

~~Status LND~~

Tinian

Office of the High Commissioner, Saipan

big sub
OSN 8/28/73

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

TO : Deputy High Commissioner

DATE: 24 Aug. 1973

FROM : Director, Public Affairs

03
25

SUBJECT: Statement made before the Economic Committee of the Fourth Mariana Islands District Legislature on August 23 in connection with Resolution No. 1-1973

(Moratorium on Tinian Homesteading) (See Status LND 154)

This memorandum reports on our appearance (Yoma, Miyamoto, Yamada, Rice and Huston) before the Economic Committee of the Fourth Marianas Islands District Legislature in connection with Resolution No. 1-1973. This committee is chaired by Ignacio T. Delacruz.

As you know, my appearance before that committee was for the purpose of representing you and/or the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Please note that the attached statement does not contain all that I or Mr. Miyamoto said in behalf of the administration with respect to Resolution No. 1-1973. The other comments I made which are not included in the attached statement made reference to items 3 and 6 of the Joint Communique by the U.S. and the Marianas Political Status Delegations on the future uses of land in the Marianas set forth on page 10 of the Report of the Marianas Political Status Negotiations published by OMSN and dated May 15-June 4, 1973. In making comments regarding these two items in the Joint Communique, I stated that these two items conceivably could become the subject of debate as to intent and the moratorium on the utilization of land on Tinian could have been issued based on a different interpretation of these two items.

Soon after I made these comments the Chairman called my attention to item 9 under the same subject in the Joint Communique which reads "The parties agreed to establish a consultative group to discuss the detailed plans for military and related land use in the Marianas as they are developed and to consult with the people directly affected by the plans. The people of Tinian will be represented in such a group."

The other comment I made to the committee based on Jim Wilson's statement made previously to the Legislature was to the effect that the moratorium is not intended to be permanent and that Mr. Wilson has hinted at the possibility of the moratorium being lifted sometime around October of this year. Mr. Nabors, legislative counsel to the

03 - 028150

committee, responded to this comment by saying that Mr. Wilson did hint to this effect but upon further inquiry by certain members of the Legislature, Jim Wilson explained that this is only a hope on his part and is not to be construed as an official commitment on the part of the United States.

With regard to the tone of the comment (attached) I made concerning Resolution 1-1973, I should like to point out that we took this position in view of the fact that the Legislature will most probably pass the Resolution even if we registered strong objection to it. Additionally, I feel that under the circumstances the best we can do is to be as constructive as possible and to point out to them that strong language against the United States, even if substantially correct, does not always produce the desired result.

A final comment I should like to make is that I was very much impressed by the manner in which the committee treated us. They were most courteous and pleasant to talk with and I would say that the atmosphere was cordial and friendly.

Strik Yoma

cc: AG
Chief, L&S
Land Law Examiner
Status LNO

8/73

12
2,5

Statement of Steve Lyona

I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to appear before your committee in connection with Resolution No. 1-1973, a Resolution "relative to opposing the unilateral declaration of a moratorium on the development and full utilization of Tinian by its inhabitants."

① Mr. Chairman, I appear before you today as representative of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands administration and I should like to state also that our appearance before you is in line with the policy of the administration to provide whatever assistance we can give the legislative branch of both the Territorial and district governments. Accordingly, Mr. Chairman, appearing before you from Headquarters are myself, the Attorney General of the Trust Territory, the Chief of Lands and Surveys and the Land Law Examiner. From your district government you have the Land Management Officer, Mr. Robert Huston.

② With regard to Resolution No. 1-1973, I would like to make the comment that having read the resolution I feel that it would be helpful if it would also indicate to the administering authority that the question of the moratorium on homesteading be given the highest priority during the next status negotiation between the U.S. Delegation and the Marianas Delegation. Additionally, I think that you would gain some tactical advantage in emphasizing the seriousness of this problem and urging the administering authority to reconsider this matter at the next status negotiation between the United States and the Marianas Status Delegation. I should like to point out also that perhaps the accusatory language may be counterproductive and you may wish to consider de-emphasizing that part of the resolution which accuses the United States but emphasize the urgency of the matter and the need for its immediate resolution at the earliest practicable date.

③ Page 3-6
Jim Wilson assumes 03028152