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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301


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TOP SECRET - SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subj: Military Base Structure in the Trust Territory of
the Pacific Islands (TTPI) (U)

1. We are reaching a watershed in our military posture in the Far East as a result of the combined effects of the Reversion of Okinawa and our changing relationship with Taiwan. In addition we have an unstable situation in the Philippines where domestic strife and a quest for new direction in their international relations may have an adverse effect on our continued military presence there.
2. It is clear to me that our only recourse is to move into the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands with dispatch and certainly before the Chinese Communists gain any sort of a foot hold in the United Nations.
3. Accordingly it is recommended that we establish at the earliest date an interdepartmental task group and enlist the support of Congress (Senators Allott and Jackson among others) and move ahead to establish the required base structure in the TTPI regardless of the temporary reaction this might generate among the local populace. Losing a popularity contest with the inhabitants of the TTPI creates a very minor problem compared with what will happen if we are pushed all the way back to Hawaii.


T. H. MOORER

Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff