

T-7 PI 17D
1-25170/73

In Reply Refer To:
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6 Sept

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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN
STATUS NEGOTIATIONS

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Alternative Concepts for an Ammunition Handling
Capability on Tinian (U)

(S) Pursuant to your request following the last round of Marianas Political Status negotiations, this Department has examined alternatives to handling ammunition in the San Jose Harbor, Tinian, and has determined that an alternate concept is feasible.

(S) An engineering study developed the somewhat novel, but practical, alternative of excavating into the island a berthing slip for ocean-going ships, rather than pursue the more conventional and much more expensive proposition of constructing and protecting a pier or wharf along Tinian's exposed coastline with its steep bottom gradient. The concept envisions a slip with a water depth of 45 feet which is 350 feet wide and 1,000 feet long. A parallel wharf 200 feet wide, also cut out of the surrounding rock and coral, plus a barge landing at the head of the slip are included in the proposal. Such a facility, capable of accommodating ships as large as the Navy's fast replenishment ship, the AOE, would cost approximately \$9.5 million and require several years to design and construct. In consideration of prevailing wind and physical features, the slip would have to be constructed on Tinian's northwest coast in Lamanibot Bay, which also would be adjacent to the storage area of the proposed base layout.

(S) While an alternate ammunition handling facility has been determined to be feasible, it will not eliminate completely the requirement to have access to the existing harbor. Construction of a slip would be concurrent with the development of the rest of the base, therefore San Jose Harbor must be used for logistic support during the construction phase and afterwards to a degree. Furthermore, it could become necessary to handle ammunition through the existing harbor before an alternate facility is operable.

Classified by DASD/EAPA
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 81

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Prep by: Capt Whelan/EAF
4SEP/71802/rbg

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(S) Thus, after construction of such a slip, the explosive materials safety zone need not encompass the area of San Jose village; however, on the balance, this concept for an alternate facility should be considered only as a fallback if the present US position in regard to San Jose village is rejected by the other side. The effect of this alternative on Defense land requirements for Tinian is being studied, and any changes linked to this option will be provided to your office later this month.

(Signed) Dennis J. Doolin
Deputy Assistant Secretary

CC:

Director, Joint Staff
Deputy Under Secy USAF
Ass't SecNav (I&L)

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