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United States Department of the interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Dear Secretary Schlesinger:

As you know, Ambassador Haydn Williams, in his fourth round of Marianas negotiations completed May 31, 1974, has secured the agreement of the Marianas Political Status Commission to make available certain land areas in the Marianas which the Defense Department has deemed necessary for present and future U.S. defense posture in the Western Pacific. Among these areas is the Tanapag harbor reservation on Saipan Island, consisting of approximately 197 acres which your Department has identified as a contingency holding with no foreseeable use plans. As is evidenced in the final communique of the referenced fourth round, Ambassador Williams reaffirmed his previous commitment that a large portion of these 197 acres of contingency land will be used for an American Memorial Park to be funded by the U.S. His reaffirmation was based, in large part, on the high level of support for such a project which was apparent in the May 1, 1974 meeting I attended along with your deputy, Mr. Clements, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Moorer, and our respective staff officers.

I am writing to you now to point up the need for positive action on the park project to visibly support Ambassador Williams' commitment. As a result of the May 1 meeting, the Director of Interior's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Mr. James Watt, will soon complete a detailed phased development plan which will be presented to your Department for advice and clearance. More important however, is the necessity for a Federal Agency to assume the lead role for While I assume that your Department U.S. involvement. cannot, within its present constraints, fund this project, I can personally commit a full range of Interior Department technical and advisory expertise to a Department of Defense effort to seek new authority and appropriation from the Congress to construct and maintain the park. If you should so request, my Department would also be willing to assist in Congressional testimony on a technical level.

All of the efforts which Mr. Watt has made to date on the park project are preliminary and have been co-ordinated

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with Mr. Stanley Carpenter, my Director of Territorial Affairs, and directly or through Ambassador Williams' Office to your Department. I am hopeful now, as we move into the substantive phases which will define Federal involvement, that Defense and Interior can proceed together as I have suggested to implement this politically significant project.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. James R. Schlesinger Secretary of Defense Washington, D. C. 20301

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