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DECLARATION OF POSITION

We the undersigned members of the Mariana Political Status Commission for the islands of Tinian and Rota having in mind the announced policy of the United States relative to the Transfer of all public land in the Trust Territory to the control of the various districts of Micronesia we wish to place our views in the matter of public lands on Tinian and Rota on record with our colleagues on the Marianas Political Status Commission.

While we are aware that bare announcement of the said policy is a far cry from detailed implementation, we wish to go on record as opposing any arrangement whereby control over and power of disposition of public lands on Tinian and Rota are entrusted to any entity, whether the District Legislature or any body corporate created for the purpose and granting any such entity sole power of decision over the said public lands without proper safeguards.

It is our firm position that insofar as public lands on Tinian and Rota are concerned no final disposition of same be made by the custodial authority whatever its final structure and denomination without the consent of the people of the said islands as expressed through their duly elected municipal governmental body and chief executive.

That our position is not frivolous or the product of fanciful imaginings witness that under the lawful composition of the District Legislature.

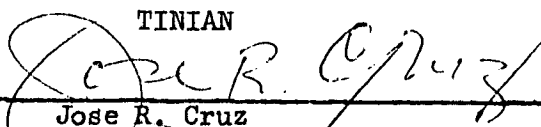
The Representative strength of Tinian and Rota combined is at the mercy of a majority having only peripheral interest in said two islands.

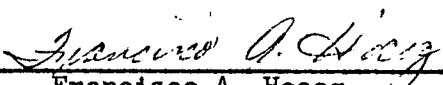
Should the District Legislature or any other entity similarly imbalanced become final arbiter of use and disposition of public lands it is clear that the people of Tinian and Rota will have little voice in a matter of vital concern to themselves.

It should be noted that we seek nothing more that a determinative voice in the use and disposition of public lands on our respective islands.

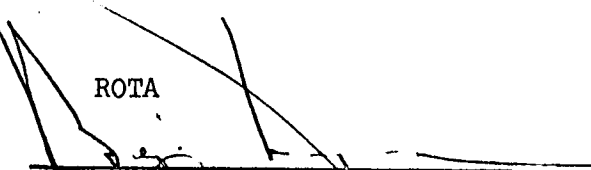
We therefore solicit assurance from our colleagues on the Status Commission that whatever agency or organization, governmental or private, is finally entrusted with the authority to dispose of public lands on Tinian or Rota, enabling provision be made in the law or regulations to the effect that no public lands on either Tinian or Rota be alienated without the consent of the people of the respective islands as expressed through their respective municipal councils and chief executives.

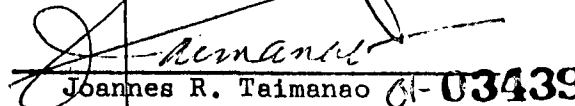
TINIAN

  
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Jose R. Cruz

  
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Francisco A. Hocog

ROTA

  
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Benjamin T. Manglona

  
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Joannes R. Taimano

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