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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING CHANGE IN PLANS FOR  
TINIAN BASE 12/10/74

Following Ambassador Williams' presentation on this date to the MPSC the following exchanges occurred:

Sen Borja, after expressing some confusion over the relationship and the timing of the Technical Agreement on Land vis-a-vis the Covenant, asked for clarification of this matter and its relationship to the return of public lands.

Amb. Williams responded that he hoped the several actions would not occur simultaneously and indicated that the Executive Order returning public lands should be issued in a few days, and further expressed the hope that the legal entity to receive the lands would be established promptly. He pointed out that the technical agreement would be a separate document embodying our negotiations on land acquisition and use, and that the military retention lands not included in the current military land requirements would be returned.

Joe Cruz stated that he understood that 17,808 acres were still needed, expressed optimism about the future even though he understood there would be no base personnel, etc., on Tinian for a while; however, he did wonder what would happen to the Micronesian Development Corporation (Ken Jones) ranch on Tinian.

Amb. Williams responded that considering present plans, it would be possible for the MDC ranch to continue under its existing lease, but this question really is a subject for joint discussion and a review of the technical agreement.

Joe Cruz pointed out that in Round Four we had talked about use of Tinian as a base, with utilities infrastructure being constructed on the island.

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He revealed confusion and disappointment. He asked if we weren't going to use it, why did we need the land.

Amb. Williams stated he understood why Joe Cruz was a little lost; however, in the past year - a short time - many things have changed. He indicated that inflation was eating up the DOD budget, up to 20%, that bases were being closed, etc. Nevertheless, the long term requirement is the same. The harbor should be fixed up so ships can come in when necessary. The runway won't be reoriented at this time and as long as we don't have to store ammunition on the island the wet slip won't have to be built. He indicated that was about all he had been told (by DOD).

Joe Cruz asked if the runway wouldn't be lengthened, did this mean that only small aircraft would be able to use it?

Amb. Williams indicated that C-130 aircraft could use the airfield, and of course the commercial jets could still use it. If and when I get more details I will give them to you.

Herman Guerrero asked for an explanation of the term "long term" (when used by DOD planners).

Amb. Williams replied that he had been told that "immediate" meant during the next two years, that "near term" is two to ten years in the future, and "long term" means 10-20 years from now.

Pedro Tenorio asked if farmers located in the base area now, could stay there.

Amb. Williams responded that we would have to look at this situation. The U.S. wants to acquire the land now, but many farmers could use the land. This change provided the opportunity for major agricultural development since a greater amount of land would be relatively unused. Many farmers can continue to use the land for agricultural purposes as we discussed in previous sessions.

Pedro Tenorio asked if the area south and east of the runway would still be available for leaseback.

Amb. Williams answered yes, as we had agreed earlier; however, some of that land may be in the MDC ranch. We should look into that further. It will take some imaginative planning by the Marianas - we want the land to be used.

Pedro Tenorio inquired how many dollars are planned for harbor improvement on Tinian.

Amb. Williams indicated that he didn't have that information, but pointed out that the Northern Marianas should continue planning on a Port Authority and a much improved harbor.

Bernard Hofschneider wondered if the new DOD plan for Tinian required as much land.

Amb. Williams stated that yes, we did. The JCS and SECDEF still need the land for the long term and this provides a greater opportunity for its use.

J. Pangelinan asked how this change affected the DOD land requirements in the Tanapag and Isely Field areas.

Amb. Williams pointed out that those lands always had been required for contingency purposes, and that no construction had been planned. He indicated a hope that we continue with these plans.

J. Pangelinan observed that if the world situation remained the same for another 10 years, that this would continue this situation. Very limited use for 25 or 30 years would create a real problem to our long range planning. He indicated that Marianas long range planning included income from the base to assist the Marianas in its development. Now we have to find some other means to reach our goal of self-sufficiency.

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Amb. Williams indicated that he didn't know the answers to the long-range development question. He couldn't make a prediction. Also he recognized the loss of income (planned on paper) and its expected contribution to self-

J. Pangelinan asked for any ideas on handling of the Micronesian Development Corporation, and concerning leasebacks on Tinian.

Amb. Williams indicated that this would be worked out in the Technical Agreement mentioned earlier.

E. Pangelinan sought information concerning employment opportunities resulting from the Tinian project during the short term and even during the mid-term.

Amb. Williams emphasized that he would have to qualify his remarks in that he can't answer all the questions concerning the new base plan and that he has asked DOD for additional information. He could only speculate that there might be a contractors camp for the rehabilitation and upgrade activities which would offer opportunities for employment. But after that he couldn't foresee many opportunities. Some military units would be coming in over the beaches for training exercises, and afterwards there might be some R&R in San Jose, he explained, but there would be no permanent presence.

E. Pangelinan stated that this change would require the Marianas to restructure their plans. With the base being developed soon, the people of the Marianas had planned on some assistance, e.g., schools.

Amb. Williams recalled that as discussed earlier, he expected help for schools. Further, he expected additional help from federal agencies.

E. Pangelinan asked which runway would be upgraded and if the terminal would be relocated.

Amb. Williams responded that the runway now in use would be the one to be upgraded and indicated that the terminal now would not be relocated; however, as had been agreed earlier if it had to be moved it would be replaced.

