



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

26 / 3 / 21

Quote in Reply

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ADDRESS  
201 Sig Sqn (Overseas)  
HQ AMST Army Force  
FARELF  
c/o GPO SINGAPORE  
30 May 64

AHQ CANBERRA (MIS)  
101 Wrls Regt  
GCO SINGAPORE

→ DD

REPORT ON RECCE OF LABUAN

MB

1. On 25 May in the company of the GCO and GI Int the LABUAN site was examined and on the evening 25 May and during 26 May details of suggestions were discussed with the staff at COMBINTFOR BRUNEI.
2. For background knowledge the following is happening at LABUAN as affects our local customers:-
  - (a) COMLANDFOR, COMAIRFOR and COMNAVFOR are due to move to LABUAN 1 Jun 64. COMLANDFOR will primarily be GOC 17 Gurkha Div and his staff; and
  - (b) General WALKER, Director of Operations and his staff are due to move to LABUAN on 1 Jan 65.
3. Due to the moves mentioned in para 2 above plus a local shortage of labour the time required, after finance is available, to build a new operations building is estimated at nine months. This obviously was not acceptable if some reasonable alternative solution was available.
  1. The alternative solution, on which action is now being taken is:-
    - (a) Purchase the existing house and convert it into the operations building;
    - (b) Utilize the point to point communications aerial facilities plus other aerials built within the point to point communications aerial farm. This requires a series of co axial cable routes over a distance of 400 to 500 yds;
    - (c) Build separate accommodation for sleeping 30 OR, additional latrines and toilets plus enlarge the kitchen in the BQR accommodation complex;
    - (d) Provide living accommodation in the existing, or, a new Sgts Mess of 12 senior NCOs;
    - (e) Install the OIC equipments within the existing house; and

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- (f) Construct a cell within the new Headquarters for the receipt of our end product. NOT AMF responsibility.

5. It is now proposed to discuss this proposal under the following headings:-

- (a) Conversion of existing Building;
- (b) Living accommodation;
- (c) Aerials;
- (d) Communications;
- (e) Emergency power;
- (f) Forward Operations;
- (g) Sequence of events; and
- (h) Possible timings.

#### Conversion of Existing Building

6. Details of work to be completed on the existing house and existing sleeping annex is detailed in Annex A with a plan of the building as Appendix 1 to Annex A. The existing sleeping annex is to be converted into an administrative building for the OC, Clerk and storage of accountable stores. The cost of this conversion would be about £3,000 sterling of which the provision of six airconditioners at, for preliminary costing purposes, £400 sterling each is the major expense. The cost of the purchase of the house is unknown but should be available within fourteen days.

7. It is believed the security of the operations building can be achieved by two men staying in the building outside working hours. This will also save the cost of a security fence. A security fence would create interest and focus attention on the building. The threat of an attack on the building is virtually non-existent.

#### Living Accommodation

8. OR living accommodation can be constructed almost certainly in the BROOKS Rd site some 150 yards from the operations building. Accommodation for senior NCOs is not definite but could be adjacent to the new combined Headquarters some 400 to 500 yards across country from the operations building. The Officers would be housed in one of the two new officers Messes. Every endeavour will be made to have them included in the officers mess located within 150 yards from the operations building so they are readily and quickly available when required outside normal working hours.

#### Aerials

9. As mentioned earlier the existing aerials in the point to point communications aerial farm can be utilized. CR Sigs 17 Ghurka Div has promised to provide a plan of the aerial farm within a few days. He has further stated additional aerials for our use could be constructed in the aerial farm and a team of RAF riggers who could be used for this purpose are due in LABUAN in about three weeks time. It is hoped that masts will be available through the RAF and the aerials could be constructed by the RAF personnel responsible for the aerial maintenance at

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The major problem is co-axial cable for use between the point to point communications receiver site and the operations building. This co-axial cable plus the necessary amplifiers may have to be provided from AUSTRALIA.

10. Details of the aerial farm will be forwarded as soon as they are received. It will then be necessary in conjunction with DSD to make a quick decision on what additional aerials are required so the RAF riggers can do this work whilst they are located at LABUAN. It is also suggested the RAF riggers construct the co-axial cable route ready for the slinging of the co-axial cable as soon as it is supplied.

