



INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

28 APR 1974

In reply refer to:
I-3531/74

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Route Slip 01
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Mr. James M. Wilson, Jr.
US Deputy Representative for
Micronesian Status Negotiations
Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Jim:

In your letter of April 5, 1974 you requested an analysis of the costs to relocate San Jose village on Tinian and to construct an alternate ammunition handling facility. Further, you asked for this Department's views on five questions concerning the relocation issue on Tinian.

The basic and controversial issue of relocation versus alternate ammunition handling facility has been undergoing careful review within the Department of Defense since the first of this year. Factors such as the opportunity to conduct detailed on-site surveys, the uncertainty and lack of support on this issue by the Marianas people, and concern in the US Congress have all dictated a reexamination and refinement in our thinking on this matter. Moreover, as you will note in your copy of the Crested Isle plan, the complete cost estimates won't be complete until late summer or early autumn.

Our best estimate at this time of the requested cost data will be provided to your office, along with Defense views on the other questions, as early as possible; however, I regret that it may be late April before tentative estimates of the comparative costs can be completed.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Padlin
Deputy Assistant Secretary

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