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Authority NND 979562By WV NARA Date 1/11/72**S E C R E T**
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Senior Interdepartmental Group

June 6, 1966

MEMORANDUM

Tenth Meeting - June 7, 1966, 4:00 p.m.

There is transmitted herewith a paper from IRG/FE entitled "Our Ryukyus Bases" in connection with Item C of the SIG agenda for June 7, 1966.


Harry H. Schwartz
Staff Director, SIG

Attachment

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June 3, 1966

Our Ryukyus Bases

(Proposal for A Study Group)

1. The Far East Interdepartmental Regional Group (IRG/FE) has not completed the study of future requirements in the Ryukyus as directed by Paragraph 2 of the SIG memorandum of March 22, 1966. As long as completely unrestricted use of U.S. facilities in the Ryukyus is vital to U.S. military capabilities in the Far East and world-wide and unless and until there is satisfactory evidence of changes in Japanese public and official attitudes regarding the Ryukyus sufficient to impair the over-all relations between the U.S. and Japan, the United States should not initiate a change in its present policy of retaining administrative authority but should accommodate as feasible Ryukyuan aspirations for increased autonomy and Japanese desires for a greater role in Ryukyuan affairs short of participation in the administration of the Ryukyus. Such a policy is believed to be consistent at the present time with the conclusion in the U.S. - Japan Over-all Relationship paper that the essential national interests of Japan closely parallel our own, and that a key aim of United States foreign policy is to maintain the closest political, economic and security ties with Japan and to encourage it to assume more and broader responsibilities in its own national interests.

2. On the other hand, there are indications of increasing Ryukyuan and Japanese concern with the current situation. The United States must keep close watch on the development of Ryukyuan and Japanese sentiments for return of the Ryukyus to Japan, and be prepared to deal with changed circumstances, including any likely Japanese initiatives, as they arise. Accordingly, before a final report and recommendations can be submitted, further study should be given to (a) attitudes in the Ryukyus and Japan, (b) the likelihood and probable nature of changes in these attitudes, (c) what clarification and expansion of policy guidance with respect to the Ryukyus is appropriate, and (d) the appropriate course for the United States to take in response to likely Japanese initiatives. This study should utilize JCSM-900-65, December 23, 1965, "Future of the Ryukyu Islands," as a reference, together with any other documents which

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may be submitted to it by U.S. agencies concerned. The Department of State, the White House, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs), the Department of the Army, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff have accordingly agreed to designate members of a working group of a sufficiently high level to represent authoritatively the views of their departments, to conduct a study and report to the IRG/FE pursuant to the terms of reference set forth in Paragraph 3 hereof.

3. The working group, chaired by the Department of State, will study and report on the following, with appropriate recommendations, by July 15, 1966:

(a) Public opinion and official attitudes in the Ryukyus and Japan with respect to the Ryukyus, including an assessment of possible changes therein over the next four or five years, and the effect such changes might have on over-all relations between the U.S. and Japan.

(b) An examination of what steps might be taken under continued United States administrative authority to deal with (i) Ryukyuan aspirations for increased autonomy and closer association with Japan and (ii) Japanese desires for a greater role in Ryukyuan affairs (including specifically an examination of the appropriate degree of consultation with Japan in the framework of the Japan-United States Consultative Committee on Okinawa), together with an assessment whether the taking of such steps will serve to contain Japanese pressure for return of administrative authority in the next several years.

4. In the light of the conclusions reached by the study group pursuant to Paragraph 3, above, the IRG/FE will report to the SIG and may direct the working group thereafter to make further studies within a designated time period addressed to:

(a) The degree of impairment both of the effectiveness of bases in the Ryukyus and of our over-all defense posture which would result if the transfer to Japan of administrative authority over the Ryukyus were to become necessary.

(b) Contingency plans to assure the continuance of the performance of necessary functions in the Ryukyus or elsewhere if administrative control is transferred to Japan.

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(c) The cost of any necessary removal of facilities or construction of substitute facilities in the Ryukyus or elsewhere.

(d) Assessment of the feasibility, and associated monetary and other costs, of a partial transfer of administrative authority to Japan.

5. In view of the sensitive nature of the subject matter of these studies, especially within the Ryukyus, every effort will be made to ensure strict security not only of the studies themselves but of the fact that they are being made. The decision whether to conduct studies pursuant to Paragraph 4 will be deferred until completion of studies pursuant to Paragraph 3.

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