Communications

11. [REDACTED]

12. It is virtually certain that 24 hour exclusive use of one channel from LABUAN [REDACTED]

13. Details of future communications direct between LABUAN and KUCHING are vague but an exclusive 24 hour circuit has been requested.

Emergency Power

14. Emergency power will be required therefore it is requested approval be granted to move the dual 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  KVA trailer mounted generator on the charge of "A troop of 201 Sig Sqn" to LABUAN for this purpose. ✓

Forward Operations

15. It is proposed to move the two 4-ton FFR landrovers plus trailers to LABUAN for normal domestic use and forward operations. The proposal is to use one as an intercept vehicle [REDACTED]

16. Provision of a helicopter or light aircraft for forward operations or recce will be difficult to obtain and it is believed a very sound case would have to be made before one is provided. The use of a RN ship with RN or RAN operators is suggested in most circumstances as possibly the best answer to the problem of forward operations or recce when we cannot use vehicles. ✓

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Sequence of Events

17. The following sequence of events, some of which will take place simultaneously is suggested:-

- (a) COMBRITBOR to do a costing of all work required desirably as a separate project to other works at LABUAN and submit estimates to HQ FARELF;
- (b) Simultaneously COMBRITBOR to negotiate for purchase of the house and submit request with price through HQ FARELF to War Office;
- (c) Immediate action be taken to determine how costs of project are to be borne between AUSTRALIA and UK; ✓
- (d) [Redacted]
- (e) If necessary move four AMF operators to LABUAN to relieve four UK operators to move to KUCHING; 5
- (f) Have [Redacted] visit to recon and prepare detailed plans. This should happen not later than 15 Jun 64. A preliminary list of items is attached as Annex B; ✓
- (g) Install two additional double operating positions and as reliefs are provided [Redacted] build up the party to a maximum of:-
  - (i) 11 Operators (Morse or voice);
  - (ii) 2 Cipher Operators;
  - (iii) 1 Technician (part time);
  - (iv) 2 Radio Supervisors (Also assist on IA);
  - (v) 1 Traffic Analyst; and
  - (vi) 1 Cook.

Note: This will require the cook, technician and desirably two cipher operators who are also OKR tradesmen from AUSTRALIA.

Ten personnel will live in tents. One vehicle and emergency power plant should go in with this party.

Vehicle

- (h) Have extra aerials planned, erected and co-axial feeder route constructed;
- (j) Convert building for new requirements and install equipment including OIC equipment. During conversion of the building personnel will not be able to eat on the site. During the installation of equipment we will have to revert to four operating positions for a short time and may during the outover, if it cannot be completed in one night, have to virtually drop all cover; and
- (k) Move in extra personnel excluding reporting staff who could follow later.



18. At the time 17(g) is being completed the following will be required from AUSTRALIA in addition to those mentioned in the note to para 17:-

- (a) At least one traffic analyst;
- (b) Three linguists [redacted]
- (c) One reporter [redacted] and
- (d) Desirably two op sigs preferably capable of acting as voice ops.

Possible Timings

- 19. (a) Para 17(e) can be started at 48 hours notice;
- (b) Providing reliefs are available 17(g) should be possible by end of June; and
- (c) Consider, unless things happen faster than normally, 17(k) is unlikely to occur before at least the end of August.

