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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

January 27, 1972



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Mr. John C. Dorrance  
Political Advisor  
Trust Territory of the Pacific  
Islands  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

*Note: See reply to this  
under  
1. Mariana Separatism  
2. Tinian Land.*

Dear John:

This letter is meant to inform you of some developments here, and to ask you for your advice.

1. DOD has decided that they want to press very hard to acquire all of Tinian, and by purchase rather than by rental. Their rationale is two-fold -- partly because they want to control the use of the land by lease-backs to the present inhabitants thereby preventing ghettos, bars, and so forth, and partly because it now turns out that for safety reasons relating to offloading of ammunition they have to have a clear area with one-mile radius around the point, which would wipe out San Jose village and necessitate the removal of the town-dwellers there.

We here are of course concerned about the effect of this plan on the inhabitants, and on the larger negotiations as well as on the Marianas District negotiations. I would like you to give us your thoughts, including constructive suggestions on ways we might go as far as possible to meet DOD desires. For instance, it has occurred to some of us that the deal might be made more palatable if it were described as a 50-year arrangement, renewable by negotiation, with the land to be held "in trust" for the people of the Marianas and to be returned to them when no longer needed, or some such formula. We are very anxious to hold all this closely, so I would ask you not to make any further inquiries about local attitudes but just to use your best judgement on the basis of the information you now have.

2. The Marianas separate negotiations are of course vital to our interests, and by the time you get this you may have more information from the Congress of Micronesia or from the Marianas people. I would hope that the separate Marianas resolution will pass, but in any event we need to do forward planning about our next steps, in either contingency. DOD has good reason to want to proceed as soon as possible to negotiate land requirements on Tinian; Amb. Williams has put an indefinite hold on this for

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obvious reasons. In giving us your thoughts on planning for separate negotiations with the Marianas I want you also to consider how and when we could begin to move toward land acquisition negotiations without endangering our hopes for a separate Marianas, and also without jeopardizing the larger negotiations with the Status Committee. DOD wants to move ahead at the earliest with planning for Tinian and Amb. Williams is under some pressure to grant his approval.

As I indicated to you on the phone, Amb. Williams is very anxious that you not become further involved in discussions between the Marianas and Guam, so I would ask you in this case also to give us your present advice and estimates without trying to collect additional information at this time.

3. The Air Force Weapons Laboratory already has people working on Eniwetok preparing for a series of more than 20 high explosive (not nuclear) detonations that are very important to national security planning. The detonations are mostly small-scale ( $\frac{1}{2}$  ton of HE) for the progressive calibration of instruments but wind up with larger ones, the biggest of which would be 400 tons of HE which would throw a cloud of dust visible 130 miles away. We have put an effective hold on all this, despite the fact that doing so will materially delay the collection of very important information.

We assume that the expansion program will inevitably become known and misinterpreted, so we are casting about for the best means, and timing, to present the true facts publicly. Interestingly, the Environmental Protection Agency has approved an Environmental Statement filed by the AFWL saying that no material damage will be done to the area. The tests will take place on the NE side of the lagoon, on islands that have no ground water and apparently were never inhabited. We can explain, also, that similar testing with HE has been done in the U.S., in two different areas of Colorado. We are presently thinking along the lines of announcing at the same time (perhaps during the April negotiations) both the impending return of Eniwetok to the Ujelang folks, and the present HE explosion series which we can say is positively the last, and which will be completed in a few months after April, after which cleanup and rehabilitation could begin. Accepting the fact, as we do, that these explosions are very important and that they are related to the old nuclear craters and cannot therefore be done elsewhere than on Eniwetok, we would like your advice on when and how we could best explain what is going on in a way that will not jeopardize the negotiations or cause other problems in Micronesia. This item should be held particularly closely and I would ask you not to involve the TTPI administration at this time.

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4. Asst. Williams plans to be in Washington virtually full-time from now on until the April talks. He wants you to know that he is tentatively thinking of asking you to come back here for at least the last two weeks before the negotiations, and earlier if possible. We would like to have your preliminary thoughts on when you could leave the TIPI, after the Congress has adjourned and after you have made whatever trips to other Districts you feel are advisable after the Congress, if any.

All these items add up to a big order, and I don't want to set any particular deadlines. We want your considered judgments as inputs into our planning, and the sooner the better, within reason.

Best regards,

Sincerely,

Arthur W. Hummel, Jr.  
Director  
Office for Micronesian  
Status Negotiation

PS, I've just seen your letter suggesting a trip back here in March, and we'll begin working on the funding; if IO can't afford it we'll pay.

PPS, I think the topics I have asked you to comment on should be addressed in classified letters rather than in telegrams.