

Tinian

Tinian Split On Military Takeover

News Saipan Bureau

SAIPAN — Slightly more than half of Tinian's residents are opposed to a U.S. military proposal to acquire the entire island, relocate San Jose Village and restrict civilian activities to a southern portion of Tinian, according to a petition sent to President Nixon last week.

Signed by 178 of Tinian's 348 registered voters — a difference of eight — the petition says because of "misstatements and misrepresentations" "our expressed willingness to accommodate the needs of the administering authority militarily has been misinterpreted."

Outlined on the petition are seven conditions under which they would be welcomed:

—Existing 9,000 acres of military retention land on Tinian should be adequate with perhaps an additional 2,000 to 3,000 made available if absolutely necessary.

—The village of San Jose will not be moved "under any circumstances."

—The existing harbor will remain under civilian control but used jointly with the military.

—If an ammunition dock is needed, it should be constructed at Marine Beach at the northwestern shore of Tinian.

—The local government will remain in the hands of the people without any restrictions on growth or development activities.

—The civilian community should be accorded free use and access of West Field.

—Present government homesteading programs will be continued without interruption.

The proposal submitted to the people of Tinian and the Marianas Status Commission last month would, if accepted, take over the entire 25,752 acre island by a lease or purchase agreement for construction of a \$144 million military facility, and set aside 7,700 acres for civilian use.