



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, September 15, 2016

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and most other networks led with reports on problems related to the construction of the new fish market in Toyosu. NHK also reported live this afternoon on the Democratic Party presidential election, in which Acting President Renho was elected the next party leader.

SECURITY

Onaga calls for cancellation of Henoko plan in talks with Nikai

Ryukyu Shimpo gave top play to a report on Okinawa Governor Onaga's meeting with LDP Secretary General Nikai at his office on Wednesday. Onaga handed Nikai a written request for the GOJ to cancel the Henoko plan, saying: "Okinawa's relations with the central government are tense due to issues related to U.S. military bases. The GOJ is not giving consideration to building a relationship of trust with Okinawa. We hope that the LDP will help us hold smooth discussions." Nikai said in reply: "Although there are many difficult issues, we must work together to overcome these difficulties. In view of the Okinawan people's past and present cooperation for ensuring peace in Japan, it is time for us to return the favor." Nikai was asked by a reporter after the meeting about his views as a senior LDP official on the GOJ's position that Henoko is the only option for Futenma relocation. Nikai responded by saying that the LDP is ready to listen to the opinions of the Okinawan people in a flexible manner.

Upper House lawmakers from Okinawa talk to foreign reporters about helipad construction

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that Upper House lawmakers from Okinawa Keiko Itokazu and Yoichi Iha expressed their opposition to the ongoing helipad construction at the Northern Training Area during a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan on Wednesday. They urged the audience to visit Takae and inform the people in their countries of the hardline policy taken by the U.S. and Japanese governments. Okinawa Times quoted a French reporter as saying that the forced removal and detention of reporters in Takae was shocking and that the Japanese media should be more critical of the GOJ. Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the lawmakers argued that the construction work violates the Japan Environmental Governing Standards, the primary source of environmental guidance and standards for U.S. Forces in Japan.

- [Court ruling unlikely to cool Okinawa dispute](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [U.S. soldier accidentally landed outside range during parachute training](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Reporter's notebook: Nikai's "souvenir" for Okinawa](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cartoon: Defense Minister Inada](#) (Akahata)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on September 14](#) (Nikkei)
- [Mori to replace Yasuoka as head of Lower House constitution commission](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP Secretary General Nikai: Distill the best answer from variety of opinions](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)

INTERNATIONAL

- [PM Abe to propose UN action against North Korea's nuclear development](#) (Sankei)
- [Leading South Korean newspaper calls for removing comfort woman statue](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan, China hold maritime talks amid tensions around Senkakus](#) (Kyodo)
- [Challenges in reconstructing the Japan-U.S. alliance with the incoming U.S. administration](#) (Office Morimoto)

ECONOMY

- [Keidanren recruitment guidelines becoming mere formality](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gov't may accept more foreign workers to cover labor shortage](#) (The Mainichi Online)

TRENDING@JAPAN

- [NHK learns poverty in the eye of the beholder](#) (FujiTV)
- [Japanese firms make efforts to welcome Muslim employees](#) (Nikkei)
- [Used to brief messages, young Japanese channel their inner Basho](#) (NHK)

AMBASSADOR

[Ambassador Kennedy holds talks with Okinawa minister](#)

Sankei reported online that Ambassador Kennedy and Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs Minister Tsuruho held talks at his office on Wednesday and agreed that the United States and Japan will further strengthen cooperation in a wide range of issues, including Futenma relocation and science and technology development. The paper wrote that the Ambassador expressed gratitude for the Japanese government's efforts with Futenma Air Station and the Northern Training Area. In reply, the minister said Japan will continue to work with the U.S. and that it is important to convey the views of the U.S. and Japan to the people of Okinawa.

TV PROGRAMS

[Close look at negotiations between Japan and Russia](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on the summit meeting between PM Abe and Russian President Putin on Sept. 2, looking into why Tokyo and Moscow are suddenly improving relations. The program aired an interview with METI Minister Seko, who was appointed minister in charge of economic cooperation with Russia, in which he said he was instructed by PM Abe to come up with a concrete plan to show Russia how Japan's cooperation will help improve Russia's economy. The Japanese side reportedly analyzed President Putin's remarks to ascertain Russia's needs and decided to offer cooperation at the risk of provoking international criticism in order to make progress on the territorial issue.

