

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15111

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI ETRN JA

SUBJ: IWO JIMA AND GESASHI LORAN-A FUNCTIONS

REF: A. STATE 17075; B. TOKYO 12189

SUMMARY: GOJ FELT INSUFFICIENT NOTICE GIVEN OF USG INTENT TO CEASE LORAN-A FUNCTION AT SUBJECT STATIONS. GOJ PROPOSES TO INSERT LORAN-A OPERATORS FROM JMSA INTO STATIONS UNDER JOINT USE PROVISION OF SOFA AS INTERIM SOLUTION UNTIL SEPARATE FACILITIES CAN BE CONSTRUCTED. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH COUNTER-PROPOSAL TO OFFER BUILDING AT IWO TO HOUSE EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL, REQUIRING ONLY THAT GOJ CONSTRUCT SMALL BUILDING AT GESASHI AND BE READY TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS AT BOTH SITES BY END FY-74. HOWEVER, USG SHOULD PREPARE FOR LIKELY EVENTUALITY THAT GOJ WILL BE UNREADY TO COMMENCE LORAN-A OPERATIONS IN ITS OWN BUILDINGS BY THAT DATE. END SUMMARY.

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1. EMBOFF AND USCG OFFS MET WITH FONOFF, MSA AND DFAA REPS

NOVEMBER 9 AT FONOFF FOR DISCUSSIONS POSSIBLE TRANSFER SUBJECT LORAN-A FUNCTIONS.

2. GOJ REPS STRESSED NECESSITY FOR NON-INTERRUPTION OF LORAN-A AT GESASHI AND IWO JIMA BEYOND JUNE 1974 UNTIL ALTERNATE NAVIGATION AIDS SYSTEM CAN BE PUT INTO OPERATION. APPROXIMATELY 2,000 JAPANESE VESSELS IN AREA SERVED BY THESE STATIONS ARE DEPENDENT ON LORAN-A.

3. JAPANESE FELT THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN INSUFFICIENT NOTICE OF US INTENTION TO CEASE LORAN-A FUNCTIONS AT GESASHI AND IWO BY END OF FY-74. BECAUSE OF SHORT NOTICE AND PROBLEMS ATTENDANT ON THEIR OWN BUDGETARY CYCLE, THEY REQUESTED MSA BE ALLOWED TO INSERT ITS OWN LORAN-A OPERATORS INTO SUBJECT STATIONS AND RUN EQUIPMENT UNDER JOINT USE PROVISION II.4(A) OF THE SOFA. UNDER THIS ARRANGEMENT MSA PERSONNEL WOULD BE BILLETED AND MESS WITH USCG PERSONNEL ON IWO BUT ON GESASHI THEY WOULD FIND BOTH HOUSING AND SUBSISTENCE LOCALLY OFF-STATION. THIS WOULD BE INTERIM SOLUTION ONLY, DURING WHICH MSA WOULD SEEK SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO CONSTRUCT NEW BUILDINGS TO HOUSE LORAN-A EQUIPMENT AT BOTH SITES AND PERSONNEL AT IWO. COMMENT: SUITABLE BUILDING AT IWO IS ALREADY AVAILABLE WHICH COULD BE TURNED OVER TO GOJ, SO ONLY SMALL BUILDING FOR HOUSING EQUIPMENT WOULD NEED TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT GESASHI. END COMMENT. BECAUSE LORAN-A WILL BE EVENTUALLY SUPERSEDED BY COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SYSTEM, MSA DOES NOT WISH TO UNDERGO EXPENSE OF RELOCATING AND RECHARTING ANTENNAE. AT BOTH SITES THERE NO APPARENT PROBLEM WITH MOVING EQUIPMENT TO DIFFERENT BUILDING WHILE RETAINING EXISTING ANTENNAE SITING.

4. FOR SECURITY REASONS ASSOCIATED WITH CLARINET PILGRIM, SHORTAGE OF BUNKING SPACE, DIETETIC DIFFERENCES AND COMMAND ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS, USCG HERE CONSIDERS ANY KIND OF JOINT USE ARRANGEMENT UNWISE FOR EXTENDED PERIOD. THEREFORE, IF EVENTUALLY ACCEPTED AS INTERIM SOLUTION, USCG WOULD PREFER JOINT USE TO BE LIMITED TO A SET PERIOD BY END OF WHICH MSA WOULD HAVE TO MOVE EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TO ITS OWN BUILDINGS.

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5. DURING DISCUSSION GOJ SIDE NOTED US PRACTICE HAS NORMALLY BEEN TO TURN OVER EQUIPMENT GRATIS TO GOJ WHEN THEY ASSUME LORAN-A FUNCTIONS, BUT GOJ OFFERED TO CONSIDER PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT IF PRICE WAS IN LINE WITH USED CHARACTER OF EQUIPMENT.

6. BECAUSE OF URGENCY INVOLVED IN SECURING FUNDS NOW TO TAKE OVER OPERATION OF LORAN-A BY JULY 74, MSA REQUESTED AN

EXPEDITED US RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL.

7. EMBASSY AGREES WITH GOJ THAT PRESENT ADVANCED STAGE OF GOJ SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET CYCLE ALREADY WILL COMPLICATE MSA'S ABILITY TO SECURE FUNDS FOR ANY PURPOSE BY JULY 1974.

8. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WE BE INSTRUCTED TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOJ BASED ON THEIR PROPOSAL AND MAKE COUNTER-PROPOSAL AS FOLLOWS: USG WILL TURN OVER TO GOJ BUILDING AT IWO SUITABLE TO HOUSE LORAN-A EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL AND PROVIDE SITE AT GESASHI SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE TO LORAN-A ANTENNAE

FOR CONSTRUCTION BY GOJ OF SMALL BUILDING TO HOUSE LORAN-A EQUIPMENT. IN RETURN GOJ SHOULD UNDERTAKE TO SECURE FUNDING AND COMPLETE ALTERATIONS TO INTERIOR OF BUILDING AT IWO (IF ANY DESIRED) AND CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING AT GESASHI IN TIME TO TAKE OVER LORAN-A OPERATION BY JULY 1, 1974.

9. WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE PREPARED FOR LIKELY EVENTUALITY THAT GOJ WILL PROVE UNABLE TO COMPLETE NECESSARY CONSTRUCTION BY JULY 1, 1974 OWING TO DIFFICULTIES WITH PRESENT ADVANCED STAGE OF FUNDING CYCLE, REMOTENESS OF LOCATIONS, AND PROBLEMS CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE DEMAND FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND LABOR GENERATED BY OKINAWA'S EXPO-75. USG SHOULD BEGIN PREPARING TO DECIDE WHETHER, IF SUCH PROVES TO BE CASE, AS INTERIM MEASURE WE WILL CONTINUE TO RUN LORAN-A FUNCTIONS OURSELVES OR ASK GOJ TO FURNISH MSA OPERATORS UNDER JOINT USE PROVISION II.4.(A) OF SOFA TO MAN EQUIPMENT AT ITS PRESENT LOCATIONS UNTIL IT CAN BE MOVED TO GOJ BUILDINGS. POSSIBILITY OF GOJ REIMBURSEMENT TO USG FOR RUNNING EQUIPMENT DURING INTERIM PERIOD IS RULED OUT BY ARTICLE XXIV OF SOFA.

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