Message Text

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2.1

ACTION EB-11

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PR 141035Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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INFO COMDT COAST GUARD WASHDC
COAST GUARD DISTRICT FOURTEEN HONOLULU
COMCOGARD FESEC FUCHU AB JAPAN PRIORITY
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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR MILI US JA

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SUBJ: USCG TERMINATION OF IWO AND GESASHI LORAN A FUNCTIONS

REFS: A. STATE 115438 DTG 010012Z JUN 74 B. TOKYO 0281 DTG 090848Z JAN 74 C. TOKYO 2821 DTG 040856Z MAR 74

D. TOKYO 5139 DTG 180902Z APR 74 $\,$

SUMMARY: EMBASSY AND USCG REPS MET WITH GOJ TO DISCUSS MSA TAKEOVER OF LORAN A FUNCTION AT SUBJECT STATIONS ON APRIL 1, 1975. MSA REP STATED DELAY IN RECEIPT OF US REQUEST WOULD PREVENT RECEIVING SPECIFIC FUNDING FOR ASSUMPTION OF LORAN A FUNCTION. LIMITED QTE CONTINGENCY FUNDS UNQTE FOR THIS PURPOSE MEANT MSA WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST US PROVIDE EQUIPMENT GRATIS AND PERMIT JOINT USE OF EXISTING FACILITIES. MSA PLANNED CONTINUE LORAN A FOR NEXT 10-15 YEARS. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF PARA 1 REF A TO FONOFF JUNE 4. EMBASSY AND US COAST GUARD OFFICERS SUBSEQUENTLY MET AT FONOFF JUNE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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13 WITH GOJ DELEGATION COMPOSED PRINCIPALLY OF TOHRU TADANO, HEAD

OF ELECTRONIC NAVIGATION AIDS DIV, MSA AND TERUSUKE TERADA, DEP HEAD SECURITY DIV, FONOFF TO DISCUSS TERMINATION OF SUBJECT LORAN A FUNCTIONS AND THEIR ASSUMPTION BY MSA.

- 2. EMBOFF OPENED MEETING BY EXPRESSING REGRET FOR DELAY IN RESPONDING TO NUMEROUS GOJ REQUESTS FOR INFO CONCERNING DATE OF CESSATION BY USCG OF OPERATION OF LORAN A AT TWO STATIONS, BUT USG COULD NOW CONFIRM ITS PLANS TO POSTPONE TERMINATION OF LORAN A OPNS AT THE TWO STATIONS FROM JULY 1, 1974 TO APRIL 1, 1975. IT WAS THE USG ASSUMPTION THAT HAVING ACQUIESCED TO GOJ REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF DATE OF TERMINATION, GOJ WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSUME OPERATION OF GESASHI AND IWO JIMA LORAN A FUNCTIONS AS OF APRIL 1, 1975.
- 3. TADANO RESPONDED BY STATING THAT PENDING USG RESPONSE TO GOJ REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF TERMINATION OF TWO STATIONS AND IN VIEW OF SUBSEQUENT INABILITY OF USG TO CLARIFY STATUS, MSA HAD FOUND ITSELF UNABLE TO MAKE ANY ORDERLY FINANCIAL PREPARATIONS OR SECURE FUNDING FROM MIN OF FINACNE TO ASSUME OPERATION OF THE STATIONS. ACTUAL FINANCIAL PREPARATIONS AND OBTAINING OF REOUIRED FUNDS HAD HAD TO AWAIT FORMAL USG RESPONSE JUST NOW DELIVERED. TADANO WENT ON TO NOTE SOMEWHAT WRYLY THAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN USG REQUEST IN NOV 1973 AND NEW REQUEST IN JUNE 1974 THAT MSA COMMENCE OPERATIONS AS OF APRIL 1, 1975 INSIGNIFICANT FOR PURPOSES OF OBTAINING REQUIRED FUNDING FROM MIN OF FINANCE. AS A RESULT OF INSUFFICIENT TIME. OPERATION OF TWO STATIONS COULD NOT INITIALLY COME OUT OF FUNDS SPECIFICALLY APPROPRIATED FOR THAT PURPOSE, BUT INSTEAD WOULD HAVE TO RELY ON LIMITED QTE CONTINGENCY FUNDS UNQTE. MSA WOULD THEREFORE NEED CONSIDERABLE HELP FROM USG IN ORDER TO PICK UP LORAN A FUNCTION AS OF APRIL 1, 1975.
- 4. TADANO THEN ENUMBERATED LIST OF MSA REQUIREMENTS NEEDED TO MEET THIS NEW DEADLINE:
- A. TRANSFER GRATIS TO MSA ALL USCG PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT AT TWO STATIONS NECESSARY FOR THEIR OPERATION.
- B. JOINT USCG-MSA USE (UNDER SOFA) OF PROPERTY PRESENTLY NECESSARY FOR LORAN A OPERATIONS AT TWO STATIONS BUT INSEPARBLE FROM COLLOCATED LORAN C FUNCTIONS (TO CONTINUE UNDER USCG). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- C. DURING INTERIM NECESSARY TO SECURE FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SEPARATE BUILDINGS, MSA TO SHARE PRESENTLY EXISTING BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES WITH USCG.
- D. USCG TO PROVIDE POWER SOURCE TO MSA.
- E. USCG TO PROVIDE MSA WITH DRINKING WATER AT IWO STATION.

