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Draft letter to the President of the United States

As the United States government ~~is~~ ^{represented} at the Council's meeting last May, we actively engaged in negotiations with the Mariana Islands ^{and the Marianas Political Status Commission} ~~and the~~ representatives of the island of Tinian, the words of its Chairman, is "... determined to protect the interest of all the people of the Marianas, including the people of Tinian, in their status negotiations. Indeed, the members of the Commission committed themselves during negotiations as they undertake full consultation with the people of Tinian before any decisions or agreements are made regarding the use of land for military purposes.

It was further agreed during the May session that the United States would work with the Marianas' Political Status Commission as an effective means for preventing land in the Marianas, including Tinian, from being alienated to persons not of Marianas descent. The United States and the Commission were also to establish a working group, including representation from Tinian, to discuss details for military and related land use in the Marianas as they develop and to consult directly with the people affected by those plans including residents of Tinian.

The United States is also actively examining the possibility of an early transfer of control over Micronesian public lands in the Mariana Islands and those on Tinian. The Marianas Political Status Commission has suggested that a public corporation be established to receive full title ^{To such lands in the Marianas.} This corporation would be under the direction and control of the people of the Mariana Islands and would take up whatever use or function is to be made in reference to this land. The Commission has asked that the United States not alienate this land on a month-to-month tenancy so as to allow no further dissemination of this land without the approval of the new entity. This is, of course, predicated upon the ^{early turn over} ~~immediate~~ return of all the public lands in the Marianas to the entity. To clarify this point, the United States is committed to a transfer of public lands ^{to local control} in the Mariana Islands as well as the Trust Territory as a whole. The questions to be resolved before this can be accomplished are of a technical, administrative, legal and timing nature that will be studied by ^{United States factfinding} ~~land~~ teams now in the Trust Territory.

The United States will continue to give priority consideration to proposals for furthering economic development throughout the Mariana Islands including the island of Tinian. The United States has not and certainly will not undertake any action which will inhibit healthy economic development on Tinian or elsewhere in the Trust Territory. It will continue to work through the Marianas Political Status Commission to insure that the long-term economic potentials for the Marianas and Tinian will be ^{realized} ~~enhanced~~.