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NECESSITY FOR DEFENSE BASE ON TINIAN

PURPOSE. Concurrent with the future status negotiations, the evolving world situation has clarified the necessity to develop a multi-purpose military facility on Tinian.

BACKGROUND. The strategic significance of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) was recognized by the United Nations following World War II when, by trusteeship agreement with the United States, the TTPI was declared a strategic area and placed under the administration of the United States. Although Micronesia has been recognized all along as a vital area for Defense bases, other favorable basing agreements permitted bases closer on the periphery of the Asian mainland in support of the United States strategy of forward lines of defense.

- Consequently bases not developed in the TTPI in the years after World War II.

However, US requirements for developing a base in the Marianas have been advanced by two circumstances. First, increasing economic and political pressures coupled with unrest and uncertainty illuminated the fact that it soon will be necessary to have greater basing capacity on US soil in forward areas. Second, the political status negotiations now underway necessitate an early and precise definition of military requirements in order that basing needs for the near future could be satisfied in the course of the negotiations, and in a manner which would be least disruptive to the Marianas.

- In the foregoing context, the necessity emerged to develop a multi-purpose facility on Tinian which would complement US military installations on Guam and buttress the US defense posture in the Western Pacific. Such an installation primarily would be used as a transshipment, logistics support and training site, but more importantly would serve to defend the Marianas and vital lines of communication through the area.
- Tinian had the greatest amount of undeveloped or lightly developed land.

It is envisioned that with a Guam-Tinian base complex the United States will be capable of reshaping its defense posture in the Pacific under varying conditions in order to protect US strategic interests and fulfill its obligations to its allies.

OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS. Specifically, the base on Tinian must include:

- (A minimum of) 2/3 of the land on the island with access to the port, and a safety zone around the port to permit ammunition handling in the harbor.
- An airfield capable of operating all types of US aircraft.
- Fuel, ammunition and military materiel storage facilities.

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- Command, administrative and operational support facilities.
- Bachelor housing and recreational facilities.
- Family housing area including church, commissary, exchange and playgrounds.
- Port cargo handling equipment and warehousing.
- Plus a relatively underdeveloped area available for periodic joint air-ground training maneuvers. This area could be used, at least partially, for livestock grazing.

CONSTRUCTION PLANS. It would be approximately one year after the land is acquired before construction of the base would begin.

- However, preliminary planning already has begun, with \$297,000 being expended in this phase.
- Dependent on US Congressional approval, the base is to be constructed in phases over the next seven to ten years, allowing ample time for associated planning by the civilian community.
- In addition to permitting access through the base to the northern beaches, it is planned to fence only those areas where life may be endangered, e.g., runways, fuel and ammunition storage site, and communication or radar antennas, plus special security areas.

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