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150 - Mr. Stoddard



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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

12 APR 1971

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

In reply refer to:
I-4830/71

Mr. Thomas Pickering
Deputy Director
Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Tom:

This is in response to your letter of 1 April 1971 concerning the TTPI negotiations. Your letter discussed a number of separate questions, including an anticipated sequence of events with the Micronesians, discussions with Lazarus Salii, the views of Mr. Dorrance, and DOD land requirements.

As you may know, the question of US policy for the TTPI has been under the cognizance of the NSC Under Secretaries Committee since March 1969. A subordinate body, the Interagency Group for Micronesia, has been charged with the continuing responsibility for the development of both program and political status matters for the Under Secretaries' Committee. The question of basing options is, without question, an important aspect of the political status problem. This is fully reflected in the paper recently forwarded to the President (NSC-U/DM-62). I would invite your attention specifically to pages 8 and 9 of Tab B to that paper. Moreover, other papers approved by the Under Secretaries' Committee since March 1969 more fully develop the background for basing options in the TTPI.

We would be most pleased to have any additional views of the Department of State with respect to DOD requirements for basing options in the Guam/TTPI area. These requirements necessarily must take a number of things into consideration, including the local political situation, as it may exist in any given area in the TTPI.

Since the points you raise are matters of direct concern to the Interagency Group, it is my view that further discussion of these matters should be pursued in that forum. This will give the other members of the group an opportunity to benefit from any views presented and to properly relate to them other pertinent considerations. It was with this in mind that an invitation was conveyed to your office to present to a meeting of the Interagency Group on 7 April whatever views you desired to convey. It is my understanding that you did not wish to take that opportunity to discuss the matter.

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We look forward to receiving whatever additional views the Department of State may wish to present, but it is my conviction that in the interest of preserving a good working relationship in the Interagency Group, all of the regular participants in developing US policy for Micronesia should be brought into these questions--each of which has a direct bearing on negotiation of the political status question.



Sincerely,

Dennis J. Doolin
Deputy Assistant Secretary

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