

## Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EB-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /029 W  
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R 060930Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4654

CINCPAC

INFO JCS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CSAF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

COMCOGARD WASHDC

AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD

TAC LANGLEY AFB VA

DMA WASHDC

AFCS RICHARDS GEBEUR AFB MO

AFIS FT BELVOIR VA

ESD LAURENCE G HANSCOM FIELD MA

COMPACAREA COGARD SAN FRANCISCO CA

CCGD HONOLULU HI

DMACC SAINT LOUIS AFS MO

5AF YOKOTA AB JA

314 ADIV OSAN AB KS

8TFW KUNSAN AB KS

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

COMCOGUARD FESEP YOKOTA AB JA

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA

COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS

S E C R E T TOKYO 15894

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: MILITARY USE OF LORAN

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REF: CINCPAC 034864 (292055Z OCT. 75)

SUMMARY. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ASKED ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF ACQUIRING SITES FOR EXPANSION OF LORAN C NETWORK IN JAPAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACHIEVING AN ALL WEATHER-NIGHT STRIKE CAPABILITY IN KOREA (COMMANDO LION). EMBASSY FORSEES NO POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING NEW SITES AND SEES POTENTIALLY SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH EXPANSION OF LORAN C EVEN WITHIN EXISTING FACILITIES AND AREAS. WASHINGTON AGENCIES SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER IMPLICATIONS FOR NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS SUCH AS LORAN AND AMEGA OF CONTROVERSY IN JAPAN OVER MILITARY USE OF LORAN C. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOFA PROCEDURES FOR GOJ ACQUISITION OF NEW FACILITIES AND AREAS FOR US FORCES, IN PRACTICE GOJ HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PROVIDE NEW AREAS TO US IN RECENT YEARS. PROCESS WOULD INVOLVE DETAILED DIET SCRUTINY AND APPROVAL OF NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS FOLLOWED BY LOCAL NEGOTIATIONS TO ACQUIRE LAND. AT BEST THIS WOULD REQUIRE LONG PERIOD WHICH COULD EASILY BE STRETCHED ALMOST INDEFINITELY BY OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL OPPOSITION. THIS PROLONGED PROCESS, WHICH AFFECTS GOJ LAND ACQUISITIONS FOR EVEN THE MOST BENIGN DOMESTIC PRUPOSE, WOULD BE COMPLICATED BY ITS MILITARY ASPECTS.

2. EVEN IF NEW LORAN STATION IS CONSTRUCTED ON AN EXISTING FACILITY OR AREA, THERE WILL BE CONTROVERSY ABOUT ITS MILITARY IMPLICATIONS. GOJ WILL HAVE TO DEFEND PROJECT AS JUSTIFIABLE UNDER SOFA, I.E., AS U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITY. OPPOSITION, PARTICULARLY COMMUNISTS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED RECORD OF INVESTIGATIVE SKILL, MAY WELL DEDUCE GENERAL MISSION AND WILL CHARGE THAT INSTALLATION INVITES ATTACK AND THAT IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY INVOLVE JAPAN IN KOREAN CONFLICT ALA THE OTH CONTROVERSY. TO HAVE EVEN REMORE CHANCE OF OVERCOMING SUCH PROBLEMS, WE WOULD HAVE TO CONVINCED GOJ OF MILITARY NECESSITY OF PROJECT AND THIS COULD RAISE POLICY PROBLEMS FOR GOJ, E.G., WOULD ROK AIR FORCE ULTIMATELY USE THE ENHANCED STRIKE CAPABILITY AND COULD THIS BE DEFENDED UNDER SOFA?

3. THUS CONSTRUCTION OF NEW LORAN STATION IN JAPAN WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FOCUS SHARP ATTENTION ON THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF USCG NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS. THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS NOT  
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ONLY IN JAPAN FOR SUCH SYSTEMS AS LORAN AND OMEGA SHOULD BE EXAMINED CLOSELY IN WASHINGTON BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER.

4. IN SHORT EMBASSY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. THAT ACQUISITION OF NEW REAL ESTATE IN JAPAN IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

B. THAT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, PROGRAM BE LIMITED TO UPGRADING OF EXISTING FACILITIES ON HOKKAIDO AND OKINAWA WHICH MIGHT POSSIBLY BE DONE WITHOUT UNDUE ATTENTION.

C. THAT, IF A NEW INSTALLATION IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL, IT BE BUILT ON AN EXISTING U.S. FORCES FACILITY AND AREA.

D. THAT NO ACTION BE TAKEN ON SUB PARA 4 C ABOVE PENDING WASHINGTON REVIEW OF IMPLICATIONS. RE PARA 3 ABOVE.  
HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** MARR, JA, US  
**To:** STATE CINCPAC  
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