

NAVAL MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

NAVY DEPARTMENT

ROUTINE
R 160403Z
FM COMNAVMAIANAS

TO CINCPACFLT

INFO CNO
CINCPAC
COMNAVFORJAPAN
AMEMB TOKYO

~~SECRET~~

BONIN ISLANDS GRAVES (U)

A. CINCPACFLT 151951Z
B. COMNAVMAIANAS 180650Z JAN (NOTAL)

1. CANNOT BUT CONCUR THAT GRAVES VISIT WILL GENERATE REQUESTS FOR FURTHER VISITS AND INCREASE PRESSURE FOR REPATRIATION AND RETURN OF ISLANDS. AS NOTED IN REF B, THE VISIT IS CONSIDERED TO BE A PRE-PLANNED STEP OF A QUOTE RETURN -TO- BONIN MOVEMENT. UNQUOTE.

IT IS FURTHER CONSIDERED, HOWEVER, THAT COGNIZANT JAPANESE INVOLVED IN THE VISIT ARE WELL AWARE OF THE CONDITION OF THE GRAVE SITES.

2. THE TWO CEMETERIES ON CHICHI JIMA WERE BOTH SUBJECTED TO WAR DAMAGE INCLUDING A FEW BOMB HITS AND, EXCEPT FOR THE SMALL PART OF THE ONE USED BY THE PRESENT INHABITANTS, THEIR MAINTENANCE IS BEYOND THE CAPACITY OF THE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED THERE. HAHARA JIMA HAS BEEN UNINHABITED SINCE W.W. II AND THE CEMETERY THEREIN WHILE NOT WAR-DAMAGED, HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE RAVAGES OF TIME AND WEATHER FOR TWENTY YEARS. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, ALL ARE HEAVILY OVERGROWN.

3. THE FOUR BONIN CEMETERIES PROPOSED TO BE VISITED TOTAL APPROXIMATELY SEVEN ACRES IN SIZE. A CONSERVATIVE ESTIMATE OBTAINED FROM CO MCB-3 INDICATES THAT THREE HUNDRED (300) MAN DAYS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO HAND CLEAR, PILE AND BURN THE BRUSH AT THESE SITES. THIS ESTIMATE DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL REHABILITATION. ADVANCE CLEARING IS, THEREFORE, NOT RECOMMENDED.

61...COG

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CONTROL NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGE	TIME OF RECEIPT	DATE TIME GROUP
30588/FS/LW/3	1		2	1356Z 16 FEB	160403Z FEB 65

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4. WHILE THE NISH CEMETERY ON IWO JIMA HAS DISAPPEARED, THE JAPANESE WAR MEMORIALS ESTABLISHED THERE SINCE W.W. II ARE CONSIDERED TO BE REASONABLY WELL MAINTAINED. THIS IS ALSO BELIEVED KNOWN BY COGNIZANT

UNITED STATES
JAPANESE AUTHORITIES.

GP-4

CONTROL NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGE	TIME OF RECEIPT	DATE TIME GROUP
30588	2		2		160403Z FEB 65