

Message Text

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ACTION MMO-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1024

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 MANILA 0471

LIMDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, RP

SUBJ: MODE REVIEW OF STAFFING

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1. IN THE SPIRIT OF REPAIR IT IS APPROPRIATE TO BEGIN 1976 WITH A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE STAFFING OF THIS MISSION, AND OF THE RELEVANCE OF THAT STAFFING PATTERN TO OUR CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF NEEDS FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY, PRESENCE AND REPRESENTATION HERE. I DO NOT PRETEND, IN THE PARAGRAPHS THAT FOLLOW, TO EXHAUST SUCH A REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO EACH OF THE AGENCIES OR ACTIVITIES CONSIDERED. NOR DO I WISH, MERELY FOR THE SAKE OF REDUCTION, TO COUT AWAY AT STAFFING PATTERNS OR AT FUNCTIONS WHICH CONTINUE FORESEEABLY TO BE VALID IN LIGHT OF THE BEST JUDGEMENTS WE CAN MAKE. NONETHELESS I FEEL THAT IN THIS VERY LARGE MISSION, ENCOMPASSING ABOUT 500 AMERICAN AND 1,300 LOCAL EMPLOYEES (PLUS UP TO 350 PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS), LEANER OPERATIONS IN SEVERAL AREAS WOULD CONSERVE USG RESOURCES AND WOULD ENHANCE OUR IMAGE, PERFORMANCE AND MORALE, AS WELL AS OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES.

2. THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONTINGENT, ROUGHLY ONE-FIFTH OF THE TOTAL, HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY CONSTRAINED IN SIZE

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AND STRUCTURE FOLLOWING A SERIES OF REDUCTIONS IN RECENT

YEARS. ACCORDINGLY, THIS MESSAGE IS DIRECTED TO THE VARIED U.S. AGENCY PRESENCE WE HAVE DEVELOPED HERE, FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS LOCAL, REGIONAL AND HISTORICAL. I CONSIDER NOT ONLY FUNCTION BUT ALSO UTILITY AND LOCATION IN TERMS OF THE U.S. INTEREST EACH ENTITY SERVES. SINCE MANILA HAS BECOME A CHOICE, BUT NOT ALWAYS A CLOSELY EXAMINED, LOCATION FOR REGIONAL OFFICES (CURRENTLY WE HAVE TWELVE), I ALSO GIVE CLOSE ATTENTION TO WAYS IN WHICH REGIONAL FUNCTIONS MAY BE REDUCED, RELOCATED OR RESTRUCTURED INTO OTHER ACTIVITIES WITHOUT HARM TO REAL NEEDS HERE OR ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION.

3. IN THIS REVIEW, EACH OF THE RESIDENT AGENCY CHIEFS HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND HIS VIEWS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. NOT ALL OF THEM, HOWEVER, MAY AGREE WITH MY CONCLUSIONS. THESE CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS, AND I AM PREPARED TO SPELL THEM OUT AS THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH:

A. VETERANS ADMINISTRATION IN MANILA HAS ITS ONLY FULL FIELD OFFICE OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES. THIS HAS GROWN TO SERVE THE LARGE NUMBER OF FILIPINOS, AMERICAN RETIREES AND DEPENDENTS WHO ARE ENTITLED TO PENSION, DISABILITY OR EDUCATIONAL ALLOWANCES IN THE PHILIPPINES. A RELATED ACTIVITY IS SUPPORT OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. THESE FUNCTIONS TOGETHER NOW EMPLOY 15 AMERICANS AND 275 LOCALS. RECOMMENDATION: I BELIEVE THAT WITHIN TWO FISCAL YEARS WE SHOULD REDUCE VA TO A MAXIMUM OF 100 PEOPLE, INCLUDING ONLY THREE AMERICANS. (PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MANILA REGIONAL OFFICE EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1978.) WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS: (A) BY VIRTUE OF THE DECLINE IN NUMBER OF PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS TO LEVELS WHICH COULD READILY BE MANAGED FROM U.S. HEADQUARTERS; (B) BY MOVING THE GREAT BULK OF VA FILES BACK TO THE U.S. --ABOUT 70 PERCENT ARE INACTIVE AND DISALLOWED CASES; (C) BY UTILIZING WASHINGTON OR OTHER STATESIDE OFFICES TO PROCESS CLAIMS--ALL CLAIMS OUTSIDE THE U.S., EXCEPT THE PHILIPPINES, ARE NOW HANDLED IN THIS WAY; (D) BY MAKING ALL PAYMENTS THROUGH A STATESIDE FACILITY; AND (E) BY FOLDING ALL VA SUPPLY AND SUPPORT FUNCTIONS INTO STATE/SHARED ADMINISTRATION. THESE CHANGES, CONFIDENTIAL

