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October 8, 1974

James E. White, Esq.  
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Dear Jim:

Emmett Rice told me yesterday that Jim Wilson has many problems with the joint working draft of the Joint Land Committee Report. Today Emmett reported that he has prepared yet another revised draft--apparently one which Wilson will sign. He is sending it to you by cable, and having it delivered to me as well. I am going to avoid meeting with Emmett until I have received your comments.

For your information, I am enclosing a copy of the revision of that portion of the joint working draft which deals with joint use of the Tinian airport. I thought it quite, if not too, reasonable; but Emmett rejected it out of hand.

Best wishes to you and Joan.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Helfer

Enclosure

cc: Howard P. Willens, Esq.

As a result of the exchange of position papers and the graphic demonstration of needs by the Marianas representatives, the following general principles had been agreed upon and are hereby recommended by this Committee:

1. The Government of the Marianas and the civilian community shall have continuous joint use of the runways to be developed at West Field, <sup>Pinian</sup> ~~Penia~~, and the taxiways adjacent thereto. This use by civilians will, of course, be subject to proper safety of flight regulations. It shall also be coordinated with military flight operations in an equitable manner which assures that both the civilian community served and the military missions are accomplished. In view of the critical nature of the service, regularly scheduled civilian air traffic will not be interrupted or interfered with except in the most unusual and extreme conditions of military necessity, and then only with consultation with the Government of the Marianas in an effort to minimize the hardships involved. The runways and taxiways shall not be closed to civilian air traffic for more than brief periods unless the Secretary of Defense determines such closure is absolutely essential in the national interest, or unless such closure is agreed to by the Government of the Marianas. Of course, the runways and taxiways may have to be closed briefly, or their use curtailed from time to time, to allow necessary construction and repair work to be accomplished, and the special procedures just recommended would not be necessary for this sort of closure or

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curtailment. However, even this sort of closure or curtailment should, whenever possible, be coordinated with the civilian community to minimize the hardships - and special account should be taken of the importance of regularly scheduled civilian air traffic to the Island of Tinian.

3 [unclear]