

August 29, 1974

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Mr. Francisco C. Ada
District Administrator
Mariana Islands District
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Ada:

We have reviewed the recent developments in reference to survey requirements for the homestead program on the island of Tinian. Although it will require a change in the present programming of lands, I would like to indicate that we stand prepared at this time to make up to three hundred thousand dollars \$300,000 available immediately for that purpose. This funding should be sufficient to adequately underwrite a survey program for Tinian to establish appropriate areas for homesteading, a subdivision work of the homesteading lands so chosen, and all other funding necessary to implement this homestead program to the fullest.

We would further like to indicate that we stand ready to make these funds so that actual surveying can begin within ninety (90) days after receipt of the following information:

1. There is at present 116 applications on Tinian that were submitted prior to May 8, 1973. We need a determination as to the actual number of those applicants who are in fact eligible for the homestead program.
2. A determination of the appropriate size of homesteads to be made available within that area of Tinian south of the area tentatively agreed to be used for a U. S. military multi-base complex.
3. A determination of how many of the approximately sixty (60) owners of former homestead lands in the northern two thirds of Tinian that will want to exchange that land for comparable land in the southern one third of Tinian. This would require the contacting of all present owners of these parcels of land to determine completely and accurately which landowners desire this exchange and which landowners do not desire this exchange. With this procedure, there can be an accurate determination of actual homestead needs in the southern one third of Tinian at this time.

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4. The same problem exists in reference to several applicants who have been legally granted entry for homestead in the upper two thirds area, but who have not as yet perfected their title. We need a list of these applicants and their indication whether or not they desire to trade their land in the northern two thirds area for homestead land in the southern one third area.

5. We need the establishment of any priorities that may exist in reference to first choice on any proposed land available for homesteading on the southern one third of Tinian. The priority potentials are: a) Present owners of former homestead land in the northern two thirds of Tinian; b) Applicants for homesteads in the northern two thirds of Tinian who have properly entered and who are working towards perfection of their title; c) Other individuals who are presently attempting to establish a homestead in the northern two thirds area even though there has not been actual entry authority granted; and d) Any other possible preferential areas in reference to the remaining applicants as listed in paragraph (1).

6. With the establishment of the number of eligible applicants as indicated in paragraph (1), and with indication from those individuals who presently own land in the northern two thirds of Tinian of a desire to exchange that land for comparable land in the southern one third, it is necessary to establish sufficient suitable and presently available public land for the purpose of subdividing an agricultural homestead area sufficient to cover the homestead needs as outlined above.

It would be greatly appreciated if your office would work closely with the Marianas Political Status Commission in establishing these various criteria requirements as stated above. As soon as these requirements are stated, the appropriate funding will be made available to adequately cover the survey costs so that these surveys can begin within a ninety (90) day period.

Very truly yours,

Peter T. Coleman
Deputy High Commissioner

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