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February 1, 1973  
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Mr. James E. White  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. White:

Reference is made to your oral request for information pertaining to land of the Trust Territory for use in connection with current and future political status talks. Also, I understand the enclosed information is for joint use by Mr. James R. Leonard, a former member of the Nathan Associates who prepared the Nathan Report for Trust Territory in 1965-67.

There are enclosed six documents pertaining to Trust Territory land and land problems. The first of these documents is composed of 12 enclosures to a letter dated January 10, 1972, addressed to the Honorable Carlos Shoda, at that time a member of the House of Representatives, Congress of Micronesia. As the enclosures are all described in the transmittal memorandum, no further comment will be made with respect to their contents.

The second document is a survey of land matters pertaining to Saipan, Mariana Islands, which was prepared as background material for the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice in connection with research of land matters pertaining to a series of Saipan land claims which were filed with the U.S. Court of Claims in 1968. Additional claims were filed after the initial six cases cited on page 1 of the survey. In addition two claims were filed on land cases from Palau. Two of the Saipan cases and two from Palau are set for trial in March of 1973. All other Saipan cases have been withdrawn by the plaintiffs.

The third document is a preliminary paper dated May 2, 1967, with respect to Saipan land matters. It was prepared at the request of the High Commissioner. The author was assigned to other work and the final paper, which would have included documentation for the findings referred to in the study, was not completed. The key point of this paper is the portrayal of the chaos that developed in Saipan land matters following the transfer of Navy administration in 1962. Only in 1972 - ten years after the Navy left Saipan - was a qualified Land Management Officer employed for the Mariana Islands District.

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The fourth document is a briefing paper prepared in Trust Territory Headquarters Lands and Surveys. This was sent to Ambassador Haydon Williams in June 1971. It contains district by district review of land problems with special emphasis on grievances peculiar to each area of the Trust Territory.

Document five is a paper presented at the Fourth Lands and Surveys Conference, Saipan, November 18, 1970, by J. Raymond Carpenter, at that time Consultant to the Trust Territory Advisory Council, formerly member of the Trust Territory Economic Development Team, 1965-1967. He was author of most of the parts of the Nathan Report pertaining to Agriculture and other land matters. Special attention is invited to his comments on agricultural homesteading which he terms a COLOSSAL FAILURE and a politically oriented land give away program. (This attempt to give away the public domain is still the dominant key to Trust Territory political thinking).

The sixth and last document is a tabulation of U.S. Military retention areas in the Trust Territory. A glance at its format is sufficient to show the type of information it reflects.

Sincerely yours,

~~Kozo Yamada~~  
Chief, Lands and Surveys

Enclosures: a/s

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