



United States Department of the Interior

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



Mr. Joseph B. Greene  
Box 50 Churchill Park  
Apartments  
Louisville, Kentucky, 40220

Dear Mr. Greene:

The Secretary of the Interior has asked this office to respond to your inquiry requesting information and views on a proposal for a joint service military base on Tinian Island in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

This office first outlined the specifics of the U.S. land requirements on Tinian, based on requirements stated by the Department of Defense, as well as the preliminary plans for its development, in May, 1973, to the Marianas Political Status Commission. Subsequently, in December, 1973, we completed another negotiating session with the NPSC that has brought both sides very close to an agreement for bringing the Northern Marianas into the U.S. family as a commonwealth.

During the December session much effort was devoted to further definition of U.S. land needs, which resulted in resolving a number of misunderstandings about the Tinian proposals. Unfortunately, a great deal of misinformation had been disseminated by elements opposed to association with the U.S. and/or opposed to the U.S. military. (The predominant spokesmen for the "anti-groups" are frequently not from Tinian). Final agreement on the military land requirements in the Northern Marianas will not be completed before late spring of this year.

In the negotiations to date, we have made clear that all U.S. commitments and proposals are subject to final approval of the U.S. Congress. With that in mind, the plans as presented to the NPSC and the Tinianese call for development of a joint service military base over a period of ten years on the northern two-thirds of the 26,000 acre island of Tinian. This includes use of the present (and only) harbor and establishment of an area around the harbor for safety purposes when ammunition is being handled in the port. A summary of the major highlights of the U.S. offer is as follows:

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