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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subj: Explosives Handling Facilities on Guam (U) ACTION MEMORANDUM

(S) On 4 December 1974, Navy and Air Force forwarded to the ASD(I&L) a joint proposal (TAB A) to eliminate explosives safety problems on Guam incident to the offloading, haulage, and storage of ammunition. The proposal included (a) a new pier at Orote Point, (b) a small barge harbor on the north coast of Guam to serve Andersen Air Force Base and (c) a second Apra Harbor entrance adjacent to the commercial port. ASD(I&L) explosives safety approval was requested so that the necessary environmental studies could proceed. On 15 January 1975, the proposal was returned without prejudice in consideration of your subsequent tasking (23 December 1974) to carry out a mid-range study of real property requirements on Guam and Tinian (TAB B).

(U) Additional commercial development of Apra Harbor, now precluded by explosive safety considerations, has remained a pressing issue with GOG. On 14 March the Guamanian Legislature adopted a resolution for joint legislative-executive study in recommending a site for ammunition wharf relocation (TAB C). On 9 May 1975, the legislature (TAB D) affirmed the unanimous decision of the study group that Orote Point represented the site most acceptable to GOG. The Governor has now endorsed this resolution.

(U) Orote Point, therefore, has become the separately chosen, preferred site of both the Services and GOG. Exploitation of this timely agreement in site selection is not only in our interest for an explosives safety solution, but hopefully can serve as a precedent for future cooperation in joint problems. Further, the directed real property requirements study has progressed sufficiently to conclude that use of Orote Point will not prejudice the efficient use of Defense land on Guam for other present or potential requirements. When coupled with recognition

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SUBJ TO GDS OF EO 12958  
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED  
AT TWO-YR INTERVALS  
DECLAS ON 31 DEC 1983

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SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

See Def Cont No. X-1050

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Subj: Explosives Test and Facilities (EFTF)

that Tinian can continue to be studied as an alternative should the Groote Point proposal fail under any version of study. The case for proceeding with Groote Point justifies a reconsideration of our 4 December proposal.

(U) Conceptual approval of the Groote Point proposal of 4 December is therefore requested.

*J. William Middendorf*

J. William Middendorf III  
Secretary of the Navy

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