

PROPOSED
MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Micronesian Status Negotiations--
Military Land Sites in Palau (U)

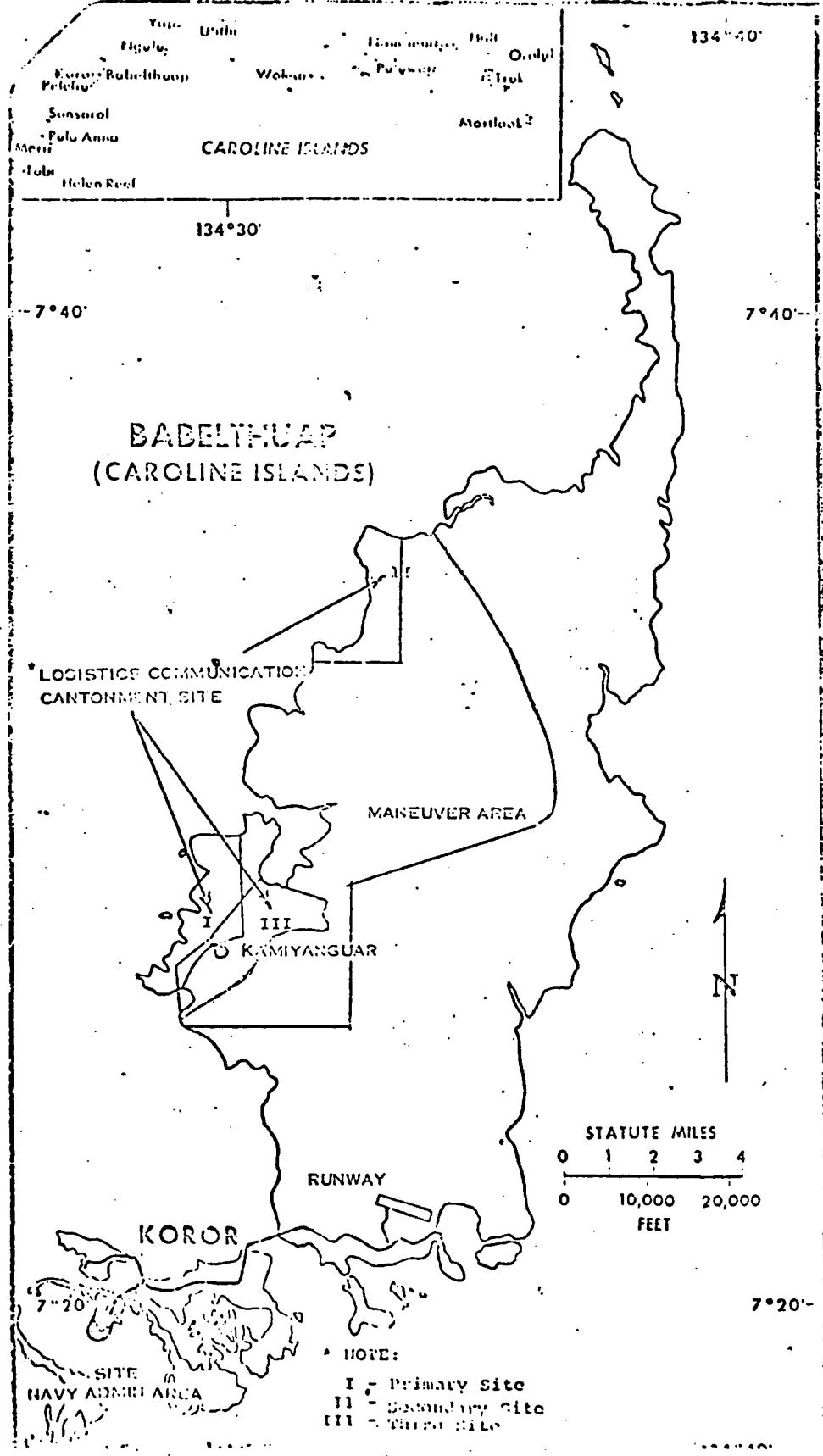
1. (U) Reference is made to your letter, dated 9 September 1971, to the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations which set forth the long-term land requirements of the United States for military basing options in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI).

2. (C) During the sixth round of the subject negotiations, recently completed in Hawaii, the United States and Micronesian delegations agreed that the United States would participate in an initial joint land survey and discussions concerning US military land requirements in Palau. The American team will be politically, militarily, and technically oriented. It's purpose will be to: dispel rumors concerning military land requirements and issues in Palau through discussions with the Micronesian land subcommittee and other interested parties, visit selected sites, and present the Micronesian land subcommittee with maps depicting the sites selected to meet US land requirements.

3. (U) It is expected that detailed negotiations on site requirements in Palau will await the results of the initial survey and discussions and the reaction of the Micronesian land subcommittee to US requirements.

4. (S) In the attachment hereto for your approval is a representative map depicting the site requirements on Palau. The US team will provide the Micronesian land subcommittee with large-scale maps during the forthcoming initial land survey and discussions, scheduled for late November and early December 1972. All areas are located within the parameters established by the referenced letter with the exception of the two alternative sites provided for the naval cantonment and logistic area. The following factors were considered during the site selection for the cantonment and logistics area: proximity to the airfield, ease of access from land and sea, suitability of roads and terrain, drainage, relatively sheltered anchorage area with adequate depth, proximity to the 30,000 acre maneuver area and Malakal harbor, and the proximity to the main channel to Malakal harbor. In addition to the military considerations, planned or anticipated Micronesian civic and commercial interests were considered and provided for where possible during the site selection. These included: "aqua-culture" projects, potential tourism sites, historical sites, conservation areas, fishing areas, refrigeration facilities, and agricultural areas. US concern for and consideration of these factors should improve the bargaining power with the Micronesians.

APPENDIX



10-431885