

Tinian Public Meeting - Wednesday, May 22, 1974 - 1:15 P.M.

Estimated Attendance - 80 - Tinian Municipal Hall

Tinian  
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21514

Speaker Harry Cruz presiding.

Senator Pangelinan, Chairman MPSC, interpreting. Introduced MPSC members by name. Stated purpose of negotiations. Reviewed U.S. land requirements. Introduced Ambassador Williams.

Ambassador - U. S. delegation happy to be here. Introduced U.S. Team.

Please to have invitation from Tinian Municipal Council to come today. It is position and desire of U.S. that people of Marianas be informed, consulted re negotiations. Both delegations share obligation to bring truth and facts to people of Marianas. Have held public meetings Rota, Saipan, Tinian. Now to hear your freely-expressed views.

Our talks are open - no secret agreements. People of Marianas must know what we are doing because they will be asked to approve or disapprove our results.

Reviewed why U. S. delegation here. We come at your invitation. Aspirations of 20 years realized April 1972. Ambassador read letter addressed to him May 1972 pledging support and assumption of responsibility for seeking close association with U. S. U.S. agreed to entertain separate negotiations. Other alternatives were available but we responded to initiative of leaders of Marianas to bring them under sovereignty of U. S.

General tentative agreement reached re nature of relationship and economic goals. Specific financial level not yet agreed.

Land - one of most important elements in talks. Reviewed U. S. policy re return of public lands to districts if wanted and if COM passed necessary legislation. U. S. wishes prevent alienation of land. U. S. favors early return of public land to local control with safeguards to prevent people from becoming landless.

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U. S. has land requirements for public purposes in Northern Marianas. At same time we have returned 19,558 acres of military retention land to public domain. Under UN charter U.S. has collective security responsibility. We do not ever wish to see these islands used again as base of attack. Under Trusteeship Agreement U.S. has full rights to use land in Trust Territory for defense purposes. We have defense responsibility in this part of the world, including Japan. Therefore we must have ready forces in area. Marianas can help federal government by making land available for this purpose.

Rather than exercising our rights to use land for this purpose, we have chosen to negotiate. Reviewed land requirements. U. S. needs additional land on Tinian to build joint services bases: major air facility, training (Marines, Navy, Air Force), cargo lifts - main activity around relocated West Field. Also used for forward supply and ammunition storage and for combined ground-air-sea exercises. All exercises to be carried out with safety of local people in mind.

Study of alternative site for ammunition, harbor and new site for wet slip found and no longer is there military need for relocating San Jose village. Plan calls for 7-year construction period in phases. Most activities will be centered around West Field which will be somewhat reoriented and extended to 12,500 feet. Commercial and private air activity will be permitted on military field. We now propose civilian air terminal with separate access open at all times.

Ammunition storage area at far north end of Tinian will have safety zone around it. Approximately 12,000 acres to be available for maneuver area - small exercises because restricted size of area.

Federal government needs approximately 17,500 acres for joint military complex. U.S. now has use rights to 3,550 hectares. Needs additional 3,450 hectares of public land. Needs to acquire land between West Field and northern end, and also harbor. Only some 700 acres of all that U.S. needs to acquire are private land.

- Q. Will ~~it~~<sup>Tinian</sup> be under military control under new plan?
- A. No - new commonwealth will govern. Military will be subject to civilian law.
- Q. What happens to residents of Tinian who now own land U.S. needs to acquire?
- A. Those who have deeds will be compensated in full - cash payment or exchange for other agricultural land. Exchange will be responsibility of new local land body.
- Q. What will happen to those who have leased public land in area needed by U.S.?
- A. Will be terminated in accord with terms; hope fair settlement will be reached. U.S. assumes that termination action will be carried on by Trust Territory Government. We expect that some land in military areas can be available for compatible use - agriculture and cattle raising - possible lease-back arrangements have been discussed with MPSC.
- Q. What access will people of Tinian have to military areas?
- A. Harbor area open and under civilian control - perhaps Port Authority - open harbor, <sup>public and</sup> private use. Community will have open and free access to harbor. Free access also to new airfield - terminal will be controlled by community. Duty free port like Guam and Saipan. No gates or fences.
- Q. What privileges re recreation in northern part?
- A. Open for hunting, fishing, swimming, picnics - as compatible with U. S. military use. Free access to base for those who lease land on base or work on it.
- Q. Opportunities for people of Tinian?
- A. Expanded market for agricultural products; increased employment; business

off the base and some on base. New services - fast ferry service Saipan-Tinian. 1400 people needed to work during construction of base; later - 700 permanent on-base positions. We will be concerned with general improvement for people of Tinian - roads, facilities - much funded by federal government. We want to maintain close military-civilian relations. Committee soon to be announced. Example of subject for discussion: joint schools.