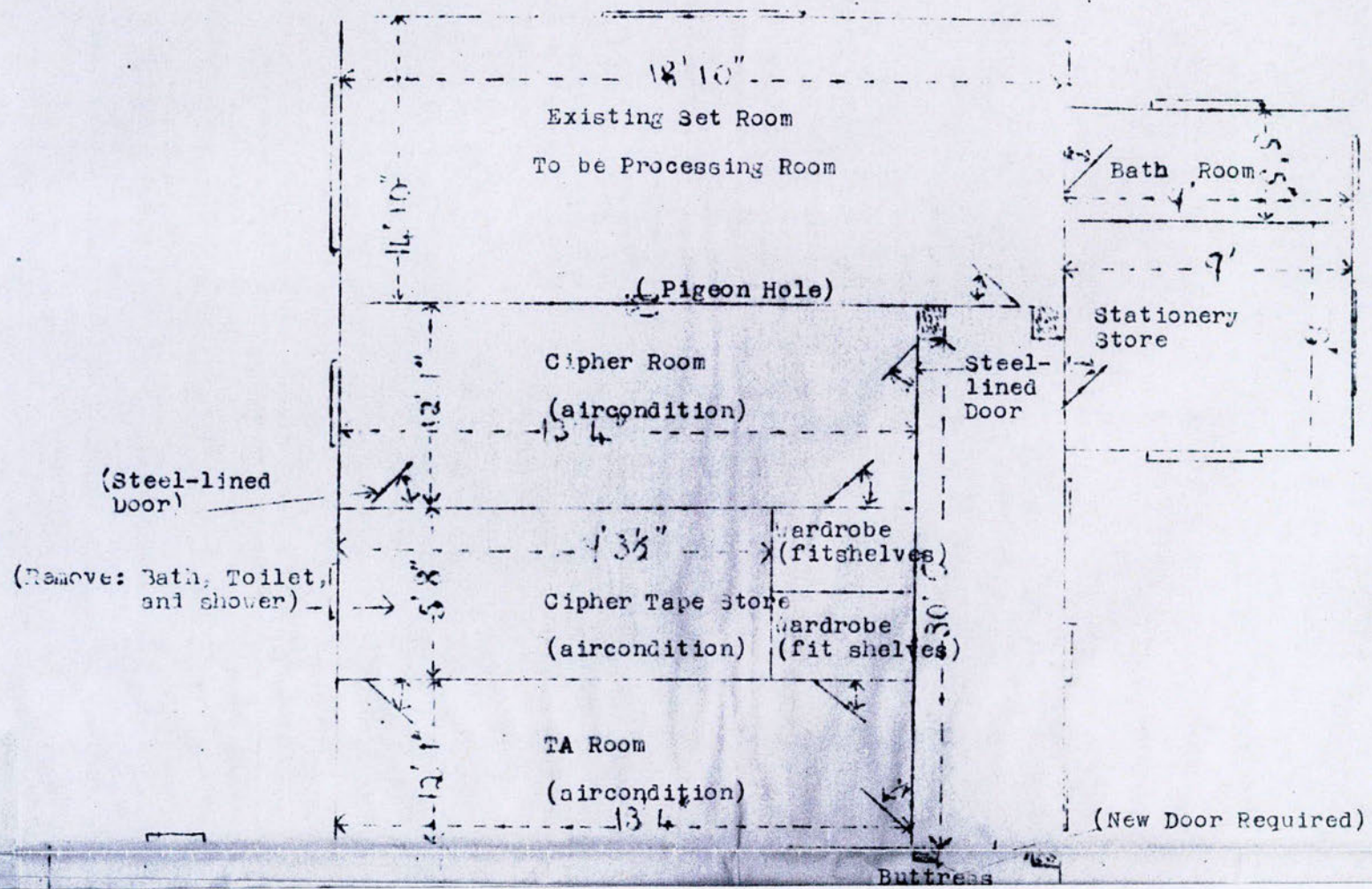
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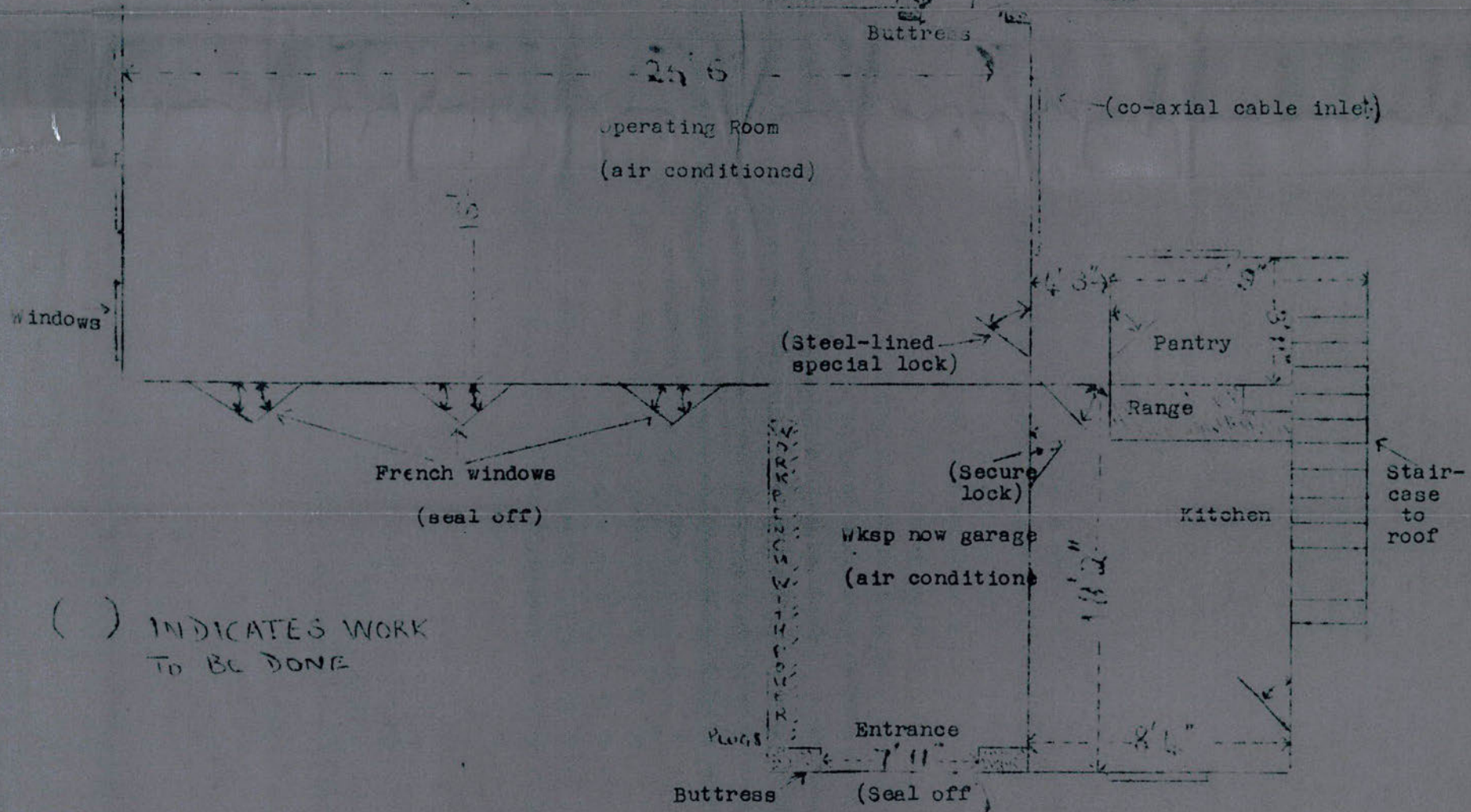
ALTERATIONS TO BUILDING - LABUAN

