

NO DATE

1973/74

# U.N. ASKED TO INTERVENE

## Tinian Charges U.S. 'Land Grab'

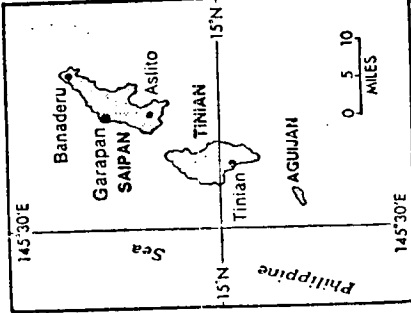
UNITED NATIONS (UPI)—Native leaders of Tinian, the tiny Pacific island from which U.S. planes took off in World War II to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Thursday asked the United Nations to stop the United States from taking over most of their Pacific paradise for a military base.

The leaders of the approximately 800 Chamorros living on Tinian labeled the American plans a "land grab" of the 10-mile-long by 4.5-mile-wide island.

The appeal for U.N. intervention came in petitions sent to the Trusteeship Council by Tinian Mayor Felipe C. Mendiola, speaker Sylvestre T. Cruz of the Tinian Municipal Council and 12 other persons.

Tinian, ruled in turn by Spain, Germany and Japan, now is a U.S. strategic trust territory administered by the United States, which is supposed to lead it to eventual self-government.

The native leaders admitted Tinian wants closer ties with the United States and even agrees to



AN APPEAL — Tinian, where native leaders are asking restriction on U.S. military base. Times map

establishment of a smaller military base.

But, pointing to the results of an election in which candidates who proposed restricting the base to one-third of the island won, Mendiola said the offer of one-third "for war purposes is an extremely generous offer" by the Tinians to "the most powerful and wealthiest nation" in the world.

The United States has proposed taking over at least two-thirds and possibly all of the island to build a standby air base and Marine division camp

referendum is held and the residents make their own choice.

"We deplore and condemn the sales pitch and tactics utilized by representatives of the United States military in their relentless attempts to convince the inhabitants that what is good for the military is good for Tinian," the Tinian petition said.

Tinian, conquered in 1521 by the Spanish who wiped out most of the Chamorros because they refused to be Christianized, was briefly in German hands early this century and then seized by the Japanese at the start of World War II.

which military sources say is needed in case U.S. forces were ordered to leave bases on Okinawa, which has been returned to Japan.

In a separate letter to the White House, Mendiola said American representatives and land surveyors "are not at all welcome" and local leaders will have no more contact with the U.S. government until a

The island saw some of the bloodiest fighting of the war when American marines stormed ashore in mid-1944. Fighting on Tinian and neighboring Saipan left 3,144 Americans dead and 13,448 wounded. Japanese losses on Tinian alone were 5,000 killed and 380 captured, another 3,000 died in caves from massive bombing or committed suicide.

The atomic bombs that were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, the only atomic bombs ever used in war, were loaded on U.S. B-29 bombers that took off from huge runways built on Tinian.

it al ar of ne ar xt