

~~SECRET~~

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

TET 144  
(67)

INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY AFFAIRS

*provided  
specific request by*

In Reply Refer To:  
I-25170/73

*Siemee, 17 Nov 73  
Do not copy duplicate  
in files*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN  
STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Alternative Concepts for an Ammunition Handling  
Capability on Tinian (U)

(S) Pursuant to your request following the last round of Marianas  
Political Status negotiations, this Department has examined alternatives  
to handling ammunition in the San Jose Harbor, Tinian, and has deter-  
mined that an alternate concept is feasible.

(S) An engineering study developed the somewhat novel, but practical,  
alternative of excavating into the island a berthing slip for ocean-going  
ships, rather than pursue the more conventional and much more expensive  
proposition of constructing and protecting a pier or wharf along Tinian's  
exposed coastline with its steep bottom gradient. The concept envisions  
a slip with a water depth of 45 feet which is 350 feet wide and 1,000  
feet long. A parallel wharf 200 feet wide, also cut out of the surrounding  
rock and coral, plus a barge landing at the head of the slip are included  
in the proposal. Such a facility, capable of accommodating ships as  
large as the Navy's fast replenishment ship, the AOE, would cost approxi-  
mately \$9.5 million and require several years to design and construct.  
In consideration of prevailing wind and physical features, the slip would  
have to be constructed on Tinian's northwest coast in Lamanibot Bay,  
which also would be adjacent to the storage area of the proposed base  
layout.

(S) While an alternate ammunition handling facility has been determined  
to be feasible, it will not eliminate completely the requirement to have  
access to the existing harbor. Construction of a slip would be concurrent  
with the development of the rest of the base, therefore San Jose Harbor  
must be used for logistic support during the construction phase and after-  
wards to a degree. Furthermore, it could become necessary to handle am-  
munition through the existing harbor before an alternate facility is  
operable.

Classified by DASD/EAPA  
-----  
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED  
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 81

~~SECRET~~

DISTRIBUTION:  
Orig - addee  
AD (2)  
RC (2)  
  
Prep by: Capt Whelan EA  
4SEP/71802/rbg

Doc 35

10-431022

67

~~SECRET~~

(S) Thus, after construction of such a slip, the explosive materials safety zone need not encompass the area of San Jose village; however, on the balance, this concept for an alternate facility should be considered only as a fallback if the present US position in regard to San Jose village is rejected by the other side. The effect of this alternative on Defense land requirements for Tinian is being studied, and any changes linked to this option will be provided to your office later this month.

(Signed) Dennis J. Coolin  
Deputy Assistant Secretary

CC:  
Director, Joint Staff  
Deputy Under Secy USAF  
Ass't SecNav (I&L)

2  
~~SECRET~~

10 - 431023