

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Japanese Assumption of Defense Responsibility for Okinawa (U)

- REFERENCES:
- (a) JCSM 522-70, dated November 12, 1970
  - (b) Joint State/Defense Message 110102, DTG 101840 July 1970
  - (c) JCSM 297-70, dated June 18, 1970

In the Chairman's memorandum to me of November 12, 1970, reference (a), he forwarded a plan for transferring to the GOJ certain areas of U.S. military facilities on Okinawa in order to permit the GOJ to assume responsibility for the defense of Okinawa after reversion.

After carefully reviewing his plan and recommendations, I have decided that the U.S. military controlled land and facilities, as specifically described in the enclosures 3 through 5 to this memorandum, are approved for release to the GOJ at the time of or following reversion. The areas specifically involved are: White Beach, Naha Wheel, and Naha Air Base. The White Beach area only involves the release of land. The Naha Wheel area was previously approved for negotiations for release to the GOJ by reference (b), based upon the negligible costs and other insignificant impact involved as stated in reference (c). Should a decision be made to return the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade to Okinawa, it is recognized that additional facilities may be required, in part, because of the release of the Naha Wheel area. These facility requirements will be addressed as a separate subject should a recommendation to return the Brigade to Okinawa be forwarded for approval. The approved release of these two areas is as recommended by reference (a) and is depicted in enclosures 4 and 5. While preliminary estimates prior to decisions on base realignments and reductions in December 1970 indicated that there might have been a possibility of releasing permanent community support facilities (dormitories, BOQ's, etc.) at Naha Air Base to the GOJ, I have now determined that this cannot be done since all such facilities are required for the support of U.S. forces on Okinawa. Detailed information on the facilities at Naha Air Base required by the U.S. forces, approved for release to the GOJ and to be jointly used, is included at enclosure 2 and 3.

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In addition, the following guidance - along with the more detailed policy guidance on property attached as enclosure 1 - will be observed in negotiating the release of the land and facilities with the GOJ and in regard to maintenance of the land and facilities until released to the GOJ:

1. The Service currently responsible for maintaining the facilities to be released will continue to do so according to current standards until formal transfer is made to the GOJ. Our negotiating position with the GOJ is that transfer should be effected as quickly as possible after reversion to keep U.S. maintenance costs to a minimum. Where a particular Service intends to vacate the facilities considerably before reversion, our negotiators should seek GOJ financial compensation for U.S. costs incurred during the period between cessation of use by U.S. units and formal transfer to the GOJ, if at all possible.

2. As regards Naha Air Base, the U.S. negotiating position is that the GOJ should assume operation of the Air Base, with the residual Navy units as tenants, as soon after reversion as possible under an appropriate joint use and cost sharing arrangement. Furthermore, we are prepared to shift the Navy section of the flight line area as described in enclosure 2 should the GOJ request additional space for civilian airline operations. Authority to propose either the Navy's alternative 1 or final fall back position to the GOJ should be requested of Washington if this is required. Also, we are prepared to release an area shown under Air Force control on enclosure 3G in the vicinity of Arnold Drive should this land and quonset type buildings be needed by the GOJ.

In the Chairman's memorandum and its attached plan, a number of references were made to required relocations of facilities on Okinawa and the need for the GOJ to fund these relocations. This is a complex subject involving other reversion negotiations with the GOJ; the following statement of my position should clarify the matter.

Although negotiations on the economic/financial aspects of reversion continue with the GOJ, it is my understanding that the GOJ has agreed to compensate the U.S. for the residual value of U.S. military facilities on Okinawa by providing, over five years, \$200 million in agreed goods and services. Consequently, the goods and services received from the GOJ under this agreement must be such as to represent a net financial benefit to DoD and thus, in turn, to the USG. This, in effect, means that the

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agreed goods and services will be used to offset DoD budget costs. The basic criterion of acceptability will, therefore, be whether or not we would have purchased the goods or services with appropriated funds. Furthermore, it should be noted that the payment period for the GOJ is the five years following reversion, and, therefore, no goods or services will be available until FY 73. In addition, it is intended that Congressional authorization be obtained for all military construction projects to be financed by the GOJ. Accordingly, requirements for new military construction on Okinawa, whether or not these result directly from reversion, should be processed, reviewed and submitted by the Services as part of their normal FY 73 military construction program. For FY 73 and later, the decision as to the method of funding of approved projects - appropriated funds or as GOJ provided compensation - will be made in accordance with the terms of the final agreement with the GOJ.

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Enclosure



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