



INTERNATIONAL
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

4 NOV 1974

In reply refer to:
1-25780/74

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Department of Defense Requirements in Micronesia

(C) Since World War II, and particularly in recent years, the Department of Defense has emphasized strongly, and at the highest levels - both from the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and from the Secretarial side - that there are certain minimum, non-negotiable requirements in Micronesia which are essential to protect our national interests in the Pacific. In brief, these requirements are (1) the denial of the area for military use of third powers, (2) control over the foreign and defense affairs of the area, and (3) to operate and base US military forces in the area. In the latter category, since 1971 the JCS and Secretary of Defense have insisted upon three specifics as necessary objectives for our current basing requirements, viz, the retention of the Kwajalein Missile Range in the Marshall Islands, the right to use or acquire large areas in the Palau Islands to conduct training and, if ever necessary, to construct a base, and finally, the acquisition of two-thirds of the island of Tinian on which to construct a multi-purpose base in an orderly, phased manner over the mid-range period (8-10 years). These requirements have been stressed repeatedly in public and to both the executive and legislative branches of the Government.

(S) It is my understanding that a joint review of the Marianas requirements is being conducted in response to the recent Program Decision Memorandum on the fiscal year 1976 Program Objectives. I am concerned that such a review, if done in haste, could result in an adjustment in requirements rather than funding priorities and timetables because of current fiscal uncertainties. Of greater concern is the future and possibly synergistic effect of such changes, first on the land options in the Palau Islands and ultimately on the critical base rights and denial requirements. At the time the legislation is introduced to authorize and fund the new political status of Micronesia and the Northern Marianas, Congress is expected to rely heavily on DOD testimony to support the need for a continued, close US relationship with the entire Micronesian area. If fiscal constraints of the current period are allowed to erode our long range interests and requirements, Defense

~~ASD/ISA, E.A.M.R.~~

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Case No.	83-FU-1746	
T.S. No.	89-75-179	
Document No.	12	

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officials will be placed in an untenable and embarrassing situation.

(S) Bearing in mind these considerations, I believe it is crucial that your review address both the mid-and long range requirements for the area, including the political as well as the economic costs of adjustments. Of equal importance is the addressal of the pros and cons of restructuring funding priorities and timetables for base development. Because of the Defense Department commitment to this program, it is expected that the Executive Agent for Tinian base development, the Secretary of the Air Force, will receive broad-based and continuing support from all components of the Department of Defense.

(U) The importance of this total issue to our long range defense posture in the Western Pacific, coupled with the adverse impact which a significant reduction in US requirements would have at this critical stage in both sets of status negotiations, suggest that this matter receive thoughtful high-level consideration among joint and service planners, plus careful review by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Copy to: Deputy Secretary of Defense
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Robert McNamara
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense

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