



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

18 OCT 73

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In reply refer to:
1-25489/73

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

SUBJECT: Military Land Requirements on Tinian Island (U)

(S) In response to your verbal request after the last negotiating session with the Marianas Political Status Commission, I reported in my letter of 6 September 1973 that it is feasible to construct an alternate ammunition handling facility on Tinian and that the effect of such an alternative on Defense land requirements would be provided later.

(S) As I indicated in that earlier correspondence, a slip for ammunition ships in Lamanibot Bay on the northwest coast, though a feasible concept, would require several 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 some logistic support, less ammunition handling, even after construction of the wet slip. Studies conducted thus far indicate that in either case improvements to the existing harbor will be necessary.

(S) For these reasons, the Department of Defense position is that:

a. You continue to make a determined effort to obtain the Tinian land requirements in the priority listed in your present negotiating instructions. In this regard, it is important to bear in mind that there is an obligation to purchase outright US land intended for permanent defense facilities in order to protect adequately the significant investment the government intends to make on the site.

b. If the Marianas Political Status Commission cannot be persuaded to accept population relocation, an acceptable fallback position would be to locate the ammunition handling facility (wet slip) at Lamanibot Bay. Once

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SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
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completed, this facility will obviate the present requirement for an ammunition safety zone encompassing San Jose village and extensive population relocation.

(S) If it becomes mandatory to settle on the fallback position mentioned above, the Department of Defense can accept a reduction of its previously established minimum land requirements on Tinian to approximately 17,680 acres, as shown in the attached sketch. Precise acreage will be provided after an onsite engineering survey. In this event, amended negotiating instructions should be sought 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.

(Signed) [Signature]
Robert C. HILL

Assistant Secretary of Defense
International Security Affairs

Copy to:
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Secretary of the Air Force