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I AM CONFIDENT, CAN BE ACHIEVED BY JUNE 1978.

B. USAID, SINCE THE WINDING DOWN OF VIET NAM, HAS SEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY BUILDUP IN MANILA. AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS PHASE, AID HAD AUTHORIZED CEILINGS TOTALING 77 AMERICANS AND 162 LOCALS, INCLUSIVE OF DIRECT HIRE, PASA, AND PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS. I AGREED, LARGELY FOR COMPASSIONATE REASONS AND AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEPART-

MENT, TO PERMIT THE DIRECT HIRE CEILING TO RISE FROM 67 TO 76, PURELY ON AN INTERIM BASIS TO ENABLE AID TO COPE WITH ITS SUDDEN EXCESS OF PERSONNEL. RECOMMENDATION: I WOULD HOPE THAT OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS THE VIET NAM-RELATED INCREASES CAN BE WORKED OFF. BEYOND THAT, I ENVISAGE AID ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES CONTINUING MORE OR LESS WITH THE PRESENT BASIC THRUST AND FUNDING LEVEL. BUT I BELIEVE AID STAFFING AND THE QUARTERS OCCUPIED CAN BE REDUCED WITHOUT HARM TO PERFORMANCE. I HAVE IN MIND A REDUCTION IN U.S. DIRECT HIRE, PASA AND PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS FROM A LEVEL OF 86 IN 1976 (INCLUDING THE VIET NAM ADDITIONS) TO 55 OR SO AT THE END OF FISCAL 1978.

MEANWHILE IT APPEARS THAT AID'S COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA DIVISION, INVOLVING TWO AMERICANS AND ABOUT 25 LOCALS, CAN BE PRACTICALLY ELIMINATED IN FAVOR OF OBTAINING AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES FROM THE REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER AND, PERHAPS, FROM U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES AT SUBIC. ALSO, AID'S REGIONAL COMMODITY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, WITH ONE AMERICAN AND TWO LOCALS DISPOSING OF FRUSTRATED VIET NAM CARGOS, CAN BE PHASED OUT THIS YEAR. MOREOVER, I BELIEVE FURTHER CUTS BEYOND THOSE SUGGESTED CAN BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF A CAREFUL REAPPRAISAL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 MANILA 0471

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FUNCTIONS WHICH AID NOW HANDLES ON ITS OWN, E.G. HOUSING, PAYROLL, ETC., BUT WHICH COULD BE HANDLED UNDER SAS OR

STATE ADMINISTERED CONTRACTS.

