

Participation by Foreign Governments in the
Operation of Loran Stations Established under
the Provisions of JCS Revised Loran Installa-
tion Plan (JCS 141/59)

1. The following matter outlines agreements and situations affecting relations with foreign governments in the matter of Loran Stations operated by the United States.

a. 1951 – Under authority of 40 U. S. C.(511-514) the Frederiksdal Loran Station was transferred to Denmark per agreement of 7 August 1951 which provided that should the Danish Government ever desire to discontinue operations the United States would be allowed to reacquire the property and to resume operations.

b. 1952 – Japanese representatives verbally proposed the establishment and operation by their Government of a Loran chain to cover the area eastward of Northern Honshu and Hokkaido; they also expressed a willingness to take over complete responsibility for five United States operated Loran stations in Japan. After referral to State and Defense Departments the following policy was established:

(1) In accordance with Assistant Secretary of State letter to Assistant Secretary of the Treasury dated 12 January 1953 (Confidential) all negotiations with Japanese on this matter will be handled by Department of State, Department of State will communicate promptly with Department of Defense upon receipt of any proposal from Japanese concerning Loran installations.

(2) In accordance with Assistant Secretary of Defense letter to Secretary of the Treasury dated 16 March 1953 (Confidential) all U. S. Loran station directly support the Koran War effort and Japanese operation at that time was unacceptable; CINCFE control and supervision required; two additional rates could be made available to Japan; employment or training of Japanese technicians at U. S. Loran station not desirable but laborers or guards could be used; technical assistance and training in Loran should be furnished provided security restrictions not violated; problem of Japanese operation of U. S. Loran stations in Japan should be reconsidered after present state of emergency in this area ceases to exist.

(3) The entire subject of Japanese participation and operation of loran transmitting stations has been restudied and was the subject of separate correspondence to the Department of Defense by Acting Secretary of Treasury letter dated 31 October 1956.

c. 30 June 1953 – Under authority of 40 USC(511-514) agreement was effected for transfer of Loran stations in Newfoundland to the Canadian Government whereby should Canada decide to discontinue operation of any or all stations it will first consult with the United States; if the United States does not concur, the matter will be referred for study and report to Permanent Joint Board on Defense. Any decision by Canada will be postponed until receipt of the PJBD report and will take into consideration of the JPBD views.

d. 3 May 1954 – Agreement effected between United States and Canada concerning construction and operation of Cape Christian Loran Station. Canada has the right, on one year's notice, to take over the operation and manning of the station – costs to be shared on the basis of usage by both countries. The station shall be operated for ten (10) years (or such shorter period as may be agreed to in the light of mutual defense interests) and thereafter as long as in the opinion of both countries the arrangement and close the station, the question of continuing need shall be referred to the Permanent Joint board on Defense – this is an advisory body whose recommendations are not binding on either Government.

e. 26 April 1954 – Memorandum of Understanding drawn up between United States and Denmark for construction and operation by Danes of Disko (Nipisat) Loran Station at United States expense. Technical assistance provided by Coast Guard at site during construction and initial operating periods. Agreement provided for periodic visits by United States technical personnel if and when agree upon. Title to all movable and installed equipment furnished or constructed per agreement vested in U. S. Coast Guard; question of title to buildings left to be resolved at diplomatic levels since it affected Department of Defense policy as to residual value of property left on foreign soil and other United States installations in Greenland.

f. AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION

The Department of Defense by letter to the Secretary of the Treasury on 19 November 1955, recommend that the Australian proposal to man the loran installation planned for the Australian Trust Territory of New Guinea be accepted subject to certain conditions. Briefly it was recommended that the proposal be accepted and that the station operations be turned over to Australia at end of one year subject to reacquisition of property and resumption of operations by the United States if Australia ever desired to discontinue operation with its personal.

This proposal will be further discussed with the Australian Government during the FY 1958 phase of this program.

g. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Acting Assistance Secretary of Defense (ISA) on 21 February 1956 by letter to the Secretary of Treasury indicated Defense concurrence with the Department of Navy recommendation that Dominican operation of the loran stations be approved subject to the following:

- (1) Operation and control of the station initially be vested in the United States.
- (2) U. S. Coast Guard provide necessary training for Dominican personnel.
- (3) When Dominican personnel are qualified, control and operation of the station to be passed to Dominican Republic.

(4) Provision be made for periodic inspection of station by U. S. Coast Guard while under Dominican control.

(5) Provision be made for reacquisition of property and resumption of operation by U. S., if Dominican Republic desires to discontinue operation with own personnel.

The above terms are included in the United States – Dominican Republic agreement which is presently being negotiated. As a matter of interest, it is not expected that the Dominican Government will avail themselves of these provisions.

h. MEXICAN PARTICIPATION

In order to acquire sites in Mexico, and acting under the advice of the Department of State, a proposal was made to the Mexican section of the Joint Mexican – United States Defense Commission on 4 September 1956. This proposal, which is still pending, is in general pattern in all major respects upon that proposal to the Dominican Government except that initial construction and operation by Mexico finance by U. S. funds is also contemplated.

2. For your consideration and in view of the foregoing precedents, there are listed below several possible approaches to the installation of loran stations in foreign countries. The Coast Guard requests Defense concurrence to use any of the listed approaches, or combinations thereof, as may be necessary to the establishment of loran coverage in the required areas.

a. Man the stations entirely with U. S. Coast Guard personnel and maintain the station under the military jurisdiction and operational control of the United States.

b. Man the stations partially with U. S. Coast Guard personnel and partially with foreign nationals ((non-technical (e.g., laborers and guards)); maintain the stations under the military jurisdiction (except for foreign nationals) and operational control of the United States.

c. Construct and operate the stations for one year as in (b) above. During this period, train and indoctrinate foreign technical personnel at the station. At the end of the period, man the station entirely with foreign nationals and transfer jurisdiction to the foreign government involved.

d. Permit the foreign government to construct and immediately man and operate the station by nationals of the country involved. Provide training for foreign nationals by the U. S. Coast Guard as may be necessary in advance of “on-air” date and thereafter as necessary.

e. Contract with civilian non-governmental agencies for the provision of loran services in certain areas. The preferred method would be to contract with reliable United States firms who would perform services through subsidiary companies or sub-contract at the foreign location.

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