Bystanders watching some of 80 American cars burning early yesterday at Kadena Air Force Base in Koza, Okinawa

Rioting Okinawans Invade U.S. Base, Burn 80 Vehicles and a School

KOZA, Okinawa, Dec. 20 (UPI)—The United States High Commissioner for the Ryukyu Islands ordered all American military units to stand by today after rioting Okinawans broke through the gates of a United States Air Force base and set fire to a school, a guardhouse and 80 vehicles.

The High Commissioner, Lieut. Gen. James B. Lampert, also placed Koza off limits to all American military personnel in an effort to prevent further disorders. The city adjoins Kadena Air Base, where the rioting took place.

"I don't want any retaliation against the Okinawans," General Lampert said in an islandwide television broadcast hours after the rioting was quelled.

About 40 United States servicemen, 14 Okinawan civilians and 5 Okinawan policemen were hurt in the disorder. The police said 21 persons were arrested.

The rioting bagan at 1 A.M. today when a car driven by an American serviceman struck and injured an Okinawan outside the air base. The military police, in an attempt to disperse a crowd that gathered, fired 10 shots into the air.

The crowd, which swelled to 3,000 by 4 A.M., began throwing stones and rocks at the military police and overturning and setting fire to military cars.

Some 400 rioters broke through the second gate of the 12,000-man air base, about 700 yards from the scene of the accident, and made their way onto the base, setting fire to one wing of a base school, a guardshack and military fire engines before withdrawing.

Eighty vehicles were destroyed or damaged by fire before the rioting subsided after 7:30 a.m., according to military authorities.