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

TTP I 14E

JCSM-425-73
26 September 1973

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Military Land Requirements on Tinian Island (U)

1. (S) Reference is made to a memorandum by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), I-25219/73, dated 6 September 1973, subject: "Review of Military Land Requirements on Tinian (U)," which requested the Joint Chiefs of Staff to reexamine the previously established Tinian land requirements in light of an Air Force evaluation of a Navy study that presented a feasible alternative of locating an ammunition handling facility at Lamanibot Bay.

2. (S) Based on the Navy study and the evaluation of the study by the DOD Executive Agent, the Joint Chiefs of Staff note that the northwest coast wet slip (see the Annex to Appendix A hereto), though a feasible concept, would require a number of years to design and build and, even when completed, would provide a facility of limited capability, obviating only the requirement for ammunition handling and the attendant explosive quantity-distance arc at the existing harbor at San Jose (see Appendix B hereto). The use of the existing harbor would still be required for initial logistic support of Tinian base development, might be required for ammunition handling in the interim period until the wet slip is completed, and would be required for continued logistic support, less ammunition handling, even after construction of the wet slip. Studies conducted thus far indicate that in either case a programmed upgrade of the existing harbor will be necessary.

3. (S) Other alternatives to ammunition handling within the existing harbor that were also considered included construction of a complete new harbor, lightering, and movement across the beach. These alternatives were determined to be more costly than the wet slip or unsuitable as a continuing means for handling ammunition at a permanent installation.

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4. (S) In view of the above, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommend that:

a. The President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations continue to make a determined effort to obtain the Tinian land requirements in the priority listed in his present negotiating instructions (Appendix C hereto).

b. If the Marianas Political Status Commission does not agree to population relocation, an acceptable fallback position would be to locate the ammunition handling facility (wet slip) at Lamanibot Bay. This would obviate the present requirement for an ammunition safety zone encompassing San Jose village and extensive population relocation.

5. (S) In the case outlined in subparagraph 4b above, the Joint Chiefs of Staff can accept a reduction of their previously established minimum land requirements on Tinian to approximately 17,680 acres, as shown in the Annex to Appendix A. Precise acreage will be provided after an onsite engineering survey. In this event, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations would have to seek amended negotiating instructions from the President to authorize a reduction of the present minimum land requirement of 18,515 acres to approximately 17,680 acres with no extensive population relocation required.

6. (U) The Joint Chiefs of Staff further recommend that a memorandum, substantially the same as that contained in Appendix A, with its Annex, be forwarded to the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:



MARTIN G. COLLADAY
Major General, USAF
Vice Director, Joint Staff

Attachments

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APPENDIX A

DRAFT

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

Subject: Military Land Requirements on Tinian Island (U)

1. (S) Reference is made to:

a. Your verbal request after the last negotiating session with the Marianas Political Status Commission to have the Department of Defense investigate the feasibility of establishing an ammunition pier elsewhere on the island of Tinian.

b. A memorandum by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), I-25170/73, dated 6 September 1973, subject: "Evaluation of Alternative Concepts for an Ammunition Handling Capability on Tinian (U)," which advised, inter alia, that an alternate ammunition handling facility on Tinian was feasible and that the effect of such an alternative on Defense land requirements would be provided to your office later this month.

2. (S) As you are aware, through an onsite engineering survey a novel method for providing an alternate ammunition handling facility was developed. It was determined that the construction of a wet slip in Lamanibot Bay on the northwest coast to handle an ammunition ship was more feasible than that of a more conventional pier or wharf. A map depicting a feasible site location is contained in the Annex hereto. Other alternatives to ammunition handling within the existing harbor that were also considered included construction of a complete

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new harbor, lightering, and movement across the beach. These alternatives were determined to be more costly than the wet slip or unsuitable as a continuing means for handling ammunition at a permanent installation.

3. (S) It is emphasized that the northwest coast wet slip, though a feasible concept, would require a number of years to design, program, and construct. Moreover, even when completed, it would provide a facility of limited capability, obviating only the requirement for ammunition handling and the attendant explosive quantity-distance arc at the existing harbor at San Jose. The use of the existing harbor will still be required for initial logistic support of Tinian base development, might be required for ammunition handling in the interim period until the wet slip is completed, and would be required for logistic support, less ammunition handling, even after construction of the wet slip. Studies conducted thus far indicate that in either case a programmed upgrade of the existing harbor will be necessary.

4. (S) In view of the above, the Department of Defense recommends that:

a. You continue to make a determined effort to obtain the Tinian land requirements in the priority listed in your present negotiating instructions.

b. If the Marianas Political Status Commission does not agree to population relocation, an acceptable fallback position would be to locate the ammunition handling facility (wet slip) at Lamanibot Bay. This will obviate the present requirement for an ammunition safety zone encompassing San Jose village and extensive population relocation.

5. (S) In the case outlined in subparagraph 4b above, the Department of Defense can accept a reduction of its previously

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established minimum land requirements on Tinian to approximately 1
17,680 acres, as shown in the Annex hereto. Precise acreage 2
will be provided after an onsite engineering survey. In this 3
event, you would have to seek amended negotiating instructions 4
from the President to authorize a reduction of the present mini- 5
mum land requirement of 18,515 acres to approximately 17,680 6
acres, with no extensive population relocation required. 7

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Appendix A

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