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F. W. Wright  
Monthly Report

**My Assignment, Memories and Forecast of the Future of the University**

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As my wife and I will be leaving Okinawa June 25, I thank you for the opportunity to write this short article. I wish to include; first, the Mission of the Michigan State University Advisory Group here, and my own particular responsibilities; secondly, my memories of the University and Okinawa in general; and lastly, a look at the possible future development of the University.

As you may know, Michigan State University was asked in 1951 by the American Council on Education to sign a contract with the Department of the Army, to administer a program of assistance to further the development of the University of the Ryukyus. Particular attention was to be given to an educational philosophy which emphasizes thorough instruction, sound research, and perhaps most of all, service to the people of the Ryukyus. Michigan State University has continued to renew this contract and has sent four to six of its our faculty members here for two-year periods to serve as advisors to the University of the Ryukyus administrators and faculty members. Over 20 of our faculty have been here during the past 9 years.

As Director of the Michigan State University Advisory Group, I have tried to contribute to the best of my ability in advising on the solution of the many problems of the development of the entire University. This has included such things as: Physical plant development, improvement of faculty training, sound administrative control, good financial management, and greater service to the people of the Ryukyus, through good teaching programs supported by adequate research. In addition, I have served as Director and coordinator of the Advisory Group.

Each member of the group has responsibilities for advising in a particular academic area. In my case it has been agriculture. As Advisor in Agriculture, I have placed major emphasis on improving research organization and methods, and

promoting a more adequate extension set-up, with greater coordination both research and extension activities conducted by all agencies on the Islands to avoid duplication of effort and wasting of funds.

This assignment of trying to give the best possible advice and assistance has been the most interesting and challenging position I have ever held, and has called for infinite knowledge, frequently more than I felt I had, and close working relationships with the administrators and faculty of the University. Working with the University staff has been a most pleasant and rewarding experience. The advice and suggestions which I have made always have been received with an open mind, and given fair consideration. This has been much appreciated.

After some 22 months here, I have many memories of Okinawa to take back to the United States. One of my clearest and most pleasant memories is of you, as a people. Upon our arrival and continually since, you have been most hospitable to my wife and me. You are an extremely polite and friendly people. In the nearly two years here, I feel that a large number of lasting friendships have been formed. Even though we are leaving physically, our hearts will remain here with you. It is a sad occasion to have to say goodbye to so many wonderful people, and we want to thank you for all the many kindnesses shown us.

We will also remember the beauty of your Islands. Hardly a day has gone by that I have not admired the wonderful view from the campus. I have taken many colored pictures which when viewed in the future will insuallly recall the beauty of Okinawa, and enable us to show it to the people of Michigan.

I will also remember a great many things, of course, about the University. The great number and diversity of problems of a young and growing university, has impressed me very much. The progress that has been made in the development of the University in its first ten years is most impressive.

The strong desire of the faculty to obtain more training, and to make the University still better, will long be remembered.

The seriousness of the great majority of the students in obtaining a thorough education, particularly as I frequently observed them studying in the library, has impressed me very favorably. I sincerely hope that in addition to acquiring knowledge, each and every student will learn to think through logically his own problems and those of Okinawa and will not be led by the emotional appeals ~~of~~ to false conclusions. It should be kept in mind that along with the freedoms and privileges of democracy go the acceptance of responsibilities for mature thinking.

I was asked to comment on the possible future development of the University of the Ryukyus. This I do with great reluctance, as the future depends upon so many unknown factors, and making any predictions is extremely risky business.

The University has just recently had its tenth anniversary. Suppose we try to imagine what it may be like ten years from now. If the economic development of the Ryukyus continues as it has in recent years, with adequate financial support to the University, and with encouragement given by all concerned with its development, I can foresee the possibility of the following by 1970: A total enrollment of 3200, with upwards of 50 working on Masters degrees. A teaching faculty of 200, with almost 50% having masters degrees and 10% Doctors degrees. Along with this improvement in faculty training, a more highly developed instructional program, more research, and a thorough-going program of extension service. Possibly two or three new academic divisions. May be five or six new buildings, with the campus well landscaped with trees, plants, grass and sidewalks.

If the University is to reach this stage of development, and be the driving force in the establishment of a new era on Okinawa, certain rather basic considerations should be kept in mind. The University administration must have not only a

high degree of <sup>autonomy</sup> ~~out-on-my~~, but also a philosophy of ~~promoting even more theoretical and applied research~~, of encouraging superior classroom teaching and the fullest development of the students, and of developing even more programs extending knowledge to others not on the campus.

To do the above there are some clear-out needs. First of all, there must continue to be a faculty not only well-trained in their respective fields through formal education, but also, through advanced study and research. Secondly, there must continue to be in attendance students who are able, energetic, serious, open-minded, and logical thinkers. Thirdly, the University can not attain its goal, unless it has adequate buildings, laboratories equipment, and funds for carrying out its program.

Great strides have been made in the first ten years. The development to date has been extraordinary. If good judgment continues to be exercised by those having control over the University, if both faculty and students pursue the above goals diligently, and if adequate funds are made available, the future of the University of the Ryukyus will be bright. I wish you the best of success.

Sayonara

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