

Since the last session of the negotiations, the Commission has given careful study to the question of federal eminent domain power in the new commonwealth arrangement. The Commission recognizes that the United States must have some assurances that important but unanticipated future land needs can be met in the Marianas. At the same time, the United States must realize that land in the Marianas is the most scarce and precious resource of the people. The United States should also consider that a major aspect of the present negotiations is the question of future United States land requirements in the Marianas. It would be grossly unfair if, shortly after the new status became effective, the United States could simply take by eminent domain land which it had agreed in these negotiations would not be required in the foreseeable future.

The United States has already acknowledged the special problems of land in Micronesia by advancing proposals for special eminent domain procedures in the "Draft Bill for an Unincorporated Territory" and the "United States Commonwealth Proposal." Since then, the United States has agreed in the "Compact of Free Association" that it would not exercise any powers of eminent domain under the future status arrangement with the other five districts of Micronesia.

The Marianas Commission is prepared to accept the exercise of federal eminent domain power in the future commonwealth of the Marianas. Such power, however, must be made