C. JUSMAG NOW EMPLOYS 53 AMERICANS AND SIX LOCALS ON THE U.S. PAYROLL. THE ACTIVITIES OF JUSMAG RESPECTING SECURITY ASSISTANCE, ADMINISTRATION OF FMS PURCHASES, SUPERVISION OF GRANT AID UTILIZATION, TRAINING PROGRAMS AND IN-COUNTRY RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ARE, OF COURSE, PREDICATED IN FUTURE ON CONTINUING THE PRESENT PROGRAM LARGELY AS IS. IF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES MOVE MORE COMPLETELY TOWARD SELF-RELIANCE IN PRODUCTION/PROCUREMENT, AS THE GOP HAS ANNOUNCED, OR IF THE PHILIPPINES ENTERS MORE SERIOUSLY INTO REGIONAL DEFENSE HARDWARE PRODUCTION SCHEMES, AS IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED, THE CHARACTER OF JUSMAG, THE SCOPE OF ITS FUNCTIONS, AND THE SIZE OF ITS STAFFING WILL BE AFFECTED. RECOMMENDATION: PENDING FINAL JUDGMENT ABOUT THE FUTURE SHAPE OF OUR MILITARY ADVISORY ROLE HERE, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD LOOK TO A MIX OF REDUCTIONS, RESTRUCTURING AND GREATER USE OF ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES PERSONNEL OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. IF WE CONTINUE WITH THE SAME BASIC MISSION FOR JUSMAG, WE CAN STILL EFFECT REDUCTIONS BY DEPARTING FROM THE PRESENT SERVICE-ORIENTED PATTERN AND ADOPTING A FUNCTIONAL ONE. TO ILLUSTRATE, JUSMAG NOW DISCHARGES LOGISTICS, PLANNING AND TRAINING FUNCTIONS SEPARATELY FOR EACH OF THE SERVICES OF THE AFP. CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS CLEARLY MERITS CONSOLIDATION AND WOULD PERMIT SAVINGS OF AS MANY AS FIVE POSITIONS. BY ENHANCING A JUSMAG POLICY OF USING TDY RATHER THAN ASSIGNED PERSONNEL, E.G., ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FURTHER STAFF CUTS SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY IF THE JUSMAG ROLE MOVES MORE HEAVILY INTO SUPPORT OF SELF-RELIANCE AND OF REGIONAL DEFENSE PRODUCTION.

D. REGIONAL DISBURSING OFFICE. MANILA HAS THE ONLY USRDO OUTSIDE THE U.S. WITH TWO AMERICANS AND 20 LOCALS, THIS OFFICE LOOKS INCREASINGLY VESTIGIAL IN LIGHT OF (A) AVAILABLE COMMUNICATIONS, COMPUTERIZATION AND GROWING CAPABILITIES OF FADPC IN BANGKOK TO HANDLE PAYMENTS AREA-WIDE; (B) SUBSTANTIAL ABILITY OF EMBASSY B&F TO HANDLE A HEAVIER WORKLOAD; AND (C) REAL PROSPECT THAT MAJOR PAYMENT LOADS, SUCH AS VA AND SOCIAL SECURITY, CAN BE FOLDED INTO STATESIDE U.S. FACILITIES. RECOMMENDATION: I BELIEVE THE RDO SHOULD BE PHASED OUT AND ITS FUNCTIONS REDISTRIBUTED BY A COMBINATION OF RELOCATION TO THE U.S. (E.G., HAWAII REGIONAL), AND OF DELEGATION TO FADPC BANGKOK AND TO B&F MANILA.

E. IRS, WITH THREE AMERICANS, PROVIDES A TAX ADVISORY SERVICE HERE AND FOR HONG KONG, GUAM AND THE TRUST TERRI-

TORIES. FOR THE PHILIPPINES THIS IS CONVENIENT BUT NOT VITAL. RECOMMENDATION: THE IRS OFFICE SHOULD BE CLOSED AND APPROPRIATE SERVICES PROVIDED BY PERIODIC TDY VISITS.

