



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

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U.S. State Dept

CABLE ADDRESS
DISTAD MARIANAS

Liaison for
Status

(c/o TT HDBATIS)

August 1, 1973

The Honorable Chobiyo Yara, Governor
Okinawa Prefectural Government
Office of the Governor
Naha, Okinawa, Japan

Dear Governor Yara:

Receipt is acknowledged of your undated letter, which was received at Saipan on July 18, 1973, relative to the relocation of the "Okinawa-no-toh" cenotaph from Susupe Village in Saipan to the "Last Command Post" area. You are correct in your understanding that our government originally planned to relocate the existing Okinawa Memorial from Susupe Village to the proposed site of the Saipan Public Cemetery at Wireless Hill (Mt. Renshin).

However, as you also correctly note, your Director of Welfare, Mr. Tsunemi Hirayasu, expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed Wireless Hill location, and expressed a preference for an area adjacent to the proposed Government of Japan Memorial at the Last Command Post site in the Marpi (Magpi) area of Saipan. Incidentally, this area should not be referred to as the "Nippon Park of Marpi", as the intention for this area is a general public park for the people of the Marianas (and visitors), and not an exclusive "Nippon" park, even if the Okinawa and Japan Memorials are eventually located there. Although a final and permanent name for the proposed "Park" has not been yet decided, we think it would be better to refer to it as the "Marpi Memorial Park", for the present time.

As was explained to Mr. Hirayasu, the relocation of the Okinawa Memorial to the Marpi Memorial Park area, was contingent upon the Government of Japan requesting permission to erect their monument, in that area, and the approval of our government (TT) of said request. We do not think it is feasible to "approve" the Okinawa Memorial relocation to the East Command area, when the location of the Government of Japan Memorial is still not finalized, as establishment of the Okinawa Memorial in that area is justified only if it fits in with an overall plan for a "Marpi Memorial Park" in the Last Command Post area.

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The first Government of Japan "Talking Paper", dated May 22, 1973, although it mentioned a desire to build a "Memorial Monument" in Saipan, did not specify where this Monument would be built, nor the type of monument. Based on our advice to the Government of Japan that the May 22 "Talking Paper" contained insufficient information as to the Saipan Memorial, a second "Talking Paper", dated June 30, 1973, was submitted to the High Commissioner, through the U.S. Embassy at Tokyo. This is the first time that the Government of Japan actually officially specified that the area desired was the "East part of the Last Command Post at Panatel" (which we assume means in the Marpi area). (Copy of "Attachment 5" of said Talking Paper attached.) This communication, transmitted over the U.S. Embassy-Tokyo's cover letter of July 3, 1973, did not reach us until on or about July 13, 1973.

Only then could we officially get started in obtaining the many layers of "concurrences" and "approvals" necessary, in order to formally approve authorization for the Government of Japan and Okinawa Prefecture to build monuments in the area requested. These "layers" include a legal review of our authority to permit a foreign government to construct a Memorial in Saipan, a review with our Land Advisory Board, as to acceptability of constructing said Memorials in the Marpi Area, a review with our District Land Management Office to insure compliance with Land Regulations and Policies, and finally, approval by the High Commissioner and myself.

I believe it is readily apparent that these "reviews" and "approvals" are not something that can be obtained in a very short time. The Government of Japan War Dead Recovery Mission of 1973 arrived in Saipan on July 20, 1973, and it was not until July 23, 1973, that we were able to have Mr. Kazuo Maruyama, Party Chief of the Mission (from the Ministry of Health and Welfare), and Mr. Suekazu Hamanaka, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, specify exactly the proposed site of the Government of Japan Memorial, and the size of the area required.

Now that we know exactly the size and location of the proposed Government of Japan Memorial and the Okinawa Memorial, the next step necessary is that we submit this proposal to our District Land Advisory Board. This is an essential step, which cannot be eliminated and I am not in a position to recommend favorably or unfavorably on the proposed Monuments, until I have received the recommendations of this Board. I have been advised that the next meeting of the District Land Advisory Board is scheduled for August 13, 1973, consequently,

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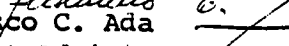
I will not be able to recommend approval or disapproval of the construction of the Government of Japan Memorial and/or the Okinawa Memorial until after August 13, 1973.

Even after the District Land Advisory Board has made their determination and advice, and even assuming that their recommendations and mine are favorable, it is still necessary that the High Commissioner give his final approval. After that, we will still have to draft a "Land Use" Permit and Agreement, which will be acceptable to all concerned.

I am explaining these necessary steps and procedures to you, in some details, so that there will be no misunderstanding as to the necessary steps that still need to be taken. Although there have been informal and unofficial indications that this government will receptively consider the request of the Government of Japan and Okinawa Prefecture for the construction of Monuments in the Marpi Memorial Park area, "final approval" must not be assumed, until all the necessary steps for such an approval has been taken, and formal notification of approval provided the Government of Japan and Okinawa Prefecture by this office and/or the High Commissioner.

I assure you that the Marianas District Administration is very sympathetic with the worthy mission of the Government of Japan to recover the remains of the Japanese War Dead from the Marianas, and generally speaking, with the erection of appropriate memorials. We will, therefore, move as expeditiously as possible, in reviewing the requests of the Government of Japan and Okinawa Prefecture for erection of these Memorials, and you will be advised immediately, upon our reaching a decision as to these requests.

Sincerely,


Francisco C. Ada
District Administrator
Mariana Islands District
Saipan, Mariana Islands

cc: High Commissioner

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Attachment 5

Proposed plan of erecting a monument for
the Japanese war-dead in Saipan

1. Proposed site

East part of the Last Command Post at Panatel.

2. Necessary land area

About 4,000 square meters (1,500 tsubo).

3. Lease of land

The Government of Japan wishes that the necessary land area mentioned in 2 above be leased free of charge to the Government of Japan, and that the necessary contract be entered into between the Government of Japan and the High Commissioner's Office.

4. Period of Construction

Between October and December, 1973.

5. Survey of the site

Officials of the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the designer of the monument are scheduled to visit Saipan and survey the spot at the beginning of August.

It is added that the designer is expected to be Dr. Yoshiro Taniguchi.

6. Details of the plan for constructing the monument will be conveyed to the authorities concerned in Saipan by the leader of the governmental mission to be sent to the Mariana Islands District referred to in Part II of the Talking Paper,