

LAND NEGOTIATION COMMITTEE  
MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION  
BOX 42  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

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September 11, 1974

Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams  
Office of The Micronesian Status  
Negotiations  
Room #3356  
Department of The Interior Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the members of the Land Negotiation Committee of the Marianas Political Status Commission.

The work of the Joint Committee on Land assigned by both delegations to study in-depth land matters as related to future status talks has been exceedingly fruitful with numerous vital issues identified and discussed.

It is the feeling of the Marianas Political Status Commission Committee that resolution of major "disagreements" on land developed during the last meeting will be better assessed after full presentation is made from our side of our studies and researches. We believe that the next meeting of the committee will result in mutually satisfactory recommendations and should open the avenue clear for future political status negotiations.

Aside from the many important issues delineated in the Terms of Reference and discussed during the last meeting, the subject of Tinian homestead survey and economic moratorium surfaced, not surprisingly, and discussed seriously, particularly the homestead problem.

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Mr. Joe R. Cruz, rightly, brought out the issue as he had been instructed by the people of Tinian to probe into the unfulfilled commitment made by the United States to process the homestead application to completion with homesteads assigned to the individuals involved.

As you are well aware, this problem has been discussed countless times and commitments have been made publicly, yet to date no concrete steps have been taken to fulfill the commitment made.

The committee is entrusted with the entire task of working out land arrangement in line with tentative agreements reached between the two delegations. We consider it our moral obligation to see to it that our people on Tinian be accommodated first on the long overdue assurance before our official recommendations on U.S. land needs in the Marianas are presented as agenda item for the next round of talk.

It is the feeling of this committee that the habit of "passing the bucket" with regards to the homestead problem on Tinian has got to stop.

Your office, without a doubt, should be capable of seeing to it that this problem is resolved once and for all. It is our recommendation that an "action" committee consisting of you or your appointee, the High Commissioner's office, the District Administrator's office, and this committee be established to do something, not just to study the problem.

The basic reason for the lack of positive action toward solution of the problem has always been the lack of money. We feel that it is a matter of priority rather than the lack of money that is holding up the processing and assignment of homesteads.

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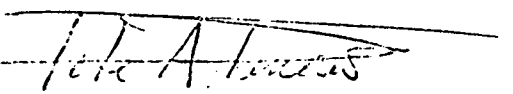
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The homestead commitment on Tinian, no doubt, is a very complex matter requiring careful evaluation as it will have a significant impact on the overall U.S. land needs on Tinian. Re-designation of land areas may have to be made with special consideration given to the overall land use on Tinian now and in the future.

Proper forward planning in designation of new agriculture areas can be undertaken once a positive commitment for funding of the survey work is made by the United States. The homestead problem should start to be resolved as a prelude to the next status talk.

It is our hope that you will promptly use your office to get the necessary plans implemented toward the fulfillment of a commitment long overdue.

Very truly yours,

  
Pete A. Tenorio, Chairman  
Land Negotiation Committee  
Marianas Political Status  
Commission

PAT/lts

cc: Chairman, Marianas Political Status Commission  
High Commissioner  
District Administrator, Marianas  
All Members, Land Negotiation Committee, MPSC  
All Members, Marianas Political Status Commission  
President, Marianas District Legislature  
Mayor, Municipality of Tinian

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