F. USIA. USIS, VOA AND RSC COMPRISE THE THIRD LARGEST BLOCK OF AMERICANS (31) AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES (375). RECOMMENDATION: I BELIEVE THAT (A) WITHOUT DAMAGE TO PRESENT PROGRAMS, AT LEAST ONE AMERICAN POSITION CAN BE ELIMINATED FROM THE CORE USIS STAFF BY COMBINING THE PRESENT DEPUTY PAO AND PRESS EXECUTIVE OFFICER SLOTS. THIS SHOULD BE DONE WITH THE IMMINENT TRANSFER OF PRESENT INCUMBENTS. (B) REGARDING VOA, WHILE I DO NOT SEE PARTICULAR FAT IN STAFFING FOR THE PRESENT SCALE OF PROGRAMMING, GIVEN THE GEOGRAPHIC SCATTER OF VOA SITES (TINANG, WALLACE AND BAGUIO), I BELIEVE THAT A SERIOUS REVIEW OF THE VALUE OF PRESENT PROGRAMMING IS NEEDED. I HAVE LONG HAD DOUBTS ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE AUDIENCE FOR SHORT WAVE BORADCASTS
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ON THE MAINLAND. I RECOMMEND THAT AN INDEPENDENT SURVEY TO ESTIMATE VOA LISTENERSHIP BE CONDUCTED (PERHAPS BY OMB) AS A FIRST STEP IN REVIEWING THE SCALE OF VOA ACTIVITIES HERE. (C) DISRUPTION OF OPERATIONS AT RSC BEIRUT HAS THOROUGHLY MUDDIES THE WATERS ON STAFFING FOR RSC MANILA. I HAVE JUST AUTHORIZED TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT OF A TOTAL OF 55 LOCALS TO HANDLE THE MUCH-EXPANDED WORKLOAD FOR RSC MANILA WHICH IS NOW ON A TWO TWELVE-HOUR SHIFT BASIS AND IS HEAVILY BACKLOGGED. I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE NEW POSITIONS ARE TEMPORARY AND THAT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS SO SPECIFY. JUST PREVIOUSLY ONE AMERICAN POSITION AND 25 LOCAL HAD BEEN ELIMINATED; THESE NOW HAVE BEEN REACTIVATED. I INTEND TO LOOK HARD AT RSC AGAIN WHEN THE BEIRUT ISSUE IS RESOLVED.

GENERALLY USIA PROGRAMS HERE ARE FRAGMENTED AND DISPERSED AMONG SEVERAL INSTALLATIONS AND A MINI-USIS IN CEBU. I INTEND TO GET USIS AND CONSULATE OPERATIONS IN CEBU UNDER ONE ROOF. MORE BROADLY, I BELIEVE USIS SHOULD STRENGTHEN THE AUTHORITY OF THE PAO TO EXERCISE OVER-ALL SUPERVISION OF USIS, VOA AND RSC ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND SERVE AS A CENTRAL PROFESSIONAL POINT OF REFERENCE FOR ME IN EXERCISING MY MODE RESPONSIBILITIES.

G. PEACE CORPS IN THE PHILIPPINES HAS AN AUTHORIZED STAFF OF FIVE AMERICAN AND 27 LOCAL EMPLOYEES AS WELL AS UP TO 350 VOLUNTEERS. INCREASINGLY WE HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY FINDING PC ROLES FOR WHICH NO CAPABLE FILIPINOS ARE AVAIL-ABLE. WE HAVE MOVED WITH THE PROBLEM AND NOW HAVE OUR PCVS IN FAIRLY TECHNICAL OR SPECIALIZED ROLES. NONETHE-LESS, THE PROBLEM OF APPROPRIATE ASSIGNMENT FOR PCVS

REMAINS. I BELIEVE OUR INTERESTS WOULD BEST BE SERVED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS BY MORE PRECISE DESIGN OF PC PROGRAMS, BY MORE TAILORED SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL, AND BY PRIORITY ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE FILIPINOS TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN CADRE OF TRAINED YOUNG VOLUNTEERS. RECOMMENDATION: WE SHOULD TRIM THE PC PROGRAM BY ATTRITION, NOT REPLACING PCVS IN MAJOR PROJECT AREAS SUCH AS RURAL BANKING, AND BY CONCENTRATING OUR REMAINING PCVS

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IN AREAS WHERE THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE LEAST LIKELY TO INVITE CONTROVERSY, E.G., SERVICES SUCH AS DEAF-DUMB EDUCATION WHICH, IF NOT UNIQUELY AMERICAN, ARE LARGELY NOT OBTAINABLE FROM FILIPINOS.

