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11/30/72

30 NOV 1972

In reply refer to:
I-28757/72

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES WILSON, JR., OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS
NEGOTIATIONS, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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

Reference is made to the Secretary of Defense 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).

During the sixth round of Micronesian status negotiations, the United States and Micronesian delegations agreed that the United States would participate in an initial joint land survey and discussions concerning U.S. military land requirements in Palau. The American team will be politically, militarily, and technically oriented. Its purpose will be to: dispel rumors concerning military land requirements and issues in Palau through discussions with representatives of the Micronesian land subcommittee and other interested parties, visit selected sites, and present the Micronesians with alternative maps depicting the sites selected to meet U.S. land requirements.

It is expected that detailed notes and bounds of 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 U.S. requirements.

In the attachment hereto is a representative map depicting site requirements on Palau. All areas are located within the parameters established by the referenced letter with the exception of the two additional alternative 2,000 acre sites provided for the naval cantonment and logistics area. These alternative sites have been provided for maximum flexibility in negotiations. Large-scale maps depicting single alternative sites are available for use by the U.S. team.

Classified by *Don E. O'Brien*
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652, EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS, DATE 3/24/80

Reply to X-5554/72

10-431677

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Just hunting for it

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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: "aquaculture" projects, potential tourism sites, historical sites, conservation areas, fishing areas, refrigeration facilities, and agricultural areas. Concern for and consideration of these factors hopefully will indicate the sincere desires of the United States to cooperate with the Micronesians in arriving at mutually satisfactory sites to meet minimum Department of Defense land requirements in Micronesia.

Attachment

Not Received

(Signed) Dennis J. Doolin
Deputy Assistant Secretary

PREP: Capt Schuller/OASD/ISA/EAPR/pmc/59282/28 Nov 72
DIST: Orig & 1 - Addee *X 159923*
Green - OSD/CCS
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