

### 3. The Struggle Goes Nationwide

#### (5) 〈Weapons Testing Resumes, and the Sit-ins Begin〉 (June-July, 1953)

The villagers' rage reached its peak after the permanent land requisition was decided, and on June 12th, they built a series of small huts within the confines of the testing range and began to stage a sit-in. Furthermore, though the government had issued an order through the prefecture that all fishing vessels and infrastructures within the range were to be withdrawn or demolished by the end of the day, on June 14th, around 700 villagers gathered in the Gongen Woods (the impact site for the weapons testing) and staged a sit-in that lasted through the night.

However, with no care for the actions of the villagers, at 8:02 AM on June 15th, the American military resumed weapons testing. After this, the villagers of each district in Uchinada met to coordinate places and times for future sit-ins, and then continued them in the Gongen Woods and on the Teppan Road (directly in front of the entrance to the American military camp). In a similar vein, on the 28th, Chairman Dejima of the Village Executive Committee and the members of the Uchinada Villagers Assembly went to Tokyo and held a sit-in for nearly one month in front of the House of Councilors. From July onwards, even though the prefecture issued a warning that the vicinity of the Gengen Woods would be unsafe due to impacts from shells with larger blast radiuses, the villagers of Uchinada continued to fiercely resist by daring to fish the waters inside the testing range site, thus preventing the military from testing the larger and more dangerous shells.