H. DEA, WITH ELEVEN AMERICANS AND ONE LOCAL, WAS ESTABLISHED WHEN IT WAS ANTICIPATED THAT THE PHILIPPINES WOULD BECOME A MAJOR CONDUIT FOR DRUGS FLOWING OUT OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE. THIS HAS NOT MATERIALIZED, AND GOP WILL TO CONTROL DRUG ABUSE AND ORGANIZATION TO LIMIT USE OF THE PHILIPPINES AS A CHANNEL HAS BEEN GREATLY ENHANCED. RECOMMENDATION: IT APPEARS PRACTICAL PROMPTLY TO RELOCATE AND CONSOLIDATE THOSE DEA FUNCTIONS IN MANILA TO BANGKOK, THEREBY ABOLISHING THE MANILA DISTRICT OFFICE. IN ANY EVENT, WHEN THE INCUMBENT STATE LIAISON OFFICER IS TRANSFERRED AS SCHEDULED THIS SUMMER, HE SHOULD NOT BE REPLACED AND THE AGENT POSITION SHOULD BE ABOLISHED. PERHAPS ONE DEA AGENT COULD BE PERMANENTLY STATIONED HERE, OPERATING OUT OF THE BANGKOK

HEADQUARTERS.

I. FAA, WITH ONE AMERICAN AND ONE LOCAL POSITION, WAS MOVED TO MANILA AT A TIME WHEN THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL SAFETY PROBLEMS PLAGUING TRAFFIC IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THERE WAS A MAJOR NEED FOR FAA SERVICES IN SAIGON. RECOMMENDATION: NEITHER OF THE FOUNDING REASONS FOR THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICE CONTINUE TO EXIST. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SERVICE LOCAL NEEDS AS THEY ARISE ON A TDY BASIS. THIS OFFICE ACCORDINGLY SHOULD BE ABOLISHED OR FOLDED BACK INTO OFFICES IN GUAM OR HONOLULU.

J. FBI. IT IS DIFFICULT TO DELINEATE FUNCTIONS WHICH THE FBI, WITH TWO AMERICAN EMPLOYEES, SERVES FROM MANILA, OR WHICH CANNOT ADEQUATELY BE SERVED FROM THE U.S. (THE FBI HAS HELPED TO KEEP US AWARE OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. OF INTEREST IN THE PHILIPPINES.) RECOMMENDATION: I DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN JUSTIFY MAINTENANCE OF THIS OFFICE, AND ITS RELOCATION TO THE UNITED STATES, OR PERHAPS TO AUSTRALIA, IS INDICATED.

K. COAST GUARD CONTINGENT HERE OF TEN AMERICAN (MILITARY) AND THREE LOCAL EMPLOYEES, SUPPORTS LORAN-A STATIONS AND PROVIDES SERVICES TO U.S. SHIPPING AND SEAMEN. WHILE THE LATTER FUNCTION WILL PERSIST, THE GOP IS PREPARING TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY, AS OF JANUARY 1977, FOR THE LORAN STATIONS UNDER A RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENT. RECOMMENDATION: COAST GUARD STAFFING SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY CUT IN LINE WITH ITS REDUCED WORKLOAD.

L. USDA IS AS SMALL AS WE CAN MAKE IT AND STILL EFFECTIVELY DISCHARGE ITS FUNCTION, UNLESS WE ARE ABLE TO CONSOLIDATE ITS STAFF WITH THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION. RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE CONSOLIDATION POSSIBILITY BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.

M. AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION, A SERVICE ACTIVITY WITH TWO AMERICANS AND 44 LOCAL STAFF, IS PROBABLY AS SMALL AS IT CAN BE AND STILL DISCHARGE ITS FUNCTION.

N. INS HAS THREE AMERICAN AND FOUR LOCAL POSITIONS WHICH APPEAR TO COMPRISE A MINIMUM FOR THE SERVICE RENDERED. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ADJUNCT OF U.S. CONSULAR ACTIVITY.