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Colonel Strait showed slides illustrating plans for U. S. military development on Tinian; design of base.

Rationale for reorientation of West Field - civilian terminal.

Noise Zone

Wet Slip

Ammo Storage

#### INTERMISSION

Resumed Session, 3:35 P.M.

Joaquin C. Arriola - Attorney, Tamuning, Guam. Representatives of Tinian asked me to draft position paper. Brought position paper to Tinian May 19. Ambassador ignored <sup>this</sup> petition. Therefore I address my remarks to MPSC in Chamorro. People want military to come but <sup>have</sup> only 1/3 of island.

Quoted from 1972 letter which Ambassador had quoted. Should be grateful for manifestation of loyalty, but it is not a license to steal.

Excess land in hands of military on Guam must be returned. Comparing what is happening on Guam - beaches, bomb storage, etc. to what is in store for Tinian.

(Arriola spoke in Chamorro. MPSC Chairman Pangelinan also, followed by Mayor Borja).

Ambassador - emphasized what he said earlier - believe in free speech and freely expressed views. I don't want record to show that I ignored views of people of Northern Marianas. Proper channel of petition was through duly elected or appointed representatives (MPSC) whom we did not wish to bypass. Petition was not directed to me. If passed properly, we would take note. You have asked for close association with us and we are negotiating in good faith with your representatives. No intention to "steal" land. We have needs in interest of federal government. We are willing to negotiate with your representatives for use of military retention land to which we have had right since 1951. We also intend to negotiate for use of public land. We intend pay fair market value for small amount of private land needed. Hope you'll take this opportunity to ask questions and engage in open discussion in best tradition of our country.

Arriola - U. S. Government needs 17,500 acres. How to pay?

Ambassador - U. S. will compensate commonwealth for land needed. Will renegotiate terms of military retention land - revenue for commonwealth government. Will pay fair market value for public land and private land needed.

Arriola - Is this a lease arrangement?

Pangelinan - U. S. wishes to purchase.

Arriola - Have you future military requirements on Saipan?

Ambassador - No immediate requirements there. Now hold approximately 5,000 acres military retention land. Negotiating for approximately 300 acres in Tanapag harbor area. Planning memorial park for U.S. and local people. Returning 340 acres (Charlie Dock north) to public domain. Other requirement is small area south of Isely - 500 acres. Will be available for immediate lease-back to commonwealth. *Balance will be returned.*

Arriola - Was study made as to feasibility using land on Saipan instead of Tinian for military needs?

Ambassador - Yes - many studies made. DOD concluded that if facilities were spread around, more land would be needed. Consolidation preferable. We will be acquiring land for public purpose - our mutual concern for defense. We believe in multiple use of land. Can visit monument in north, and go hunting or fishing except when notice given of active use with safety considerations. We have listened to you and your leaders and have found alternate location for ammunition harbor. We want to take into consideration your needs and views.

Mayor Borja - There are some people who have not signed declaration. Hope all can work together to bring about best solution. Wants outline of advantages of military plan and presence for Tinian.

Ambassador - Would take time to answer in full. Cost may run to \$300 million and would not be planned if not needed. Along with advantages of close association with U. S. is responsibility to contribute to defense. Encouraged by acknowledgement of this point by Marianas leaders. There will be some dislocation and inconvenience, but we are hoping to minimize this. There will be noise nuisance and times when access to certain areas will have to be restricted. Relations between military and civilian communities may offer problems. Hope machinery to cope with them will help.

Advantages: Full use of finest harbor facility in TTPI, full use of modern airfield and terminal, more frequent air and water transportation, market for farm produce. Possibility that Tinian community may be able, if it wishes, to tie in with utilities of base. Schools could be integrated - Tinian and base family children. Use of play grounds, swimming pools, etc. Medical and dental facilities could be upgraded; U.S. base hospital available

in emergency. Expansion of agricultural lands and expansion of business - stores, hotels, etc. Increased educational opportunities - training for many kinds of positions.

People of Northern Marianas are going to be protected by U. S. bill of rights and laws - will be free men and women. Individual can <sup>choose</sup> ~~chese~~ as to becoming citizen or national but all will enjoy significant economic support to be given to new commonwealth.

U.S. will make grants, not loans, to new government. U.S. income tax to be paid by Americans based here will remain in Marianas - estimated at \$4 million annually. Northern Marianas will be eligible for wide range of federal programs - like those available on Guam. Through U. S. presence on Tinian, people will enjoy substantial benefits.

