

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

1 March 1972

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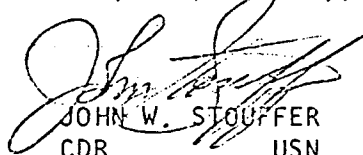
MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL MURPHY, OASD/ISA/EA&PR

SUBJECT: US Military Installations on Tinian

Mr. Hilbert of the Air Force has suggested to Mr. Selden that it might be worthwhile to look into the possibility of buying Tinian from its current inhabitants. It is his understanding that they are few in number and he believes that the real estate could be purchased more cheaply at this time in comparison with the price after Micronesian status negotiations are completed.

Mr. Nutter feels that this might be a very good idea. Would you please have your people look into the matter and investigate the validity and provide us a point paper with recommendations. We would appreciate having this information by 15 March.

Very respectfully,



JOHN W. STOFFER
CDR USN

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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COL. A. M. SMITH

A. E. A.

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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THE JOINT STAFF

Dear Phil:

I agree generally with your thinking on the early acquisition of the entire Island of Tinian. Such an objective is feasible and, if planned and approached in the correct manner, readily attainable. The Joint Chiefs of Staff have recommended that the acquisition of all of Tinian be an objective in the Micronesian Status Negotiations. This recommendation was approved by Secretary Laird in his letter to Ambassador Williams of 9 September 1971. As yet, the specific details on land requirements in the Marianas have not been broached to either the Micronesian Status Negotiators or to the Marianas representatives. However, they were told that the US Military may have some requirements in the Marianas that must be fulfilled prior to the final resolution of a status agreement for all of the Trust Territory.

Planning for early development on Tinian is proceeding rapidly. We are now awaiting Secretary of Defense approval of a JCS proposal that programming and funding actions should proceed immediately. To support this proposal, detailed facility planning for Tinian is well underway in PACOM, as you are aware. It is believed that these plans, when approved, will be a key negotiating lever for the acquisition of Tinian. The Marianas representatives at the recent status talks made it clear to our Defense representative that their concern was jobs and long term development, not land. They see the need for 2,500 jobs to fill the vacuum that will be left when the Trust Territory Government is dissolved. This opens a door for us to propose several options for the procurement of Tinian:

- 1) Straight purchase, as you have recommended;
- 2) A trade-off of military retention and excess public lands on Saipan for equivalent lands on Tinian.

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3) A trade-off of guaranteed military job and economic projects in return for a Marianas Government grant of the whole island.

4) Any of several combinations of the first two options.

We hope to complete all planning and programming for immediate military construction, along with a proposed negotiating posture for use by Ambassador Williams, prior to the next round of status negotiations (now scheduled for March). This proposed negotiating posture will contain a series of options and proposals which can be offered to the people of the Marianas in return for our military requirements. We feel that the above action will achieve the objective for Tinian which you have expressed.

Sincerely,

Signed
J. P. WEINEL
Vice Admiral, USN
Director for Plans and Policy, J-5

Mr. Philip F. Hilbert
Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force
(International Affairs)
Department of the Air Force
Washington, D. C.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

November 29, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL WEINEL, JCS J-5

Blackie

I think this will be of interest to you. I do feel very strongly that we should act before it is too late but it is out of my hands and I have no way to drive it through as long as CINCPAC is taking the lead position. This is a case in which the Military Departments have the money to do something off, having to go through the JCS Unified channel.

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PHF
PHILIP F. HILBERT
Deputy Under Secretary
(International Affairs)

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November 29, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SELDEN, OSD/ISA

Seeing a message from GINCPACREP Guam to JCS and ISA, Guam News Report No. 24, DTG 290050Z November 71, unclassified, brought to mind the fact that time may be running out on a determination to get complete control of Tinian with no one on it except people who are working for the US military. That message quotes a Pacific Daily News item by a Micronesian correspondent saying that news that Tinian may come alive again had been met with great enthusiasm by the Tinian mayor speaking for the island's 733 residents and pointing out how good it would be for the island because they would have a good hospital, good doctors, new jobs, a market for the island's produce, improved roads, a repaired dock, etc. With conditions somewhat depressed in the Marianas, it wouldn't take much to bring in an influx of population looking for new jobs, who in turn would settle on the remaining land of which only about one-third is military controlled now and we would soon have a population whose interests might very quickly run contrary to ours and could present us with plenty of political problems.

Right now, the Marianas, seeing the prosperity on Guam and the lack of it on the other islands, are all anxious to become Americans. Of all the Pacific Trust Territories, that is the one group of islands really beating on the door to come into some close relation with the United States. I hope it will stay that way but if we got a lot more of those people in some close connection to us, such as exists in Guam, we may find the picture very different. The pie won't go around as well when it is cut up among a lot of islands. People will get disenchanted; political troubles will start; that the Guamanians have will tend to be diluted or at least it won't look as big in comparison and the

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TINIAN POINT PAPER

Problem

- Mr. Hilbert, Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force (International Affairs), has suggested buying Tinian from its current inhabitants prior to completion of Micronesian Status Negotiations. Is this course of action valid or feasible?

Background

- The last round of status talks, in October 1971, affirmed that inclusion of the Marianas in a territory-wide solution is unlikely. The Marianas clearly desire close affiliation with the U.S. Separate negotiations with them are anticipated later this year.

Current Status/Considerations

- Political maneuvering and personal in-fighting behind the scenes by individual members and individual factions of the Congress of Micronesia have developed since the last round of talks.
- Serious splits now exist under the surface.
- At the session of Congress of Micronesia just concluded, Marianas were expected to request authorizing legislation for separate talks with the U.S. This action did not take place due fears of splitting the Congress, with result of non-approval and weakened position for separate negotiations.
 - Request has been delayed until next special session, expected in July.
- Marianas have not publicly gone on record announcing desire to negotiate separately with U.S.
- Marianas have made firm commitment not to enter into separate talks with U.S. before April.
- Marianas District leadership has not as yet appointed a Marianas Status Committee to negotiate with U.S.

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- For political and legal reasons U.S. must deal with Marianas district leadership.
- UN considerations dictate disestablishment of Trust for all of Micronesia at the same time.
- Public lands on Tinian are involved as well as private land.
- Moving too fast in the Marianas could jeopardize/undermine both negotiations with Marianas and the rest of the Districts.
- In spite of above, prognosis is very good for achieving separate negotiations with Marianas (Tab A). *Domance of March 6, 1972*
- OSD supports acquisitions of all of Tinian (Tab B). *Sept 9 letter of SecDef*
- OSD has initiated positive action toward achieving all of Tinian.
- JCS has been requested to provide a recommended negotiating scenario, including dollar values and inducements willing to provide, for acquisition of all of Tinian. (Tab C)

Conclusions

- Separate negotiations with the Marianas appear likely this year.
- Tinian negotiations must be conducted in such a manner so as not to jeopardize our negotiating position vis-a-vis the Marianas or the the rest of Micronesia.
- Overriding political and legal considerations preclude taking a direct course of action with the individual inhabitants of Tinian.

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