

Message Text

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R 092231Z APR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072007

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, US, JA
SUBJECT: IWO JIMA AND GESASHI LORAN A STATIONS

REF: TOKYO 2821

1. WE HAVE BEEN HARD AGROUND FOR NEARLY THREE MONTHS NOW, TRYING TO CLEAR GUIDANCE ON THE TERMINATION DATES FOR USG FUNDING AND MANNING OF THE IWO JIMA AND GESASHI LORAN A STATIONS. ONE USG AGENCY IS ADAMANT THAT IT WILL TERMINATE ITS SUPPORT/FUNDING/MANNING ON 1 APRIL 1975; ANOTHER INSISTS THAT IT WILL HAVE A CONTINUING REQUIREMENT FOR THE NAVIGATION AIDS THROUGH THE END OF DECEMBER 1977.

2. THE ESSENTIAL HANGUP IS THE REFUSAL OF THE LATTER AGENCY TO CONCUR IN APPROACHING THE GOJ ABOUT PICKING UP FUNDING AS OF 1 APRIL 1975. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE GOJ IS LIKELY TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATING THE STATIONS THROUGH THE END OF DECEMBER 1977, AND THEIR
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POSITION IS THAT OPERATION OF THE LORAN CHAIN IS THE US

COAST GUARD'S RESPONSIBILITY AS LONG AS THERE IS A VALID REQUIREMENT FOR IT. THEY USE AS A BASIS FOR THEIR POSITION TOKYO'S 15111 AND 15499 OF LAST NOVEMBER. WE HAVE TRIED TO PERSUADE THEM THAT YOUR 281 OF JANUARY 9TH AND 2821 OF MARCH 4TH INDICATE THAT THE GOJ MIGHT BE WILLING TO TAKE THEM OVER, PROVIDED THEY ARE GIVEN SUFFICIENT ADVANCE

NOTICE TO PREPARE BUDGET SUBMISSIONS. THE CONCERNED USG AGENCY DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE IS MUCH CHANCE THAT THE JAPANESE WOULD GO THROUGH WITH IT, AND THAT IF THEY DID, THEY MIGHT GIVE IT UP AFTER A YEAR, LEAVING THE SECOND YEAR OF THE REQUIREMENT WITHOUT A SPONSOR. (BUT THEY ARE UNWILLING TO PICK UP FUNDING THEMSELVES.)

3. THE ESSENTIAL ALTERNATIVES ARE WO: A) WHAT IS YOUR ESTIMATE OF THE GOJ'S WILLINGNESS TO PICK UP THE IWO JIMA AND GESASHI LORAN A FUNCTIONS AS OF 1 APRIL 1975, WITH ACCEPTABLY FIRM ASSURANCES THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE OPERATION THROUGH END-DECEMBER 1977; OR B) TO LET THE TWO USG AGENCIES COME TO TERMS, ACCEPTING, IF NECESSARY, THAT THEY HAVE FOREGONE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK THE GOJ TO FUND THE STATIONS BY MISSING THE DEADLINE (IS THAT, IN YOUR OPINION, A CORRECT JUDGMENT?) RUSH

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