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E. Pangelinan wondered if North Field could be used in the short term instead of West Field.

Amb. Williams reminded the MPSC that FAA wouldn't permit use of the North Field for technical considerations in respect to Isely Field on Saipan.

He suggested that if Isely Field were closed, then North Field on Tinian could be used.

Pedro Tenorio asked if there would be a caretaken unit assigned to Tinian.

Amb. Williams stated that he was not informed regarding a caretaker unit.

Pedro Tenorio wondered if the Technical Agreement should be approved by the District Legislature before the Covenant.

Amb. Williams indicated he didn't think so either, but that we would have to see which was finished first. (Still the Technical Agreement is subordinate to the Covenant.)

Joe Cruz explained that he understood changing conditions and that the JCS can change plans so he wasn't concerned about the long range aspect of this development; however, as others had mentioned, the Marianas people were planning on the revenue from the base in the near future and now they couldn't tell when it would be available.

Amb. Williams responded that if the Marianas had two senators and a few congressmen things might be different, because it was very difficult to close a base in the face of Congressional objections. He explained that no one is happy with the decision, but changing priorities and reallocation of resources have required this modification in plans.

Olympia Borja revealed that he had heard through a source on Guam that when DEPSECDEF Clements was in the area in late September that he (Clements) had indicated to certain people that the plan was not as important as it had been earlier. Sen Borja commented that these things leak out,

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and then went on to ask how many dollars were being considered in the new plan, understanding all the reductions.

Amb. Williams explained that he simply did not know the answer to that question.

The study is still going on he added and he has asked Washington for additional information which will be shared with the MPSC if it is received before the end of this round. He emphasized that he was not withholding any information; this change had been received only very recently.

J. Pangelinan, in reviewing an MPSC planning document, explained that they had expected about \$5 million annually in revenues from the base over the 5 or 6 years it would take to complete the base. Based on this factor, he went on, the MPSC had accepted the \$13.5 million level of annual grants plus the \$3 million in federal programs. Now he didn't know if the \$13.5 million would be sufficient, and stated that the MPSC may have to review their plans and possibly ask for more. He saw a problem in this area now that this change had come up.

Amb. Williams responded that he recognized that this change would lower the economic benefits, as he had said in his presentation. Also, he recalled statements by the MPSC in earlier rounds that they wanted to plan independently from the income from the military because military plans change, and bases are closed. On the other hand, Amb. Williams reminded them, our offer was still very generous. It figured out to about \$1,000 per capita - a level better than many Asian countries, in fact it is a higher level than in many countries of the world. Furthermore, he went on to say, there was still no change in our resolve to provide a full range of grants and programs. Such assistance had added up to \$14 million in one year on Guam.

Joe Cruz pointed out that \$1,000 per capita may be a lot for Asian countries, but they are not American citizens. He emphasized that they wanted to be the same as American citizens, then continued that he was very concerned about the potential economic loss. If further military reductions occurred on Guam, this would be a great blow. The whole situation required a careful reassessment.

J. Pangelinan added that if the Marianas wanted to be part of Southeast Asia, would not be sitting across the table from the U. S. delegation now.

E. Pangelinan reminded the U. S. delegation that in Round Two the MPSC had been persuaded by our presentation of the economic benefits which would flow to the community from the development of a military base on Tinian. Now that these benefits would not be forthcoming, the MPSC would have to reassess the situation.

Dan Muna emphasized that the MPSC has been convincing the people of Tinian and the entire Northern Marianas of the U. S. need to construct a base on Tinian, and pointed out that this change put them in a difficult position. In the past this task has been most difficult ... now it will be even more difficult if the military is not going to use the land.

Amb. Williams sympathized with Mr. Muna and his difficult task.

H. Willens asked to see a map and receive an explanation of what the land would be used for. He went on to suggest that the U. S. take only what is needed now and later take any lands needed under U. S. power of eminent domain.

Amb. Williams reminded Mr. Willens that it had been pointed out in earlier rounds that the maneuver area was already smaller than that desired by the Marines and that the U. S. still desired to acquire the entire 17,800 acres. He reaffirmed that there would be generous leasing back of land in this area. However, Ambassador Williams emphasized, the U. S.

cannot break down what portions of the base area will be needed now and what portions will be needed ten years from now. International developments and contingencies are unpredictable and our development of the land cannot be tied to a timetable at this time. The harbor and airfield were needed now to complement the training mission and to permit rapid expansion; and these facilities will be of benefit to the Northern Marianas, especially Tinian.

Joe Cruz complained that he didn't know how to face his people now, with no hospital and no high school to promise them.

Amb. Williams reminded Mr. Cruz that the hospital was to be a military hospital, not civilian, constructed when needed on the base. Now with this change, he encouraged, there still would be benefits to Tinian from improved schools, medical care, and roads.

Amb. Williams concluded, remarking that he wanted to clear up a possibly erroneous impression that he had compared the Marianas people to Asians and that a per capita income of \$1100 actually amounted to \$4400 for a four person family, A level of support above the poverty level established in the United States.

E. Pangelinan, noting that it was late and that there were no more questions, proposed a schedule for further meetings and the session was adjourned.