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APR 26 1974

Dear General Schoning:

This is in response to your letter of April 24, 1974, Serial I-3691/74, requesting Interior Department comments on the CINCPAC brief for Marine Amphibious Exercise PHEIPIRAEA TIPI (QUICK JAB). In view of Interior's continuing responsibilities for the civil administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, I request that the comments in this letter be incorporated in the coordinated brief which you are required to submit to the White House by April 29, 1974.

As regards comments on the CINCPAC brief, Interior submits the following as per the brief's numbered paragraphs:

- 1. Name of Exercise  
No Comment
- 2. Type  
No Comment
- 3. Aims  
No Comment
- 4. Dates

This Department strongly believes that the proposed dates of June 7-12, 1974 are inappropriate for an exercise of the extraordinary nature and magnitude of "QUICK JAB". In the time periods thirty days prior and thirty days post the proposed dates, several events of major political significance will occur in or related to Micronesia. Among these are Congress of Micronesia committee meetings in Saipan, elections for delegates to the Micronesian Constitutional Convention (June 4, 1974), a possible Special Session of the Congress of Micronesia in Saipan and the United Nations Trusteeship Council meetings in New York. Over and above this, Interior does not agree that "QUICK JAB" will favorably affect the proposed fourth round of political status negotiations with the Marianas Political Status Commission.

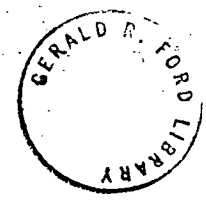
In light of the recent agreements reached in Carmel, California, between Ambassador Williams and the Chairman of the Joint Committee on Future Status, the possibility of a

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meeting in June with the Joint Committee has been raised. The Interior Department fails to see any salutary effect "QUICK JAB" would produce on this negotiating front.

Interior therefore submits that "QUICK JAB" should be delayed subject to further review.

5. Critical Date for Presidential Decision to Cancel Exercise

This date should be delayed in accord with paragraph 4 above.

6. Political Implications

The Department of the Interior submits that, notwithstanding the separate political status negotiations, the Marianas Islands are still part of the TTPI. We believe that "QUICK JAB" will spawn neutral to negative reaction in other parts of Micronesia, most notably in Palau, where support for U.S. defense objectives is critically needed, and in the Marshall Islands, representatives of which are currently petitioning the United States for a \$3,000,000 ex gratia payment related to nuclear testing activities conducted in Bikini some time ago. Along these lines, we would also point out that news media representatives from at least the United States and Japan will be in Micronesia in late May and possibly early June to cover the planned return of the Bikini people to their original home. It could prove unfortunate if their attention was drawn to "QUICK JAB".

In response to subparagraph (b.) of paragraph 6 of the brief, Interior notes that local reaction on Tinian Island to a reconnaissance survey team in November of 1971 is not necessarily indicative of what local reaction will be today. The political and social developments which have occurred over the past three years are certainly controlling on current local opinion. Interior feels that reaction of the Tinianese has been prognosticated without adequate factual base.

Generally, Interior submits that "QUICK JAB" will have no positive or favorable political impact and may even be politically unpalatable in certain parts of Micronesia.

7. Geographical Area

Interior feels it is proper for an exercise such as "QUICK JAB" to be restricted to those areas of public domain subject to military use right agreements.



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8. Politico-Military Scenario Summary  
No Comment
9. Directing Headquarters  
No Comment
10. Participating Commands, Headquarters, and Forces  
No Comment
11. Scope of Anticipated Participation from Other Commands  
No Comment
12. Simulated Use of Nuclear Weapons  
No Comment
13. Coordination Effected with Other Unified, Specified or Service Commands, Government Departments, Agencies or Representatives Thereof (Including Country Team Coordination)

This Department was not consulted for comments or clearance on "QUICK JAB" until my letter of April 16, 1974 to Mr. Dennis J. Doolin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, requested such opportunity. Interior's comments on this oversight are included in that letter (copy enclosed) which we feel should be made a part of the coordinated brief to the White House.

We would further submit that while the High Commissioner was very properly consulted for area clearance, the Department and specifically the Office of Territorial Affairs should be consulted for clearance as a matter of standard operating procedure for future proposals of the nature of "QUICK JAB."

14. Recommended General Public Information Policy

In this regard, we again point out that numerous mass media representatives will possibly be in Micronesia covering other events in late May and early June. If "QUICK JAB" does take place and if media queries are forthcoming, the Department of the Interior, including the Government of the Trust Territory, will have no official comment.

15. General Policy Concerning Diplomatic, Security and Psychological Elements

Interior feels that appropriate elements of the Department of Defense should have made an assessment in these areas.

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16. General Remarks  
No Comment

I am available for additional consultation on this and other matters concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands should you so desire.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) Stanley S. Carpenter

Stanley S. Carpenter  
Director of Territorial Affairs

Maj. Gen. William M. Schoning, USAF  
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary  
International Security Affairs  
Assistant Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C. 20301

Enclosure

cc: Secy's File  
Mr. J. Wilson, OMSN  
Mr. J. Berg, OTA

JBERG:bds 4/26/74

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