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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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8

October 16, 1974

Mr. Jesus C. Borja
Attorney
Micronesia Legal Services Corporation
Post Office Box 826
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Borja:

Thank you for your letter of October 11, 1974 concerning the military land needs of the United States on Tinian. At this time, I would also like to acknowledge the letter from Mr. Sylvestre T. Cruz, Speaker of the Tinian Municipal Council, which body I understand to be your client.

For some time, I have been aware that the disposition of lands on Tinian for U.S. military purposes presents one of the most delicate issues to be resolved in the Marianas Status Negotiations. I can certainly understand the great concern of both parties to the negotiations -- the Marianas, since the use of vital lands is at stake, and the United States, since the use of those same lands significantly affects planning for United States security needs in the Pacific.

I also note the suggestion in your letter that significant legal issues may be involved.

I trust that you and your client will have a full opportunity to present your side of this matter when the people of the Marianas vote on the final agreement with the United States, and also when ratification of the agreement is debated here in Congress.

Mr. Jesus C. Borja

-2-

October 16, 1974

In the meantime, please let me know of any further information I should have. Rest assured I will be following all developments closely.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely,

J. Bennett Johnston
~~Chairman~~
Territories and Insular
Affairs Subcommittee

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