

Over the past six months, the Marianas Commission has given considerable thought and attention to the subject of future United States land requirements in the Marianas. This matter has great political significance to our people, and we have made a special effort to consult with them at each stage of our deliberations. We hope you will understand that the importance of land in the Marianas requires us to proceed with great caution before making definitive commitments in this area.

On Sunday, Ambassador Williams read us the results of the United States' reevaluation of its land needs in the light of the Commission's position paper delivered during the last session of the talks. We note that, with some minor exceptions, the position of the United States on this matter remains basically unchanged. The Commission has considered your presentation and is now prepared to share with the United States its current thinking on meeting United States future land needs in the Marianas:

1. Sale vs. Lease. The Marianas Commission is not disposed to sell any land in the Marianas to the United States. We are agreeable to making land available under a 50 years lease with an option to renew.

2. Farallon de Mendinilla. The Commission will agree to lease Farallon de Mendinilla to the United States for target practice, provided the environmental impacts of this proposed use, including the question of physical safety of fishermen and others who might stray into the area, are addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement filed under the National Environmental Protection

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