

The people of Tinian feel very strongly that the will, interests and
the Marianas people
concerns of ~~the Marianas people~~ must be recognized and taken seriously by the United States
delegation in approaching the question of the military use of Tinian. The United
States currently expects from the Marianas people, a similar understanding of their
interests respecting the island of Tinian. Clearly, there can be no double standard
of sincerity between the Commission and the U.S. delegation. However, there is and
has been, since last April 13th, a continuing and festering example of United States
disregard for the unequivocal demand of the Marianas people that the Honorable Roger
L. St. Pierre be reinstated to his position of Chief Public Defender.

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The United States delegation should be made aware that for the past eleven
years the Honorable Roger L. St. Pierre has provided the people of the Marianas with
both strong and effective representation in asserting their rights, many times against
the government. It is common knowledge in the Marianas, that the Honorable St. Pierre
has always been an uncompromising advocate of the rights of the people. Yet the T.T.
administration, for cryptic reasons of their own, instituted removal proceedings against
the Honorable St. Pierre last April. Since that time, there has been a tremendous show
of support for the Honorable St. Pierre by people of the Marianas from every walk of life.
Countless petitions and resolutions have urged the T.T. Administration to realize its
mistake, and to reinstate a man who for over a decade has been the champion of rights
for the Marianas people, placing their interests above all others. Nevertheless, despite
the repeated demand of Marianas leaders, and despite an exceptional period of service,
the American administrator has persisted in subverting the will of the Marianas people.

In effect, the American administration is telling us that "we know what is
best for you even better than you". Or in more accurate terms the United States Ad-
ministration is saying that even when it is wrong, it is right. Certainly this kind
of attitude by the T.T. Administration is contrary to the spirit which should prevail
during these discussions. Unfortunately, what we see is an American administration
which is unwilling to correct a glaring mistake even when the whole of the Marianas
District - and the rest of Micronesia, for that matter - is shouting that they are
wrong.

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In the recent case of the High Commissioner's veto of Legal Services, it
took an OEO ~~veto~~ override of that veto to save us from a severe error in judgment on the
part of the T.T. Administration. However in the case of the proposed removal of the

Honorable Roger L. St. Pierre, the whole decision rests in the hands of the United States Administration.

Should the Administration show us through the reinstatement of the Honorable St. Pierre, that it is willing to respect and comply with the voice of the Marianas citizens, then these discussions, with particular reference to Tinian, can proceed on there be no a sound footing. But should ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ indication that the Honorable St. Pierre will be reinstated, then the talks pertaining to the military use of Tinian will proceed under a dark shadow of distrust and suspicion of United States intentions.

In listening to my remarks, I sense that the members of the United States delegation may not have grasped exactly how vital a man the Honorable St. Pierre is to the people of the Marianas. But when I say that he is extremely vital to the Marianas people, I am certain that I speak for every member of the Marianas Delegation. Accordingly, I do not hesitate to use the reinstatement of the Honorable Roger L. St. Pierre as a yardstick of United States sincerity in discussing the military use of Tinian. And as one of two representatives of the people of Tinian, I ~~was authorized~~ have been authorized to state their position in this matter. While the extent to which there will be military use of Tinian remains a complex and open question, one fact is definite: that the people of Tinian will never allow any military use of Tinian, until and unless the American administration recognizes the manifest will of the Marianas people, and restores the Honorable Roger L. St. Pierre to his rightful position as Chief Public Defender.