

24 Nov-71  
In reply refer to:  
I-29346/71

03  
2

**MEMORANDUM FOR AMBASSADOR HAYDN WILLIAMS**

**SUBJECT: Early Development of "US Military Base Complex in the Marianas"**

**BACKGROUND**

You were provided long-term requirements for military basing options in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) in the Secretary of Defense letter of 9 September 1971. This letter also stated that the requirement for construction/rehabilitation of facilities in the Marianas "could occur at an early date."

**CURRENT STATUS:** Planning within the Services for a Tinian Island basing complex has now proceeded to a decision point. Each component is determining what facilities and forces might appropriately be located on Tinian (and Saipan), in the event a plan is approved and construction can begin at an early date. However, further efforts must now be made within the normal planning, programming and budget processes of DOD.

Accordingly, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have asked the Secretary of Defense to approve; the incorporation of the Tinian development plan in appropriate DOD and Service planning documents; the initiation of base master planning; and the subsequent inclusion of these detailed plans into the budget and programming documents of the Military Departments. Without such approval, realistic planning by the Services cannot progress further and congressional authorization for this project could not be obtained before FY 1974 or 1975.

If such programming is approved, planning may proceed with sufficient speed to permit a submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) by end CY 71. In that event, it is conceivable that an approved construction program could start as early as FY 1973.

DECLASSIFIED AT 12 YEAR  
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY  
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10

16-400345

However, there is a view here that once a program (even a classified program such as this) is submitted there is a risk that the program as a whole and some of its details could be compromised to the public. This view also holds that the potential damage to your negotiation efforts from such a compromise would outweigh the immediate advantages resulting from expediting our development efforts.

There is a second view that the speedy development of a classified detailed basing and construction plan, that has been approved to the point of congressional authorization, would play a vital role in achieving our military objectives on Tinian. Such a project, when placed in your hands for use in negotiations, could be the critical inducement that facilitates the acquisition or control of the whole of Tinian Island. It might also help in obtaining a speedy Marianas agreement to a political status that is more advantageous to the U.S.

Your comments and recommendations on the practicability of proceeding with the above planning would be appreciated.

61  
Selden  
acting asst. Sec.

Dist:  
Orig & 1 - Addee  
yellow - AD  
blue & Wht - RC

Prep: Cmdr Shaid/EAPR/71802/gsf/23 Nov 71

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR  
INTERVALS; NOT AUTOMATICALLY  
DECLASSIFIED. DOD DIR 5200.10