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NOVEMBER 8 RELEASE TO PACIFIC DAILY NEWS BY STATUS LNO

I regret that I find in error the statement made in the Pacific Daily News article of November 7 to the effect that the lands which the U.S. has requested for military use in Micronesia would not be included in the proposed transfer of title of public lands from the TIPI Administration to the districts if so requested.

To the contrary, all of the land which the U.S. is negotiating for on Koror and Babelthuap, and most of it on Tinian is presently considered to be public land and is included in the definition of land to be returned to district control.

Furthermore, the statement that these lands will be turned over to the U.S. military "without ever becoming Micronesian public lands" is wholly inaccurate since these lands are by definition already in the public domain, and are presently held in trust for the people of Micronesia by the TIPI. What the U.S. is now suggesting is that if requested, title to such lands will be transferred to the districts and to rightful owners upon satisfaction of the safeguards outlined in the U.S. statement.

Statement given to PDM 11/8/73.

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