

period pending the completion of status negotiations. Acknowledging with regret that there had not been sufficient communication and coordination with the MPSC concerning the temporary suspension of such permits, the Ambassador stated that measures would be taken to prevent such a gap in the future. He stressed the reasons for the suspension of permits in order to prevent land speculation and preemption of business opportunities, neither of which would be in the interest of the people of Tinian nor of the United States. Pointing out that the suspension of land acquisition in areas under consideration for public use is a normal procedure, the Ambassador stressed that such suspension is customarily temporary until final decisions are made and stated that in the case of land on Tinian such suspension should be thought of in terms of weeks rather than years as has been mistakenly assumed in some cases.

Concern was also expressed in the meeting with regard to the granting of long-term leases of land in the Marianas to non-Micronesians and the Ambassador and Senator Pangelinan expressed agreement that this subject should be among those on which joint consideration is advisable.

The Ambassador expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to meet jointly with the Marianas District Legislature and Marianas Political Status Commission, and both he and Senator Pangelinan/stressed their intention that as the work proceeds toward completion of studies preparing the way for the resumption of the status talks this fall, coordination and communication may be closely maintained.

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