

TINIAN
Aug. 31, 1973
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STATEMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE HERMAN M. MANGLONA OF TINIAN

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS, I WISH TO ADDRESS A FEW BRIEF REMARKS TO YOU CONCERNING A MOST IMPORTANT AND, INDEED, IN THE OPINION OF THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN, URGENT MATTER. I AM, OF COURSE, SPEAKING OF THE CURRENT, UNILATERALLY IMPOSED MORATORIUM ON HOMESTEADING AND ON THE LEASING OF PUBLIC LAND ON TINIAN ISLAND. THE MORATORIUM WAS IMPOSED QUITE SUDDENLY BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, WITHOUT WARNING, AND WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN OR WITH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION. IT IS OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT DUTIFULLY IMPOSED THE MORATORIUM WHEN ITS STRINGS WERE JIGGLED IN WASHINGTON. THERE IS CERTAINLY NOTHING NEW OR UNUSUAL ABOUT SUCH DISPLAYS OF PUPPETRY BY OUR MARIONETTE GOVERNMENT.

THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN, HOWEVER, ARE BEWILDERED AND HURT BY THE IMPOSITION OF THE MORATORIUM BY THE UNITED STATES. THEY HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WELCOME THE COMING OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY TO THEIR ISLAND ONCE AGAIN, BUT THEY ARE GREATLY PUZZLED BY THIS CLEAR BREACH OF GOOD FAITH BY THE UNITED STATES. THEY ARE PUZZLED BECAUSE THEY HAVE, PERHAPS, BEEN TOO NAIVE AND TOO TRUSTING. I AM NOT PUZZLED. I KNOW THAT THE MORATORIUM WAS IMPOSED IN ORDER TO HOLD DOWN LAND VALUES ON TINIAN AND, THUS, ALLOW THE MILITARY TO GET WHAT THEY NEED FOR A "SONG."

THOUGH I AM NOT PUZZLED AS TO THE REASON BEHIND THE MORATORIUM, I AM ANGERED BY THIS GROSS BREACH OF FAITH. IN THE SECTION ON "FUTURE USES OF LAND IN THE MARIANAS" OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE SECOND SESSION OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, THE UNITED STATES SPECIFICALLY AGREED TO APPROACH THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR MILITARY LANDS IN GOOD FAITH, AND SPECIFICALLY AGREED TO CONSULTATION WITH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN AS TO MILITARY AND RELATED LAND USE, AND SPECIFICALLY

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GAVE ITS ASSURANCES THAT IT HAD NO INTENTION OF "TAKING FURTHER ACTION TO IMPLEMENT ITS MILITARY LAND PROPOSALS SO LONG AS THIS MATTER IS STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION WITH THE MARIANA POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION."

AS A RESULT OF OUR COMPARING WHAT THE UNITED STATES SAYS IT WILL DO AGAINST WHAT IT ACTUALLY DOES, WE PEOPLE OF TINIAN ARE COMING TO THE SAME REALIZATION THAT THE AMERICAN INDIAN REACHED A CENTURY OR MORE AGO, THAT IS, THAT THE GREAT FATHER IN WASHINGTON TENDS TO SPEAK WITH A FORKED TONGUE ON MATTERS RELATING TO LAND THAT SOMEBODY ELSE HAS BUT THAT HE COVETS. THERE IS, I FEAR, NO LONGER A "DANGER" OF THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN LOSING CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES - THEY HAVE ALREADY LOST WHAT CONFIDENCE THEY HAD. AND I THINK THAT IS SAD.

SOME SUGGESTION HAS BEEN MADE THAT THE MORATORIUM WAS IMPOSED IN COMPLIANCE WITH A REQUEST MADE BY THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AT THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. SUCH AN ASSERTION IS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE FACTS, AS NO SUCH REQUEST WAS MADE. THE ACTUAL REQUEST APPEARS IN CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN'S STATEMENT AT PAGE 20 OF THE REPORT OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION ON THE FIRST SESSION OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WAS SUBMITTED TO THE FOURTH MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AT ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION. THE REQUEST WAS "... THAT THE UNITED STATES JOIN US IN REQUESTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO REFRAIN FROM APPROVING ANY LEASES ON PUBLIC LANDS TO NON-CITIZENS OF THE MARIANAS WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION." THE KEY WORD, AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS, IS "CONSULTATION." THE CURRENT MORATORIUM IS PER SE BAD, BUT IT IS MADE FAR WORSE BY THE FACT THAT IT WAS IMPOSED UNILATERALLY AND WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE AFFECTED OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES. IT SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING THEN THAT THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

IT IS I HOPE, AND I BELIEVE, NOT YET TOO LATE TO MEND THE DAMAGE THAT HAS BEEN DONE. IN ORDER TO MEND THAT DAMAGE, HOWEVER, TWO STEPS MUST BE TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES. FIRST, THE MORATORIUM MUST BE TERMINATED IMMEDIATELY. SECOND, A FULL, CLEAR AND FORTHRIGHT EXPLANATION AS TO WHY THE MORATORIUM WAS IMPOSED MUST BE MADE BY THE UNITED STATES TO THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN.

IF, BUT ONLY IF, THESE TWO STEPS ARE TAKEN, I FEEL THAT THE CONFIDENCE THAT THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN HAD IN THE UNITED STATES CAN BE, TO SOME MEASURE, RESTORED. THE LONGER THE MORATORIUM IS CONTINUED, THE MORE BITTER AND ALIENATED WILL MY PEOPLE BECOME. I CANNOT POSSIBLY OVERSTRESS THE IMMEDIACY OF THIS SITUATION; NEXT WEEK COULD BE TOO LATE.

AS I HAVE STATED, THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN HAVE BEEN VERY WILLING TO SHARE THEIR SMALL ISLAND WITH THE UNITED STATES MILITARY FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF BOTH PARTIES. WE ALSO FULLY APPRECIATE THE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS AS A PARAMOUNT WORLD POWER. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED, HOWEVER, THAT WE ARE NEGOTIATING FOR PERMANENT ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND FOR THE RETURN OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY TO TINIAN. NO AGREEMENT ON THESE MATTERS HAS YET BEEN REACHED, AND THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE WILL *NOT* BE ABLE TO AGREE.

SHOULD WE

NOT AGREE AND SHOULD THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS TAKE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT DIRECTION, OR BE ABANDONED ALTOGETHER, THE ECONOMY AND THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF TINIAN WILL HAVE BEEN DEALT A NEAR-MORTAL BLOW BY THE CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT MORATORIUM. TO IMPOSE SUCH A RISK ON THE PEOPLE OF MY ISLAND IS SIMPLY NOT FAIR, AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS, NOR ARE SUCH METHODS WORTHY OF A GREAT NATION LIKE THE UNITED STATES.

I ASSURE YOU THAT I WISH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS TO PROCEED APACE AND IN THE SAME SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP, CORDIALITY AND MUTUAL

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RESPECT WITH WHICH THEY HAVE SO - FAR BEEN CONDUCTED. BUT THIS CANNOT HAPPEN, IN MY OPINION, UNLESS THE MORATORIUM IS LIFTED IMMEDIATELY AND UNLESS A FULL EXPLANATION OF IT IS PROMPTLY GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN. WE HAVE ALWAYS ADMIRERD THE UNITED STATES AND ITS SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE. IT MUST NOT NOW FORSAKE OUR TRUST.

MR. AMBASSADOR, I ASK, I URGE, I IMPLORE THAT YOU HEAR, UNDERSTAND AND HEED MY WORDS. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD, SADLY, SPELL DISASTER FOR THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, AND I WOULD MOURN THAT NO LESS THAN YOU.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.

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