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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

26 JUL 1974

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

In reply refer to: 35
I-23666/74

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Assignment of Air Force as Executive Agent for Tinian Base Development

Recently, Ambassador Haydn Williams debriefed you on the results of the Fourth Round of Marianas Political Status Negotiations, including mention of the plans for development of a base on Tinian. During that phase of the meeting you asked why the Air Force had been designated Executive Agent for the Department of Defense on this project.

Since an opportunity has not presented itself in which we could discuss your question, I am forwarding a brief paper outlining the rationale for the assignment, with attached documentation, to permit review at your convenience.

Attachment
a/s

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UNCLASSIFIED WHEN ATTACHMENTS ARE DETACHED

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10-431162

07/15/54

AIR FORCE: EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR TINIAN

PURPOSE

- As requested by DepSecDef Clements (in his meeting with Ambassador Williams), this reviews the reasons for assignment of Air Force as DOD's Executive Agent for base development on Tinian.

BACKGROUND

- The development of a base on Tinian initially was recommended by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in October 1971.
- On 30 November 1971, the Secretary of the Air Force in TAB A requested that Air Force be designated Executive Agent.

RATIONALE

- Primary considerations which influenced the decision were:
 - Initial development envisioned facilities primarily for air operations.
 - The airfield and storage areas were to be constructed on military "retention lands" ... lands retained at the request of the Air Force for contingency purposes.
 - Air Force had a primary and expressed interest in developing these facilities.
 - Advantageous to have one military department take the lead in developing the base because the Services are responsible for programming and budgeting.
 - Other Service chiefs concurred in this action.

IMPLEMENTATION

- SecDef Laird's letter of 1 June 1972, inter alia, designated Air Force as DOD Executive Agent for near term Tinian developments (TAB B).
 - However, Navy remains DOD real estate and construction agent for that area of the world, as well as continuing to be the area coordinator for military matters as the area representative for CINCPAC.
- OSD(I&L) approved the charter at TAB C which provides guidance to the Air Force in its role as DOD Executive Agent for Tinian.

RECOMMENDATION

- The arrangement appears to be working satisfactorily and we see no reason for a change.