

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

April 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS)

SUBJECT: Military Land Requirements on Tinian Island (U)

Reference is made to your memorandum of October 3, 1973, same subject, to the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations which stated, inter alia, that constructing an ammunition handling facility on the northwest coast of Tinian was a feasible concept and set forth the following Department of Defense position on the subject:

- a. That the President's Personal Representative continue to make a determined effort to obtain the Tinian land requirements in the priority listed in his present negotiating instruction.
- b. That 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 at Lamanibot Bay. Once completed, this facility will obviate the present requirement for an ammunition safety zone encompassing San Jose village and extensive population relocation.

Since that time, onsite surveys and a recently completed engineering feasibility study provided alternative sites and land use schemes for the development of the multi-service military base on Tinian, and recommended that it will be in the best interest of the Department of Defense to construct a remote ammunition handling facility in the near term. Such action will eliminate San Jose port

Classified by: Dir of Programs
SUBJECT TO GENERAL
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE
EXEMPT FROM AUTOMATIC
DECLASSIFICATION
DECLASSIFIED ON
31 DECEMBER 1982

10-432302

89-1-2 Document 1

[REDACTED]

operational constraints, the requirement for extensive population relocation, and the requirement for the permanent Explosives Safety Quantity Distance (ESQD) arc around the present harbor. It will also permit orderly development of the present harbor for general cargo use and reduce the overall acreage required for military use, thus easing the US negotiating problem by reducing two of the current major negotiating bottlenecks--population relocation and the size of the military land requirement on Tinian.

[REDACTED] It is therefore requested that the President's Personal Representative:

a. Be advised of the results of the engineering feasibility study as specified above.

b. Be advised of the reduced military land requirements on Tinian, that extensive population relocation will not be required, and that a remote ammunition handling facility will be developed in the near term.

[REDACTED] Maps depicting the exact boundaries required for the multi-service base on Tinian will be provided to you and the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations not later than May 7, 1974.

[REDACTED] In addition, the Air Staff is prepared to assist the United States Delegation during the next round of negotiations in May 1974, to completely justify the Tinian military land requirements, explain the uses to which the land will be put, and present the conceptual plan for where various functional areas of the base will be located.

[REDACTED] The Air Staff action officer and point of contact for the Executive Agent is Major Appelle, PRPOB, extension 54431.



PHILIP F. HILBERT
Special Assistant