

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : Chief of Staff

DATE: OSU

FROM : Chief, Office of Operations

SUBJECT: Loran Program, site acquisition procedures

Ref: (a) OSU Memo G08, 28 Mar 1957, to Comdt

1. Reference (a), copy attached as enclosure, outlined in some detail the difficulties now being encountered in LORAN site acquisition matters, particularly with respect to the proposed agreement with the government of Nicaragua. On 23 April 1957 an informal meeting was held in the office of Foreign Military Rights Affairs branch of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. Present at the meeting in addition to a representative of the General Consul of the Defense Department were State Department representatives (ARA:REA) and Headquarters representatives (OSU AND CL). At this meeting it was obvious that the Department of Defense had a vital interest not only in the proposed Nicaraguan agreement but in any agreement involving U. S. Military forces in foreign countries.
2. Despite the fact that the Secretary of Defense has not abrogated the authority granted by Deputy Sec. Defense letter of 29 June 1956 to Sec Treasury which authorizes the Coast Guard to deal directly with the appropriate Bureau of the Dept of State on LORAN site acquisition matters, the recent action by the Foreign Military Rights Affairs Branch in requiring the Dept of State to suspend negotiations on the Nicaraguan agreement has in fact abrogated Coast Guard authority.
3. In view of the foregoing, this office recommends that present procedures with respect to LORAN site acquisition matters be changed. In implementing the JCS Revised LORAN Installation plan, the Coast Guard, as the executive agency of the Dept of Defense for the LORAN program would, as in the past continue to deal directly with the Dept of State in obtaining rights of entry for site survey purposes. During the site survey which the Coast Guard would also conduct as in the past, informal discussions could be held with representatives of the foreign government concerned and U. S. Embassy officials to determine the basis on which an agreement could be negotiated. Once the determination has been made by the Coast Guard that a particular site is a selected site, then the Department of Defense should be so advised and requested to obtain the site. When the Dept of Defense thru the Dept of State has negotiated an agreement and the site has been acquired, then the Coast Guard would again enter the picture and construct man and operate the station in accordance with the terms of the agreement.
4. On 1 May 1957, the foregoing procedure was discussed informally by Captain Morrison (OSU) with Colonel Chapman of the Foreign Military Rights Affairs Branch of Asst. Sec. Defense for International Security Affairs. Colonel Chapman indicated that several years ago, each of the various services independently negotiated thru the Dept. of State, agreements for sites in

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various foreign countries. Due to joint or conflicting interests and variations in agreements by different services in the same country, it became necessary for the Defense Dept to step into the picture and exercise overall coordination. Colonel Chapman stated that he would discuss the matter informally with his superiors but did indicate that he personally would be in favor of the Foreign Military Rights Affairs Branch taking over from the Coast Guard in the matter of site negotiations since that branch was actively engaged in similar negotiations for other services.

5. In summation, it appears that the Dept of Defense has in fact abrogated the authority granted to the Coast Guard by Deputy Sec Defense letter of 29 June 1956 to deal directly with the Dept of State in LORAN site acquisition matters. This office therefore recommends that the Defense Dept be requested to acquire LORAN sites as outlined in paragraph 4 above.

F. T. KENNER

Enclosure (1)

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