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Petition Draws Reply

SAIPAN -- Citing its "responsibilities and duties in maintaining international peace and security," the U.S. Department of Defense has asserted that it hopes, "wherever possible, to fully comply with the views, wishes and desires of the people of Tinian" in regard to the proposed military takeover of the entire island.

Deputy Assistant DOD Secretary Dennis J. Doolin has responded to a petition sent to Defense Secretary Elliot Richardson by Herman M. Manglona, a Tinian representative on the Marianas Political Status Commission. That petition, signed by more than half of Tinian's registered voters in June, demanded that the military be restricted to less than half of the island.

"Recognizing that it is impossible in any negotiations to satisfy all of the wishes and desires of either party, with good will on both sides," wrote Doolin, "the Department of Defense is confident that a mutually satisfactory arrangement can and will be achieved."