



PACIFIC COUNSELING SERVICE

May 9, 1974

JAPAN:

New People's Center
Box 28
Yokosuka-shi
Kanagawa-ken
JAPAN
(0468) 25-0157

Samper-Fi
Box 49
Iwakuni-shi
Yamaguchi-ken
JAPAN

OKINAWA:

People's House
Box 447
Kosai, Okinawa
JAPAN
(0989) 37-3107

The Women's House
Box 447
Kosai, Okinawa
JAPAN

UNITED STATES:

Pacific Counseling Service
2588 Mission Street
Room 216
San Francisco, CA 94110
USA
(415) 285-1212

Comrades:

Well comrades the push is on. Pacific Counseling Service has been in the GI Movement for about five years, and every year we do a thing called "recruiting".

It's time to find the staff people for next year's Asia projects. There are five projects, including a Women's Project in Okinawa. The others are at (1) Yokosuka Naval Base, home of the Midway and other ships (near Tokyo), (2) Iwakuni Marine Air Wing, near Hiroshima, (3) Kadena Air Force Base, major army supply bases, Futenma Marine Corps Air Wing, and other smaller Marine bases, near Koza on Okinawa, and (4) Kin, near Hansen and Schwab, two huge Marine Corps Infantry bases, also on Okinawa. Each project works collectively to make decisions and carry on the work--much of which is rapping; legal counseling, putting out a newspaper, having special events, meetings, study and etcetera--all the things that make a center an alive place to be. The pay is low--call it subsistence--but adequate. And people who go, go over for a year, from August to August.

Mostly we're looking for people with some organizing experience, and some knowledge of the military. Your political views are important too, because we feel that the focus of our work is on developing strong feelings on racism, sexism, and imperialism in understanding the U.S. military's role in Asia, and on working with the class contradictions within the military.

Not to make this too long, or use too many big words, but to stress that these qualities are basic to carrying on the kind of work that PCS has been building in the Asian-based armed forces for years. Lawyers are welcome too, they should contact the Military Law Office at the address given below for more information.

Since we'd like to get to know people pretty well before selecting organizer/counsellors, we're asking folks to come forward this month, May, to get the application process started. Each of the Asia projects is involved in the choice, so the time factor has to take into account our good ol' U.S. mail, too. Enclosed is our address and phone--write or call us soon.

Solidarity and Struggle,
PCS

PCS
2588 Mission Street #216
San Francisco, Cal. 94110
(415) 285-1212

Military Law Office
2588 Mission St. #220
ph. (415) 285-4484, 4485

PS. I almost forgot! If you know anybody who's interested, or might be interested, let us know about them, and let them know about us! Post this on the wall, pass it around, get the word out! and now,

Right On!

Jan & Sharon - PCS

ORGANIZING ACTIVE-DUTY PEOPLE IN JAPAN AND OKINAWA

Pacific Counseling Service

May 8, 1974

(Pacific Counseling Service is looking for organizers to work with active-duty people

↓ at projects in Japan and Okinawa. The following article was written by the people at the VVAW/WSO chapter/PCS project in Yokosuka, Japan.)

Japan is the keystone of the U.S. empire in Asia. There are about 170 bases here, with a total of about 100,000 active-duty people and even more "dependents". Most of these bases are actively engaged in preparations for the next wars in Asia--especially in the Philippines, Korea, and Southeast Asia. It is also a rear area for new expansion into the Indian Ocean.

About half of these bases are on Okinawa, headquarters of the 3rd Marine Division and a central point for tropical training for troops to be used in S.E. Asia. B-52s were refueled by tankers out of Kadena AFB, and SR-71 spy planes are still launched for overflights of Korea and other "trouble spots". With Subic Bay in the Philippines, it is a storage area for all kinds of munitions including nuclear weapons that are deployed throughout the Pacific.

On the Japanese main island, Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station is the rear area for activities in Thailand. Yokosuka Naval Base, homeport of the carrier Midway and eight other warships, is central to the control of countries of the Pacific Rim.