O. SOCIAL SECURITY, WITH ONE AMERICAN POSITION, IS AT A MINIMUM GIVEN ITS LARGE AND GROWING CLIENTELE. RECOM-

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MENDATION: THAT THE DEPARTMENT DECIDE HOW BEST TO DISCHARGE THIS ESSENTIALLY CONSULAR FUNCTION.

P. ADB. AMONG PERMANENT DELEGATIONS TO THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, THE U.S. IS THE LARGEST, WITH FOUR AMERICANS (AND ONE LOCAL), BUT IS ONLY A POOR SECOND TO THE JAPANESE IN FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION. THIS DISPROPORTION IS OWING LARGELY TO NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL REQUIREMENTS FOR RELATIVELY LARGE VOLUME OF REPORTING AND INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS. RECOMMENDATION: THAT NAC REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AND ANALYSIS BE STREAMLINED SUFFICIENTLY TO REDUCE THE HIGH U.S. DELEGATION PROFILE IN THE ADB BY ONE POSITION.

Q. GSA, AN OFFICE WITH ONE AMERICAN POSITION, IS MAINTAINED AT CLARK AFB TO PROVIDE REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. MILITARY. GSA SUPPORT FOR THE MISSION IS MARGINAL. RECOMMENDATION: THAT GSA BE APPROACHED AS TO THE FEASIBILITY OF RELOCATING THIS OFFICE IN HONOLULU OR CALIFORNIA.

R. DAO, WITH TEN AMERICAN MILITARY AND FOUR LOCALS, SEEMS APPROPRIATE IN SIZE, PARTICULARLY GIVEN MARTIAL LAW AND ANTICIPATED REDUCTIONS IN JUSMAG. WE DO NOT CONCUR IN INCREASING THE DAO CEILING TO ADD ARMY AND NAVY ASSISTANT ATTACHES AS DESIRED BY DIA, BUT WE WOULD SEE MERIT IN CONVERTING AN ALREADY AUTHORIZED POSITION TO ASSISTANT ARMY ATTACHE.

4. OUTSIDE MODE, BUT WELL WITHIN THE U.S. INTEREST IN APPROPRIATE PRESENCE ABROAD, THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, CONSTRUCTION IN MANILA, WITH 13 AMERICAN AND 89 LOCAL POSITIONS AND OCCUPYING AN ENTIRE FLOOR OF A MODERN HIGH-RISE OFFICE BUILDING, IS (TO QUOTE THE RECENT FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION REPORT), "AN ANOMOLY, A RESIDUAL HANG-OVER FROM THE DAYS OF EXPANSION OF AMERICAN MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA." I AM CONVINCED THAT THE CONTRACTUAL FUNCTION DISCHARGED BY OICC FROM MANILA COULD AS EFFECTIVELY BE CONDUCTED FROM HAWAII OR THE U.S. MAINLAND WITH OCCASIONAL TDY VISITATIONS AS REQUIRED. RECOMMENDATION: THAT OICC BE WITHDRAWN FROM MANILA AT LEAST TO SUBIC BAY NAVAL BASE

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AND PROBABLY TO POINTS FARTHER EAST.

5. IN SUM, REDUCTIONS AND RELOCATIONS RECOMMENDED ABOVE
TOTAL ROUGHLY 100 AMERICAN AND 200 LOCAL POSITIONS.
I RECOGNIZE, OF COURSE, THAT ARGUMENTS MAY WELL BE
ADVANCED FOR DOING MORE OR LESS IN SPECIFIC AREAS (AND
THAT ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE TO BE CONSIDERED IN A
SEPARATE MESSAGE). BUT THE OVER-ALL EFFECT OF AN
APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT REDUCTION IN AMERICAN PRESENCE HERE
BY THE END OF FISCAL 1978 WOULD BE ABOUT RIGHT, I BELIEVE,
IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST.
SULLIVAN

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