

Saipan, Mariana Islands

September 18, 1974

Honorable Yelina G. Mendiola
Mayor of Tinian
Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Ambassador Williams has asked me as his representative in the TTPI on status matters to respond to your letter of August 28 regarding U.S. military land requirements on Tinian in addition to those already held as military retention land.

First, the Ambassador wishes you to know that he is by no means unconcerned or disinterested in the petition to which your letter refers. He tried to explain to you and the people of Tinian during the public meeting last May that he did not refuse to accept your petition. On the contrary, he only asked that it be referred in the first instance to the members of the Marianas Political Status Commission as a matter under their cognizance and for their consideration since they represent the people of the Marianas in status negotiations. In this regard the Ambassador is confident that the Marianas Political Status Commission and Marianas District Legislature will give due consideration to this and other petitions or proclamations as well as to all subsequent manifestations of local opinion as they relate to the status question.

As regards the Tinian land survey itself, the Ambassador notes that this is proceeding as planned and in full accordance with agreements reached with the Marianas Political Status Commission and that it is his hope that the final resolution of land issues involving the people of Tinian will be forthcoming in a spirit of friendship and cooperation.

Please accept the Ambassador's best wishes and his admiration for your obvious concern for the interests of your fellow citizens.

Sincerely yours,


Alf E. Bergesen
Status Liaison Officer

Per STATE 204422:lav 9/18/74

Copies given Senate, Congressional and
Sen Lantos. Sept 26, 1974 *WLA*

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