

TINIAN  
REFERENDUM

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TO EVEN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL, IN MY OPINION, BE THE BEGINNING OF FRAGMENTATION THAT WILL LEAD TO NO APPRECIABLE CONCLUSION IN OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A POLITICAL STATUS. I DO NOT MEAN THAT THE INTEREST OF TINIAN BE NOT PROTECTED. TO THE CONTRARY, I FEEL THAT BY MARIANAS UNITING TOGETHER THE INTEREST OF THE TINIAN PEOPLE MAY BE BEST PROTECTED RATHER THAN THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN TAKING IT UPON THEMSELVES TO DECIDE OTHERWISE."

DISTAD ADDED THOUGHT THAT REFERENDUM MIGHT PROVIDE FORUM "WHERE SYMPATHY AND EMOTION WILL REIGN AND THE OBJECTIVE WILL BE LOST DURING THE BARRAGE OF EMOTIONS." HE NOTED HE HOPES HIS DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE "WILL NOT DISCOURAGE THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN FROM FORMING THEIR OWN OPINIONS OF LAND REQUIREMENTS FOR MILITARY PURPOSES."

TINIAN'S REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, FELIPE ATALIG, SAID TOLD PDN HE THINKS CONGRESS SHOULD NOW GIVE REFERENDUM PRIORITY IF A SPECIAL SESSION IS CALLED THIS SUMMER. ATALIG IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "I'M JUST VERY DISAPPOINTED ~~BY THE OPINION OF OUR LOCAL LEADERS ON TINIAN WAS NOT RESPECTED.~~ THAT THE OPINION OF OUR LOCAL LEADERS ON TINIAN WAS NOT RESPECTED. IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A CORRECT ASSESSMENT OF WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT." TRENT SENDS

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