

03
25

MEMORANDUM

September 12, 1973

TO : Office for Micronesian Status Negotiations
FROM : Status LNO - Mary Vance Trent
SUBJECT: Report of Marianas Deputy DISTAD Concerning Japanese Graves
Mission in Micronesia in 1973

Attached to this memorandum are copies of two memoranda both dated August 29, 1973 addressed to the Marianas District Administrator from his deputy, Mr. Dan Akimoto, who is the TT Coordinator for Government of Japan Graves Missions.

One of the memoranda deals with the over-all subject of the visits made to the TT this year and notes that such missions have concluded for this calendar year. In line with previous communications from this office, I would draw attention especially to the following references in that memorandum:

Page 6 - Plans of the Japanese Government to develop a Marianas Public Park possibly with a Japanese motif in the general environ of the Last Command Post on the Northern Island of Saipan.

Page 9 - Further details on Japanese planning for such a park and the steps needed before agreement is given.

Page 11 - Further steps taken toward the development of such an area by the GOJ and the Okinawa Prefecture.

Page 12 - Visit of the Graves Mission to Tinian.

Page 15 - Reference to a petition from the "Marianas Association of Hiroshima Prefecture" requesting that the "administering authority" delay the turnover of Tinian Island to the military until the collection of the human remains by the Japanese Government from Tinian can be completed.

The other memorandum outlines the background and procedure for the project currently underway for the retrieval of remains from the sunken Japanese submarine in the Truk Lagoon.

COMMENT: There appears to be somewhat urgent need for a decision by the U. S. Government as to whether or not permission should be granted to the Government of Japan to establish a memorial park of some 5500 square meters in the "Last Command Post" area. The Japanese request is currently under consideration by the Marianas District Government, presumably soon to be on its way to the TT Administration. Some earlier legal question as to whether the land concerned could be used for a purpose other than homesteading has, I understand, been resolved in favor of the park project.

Enclosure: a/s

cc: EA/ANP
Embassy Tokyo

Encls. Filed Japan

03-025868