

01  
215

UNCLASSIFIED

November 19, 1974

OMSN

Capt. Scott

Status LNO Saipan

November 19 letter from Tinian Municipal Council  
to DepHiCom.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter handed to Peter  
Coleman this morning. The letter referred to in  
the first paragraph was to the best of our  
knowledge the Jim White/Pangelinan draft which was  
not repeat not sent. It is anticipated that  
Peter will reply to this letter by pointing out  
that the August 29 "letter" was not sent and  
suggesting that the substance of the enclosed  
letter be taken up with the MPSC.

Alf E. Bergesen

UNCLASSIFIED

Status LNO

03 - 023013

01  

---

2,5

November 19, 1974

The Honorable Peter T. Coleman  
Deputy High Commissioner  
Office of the High Commissioner  
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Mr. Coleman:

The Tinian Municipal Council has recently obtained a copy of your August 29, 1974 letter to Mr. Francisco C. Ada regarding certain conditions that must first be met before the \$300,000 can be made available to the people of Tinian for surveys.

As the elected representatives of the people of Tinian, we would like to make the following comments in regard to your letter:

- 1) Although you initially stated that the 2/3 requirement of the military has only been tentatively agreed upon, you later premised the conditions as if the 2/3 requirement were already agreed to in a compact approved by the people of the Marianas in a plebiscite and by the United States Congress. We wish to voice our strong dissent to such an assumption.
- 2) The position of the Tinian Municipal Council has been, and still is, that only the northern 1/3 of Tinian is to be leased to the military.
- 3) It is our strong desire and recommendation that all homestead applicants be given land on Tinian immediately. They should be given land anywhere in Tinian, even within the Northern 1/3 area. We acknowledge that they should not be given homesteads within the so-called military "retention areas."

023014

The Honorable Peter T. Coleman  
November 19, 1974  
Page 2

- 4) If it should happen in the near future that a compact has been signed in which the northern 1/3 of Tinian is to be leased to the military, then those people who privately own their land within the 1/3 area should be given a choice of exchanging their property or not. Those who desire to exchange their private land should be allowed to exchange on a 2 to 1 ratio, i.e., if they own five hectares, they should be given ten hectares in exchange. Additionally, they should be allowed to choose the new area that they want.
- 5) If some of the people affected are merely entrymen, then they should be allowed, if they so desire, to exchange their properties on a 1 to 1 ratio. However, they should be compensated a certain amount for the expenses they incur in moving. As with number four above, they should be allowed to choose the land that they want.
- 6) Lastly, we would like to know how the government intends to deal with the situation, should it occur, if an individual, who has elected to exchange his property from the northern 1/3 to the southern 2/3 chooses property that is presently being leased to Mr. Ken Jones. Would the individual receive priority? Or, would he have to wait until Mr. Jones' lease with the government expires?

The people of Tinian have long awaited the promise made to them that they would receive land if they settled on Tinian. To deny them their land simply because the United States military intends to acquire a certain portion on Tinian, would be a grave injustice to our people. The people of Tinian deserve every consideration in their favor.

023015

The Honorable Peter T. Coleman  
November 19, 1974  
Page 3

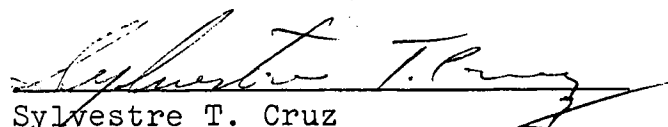
Your consideration in the above matters would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

THE TINIAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

By:

  
Sylvestre T. Cruz  
Speaker

023016