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I am certain that questions on the firmness of Department of Defense intentions to carry out the seven year timetable for the development of Tinian and the priority enjoyed by the Tinian project will be raised again on the Hill and in the upcoming talks with the Marianas Political Status Commission. The latter are especially interested in these questions because of the relationship of the Tinian build-up to their economic and financial planning.

It would be most helpful to me in preparing for further consultations on the Hill and for the forthcoming talks with the Marianas Political Status Commission if I could have your views on the questions that have been raised and your suggestions as to how they can best be answered. It is especially important that I be able to assure the Marianas Political Status Commission that the Department of Defense intends to adhere to the development and funding schedule already outlined to them by representatives of the U.S. Air Force.

It is recognized, of course, that the Department of Defense cannot as a practical matter go very far in the direction of requesting any major funds for land acquisition or construction purposes until it has been possible to get a firm agreement from the Marianas regarding the new arrangements, including specifically agreement on the land needed for U.S. military facilities. The questions raised above thus all presuppose that the necessary political, financial and land settlements have been reached on terms satisfactory to the United States.

Sincerely yours,



Franklin Haydn Williams
The President's Personal Representative
for Micronesian Status Negotiations

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