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

CM-3030-73
6 December 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Memorial Park in the Trust Territory of
the Pacific Islands: Saipan (U)

1. (C) During a discussion of the above subject and an exchange of correspondence with Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, it was agreed that a memorial park on Saipan would be an ideal way to commemorate the over 3,500 Americans killed and nearly 15,000 wounded, from all Services, in the World War II battle of Saipan. Such a park would also counterbalance several Japanese memorials on the island. The Service Chiefs have wholeheartedly endorsed the concept.

2. (C) Subsequently, a member of the Joint Staff met with a member of Ambassador Williams' staff and a representative of the American Battle monuments Commission to discuss the construction of such a memorial. The results of the meeting indicated that such a memorial is feasible. However, the Battle Monuments Commission has been unable to acquire funds for construction of other memorials, such as one in Seoul, Korea, and Utah Beach in Normandy. Furthermore, the Commission does not anticipate being able to obtain funds for a memorial on Saipan, although they are more than willing to assist with such things as design and ideas for establishing a memorial park.

3. (C) The park envisioned by Ambassador Williams would be located on a portion of the prime beach front property along the Micro Point portion of the Tanapag Harbor military retention area (Enclosure). Initially, it could perhaps consist of a cleared beach front area, with associated recreational facilities, and a gate or archway. It is contemplated that a monument could be erected at a later date. Given the limited resources available, all of the items, with the exception of the monument, could probably

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SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
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be accomplished on an as available basis by one of the military Civic Action Teams assigned to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands or as a training project by the Navy Construction Battalion assigned to Guam. The type of monument being considered is relatively inexpensive, approximately \$50,000.

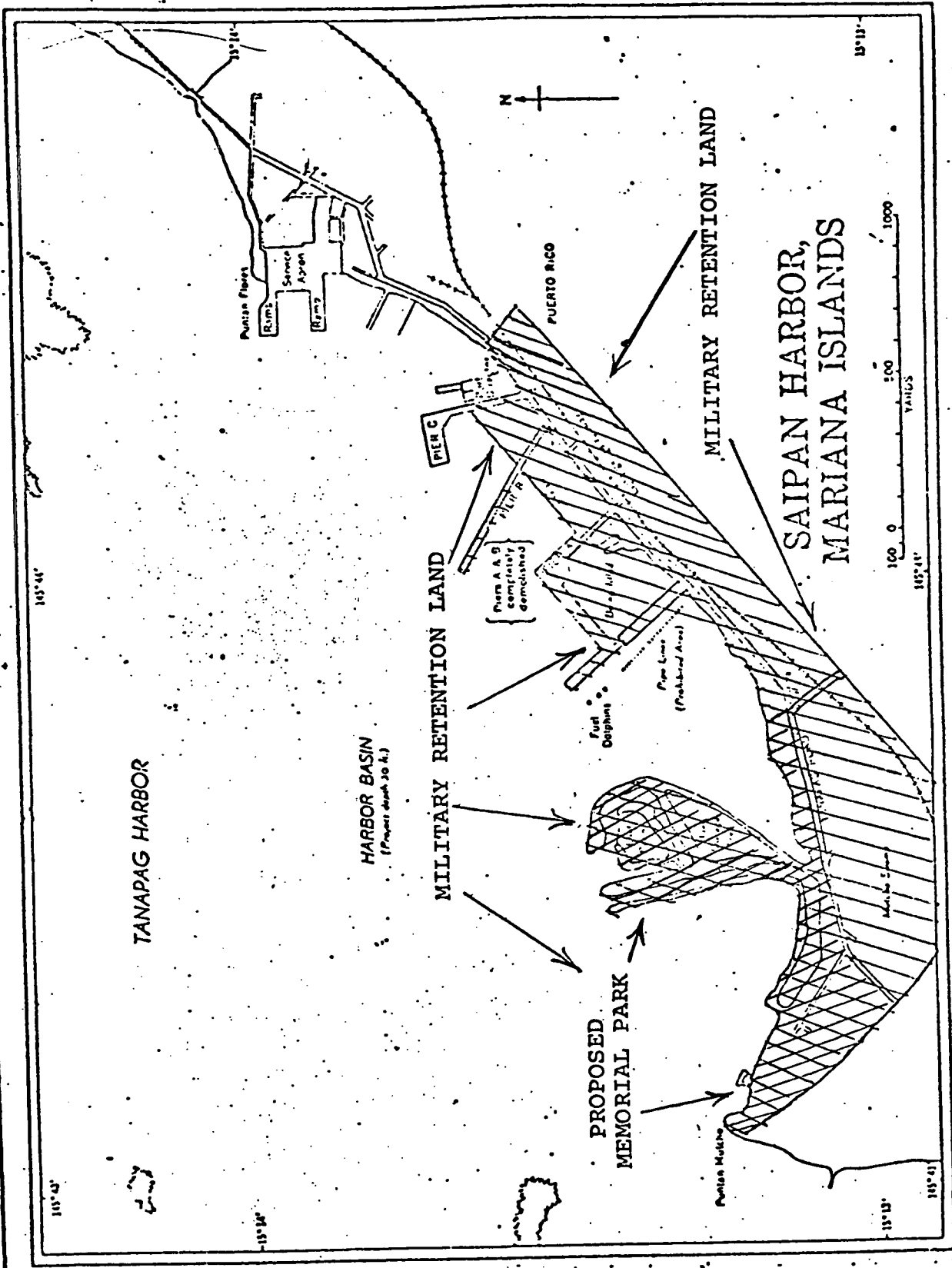
4. (C) Although initial park construction could be accomplished as previously indicated, there are legal restrictions that should be considered which prevent the expenditure of DOD funds for continuing maintenance and for the erection of the monument. However, there is a possibility of obtaining special authorization and funding authority from Congress to support the project such as was done in the case of the Arizona Memorial. I therefore solicit your endorsement of the memorial park concept and request that you designate a Service to take the lead in this project.

5. (C) Ambassador Williams is interested in having something firm to discuss with the Marianas Political Status Commission regarding a memorial park on Saipan during the negotiations which resume on 6 December 1973. Upon your approval of the concept, the Defense representatives on the American delegation could advise Ambassador Williams that you are in agreement and that DOD is exploring the alternatives by which it may be able to sponsor a memorial park on Saipan.


E. R. ZUMWALT, Jr.
Acting Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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SAIPAN MEMORIAL PARK

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