

SECRET

TTFE 4

9 Dec 71
In reply refer to:
I-29573/71

03
2

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

SUBJECT: Tinian

The views expressed in your 1 December 1971 memorandum regarding Tinian are appreciated. The need to move ahead with dispatch with regard to Tinian is recognized. I am concerned, however, that planning and programming actions in this area, even if classified, could be compromised and adversely used to affect the overall on-going Micronesian Status Negotiations. Because of this concern Ambassador Williams, the President's personal representative and head of the U.S. negotiating team, was queried concerning moving ahead with Tinian programming now. His response relayed the same fears and is attached for your information.

Based on my current understanding of the situation, it does not appear that a relatively short delay at this time in the development of Tinian Island would jeopardize national security when viewed in the context of the possible adverse effects such action may have on the overall U.S. goals of the total Micronesian negotiations. The next round of talks is expected to take place in March 1972. I believe we should await the outcome of these negotiations to address the Tinian question. By that time it is expected that separate negotiations with the Marianas will be agreed to by both parties. I would then envisage a rapid conclusion to negotiations with the Marianas incorporating our plans for Tinian.

In summary, in view of the on-going political status talks with the Micronesians and the potential critical effects of outside events on the outcome of these talks, it is considered that any revelation of specific facility programming actions in the Tinian area until firm status agreements and land negotiations have been established would be detrimental to the achievement of our overall objectives in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

A
Selden

Attachment

PREP: Capt Schuller/OSD/ISA/EAPR/8 Dec 71/rdm/71802
DIST: Orig - Addee
Bl & wht - RC
Y1 - AD

16-400341

SECRET

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 10 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

03
2

SECRET

November 30, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY ARMISTEAD I. SELDEN, JR.

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

REF: Your memorandum dated 28 November 1971

From the perspective of the Micronesian Status Negotiations, the next few months will be crucial. It is essential that anti-U.S. elements in the Trust Territory be denied, wherever possible, any opportunities to discredit the U.S. position. At Hana the U.S. Delegation assured the Micronesians that, if any non-emergency land transfers became necessary before final agreement on the status issue was reached, the United States Government would negotiate with the "proper authorities." In the case of the Marianas this would probably be the District Legislature. Certainly the premature leak of any secret and detailed plans for building military bases in Micronesia could be used by unfriendly individuals or groups to charge bad faith on the part of the United States. Consequently, it appears wise not to risk a leak until separate negotiations with the Marianas are underway.

If, however, the Department of Defense believes that a delay in this project could jeopardize national security, every precaution should be taken to keep the information from leaking and to frame the proposal so that it is clearly a contingency action which will ultimately depend on full consultation with the proper Micronesian authorities.

I should like to take this opportunity to underscore my strong belief that, at this stage, any defense activity in or related to Micronesia, no matter how innocent or well motivated, would be seized upon and distorted by elements in Micronesia and the United States, in order to prevent a final agreement. This is unfortunate, but nevertheless a fact of life. Consequently, every effort should be made to keep military activity of a public nature and defense pronouncements about the Trust Territory at a minimum until the negotiations have reached a more secure stage.

Franklin Haydn Williams

Franklin Haydn Williams
The President's Personal Representative
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

16-400342