

PRESS RELEASE - MAY 16, 1974

During the morning session today of the current Marianas Status Negotiations talks, Ambassador Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, gave the Marianas Political Status Commission an amended land use plan which would make possible a further reduction in the acreage on Tinian required by the United States for military purposes. The new American proposal, in addition to requiring less land, also took into full consideration safety needs and operational and engineering factors. The plan eliminates the necessity for relocating the village of San Jose, and thus will keep the entire southern part of the island (the area south of the projected extension of West Field and east of the harbor area) open for local community purposes and for other public and private development.

The new United States plan results from an intensive restudy based on technical surveys carried out over the past few months, which have made possible a greater degree of precision in drawing up the plan, and reflects in part views expressed earlier by the Marianas Political Status Commission.

The need to relocate San Jose Village under the original plan was based on safety considerations involved in unloading ammunition at the harbor. This entailed the designation of a safety arc of two miles radius which included the village.

New studies and surveys have shown that it is feasible to construct a separate facility for ammunition handling in the northern part of the island away from populated areas.

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