

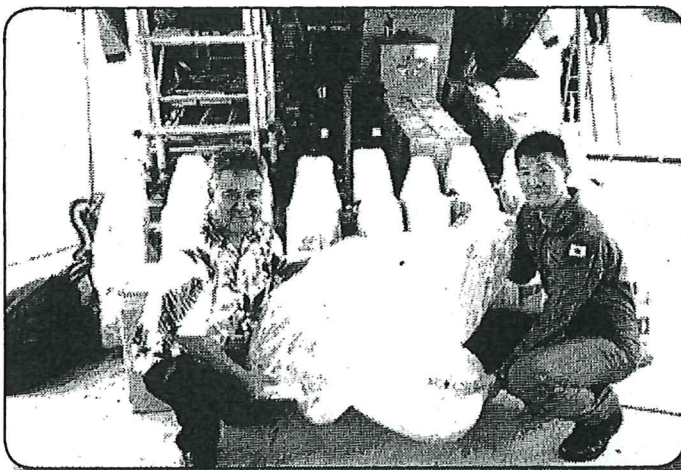


# Japan presents great gifts to the community on 30th anniversary

The visit to Majuro earlier this month by Koku-Jieitai (Japan Air Self Defense Force) provided numerous opportunities to celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Marshall Islands.

The 401st Tactical Airlift Squadron, a squadron of the 1st Tactical Airlift Group of Koku-Jieitai (the Japan Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF)) based at Komaki Air Base in Aichi Prefecture, Japan stopped by Majuro in a Lockheed C-130H Hercules on the way to participate in trainings in the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center in the United States. During the brief visit, they delivered donated equipment.

December 7, those gifts were handed over to recipients at the reception welcoming the Koku-



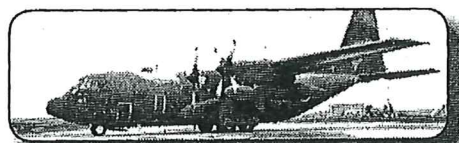
Jieitai hosted by Japan Ambassador Norio Saito. Among those attending the ceremony were President Hilda Heine, Foreign Minister John Silk, Minister of Health Kalani Kaneko, Minister of Justice Jack

Ading, Wotje Mayor Ota Kisino, Majuro Mayor Laddie Jack, and many guests. Toshihisa Takata, Japan Ambassador for the Pacific Island Region, arrived in Majuro the same night and representatives from Koyo

Maru, the training ship of the National Fisheries University (NFU) of Japan, also attended the reception.

The donated items included:

- Eight wheel chairs to Ministry of Health and



Top left: A donation of volleyball equipment is given to the Marshall Islands National Olympic Committee; Top right: Health Minister Kalani Kaneko receives a donation of wheel chairs for the hospital. Left: Glancy Enos and an airman from Japan's Air Self Defense Force show the contents of the Lockheed C-130H Hercules (above) that were flown in to mark 30 year's of diplomatic relations.

Human Services and two wheel chairs to Wotje Atoll Local Government from Japan Social Welfare Kosaikai, repaired by Japanese technical high school students.

- Used baseball equipment (30 gloves, 35 bats, 35 helmets, and more) to Public School System from Japan Rubber Baseball Association

- 150 used volleyballs to

Public School System and shoes to Marshall Islands National Olympic Committee from Japan Volleyball Association to Growmate (NGO) from Taichi Wada, owner of the Kaiika Restaurant in Niue.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and the RMI.