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Ref. Att. by [unclear]

TO: MR IMMERMANN
FM: CHARLES SYLVESTER
#258

Sent 8/23/75
at

DRAFT LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

As the United States reported during the Trustee-ship Council's meeting last May, it is actively engaged in political status negotiation with the Mariana Islands. The people of the District are represented through ^{their} duly appointed Marianas Political Status Commission which includes two representatives of the island of Tinian. The entire Commission, in the words of its Chairman, is "... determined to represent and protect the interests of all the people of the Marianas, including the people of Tinian, in their status negotiations." The United States and the Commission committed themselves during negotiations last May to undertake full consultation with the people of Tinian before any final decisions or agreements are made regarding the use of land on Tinian for military purposes.

It was further agreed during the May session that the United States would work with the Marianas Political Status Commission to establish an effective means for preventing ^{(the alienation of} land in the Marianas, including land on Tinian, ~~from being alienated to persons not of Marianas ancestry.~~ ^{DKM} The United States and the Commission were also to establish a consultative group, including

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representation from Tinian, to discuss detailed plans for military and related land use in the Marianas as they are developed 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 including those 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 set 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 beyond a month-to-month tenancy so as to allow no further dissemination of public land without the approval of the new entity. This is, of course, predicated upon the early turnover of public lands in the Marianas to the entity. The United States is thus committed to a return 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 ones of a technical, administrative and legal nature. These are being studied by United States factfinding teams now in the Trust Territory.

The United States will continue to give priority consideration to steps 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.