- F. USCG TO PROVIDE MSA WITH LORAN A EQUIPMENT LIST SOONEST.
- G. USCG TO PROVIDE GROUND PLAN OF BUILDINGS TO MSA SOONEST. TO PREPARE FOR ON-THE-GROUND SURVEY OF TWO STATIONS IN JULY.
- 5. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT DETAILS OF POSSIBLE JOINT USE AND TEMPORARY SHARING OF FACILITIES, POWER, WATER, ETC. WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBSEQUENTLY WORKED OUT IN FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE OF US-JAPAN JOINT COMMITTEE. US SIDE WOULD COMMUNICATE MSA REQUESTS TO WASHINGTON AND MEANWHILE TRY TO PROVIDE GROUND PLANS AND APPROPRIATE DATA TO FACILITATE MSA SITE SURVEY. EMBOFF NOTED THAT IT WOULD FACILITATE OUR OWN PLANNING TO KNOW HOW LONG MSA WAS PLANNING TO MAINTAIN LORAN A CHAIN BEFORE CHANGING TO ALTERNATE SYSTEM OF NAVIGATION AIDS.
- 6. IN RESPONSE TADANO STATED THAT PRESENT PLANNING STIPULATES CONTINUATION OF THE GOJ LORAN A CHAIN ON THE ORDER OF 10-15 YEARS, BUT DID NOT PERMIT HIMSELF TO BE PINNED DOWN TO SPECIFIC DATE. HE ADDED THAT ULTIMATELY CESSATION WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON CONSULTATION OF USERS OF THE SYSTEM. HE IMPLIED THAT FISHERIES INTERESTS MAY NOT BE ALTOGETHER SATISFIED WITH OMEGA OR OTHER POSSIBLE SUBSTITUTES, HINTING THAT ANY DATE PLANNED FOR CESSATION MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO SLIPPAGE CAUSED BY END-USER REACTIONS. WHEN ASKED IF END USERS TO BE CONSULTED WOULD INCLUDE CIVIL AVIATION INTERESTS, TADANO REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, ADDING THAT INTER-NATIONAL AVIATION ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN NAVIGATION AIDS INCLUDING ICAO WOULD ALSO BE SUBJECTS OF CONSULTATION CONCERNING CESSATION OF LORAN A. RATHER POINTEDLY (IF NOT TARTLY) HE WENT ON TO REMARK THAT JAPAN COULD BE COUNTED ON TO MAINTAIN SAME INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND STANDARDS GOVERNING NAVIGATION AND SAFETY AS US.

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- 7. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO MEET AGAIN TO ASSESS MSA'S PLANS AND ITS ON-THE-GROUND SURVEY OF TWO STATIONS AFTER THIS FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE WILL NEGOTIATE DETAILS.
- 8. COMMENT: AS NOTED REF D USG DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REPEATED GOJ REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION NECESSARY TO SECURE FUNDING HAS PROBABLY RESULTED IN INSUFFICIENT REMAINING TIME FOR MSA TO SECURE FULL REQUIRED FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS AT BOTH STATIONS. HOWEVER, EMBOFF INFORMALLY FOREWARNED FONOFF IN MARCH 1974 THAT APRIL 1, 1975 WOULD BE PROBABLE DATE OF US TERMINATION OF LORAN A AT BOTH STATIONS. THEREFORE MSA QTE CONTINGENCY FUND UNQTE PROBABLY SUBSTANTIAL AND CERTAINLY SUFFICIENT TO EFFECT ASSUMPTION OF LORAN A FUNCTION
 IF USCG HERE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO BE GENEROUS WITH EQUIPMENT AND FLEXIBLE WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS. WE DID

NOT PRESS GOJ SPECIFICALLY FOR ASSURANCES THAT LORAN A FUNCTION WOULD BE MAINTAINED UNTIL END 1977, SINCE CORE OF OUR ARGUMENT FOR MSA ASSUMPTION OF LORAN A FUNCTION BASED ON NO MORE NEED BY SUSG TO MAINTAIN STATIONS. IN VIEW MSA ASSURANCES OF PLANS TO CONTINUE LORAN A UNTIL 1985 (REF D) AND TADANO'S ADDITIONAL ASSERRTION OF 10-15 YEAR PLANNING RANGE AT LATEST SESSION, WE FEEL FURTHER PRESSING ON 1977 ISSUE LIABLE TO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND COULD LEAD TO GOJ RESPONSE THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL 1978 WHEN USG HAD ABSOLUTELY NO FURTHER INTEREST IN LORAN A TO TAKE OVER OPERATION OF THE FUNCTION.

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