

SECRET

Hand
copy TTFI 4

10 Dec 71

03
2

In reply refer to:
I-36087/71

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Military Basing in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI)

The attached memorandum responds to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff memorandum of 18 October 1971, which reflects the Joint Chiefs' desire to move ahead now with base development on the Island of Tinian.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have identified a basing complex on Tinian Island as the only facility for which there is a known base requirement over the long term in the TTPI, and have recommended the development be started immediately. The Services have begun detailed planning, to include time-phased planning as to the facilities and forces that might be appropriately located on Tinian (and Saipan) in the event approved construction can begin at an early date. The Chairman reports that these efforts have now reached the point where, to be useful, they must proceed within the framework of approved programming and budget processes. Accordingly, his memorandum asks you to approve the incorporation of the Tinian development plan in appropriate DOD and Service planning documents and the subsequent inclusion of the detailed plans in the funding and programming documents of DOD and the military departments.

Unfortunately, from the perspective of overall Micronesian Status Negotiations, the next few months will be crucial. The premature leak of plans to build military bases in Micronesia might be used effectively by dissident groups to counter our efforts in these on-going negotiations. Attached to your response to the Chairman, is a memorandum from Ambassador Williams, head of the negotiation team, which bears out that point in strong terms.

In view of overall long term U.S. interests in Micronesia, it appears unwise or ill-timed to proceed at this time with any Tinian actions which may endanger status negotiations. However, the Joint Chiefs have taken a strong position thus far with expedited action. Consequently, I think it is pertinent and crucial that the Chairman be provided an opportunity to respond to the aspect of whether delaying the facility programming of the development of Tinian for about a year could significantly endanger national security. Therefore, that opportunity is provided in your response to the Chairman.

Colonel's signature.

(S)
Mr. Selden

REF: CAPT Schuller/CSD/ISA/EAPR/6 Dec 71/REM/71802

LIST: Orig - Addes

Com - OSD Files

Bl & wht - RC

YL - AD

DOV... BY 3 YEAR INTER...
RECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS...
DOD DIR 5200.10

SECRET

16-400339

SECRET

13 Dec 71
In reply refer to:
I-36087/71

03
2

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Military Basing in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI)

Reference is made to Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff memorandum dated 18 October 1971 (JCSM-456-71), recommending early initiating action for future Tinian base development; an action in consonance with the new military requirements stemming from the Okinawa reversion.

The need to move ahead with dispatch and establish a viable military presence in the TTPI, in view of the rapidly changing aspects of the U.S. posture in the Pacific, is recognized. I am concerned, however, that planning and programming actions, even if classified, could be compromised and adversely used to affect the on-going Micronesian Status Negotiations. Because of this concern Ambassador Williams, the head of the U.S. delegation was queried concerning the substance of your memorandum. 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 Micronesian negotiations. I am told that the next round of negotiations is anticipated in March 1972. I believe we should await the outcome of these negotiations to address the issue, anticipating inclusion of the Tinian development project in the FY 74 budget.

In view of the on-going political status talks with the Micronesians and the potential critical effect of outside events on the outcome of these talks, it is considered detrimental for any revelation of specific facility programming actions in the Tinian area until firm status agreements and land negotiations have been established. Accordingly, although the Tinian plans, referenced in paragraphs 1a and 1c of JCSM-456-71, may be incorporated into appropriate planning documents on a contingency basis, no facility programming actions (i.e. project documentation, requests for funds, etc.) should be contemplated until completion of negotiations.

Should you determine that national security would be jeopardized by delaying the programming of essential facilities involved in the development of Tinian for about a year, I would appreciate receiving your views.

(S)
Melvin Laird

Attachment

PREP: CAPT SCHULLER/OSD/ISA/EAPR/6 Dec 71/rdm/71802
DIST: Orig & 3 - Addee Xerox cy - ASD:I&L
Grn - OSD Files xerox cy - Asst. to Sec(AE)
Bl & wht - RC
Yl - AD

16-400340

SECRET

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED