



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES, JAPAN
APO AREA PACIFIC 96328-5068

19 October 2016

To the Court:

The United States of America and Government of Japan agreed in the Joint Committee meeting on 13 October 2016 to the public release of the following paragraph:

Paragraph 9.F. of the first meeting of the Joint Committee on 23 June 1960 states: "That the official minutes of the Joint Committee meetings will be considered as official documents pertaining to both Governments and will not be released without mutual agreement." This excerpt clearly shows that Joint Committee minutes will not be released without mutual agreement. The Joint Committee constitutes a central mechanism for government-to-government coordination. The practice of not releasing Joint Committee matters without mutual agreement is a longstanding practice and the foundation for maintaining a strong, trusting, consultative relationship between the Governments of the United States and Japan. Joint Committee documents should not be released without the concurrence of both governments.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. N. Frost".

NATHAN N. FROST
U.S. Secretary, Joint Committee