


**TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS**  
**FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE**  
P. O. Box 929 Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

October 1, 1974

The Honorable James Schlesinger  
Secretary  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D. C. 20515

The membership asks that I bring to your attention Resolution No. 18-1974, copy is enclosed, duly and regularly adopted by the 4th Mariana Islands District Legislature during its recently concluded 4th Regular Session.

Sincerely,

  
Santiago B. Magofna  
Legislative Secretary

Enclosure: Cy. of Res. No. 18-1974

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FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

FOURTH REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 19-1974

**FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE**

**FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-1974**

**INTRODUCED BY: HON. LORENZO I. GUERRERO, SAIPAN  
HON. FRANCISCO M. DIAZ, SAIPAN**

**A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING  
DISESATISFACTION OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT  
WITH RESPECT TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CLAIMS  
OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT  
ARE BEING HANDLED AND TO GO ON RECORD OF NOT BEING  
WILLING TO APPROVE ANY STATUS ARRANGEMENT WITH THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNTIL AND UNLESS THE  
CLAIMS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS  
DISTRICT ARE FULLY AND EQUITABLE SETTLED**

**WHEREAS, the inhabitants of the Mariana Islands District suffered  
severely during the hostilities of World War II at the hands of both the  
Japanese and the American invading forces that resulted in a complete  
destruction of their homes, loss of their personal property and  
subsequently the extensive use of their private land by the U.S. Military  
Forces without any compensation whatsoever; and**

**WHEREAS, this suffering occurred more than thirty years ago and other  
areas of the world where hostilities resulted in war have received  
compensation for their losses but the people of the Trust Territory have  
not yet received any payment for their losses; and**

**WHEREAS, the Mariana Islands District Legislature has supported the  
speedy and expeditious settlement of the War Claims for the people, but after  
more than two (2) years of operation, the claims in the Marianas are still  
unsettled and from all indications, the payment of these claims will be  
further delayed; and**

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WHEREAS, information received by the Legislature indicates that the people will be required to sign a release prior to being able to receive 16% of their adjudicated award, without any guarantee of any balance to be paid them, which is considered to be unfair and indeed deceptive in that the people are being misled; and

WHEREAS, while it is required that claims under TITLE I be paid on a pro rata basis; no such requirement exists for the claims that fall under TITLE II, but indications are that the United States Department of the Interior plans to pay Title II claims on a pro rata basis; and

WHEREAS, if this method is followed, it will be violation of both the letter and the spirit of the law; and

WHEREAS, this Legislature is shocked and highly incensed over the blatant manner in which officials of the United States are attempting to deceive and mislead the people of the Mariana Islands District with regard to the extremely low values that are being assigned to property losses; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislature that the United States of America has legal and moral obligation to make certain that the claimants of meritorious claims be fairly, equitably and expeditiously settled, and no status arrangement that involves the Mariana Islands District and the United States will be accommodated until the war claims of the people have been satisfactorily resolved; and

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WHEREAS, since the District Legislature must approve of any future status arrangement negotiated, the Marianas Political Status Commission and negotiators for the United States of America are hereby put on notice that the settlement of the claims of our people is a necessary requisite and a condition precedent to such approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Fourth Mariana Islands District Legislature, Fourth Regular Session, that the dissatisfaction of the Mariana Islands District Legislature with respect to the manner in which the war claims of the inhabitants are being handled, and to go on record of not being willing to approve any status arrangement with the United States until and unless the claims for the people of the Mariana Islands District are fully settled;

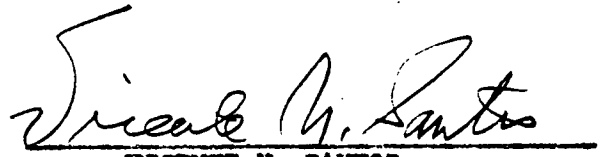
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President certify to and the Legislative Secretary attest the adoption hereof and thereafter transmit copies to each member of the Marianas Political Status Commission, to Ambassador Franklin Hyde Williams, the Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Interior, the Secretary of the U. S. Department of State, the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Defense, the Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on

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Interior and Insular Affairs, the Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink, Congressman Philip Burton, Congressman Thomas Foley, Congressman Spark Matsunaga, Congressman Lloyd Meeds, to the President of the United Nations Trusteeship Council, and the Marianna Palau Joint Committee on Reparations.

PASSED BY THE FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE SEPTEMBER 2, 1974.



VICENTE N. SANTOS  
President



SANTIAGO B. MAGOFNA  
Legislative Secretary