

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 170575

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INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 L-03 CG-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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8/27/73 EXT. 28688

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OSD/ISA/EA AND P - COL. WARFLE

J-6 - COL. COLENDIA

CNO/OP-61 - CAPT. ARMEL

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R 272255Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECDEF

JCS-J-6

COMCOGARD FESEC TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI/JA/ETRN

SUBJECT: LORAN-A FUNCTIONS AT IWO JIMA AND GESASHI,
OKINAWA

1. THE U. S. COAST GUARD PLANS TO TERMINATE THE OPERATION
OF THE SUBJECT LORAN-A FUNCTIONS. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
IS PROVIDED AS BACKGROUND ON THESE TWO STATIONS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 170575

2. THE LORAN-A SYSTEM HAS BEEN IN OPERATION IN THE FAR EAST, IN VARIOUS CONFIGURATIONS, SINCE LATE IN WORLD WAR II. SUBSEQUENT TO THE KOREAN CONFLICT, SEVERAL OF THE TRANSMITTING STATIONS WERE TURNED OVER TO THE JAPANESE FOR THEIR OPERATION. IN TURN, THEY RECONFIGURED AND REBUILT SEVERAL OF THE STATIONS TO PROVIDE LORAN-A COVERAGE FOR THEIR FLEETS. THE JAPANESE STATIONS ARE OPERATED BY THE JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY (JMSA). THE TOTAL NUMBER OF LORAN-A STATIONS OPERATED BY THE JMSA IS TEN.

3. IN 1972, THE LORAN-A STATION ON MIYAKO JIMA WAS TURNED OVER TO THE JMSA FROM THE U. S. COAST GUARD. IN 1971, THE FIVE LORAN-A TRANSMITTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES WERE TURNED OVER TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT FROM THE U. S. COAST GUARD. THE REMAINING TWO LORAN-A STATIONS OPERATED BY THE US COAST GUARD IN THE FAR EAST ARE COLLOCATED WITH

LORAN-C STATIONS AT GESASHI (OKINAWA) AND AT IWO JIMA. U.S. COAST GUARD WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE THESE LORAN-C STATIONS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

4. SEVERAL YEARS AGO (APPROXIMATELY 1970), THE JMSA WAS APPROACHED INFORMALLY CONCERNING THEIR TAKING OVER THE GESASHI AND IWO JIMA LORAN-A FUNCTIONS. A VISIT WAS MADE TO AT LEAST ONE OF THE STATIONS BY THEIR CHIEF RADIONAVIGATION STAFF OFFICER. AS A RESULT OF THESE INITIATIVES, IT IS CONSIDERED PROBABLE THAT JMSA WOULD GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO A FORMAL REQUEST TO ASSUME OPERATION OF THE STATIONS; BUT, THAT THEY MORE THAN LIKELY WOULD:

A. MOVE THE IWO JIMA FUNCTION TO CHICHI JIMA, IN THE BONIN GROUP.

B. MOVE THE GESASHI FUNCTION TO ANOTHER LOCATION ON OKINAWA.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY DETERMINE CURRENT GOJ INTEREST IN ASSUMING OPERATION OF THESE LORAN-A FUNCTIONS AS EARLY AS 30 JUNE 1974. RUSH
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PAGE 03 STATE 170575

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