

(MORATORIUM OPPOSED)

SAIPAN, AUG. 14 (MNS)---MEMBERS OF THE TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MET WITH THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE SATURDAY NIGHT (AUG. 11) AT FLEMING'S MOTEL AND EXPRESSED THEIR DISAPPROVAL OF THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A MORATORIUM ON DEVELOPMENT ON TINIAN. THE DISTRICT LEGISLATORS MADE THE TRIP TO TINIAN AT THE "URGENT REQUEST" OF THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN.

ACCORDING TO A NEWS ACCOUNT FROM KJQR RADIO, THE PEOPLE WERE SURPRISED TO KNOW THAT A MORATORIUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND FULL UTILIZATION OF TINIAN BY ITS INHABITANTS IS IN EFFECT WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH EITHER THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE OR THE ISLAND'S LOCAL LEADERS. A U.S. PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW RESIDING IN THE VILLAGE OF SAN JOSE WAS ALSO OPPOSED.

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THE PROPOSAL TO USE THE PRESENT HARBOR FOR AMMUNITION STORAGE IS ALSO BEING OPPOSED. THE COUNCILMEN RECOMMENDED TWO ALTERNATE AREAS FOR THE MILITARY TO BUILD THEIR OWN HARBAOR FOR AMMUNITION STORAGE ON TINIAN LOCATED CLOSE TO THE SHORE.

WHILE THE COMING OF THE MILITARY IS WELCOME ON TINIAN, THE "REQUIREMENTS WERE JUST TOO MUCH," ACCORDING TO TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SPEAKER HARRY DELA CRUZ. SEVERAL COUNCILMEN MENTIONED COMPENSATION IF THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE RELOCATED ELSEWHERE.

THE ISSUING OF HOMESTEAD PERMITS TO THE PEOPLE WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. THE COUNCILMENT TOOK NOTE OF THE PRESENT APPLICANTS FOR HOMESTEAD LANDS. LEGISLATURE PRESIDENT VICENTE N. SANTOS ASSURED THE PEOPLE THAT THE MATTER WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE CURRENT MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ALSO IT WILL BE BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION.

THE U.S. ACTIONS ON THE MORATORIUM ON ISSUING HOMESTEAD PERMITS AND THE LEASING OF PUBLIC LANDS TO NON-MICRONESIANS HAVE BEEN SHARPLY CRITICIZED BY THE LEGISLATURE AND TINIAN'S LLOCAL LEADERS. JAMES WILSON, THE NUMBER TWO MAN ON THE U.S. NEGOTIATION DELEGATION FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS WHO RECENTLY TOURED THE

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WESTERN DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA TO LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM OF THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS, HAS SAID THE TINIAN MORATORIUM IS "VERY TEMPORARY."

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