



COMMANDER IN CHIEF PACIFIC REPRESENTATIVE  
 GUAM AND THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
 FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96630

IN REPLY REFER TO:

27 April 1974

*M.V. Trent*

*Tinian*

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MEMORANDUM FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

At 1200, 26 April 1974, a luncheon was held at RADM Morrison's house at which the following people were present:

- RADM G.S. MORRISON, COMNAVMARIANAS
- CAPT Wm. C. DOTSON, Chief of Staff, COMNAVMARIANAS
- Mr. Ken JONES, President, Micronesia Development Co. (MDC)
- CDR W.R. WESTLAKE, Special Assistant TTPI

1. The luncheon was hosted by RADM Morrison and called for the purpose of generally discussing with Mr. Jones the subject of building a military installation on the island of Tinian. Mr. Jones' Corporation (MDC) leases approximately one-third of the island of Tinian for business purposes.

2. In general discussion RADM Morrison pointed out that the establishment of a military facility on a large portion of Tinian was not incompatible with the continued presence of those Ken Jones business interests already in progress or being planned for the future. In fact, there were many areas where the two were both mutually advantageous and supporting; such as providing food products for military consumption and business/entertainment facilities for island inhabitants. RADM Morrison did, however, make it clear that to be fair and ensure equal opportunity for anyone interested in similar enterprises others must be able to compete for land and lease agreements. Considering the already predominant position of the MDC on Tinian, Mr. Jones objected little in this regard.

3. Throughout luncheon Mr. Jones was both relaxed and open and appeared to say exactly what he believed. The following forthright comments and ideas came forward in a manner that suggested a desire to be helpful rather than inhibiting:

- a. To date he has been briefed, consulted with or informed very little.
- b. Consequently as a businessman he has proceeded in all areas (beef and dairy production as well as 200-room hotel and dude ranch) to develop and expand accordingly.
- c. As a US citizen he recognizes that the military has certain needs on Tinian; however, he doesn't believe it needs the entire island.
- d. If there are areas where his stepping out smartly is in fact wheel spinning he would certainly like to know and could then alter plans accordingly, but, if he isn't informed he can only go forward. If there is conflict later it is unfortunate, but it will cost the U.S. government dearly to resolve the issue.

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4. One of the most significant points made by Mr. Jones was that the Marianas - and especially Tinian - has the largest agricultural potential in all of Micronesia; pointing out that Tinian alone could grow enough to provide a continuing well-balanced diet for 200 thousand people. (Population of Guam plus all of TTPI is about 215,000.) It was implied that considering the world food shortage if the military prevents the agricultural development of Tinian a grave error will be made, especially when it is possible for both objectives to be achieved concurrently.

5. As for the military achieving its land goals in Tinian, Mr. Jones made following comments:

a. Some of the people of Tinian are suspicious and somewhat confused as to what they are being offered.

b. No real definitive information has been provided as to prices to be paid for their land, location of new village site, location of equal or better land in exchange (Saipan- Guam or Tinian) or type of housing to be built. In addition, how will they earn a living?

c. People are still upset over fact that 12 or 15 (his numbers) of those homesteaders who applied for, worked and completed land requirements have not been given title to their homesteads. Land moratorium could be lifted, especially for those honest and legal applicants who made application and worked their land prior to the moratorium.

d. Information has not been given to people in amount or way necessary, with resultant rumors and varying interpretations being rule rather than exception.

6. RADM Morrison, CAPT Dotson and CDR Westlake spoke to some of these problems pointing out US efforts to date and emphasizing US cannot go in and do the work of the MPSC even if the latter is not performing. Jones agreed and stated that he was very much aware of the many factions at work in the whole affair.

7. RADM Morrison offered idea of briefing Mr. Jones on what we could and suggested a meeting with Amb Williams at first opportunity as best way to make all concerned aware of the difficulties involved. Mr. Jones was most agreeable to such a meeting and exchange of thoughts.

8. In summary, discussion was open, frank and to the point; however, in reviewing the discussion the following analysis is made:

a. Although appearing quite sincere in his approach, Mr. Jones has not been totally honest in that he could easily have checked with USG prior to any expansion or construction to insure that no conflict with military plans would result. The fact that he did not can only be construed to mean he intends to yield considerable for his so-called wheel-spinning.

b. Mr. Jones comments on the agricultural capability of Tinian are most significant, and if true could have far-reaching effects. A thorough investigation into the validity of these remarks would be well worthwhile. And if true, the military should be in the forefront of exploiting the unused land for the benefit of all. Certainly Mr. Jones will use this point to the fullest in retaining the maximum amount of land and/or obtaining the highest price for releasing it.

c. Basically, Mr. Jones is considered a shrewd and capable businessman who, although every bit an honest and patriotic US citizen, is not at all above driving a hard bargain with the U.S. Government.

*W.R. Westlake*

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