Mayor Borja - Who has authority over land on Tinian?

Ambassador - Trust Territory Government controls all public land. U. S. Government controls military retention land. Private land under control of owner.

Mayor Borja - 180 applications for homesteads submitted prior May 8, 1973.

Will these be processed?

Ambassador - More of local matter. Asked Pangelinan to comment.

Pangelinan - Referred to DISTAD's establishment of committee to review homestead problem.

Mayor Borja - Will USG proposal go forward?

Ambassador - Hope it will be acceptable to MPSC and then Marianas District Legislature and majority of all people of Marianas. All will vote on agreement including land use. U.S. Congress must also vote.,

Mayor Borja - Note concern of our people that applications for homesteads should be honored. Hope delegations will consider possibility of leasing land.

Ambassador - Homestead issue is local matter. U.S. is not holding up homestead program. Processing of applications is matter for district authorities. We will consider lease back of land in northern 2/3 if use is compatible.

Mayor Borja - Request consider needs of MDC - This company has been helping our people for many years - growing operation. Many of our people are employees and shareholders.

Ambassador - Future government would be responsible for arrangements with private sector. Basically nothing incompatible.

Mayor Borja - Have to make sure there will be opportunity to build hotels/motels and some military would probably use. People of Tinian now concerned that new plan eliminates relocation and new houses for villagers. This would be in neighborhood of \$13 million. Hope money can be made available for people of Tinian.

Ambassador - Understand some disappointment. But we were asked to look for alternative and did so. No funds to provide relocation money for village not to be relocated. We said early that decision to move village or not would be up to people. Indications were they did not want to move. That opportunity is now past. But to look to future, opportunities, as outlined, are very rewarding. Increased funding in future from USG will certainly not overlook San Jose village.

Mayor Borja - Could \$13 million still be available for people of Tinian?

Ambassador - Many reasons to become part of American family besides economic. U. S. Government has proposed generous arrangement for people of Marianas - more generous than that for any other people anywhere in the world. You will qualify for additional federal funds - social security, pensions, etc. Village will have own income from presence of base.

Mayor Borja - Will there be bombs here?



Ambassador - Aircraft with live ordnance will operate out of West Field.

No live ammo in maneuvers. No fused bombs.

Mayor Borja - Worried about bombs carried in street.

Ambassador - None to be transported in harbor area here. No ammo, no bombs in San Jose harbor.

Mayor Borja - If people want to be relocated can they have the benefit now?

Ambassador - No - given the approaches to my government and revised plan. We have found alternative which we were asked to do, but now no need to relocate. Harbor rehabilitation and other aids will help upgrade village. We remain interested in improving village and life of people. Monies will be available to raise standard of living in San Jose village. We are interested and there will be funds to help improve village.

Mayor Borja - Suggest Municipal Council consider resolution for voting as to village relocation.

Ken Jones - Welcome Marianas into American family, USG won't cheat you, but I'm concerned about some things Ambassador has said. Commander Westlake held lengthy discussion with me but I was not invited to this meeting. I have big stake on Tinian - important to me to know what you're doing. It is unfair to promise bed of roses when you can't deliver. Land requirements will make it almost impossible to operate MDC ranch or develop hotels. Told HICOM he wanted to build hotel on Tinian - Ambassador Williams suggested wait to see result of negotiations. Military requirements are too high. Ranch will cease to operate. Want military to have what they need, but land is needed for food. I'll have to withdraw my application for 200-room hotel - no suitable beach left. Oil spills and harbor activity make it inappropriate. People must be aware this situation.

Ambassador - Meeting called on short notice. Surprised the MDC unaware of military requirements. They have been known for some time - made clear a year ago. Joint Chiefs of Staff feel there is military requirement here. Mr. Jones is entitled to his view. Those charged with defense responsibility feel need is here. There is room on this island for Mr. Jones' MDC and the military. More lands can be opened for agricultural development. Hotel not now impossible - immediate demand for housing. Economic potential increased with careful zoning and good military-civilian relations.

Seraphin De la Cruz - Is there possibility for private civilian aviation?

Ambassador - Yes - under proper safety control.

Felipe Mendiola - Asserted people of Tinian want to restrict U.S. military to 1/3 of island. Criticized Joe Cruz as MPSC Tinian member for not making this clear to MPSC.

(Mendiola's remark made as meeting was breaking up and was not translated into English.)

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

STATUS LNO:MVTRENT  
*[Handwritten signature]*

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