

subject to a number of limitations and safeguards to assure the people of the Marianas that their land will be protected against an injudicious use of the eminent domain power and that the terms of the status agreement providing for future United States land requirements will be respected for a reasonable period of time.

The basic principles underlying the Commission's proposal on federal eminent domain power in the Marianas are as follows:

1. The United States could never obtain an interest in land greater than a long term lease subject to "a conditional limitation," the limiting event being the failure of the United States to actively use the land for the public purpose for which it was acquired.
2. Except perhaps for certain kinds of rentals and short-term interests in property (less than one-year), the United States could not acquire interests in land directly from private landowners--either by direct negotiation or by condemnation. This provision would respect the restriction on alienation of land to persons of Marianas ancestry and would require the United States to deal directly with the Government of the Commonwealth of the Marianas (either the legislature or a special land commission) in order to satisfy any future land requirements. Affected