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By MR NARA Date 7/16/00

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My dear Mr. Secretary:

Implementation of the LORAN-C program by the United States Coast Guard is progressing in accordance with your letters of December 30, 1957 and January 17, 1958. A technical study indicates two triads, each composed of three transmitting stations, will be necessary to provide the required coverage in the Central North Pacific area. Present planning envisages construction of the stations during calendar year 1960, with the chains operational by January 1, 1961.

Preliminary site investigations were recently conducted by the United States Coast Guard to determine suitable locations for the transmitting stations. These sites are located at: Sitkinak Island, Alaska; St. Paul Island, Pribilofs; Massacre Bay, Attu Island, Alaska; Upolu Point, Hawaii; Sand Island, Johnston Island; and Green Island, Kure Island. Determination of site availability is essential to orderly planning.

The acquisition of Sand Island, Johnston Island, for LORAN-C appears to present a problem. It is the understanding of the Coast Guard that other Defense programs coming under your cognizance have requirements in this area. The antenna and ground radials of the LORAN-C system will require most of the island for their installation, and, because of the high stability characteristics of the system, utilization of the remaining space by other equipments could be approved only after a critical review. In order to meet the coverage requirements of the Loran Installation Plan, 1957, this site is essential. Whenever possible, alternates for each site were located during the preliminary investigations. However, there is no alternate in the case of the Johnston Island area.

In order that the Coast Guard may meet its responsibility for LORAN-C implementation, I request that you make Sand Island, Johnston Island, available to the United States Coast Guard not later than April 1, 1960 for primary use as a LORAN-C transmitting station site.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) A. Gilmore Flues

Acting Secretary of the Treasury

Honorable Neil McBiroy
Secretary of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

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