kites'.("Asahi, December 18,1971).

Children fly kites innocently but others fly kites for various reasons. 'Seventy people from Kyote and Fukuoka who belong to the Peace in Vietnam Association held a kite flying contest on the 5th near a runway of the American Air Force base in Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture. Their slogan was "Let kites down phantoms! "Their hand-made kites which read "Get out of Vietnam now" and "Co-operate with U.S. soldiers against the war" flew 100 metres into the air... A leader of this protest group, Tsurumi Shunsuke said "We got this idea originally from a U.S. soldier on the base, since it's been successful we plan to continue it in the future.' ("Asahi, May 6,1971).

A photograph of a kite with "GRUDGE" written on it appeared with the article. This flying grudge kite was a demonstration against army planes taking off from Japanese soil. These kites are completely different from those depicted on colourful wood block prints of the Edo Period when kites were decorated with colourful pictures or congratulatory New Year symbols such as happiness, dragon, glory.

Elsewhere we found the following article; "The Fuji, a Japanese vessel observing Antartica, was stuck in a sea of icefloes, 320 km northeast of the Japanese research station on Antartica. The Fuji crew members flew kites to pray for favourable winds." ("Asahi", Jan 28, 1971). According to this paper, the point where the Fuji was stuck was a place where the ice rarely melts because it is in the shadow of a huge iceberg. In a photo one sailor was holding a spool of twine and another a kite with the characters "southern winds". The characters had been written by the crew to pray for escape. From this we can see that the traditional concept of flying kites to pray for luck and auspicious omens has not been abandoned even in this age of science and technology.