1. Aircondition TA, Cipher store, Cipher Room, Operations room and Workshop.
2. Install vertical bars and paint out all windows except Toilet and Kitchen.
3. Place steel lined doors and special cipher locks on both entrances to Cipher room and outside entrance to Operating room.
4. Make pigeon hole in wall between cipher and processing rooms.
5. Place and secure XPM (Arc Mesh) above ceiling in cipher and processing room.
6. Secure french windows of Operating room.
7. Seal off entrance to garage, install lighting, place bench along wall facing sea, install 6 x 240V power outlets above bench, place secure lock on door.
8. Extra power outlets in addition to 7 above:-
  - (a) 3 x 240V 5 amp in processing room for tape recorders if not existing;
  - (b) Cipher - 7 x 240V 5 amp outlets; and
  - (c) Operating Room - Power outlets for all equipment in room. Details and locations to be advised when final plan produced.
9. Make inlets for co-axial cable for local and remote aerials.
10. [REDACTED]
11. Fit plinths to floor in cipher and operating rooms for equipment racks.
12. Check electrical wiring and replace where necessary.
13. Fit to power board a switch for auxiliary power for receivers, cipher eqpt, workshop, tape recorders and lighting only.
14. Fit door between Operating room and passageway.
15. XPM (Arc mesh) air gaps and fit door to outside building.
16. Convert existing bathroom/toilet to cipher store room.
17. Fit shelves in wardrobes in TA and cipher rooms to convert them to storage cupboards.









( ) INDICATES WORK TO BE DONE

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