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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

3/1/75

In reply refer to:
1-21220/75



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
SUBJECT: Mid-Range Plans for Guam and Tinian (U)

(S) Your memorandum of February 27, 1975 responds to the request of the Deputy Secretary of Defense for the development of plans to achieve within the next ten years a consolidation of Department of Defense land needs on Guam, a solution to the ammunition transshipment problem on Guam and to provide the plans and rationale for the development of complementary Defense installations in the Guam - Tinian complex.

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(U) I am providing, for Secretary Clements, this interim response to your letter of February 27th. As discussed informally with your staff we are re-examining assumptions for the period under consideration. Guidance in this area will be provided in the Secretary's final response as early as possible.

(S) I note that the President approved on February 1, 1975, the Under Secretaries Committee study of Guam. His instructions give impetus to our efforts to reduce areas of civil-military friction and seek a better local climate which will be supportive of our long range national defense interests.

(S) Considering that the scope of this effort encompasses a full range of facilities and problems on Guam, as well as addressing Tinian also, I would encourage continued examination of the explosive transshipment alternatives proposed in the Assistant Secretary of the Navy's letter of December 4, 1974. Moreover, the CINCPAC Project Gateway Study done for the Joint Chiefs of Staff over three years ago should be used with caution, e.g., the worst case assumption of a complete denial to U.S. forces of base rights and access to Okinawa, Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines is not viewed as a realistic assumption. It was primarily for this reason that the Department of Defense discredited the study to the Government of Guam.

(S) The number of ongoing projects throughout the Department of Defense which could or will affect the Guam - Tinian equation are numerous

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Classified by AS/75
SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652. ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL,
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 2/2/90

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because of the dynamic situation in the Pacific. For example, the example which comes to mind is the example of the Materiel Storage Facility on the Pacific Islands. The requirement being stated is that (1) to be able to store in the western Pacific with the proper security, 100,000 barrels of war reserve fuel. In order to achieve this and coordination of facilities which will be required for your planning, an extension to the first of October is required as indicated informally to your representatives. The rationale for the Guam-Tinian complex is expected to be submitted to Congress late this summer. Accordingly, the close liaison which you have established should permit the production of drafts as necessary to develop persuasive, detailed proposals for our mid-and long-range posture in the Mariana Islands.

(U) Your strong support and the open, constructive approach to this complex task is sincerely appreciated. We look forward to receiving your recommendations, along with the comments of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on the first of October. A comprehensive, rather than short-range, piece-meal program will ensure that we emerge from this dynamic phase in the Pacific with the proper facilities to support our defense interests, as well as being fully considerate of the U.S. citizens and future citizens of the islands.

Copy to:
Secretary of the Air Force
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(Signed)
Robert Ellsworth
Assistant Secretary of Defense

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TAB D

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