

SAN JOSE HARBOR WILL BE REHABILITATED SOON, WHICH WILL INCLUDE REBUILDING THE BREAKWATER, DREDGING THE CHANNEL AND REPAIRING THE DOCK AREA. OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS RELATED TO THE HARBOR AND AIRFIELD REHABILITATION ALSO MAY BE POSSIBLE. NO PERMANENT STRUCTURES ARE NOW PLANNED FOR TINIAN, AND THERE ARE PLANS FOR STATIONING PERMANENT MILITARY PERSONNEL ON TINIAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS SAID THAT THIS LIMITED BASE CONCEPT WILL MEAN IN THE SHORT TERM LESS IN TERMS OF LOCAL INCOME FROM CONSTRUCTION AND A CONTINUOUS MILITARY PRESENCE. HOWEVER, THE PRESENT PLANS WILL RESULT IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF SAN JOSE HARBOR AND WEST FIELD WHICH ARE OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO THE PEOPLE. IN ADDITION, MORE LAND WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE FOR LEASEBACK FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES AND GRAZING. IN THE MEANTIME, HE ADDED, ONE WOULD EXPECT THAT TINIAN WILL BENEFIT GREATLY FROM THE PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED \$500,000 PER YEAR FOR A SEVEN-YEAR SPECIAL FUND FOR TINIAN'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, PLUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FROM REGULAR OPERATING FUNDS OF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. ALSO, HE ADDED, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON TINIAN WILL BE ENCOURAGED AND ENHANCED BY THE SPECIAL LOAN FUND RESERVED FOR FARMERS, FISHERMEN AND COOPERATIVES PROVIDED FOR IN THE DRAFT COMMONWEALTH AGREEMENT. ADDITIONALLY, THE VARIOUS U.S. FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR SUCH THINGS AS SCHOOLS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SHOULD ALSO BE OF BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN.

THE AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED THAT THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF A MILITARY BASE ON TINIAN REMAINS UNCHANGED. TINIAN IS STILL CONSIDERED HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS IMMEDIATE VALUE AND FOR ITS GREAT POTENTIAL AS A READY RESERVE AND FOR A BUILD-UP IN TIMES OF EMERGENCIES.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION WILL CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION OF THE NEW DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PLANS FOR TINIAN AT THEIR NEXT MEETING AFTER THE COMMISSION HAS HAD TIME TO CONSIDER THE INFORMATION GIVEN IT IN YESTERDAY'S WORKING SESSION.