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Tinian 10/51

SAIPAN, MAY 16 (MNS)---THE NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION MOVED THROUGH THEIR SECOND DAY ON SAIPAN THURSDAY (MAY QYLN WITH A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED THAT INDICATES A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN AMERICAN LAND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISLANDS OF TINIAN.

THE RELEASE SAID AMBASSADOR HAYDN WILLIAMS PRESENTED TO THE MARIANAS COMMISSION THURSDAY MORNING AN "AMENDED" LAND USE PLAN, ONE WHICH WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE "A FURTHER REDUCTION IN THE ACREAGE ON TINIAN REQUIRED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR MILITARY PURPOSE."

THE RELEASE CONTINUED: "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 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 RELEASE STATED.

"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 NORTHER PART OF THE ISLAND AWAY FROM POPULATED AREAS," CONCLUDED THE PRESS RELEASE.

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(COPRA PRICE AT HIGHEST LEVEL)