

DoD

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROUTING SLIP

TO	ACT COPY TO	INFO COPY TO	TO
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE		✓	ASD (Public Affairs)
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE		✓	GENERAL COUNSEL
THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT		✓	DIR, TACCS
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY			ATSD (Atomic Energy)
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY			ASST TO SEC D
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE			DEF ADV E AGENCY
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF		✓	DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
DIR OF DEF RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING			DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS
ASD (Comptroller)			DEFENSE CONTRACTING AGENCY
DASD (Administration)			DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
ASD (Health and Environment)			DEFENSE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
ASD (Installations and Logistics)		✓	DEFENSE NUMBERING AGENCY
ASD (Intelligence)			DEFENSE PERSONNEL ASSISTANCE AGENCY
ASD (International Security Affairs)			DEFENSE PROPERTY AGENCY
ASD (Legislative Affairs)			DEFENSE SECURITY AGENCY
ASD (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)			
ASD (Program Analysis and Evaluation)			
PREP OF REPLY FOR SEC OF DEF SIGNATURE			DEFENSE INFORMATION AND RETENTION
PREP OF REPLY FOR DEP SEC SIGNATURE			COMMENTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATION
REPLY DIRECT (Fwd cy of Def rec)			COORDINATE REPLY WITH
APPROPRIATE ACTION			

REMARKS

WHILE

Forman
GWA

77 P1

2

ACTION COPY
 ADVANCE ACTION COPY
 INFORMATION COPY

LATER THAN ROUTING DATE OSD CONTROL NUMBER

27 NOV 1974 WH 23355 922169

74 14

PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Old Executive Office Building
Room 361

Washington, D.C. 20506

NOV 25 1974

The Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Marianas political status negotiations to date have resulted in tentative agreements which fully meet the Department of Defense land requirements as set forth in my instructions from the President. As you know the major defense requirement is for approximately two-thirds of the island of Tinian. Although the Marianas Political Status Commission has agreed to making available this amount of land, the extent of the U.S. military land needs on Tinian continues to be a highly emotional local issue and it has the potential of being made into a moral "cause celebre" by anti-American, anti-military elements in the Marianas and in the United States and elsewhere in the world including various bodies and committees of the United Nations.

A related serious Marianas land issue is the question of the method of acquisition, a matter over which Deputy Secretary Clements and I have been in correspondence. Of far greater concern to me at the moment are the signs of growing Congressional skepticism over the military rationale for the Marianas military land requirements and my need to be reassured that the Department of Defense intends to continue to go forward with the Crested Isle Plan and timetable once the land has been acquired. Confirmation of this intention, or alternatively my being informed if there has been any shift in the Department of Defense position with regard to the Tinian Plan and timetable, is essential as we enter the final stages of these negotiations.

A year ago I wrote you that some Congressional staff member and some members of the House Sub-Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs were seriously questioning the military rationale and justification for the defense land needs in the Northern Marianas. Subsequent presentations and special briefings by representatives of OSD and the JCS apparently have not convinced these individuals and they continue to maintain that "Defense has not made a plausible case for Tinian".

RF 29066

gc 2/62

10-432187

134

Within the past few months in closed sessions with me some members of Congress and some staff members have continued to question the need for a new base on Tinian. More recently staff members of the House Appropriations Committee and the Sikes military construction sub-committee have openly voiced their serious doubts about the need for a new joint-service military base complex on Tinian given the already existing and standby facilities on nearby Guam. This negative attitude was also reflected in the Mahon Committee Report (93-1255) of August 1, 1974 which states that the Committee doubts that construction of a new base complex on Tinian can be justified so long as the United States has access to bases in Japan and Korea. I am told that an effort last month by OSD(ISA) to convince some Mahon Committee staff members of the need for Tinian and other Department of Defense land requirements in the Northern Marianas was of doubtful success.

Journalists and scholars and contributors to such journals as Foreign Affairs are beginning to show a renewed interest in the status talks and this interest has focussed on the U.S. military land requirement. ABC (The Smith-Reasoner Report) recently gave a not too favorable short brief on the so-called "Pentagon land grab" on Tinian and NBC has said that it intends to do a more complete story on the subject for the Today show. This media interest is being stimulated by an unfriendly element on Tinian and their supporters on Guam and elsewhere, who have been busy writing the President, members of Congress and petitioning the United Nations. I mention all of this simply to indicate that the volume of anti-military propaganda and criticism of the plan to build a new base on Tinian is likely to grow and an organized effort to discredit both the need for the land and the acquisition of same could have serious consequences with respect to the U.S. Congress and the ultimate status vote in the Marianas.

Against this background I continue to be asked whether the Department of Defense seriously intends to carry through with the Crested Isle Plan and timetable, considering the Department of Defense's budgetary limitations and competing priorities. On the basis of information given me and your letter of last December 5, 1973 we have assured the Marianas Political Status Commission that the Department of Defense does intend to go forward with the plans according to the timetable which was presented to them by representatives of the Air Force in December 1973 and again in May of 1974. This calls for the construction of a joint service base complex on Tinian over a seven-year period beginning in FY 1976. These presentations and supporting statements made during the course of the negotiations to date have built up a great expectation in the Marianas about the economic and employment benefits that will accrue to

the new Government and to the people as a result of the income from the land to be used, the construction and operation of the base and a number of side benefits including major capital improvements, improved services and schooling, etc.

The sub-negotiations on land which are now underway are setting forth more concrete Department of Defense proposals with respect to the rehabilitation of the harbor on Tinian, the building of a new airfield to which the civilian sector would have joint use rights, the construction of certain new access roads, etc. All of this is also clearly raising the level of local expectations. Clearly the status negotiations have thus become closely interwoven with the Department of Defense plans for Tinian and much of the sentiment for a permanent association with the United States, either pro or con, centers on how people perceive the advantages and disadvantages of a military build-up and presence in the Marianas in economic and social terms.

For all of these reasons it is most important that I be able to continue to say with assurance that the Department of Defense intends to go forward with the development of Tinian along the lines and within the timeframe that has been given the Marianas Political Status Commission in the past rounds. The Commission will probably raise this question next month in Saipan during Round V in view of the press stories following the release of the Mahon report. Therefore it is most important to us as we plan for the next steps in the talks to know whether there has been any change in the Department of Defense's Tinian planning in light of recent Congressional views and other important considerations.

The question of the priority that is to be given Tinian and the likelihood of Congressional support for the acquisition of the land required and for the funding of Crested Isle is most important to the successful attainment of our basic negotiating objectives--to bring the Marianas permanently under U.S. sovereignty. In view of the opening of our next round of negotiations on Saipan on December 5, your early thoughts and advice on this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Franklin Haydn Williams

Franklin Haydn Williams
U.S. Ambassador
Micronesian Status Negotiations

FHW:kkc