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Op-601F2/cn  
4 January 1965

POINT PAPER

Subj: Bonin-Volcano Islands (U)

1. Current US rights to Bonin-Volcanos provided by Art. 3 Japanese Peace Treaty. US has right to exercise any and all power of administration, legislation and jurisdiction over territory, inhabitants and territorial waters.
2. Japanese have made repeated attempts to modify US policy of no repatriation of former residents or visits (except in bona fide emergencies).
3. This policy firmly grounded in recognized strategic value of islands as natural back-up for existing far east military support facilities.
4. Following ex gratia payment of 6 million dollars to former land holders of these islands in 1961, pressure for repatriation has abated somewhat. Agitation for permission for former residents to visit graves of relatives in the islands continues.
5. USN position remains firmly opposed to visits on following grounds:
  - a. Security of military facilities would be jeopardized.
  - b. No facilities are available for visitors.
  - c. Grave sites scattered over a wide area of nearly impassible, mountainous terrain. Markers obliterated by wartime bombardment and passage of time.
  - d. Door would be open for visit requests by all relatives of Japanese war dead in islands. (This total something over 30,000).
  - e. Would constitute first step toward ultimate Japanese aim of reversion of control. (Mr. Fukuda, Japanese Diet Member, has recently indicated to CincPacFlt that permanent residents of islands are citizens of the Tokyo prefecture and that the 9000 plus former residents will eventually have to be repatriated).
6. Regarding visit of Japanese Prime Minister, JCS have recently recommended that he be briefed fully and frankly on present and potential importance of these islands to both US and Japanese security, and the reasons why it is necessary to restrict visiting. If a briefing does not serve to return problem to "back burner", we could discuss possibility of

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controlled visit by small group to erect memorial marker  
and conduct religious services at Chi Chi Jima.

7. Above forwarded for background information for  
discussions with Amb. Reischauer.

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Op-601F2/sk  
5 January 1965

POINT PAPER

Subj: Bonin-Volcano Islands (U)

1. If it becomes necessary to discuss ceremonial visit to Chi Chi Jima with GJJ, specifics of such a visit should be kept within following parameters:

a. Visit must be limited to Chi Chi Jima as only island with harbor and facilities to permit access via surface transport.

b. Number of people would have to be limited to 15 or less, since the number of military personnel available to escort and guide visitors is very small.

c. There are no facilities ashore for accomodation of visitors. The group therefore would necessarily have to live on and be supported by the ship on which they travel to the island.

d. Visitors would be restricted to those portions of the island apart from existing military facilities.

e. Because of the foregoing, the visit should be of short duration, 5 days or less.

f. Publicity attending such a visit should be minimized.

g. It should be clearly understood in advance that security problems and military utilization of the islands make re-curring visits of this nature undesirable and that permission would be granted on a one time basis only.

2. Above submitted for use in discussions with Amb. Reischauer.

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