Post Script:

1. In March this year, National Governors' Association for Military Facilities (NGAMF) in Japan consisting of governors of 14 prefectures* that are hosts for U.S. military installations (Chairman is Mr. Shigefumi Matsuzawa, Governor of Kanagawa Pref.) has conducted an opinion survey by sending questionnaires to the related members of the U.S. and Japanese Congresses on various issues concerning the Status Agreement. The questionnaires were sent to 90 U.S. congress members belonging to the Senate and House Armed Service Committees and 80 Japanese congress persons belonging to Security Committee and Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives and Foreign Affairs & Defense Committee of the House of Councilors.

* Those 14 prefectures are Hokkaido, Aomori, Ibaragi, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Fukuoka, Nagasaki and Okinawa.

The numbers of the answers they have received are, against our expectation, surprisingly small. As of today, they have received 24 from Japanese and none at all from the U.S.

A problem is that only 24 Japanese have delivered answers, but more than that is the complete silence from the U.S. side. It is my disappointment and un-understandable matter why they have no concerns over this important issue lying in the bilateral relationship of our two friendly nations.

I will be obliged to know of the practice in your country; whether there is general understanding among the congress persons that they are prohibited to answer such questions posed by local governmental representatives or by individual politicians. It will be very helpful for me if your answer also includes yes or no on my question whether such practice or general understanding exists in your country.

2. Regarding my Questionnaire sent in October to the candidates for the U.S. Presidency, I have declared to Japanese press companies that so far no answers have been sent back to me from the addressees. Since they are interested to know, I have explained them that I would resend the Questionnaire to them for urging the answers.