Conditions for most military people here are bad, even though Japan is more developed than other Asian countries. There is very little to do, and most enlisted people use whatever drugs they can find to relieve their oppression. People are questioning the mission of the armed forces in Asia, especially as anti-communism weakens as a viable rationale. Imperialism is much clearer here than in the U.S., and people are very open to analyses of imperialism tied to their direct experience. The poverty and degradation of Asian peoples under imperialism is very obvious and deeply affects many military people.

During the Indochina war, Pacific Counseling Service set up organizing and counseling projects in Okinawa and mainland Japan, as well as the Philippines. Martial law closed the Philippines centers in 1972, but activity is still high at centers in Japan and Okinawa. Each project center functions as a bookstore, a center for putting out its own ^{news} papers, for VVAW/WSO meetings, study groups, and other kinds of raps and special events; and a drop-in center for legal counseling. The lawyers at the projects are part of the Military Law Project of the National Lawyers Guild.

The four GI projects have chapters of VVAW/WSO, and dozens of GIs have joined in activities here this year, and some plan to continue when they get back to the U.S. People don't identify so much as Vietnam Veterans, but joined the military now because they thought it was peacetime. Many feel betrayed as they prepare for new interventions,

The overwhelming sentiment is "No More Vietnams".

The military is trying to rebuild after the Indochina debacle, using their traditional methods of repression and intimidation. Third World GIs face heavy discrimination in judicial matters and in everyday life. An example of the degree of repression and racism is indicated by the fate of one of the black men who came to the Okinawa center for help, and then decided not to have civilian counsel in his court-martial. His offense was lighting a cigarette while putting away his dinner tray, but before leaving the mess hall where smoking is not allowed. His sentence was three months in the brig.

White GIs are also under heavy pressure as the military tries to reestablish "leadership/followership" qualities in every aspect of life. There are great possibilities for organized resistance as well as the daily resistance that grows from military repression.

Organizing work reaches out to women too, to military dependents and women in the military. There are women organizers at each of the projects, and a women's center in Okinawa. The women's work fills a real need at the center--as one military wife on Okinawa said--the Women's House "seemed like the kind of place that I was talking about before, where women could come and try to figure out some of their problems without the fear of their husbands or the military. The Women's House is a place where women can come to talk about new ways to live and give support to each other. And to me, that's very important". Recently most of the women's work takes the form of a women's newspaper, and film showings.

Pacific Counseling Service needs good organizers, men and women, to work in Asia. There is a lot of work--putting out papers, pamphlets, rapping, special events, working with Japanese and Okinawan left groups, counselling resisters--but it is energizing work. Organizers who come here stay at least one year and are supported at a subsistence level from the states. We are looking for people with experience in organizing who are strongly into fighting sexism, racism, and imperialism both in their own lives and in their organizing and outreach. If you are interested in this kind of work, please contact Pacific Counseling Service, 2588 Mission St., Rm. 216, San Francisco, Ca. 94110, or call (415) 285-1212. Lawyers who are interested should contact the Military Law Office at the same address or call (415) 285-4484. The project year begins in August, and the closing date for applications is ^{June 15} ~~May 31st~~, so you should get in touch soon.

SMASH U.S. IMPERIALISM!

AB

Pacific Counseling Service is looking for organizer/legal counsellors to work with active-duty people and military-related women at projects in Japan and Okinawa. We focus on the role of the U.S. military in Asia, and on the issues of sexism, racism, and imperialism. We have contact with and try to build an understanding of people's struggles in Japan and Okinawa. Interested people should have organizing experience and preferably some knowledge of the military. Subsistence salary. The application deadline is ~~May~~ 31 for the project year beginning Aug. '74 so contact us soon, at Pacific Counseling Service, 2588 Mission St., Rm. 216, San Francisco, Ca. 94110, phone (415) 285-1212. Interested lawyers should contact the Military Law Office, at the same address, or call (415) 285-4484.