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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

17 November 1972

Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams
Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ambassador Williams:

Reference is made to my 9 September 1971 correspondence regarding minimum Department of Defense land requirements in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In the referenced correspondence it was specified that, with regard to Tinian land requirements, control over all of Tinian Island was the primary and desired objective. It was further stated that, in the event it was impossible to acquire the entire island, an absolute minimum of 16,518 acres were required.

Subsequently, it has been found that the stated 16,518 acres minimum requirement did not consider land necessary to satisfy ammunition safety radius requirements around the Tinian port when transferring ammunition. This safety requirement adds at least 2,000 acres around the port to the previously established minimum military land requirements, for a new total of at least 18,518 acres.

Accordingly, it is desired that this correspondence serve as an amendment to my 9 September 1971 land requirements letter, to reflect the Department of Defense revised minimum military land requirement for Tinian to be 18,518 acres.

Sincerely,

/s/

MELVIN R. LAIRD

Classified by Dir, EAPR

SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 13526. AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED
AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS. DECLASSIFIED ON 31 Dec 80

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TAB E

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