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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROUTING SLIP		ACT COPY TO	INFO COPY TO	TO		ACT COPY TO	INFO COPY TO
	SECRETARY OF DEFENSE		✓		ASD (Public Affairs)		✓
	DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS		✓		GENERAL COUNSEL		✓
	DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ELLSWORTH		✓		DIR, PLANNING & EVALUATION		
	THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT		✓		DIR, TACCS		
	SECRETARY OF THE ARMY				ATSD (Atomic Energy)		
	SECRETARY OF THE NAVY				DEF ADV RES PROJ AGENCY		
	SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE				DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS AGENCY		
	CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF				DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY		
	DIR OF DEF RESEARCH AND ENGRNG				DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY		
	ASD (Comptroller)				DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY		
	DASD (Administration)				DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY		
	ASD (Health Affairs)				DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY		
/	ASD (Installations and Logistics)	✓			DEFENSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGENCY		
	ASD (Intelligence)				DEFENSE SUPPLY AGENCY		
	ASD (International Security Affairs)		✓		NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY		
	ASD (Legislative Affairs)						
	ASD (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)						

**ACTION REQUIRED**

PREP OF REPLY FOR SEC OF DEF SIGNATURE	INFORMATION AND RETENTION
PREP OF REPLY FOR DEP SEC OF DEF CLEMENTS SGNR	COMMENTS AND/OR RECOMMENDATION
/ PREP OF REPLY FOR DEP SEC OF DEF ELLSWORTH SGNR	COORDINATE REPLY WITH 1517, P17
REPLY DIRECT (Fwd cy of reply for Sec of Def records)	
APPROPRIATE ACTION	

REMARKS

*Jim F...*  
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THIS IS AN -  ACTION COPY  ADVANCE ACTION COPY  INFORMATION COPY

ACTION DUE NOT LATER THAN OCT 19 1976 ROUTING DATE 12 OCT 1976 OSD CONTROL NUMBER 13864 *K 26 59*



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Oct 7 - 1976

Dear Mr. Ellsworth:

I am writing you in reference to the plans of the Defense Department with regard to the Northern Mariana Islands. As you are aware, the Northern Mariana Islands are now in the process of making a phased transition from their present political status to that of self-governing United States commonwealth. An important element of the transitional efforts has been the institution of an Office of Transitional Studies and Plans. This Office, the broad outlines of which were agreed upon during the political status negotiations, has assumed the responsibility for economic, physical and social planning for the new Marianas government. As you are also aware, it is expected that constitutional government including an elected chief executive will be installed in the Northern Mariana Islands by the beginning of 1978 under the terms of the Covenant (Public Law 94-241) and the Trusteeship Agreement.

The transitional plans and policies for the Northern Marianas are set by a Joint United States - Marianas Transition Commission of which the Director of Territorial Affairs of this Department, Mr. Fred M. Zeder, is the Federal Co-Chairman. One problem which the Transition Commission has encountered as it seeks to guide the work of the Office of Transition Studies and Plans is a lack of knowledge of the plans of the Department of Defense with regard to those portions of the Covenant, particularly Title VIII and the Technical Agreement, which relate to the lease of land for contingency national security purposes. Section 2, Acquisition, of the Technical Agreement provides that unless the United States exercises its option to lease the lands specified in section 802 of the Covenant and makes payment for same as specified in section 803 of that document, within five years from the effective date of those sections which we expect to be January 1, 1978, the United States loses its ability to lease those lands under the terms specified. It would be most helpful for this Department to have the benefit of the Defense Department's thinking as to when during the period of 1978 through 1982 it intends to seek Congressional appropriation to effect the lease. I might point out that it would appear advantageous for the United States to effect the lease payments early in the five year period since the amounts specified in section 803 of the Covenant are required to be appropriated at levels commensurate with the change in the value of the dollar as indicated by the percentage change in the United States Department of Commerce composite price index from February 15, 1975.



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To further accentuate our informational need, I might call your attention to section 803(e) of the Covenant which provides that the amounts made available by the United States for the lease of the Tanapag Harbor area on Saipan island shall be established as a trust fund by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands for the development and maintenance of a local park which may include appropriate memorials to American and Marianas casualties of World War II. We are anxious to see proper planning for this important park and recreational area and would appreciate your views on the best time frame to anticipate the commencement of land clearing and construction.

As a related matter, I am enclosing an editorial from Guam's Pacific Daily News dated September 13, 1976. As you can see, there still exists considerable confusion in both Guam and the Northern Marianas about the intentions of the Defense Department. While we recall the substance of your testimony during the Senate Armed Services Committee hearings on the Covenant to the effect that the Defense Department has no present plans for base construction on Tinian island, we must conclude that our understanding is not shared locally.

In addition then to your kind response to the particular questions which I have posed above, I would hope that the Defense Department would give serious consideration to issuing a press release for dissemination in the Northern Marianas and Guam indicating that even after the United States exercises its land lease options in the Northern Marianas, it has no present plans to construct a major joint service facility on Tinian if such remains your intention. I believe this information would help to allay any misunderstandings which may now exist on Tinian and in the Northern Marianas generally.

Sincerely yours,

  
Under Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Robert Ellsworth  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of Defense  
The Pentagon  
Washington, D. C. 20301

Enclosure

# Timian People Are In A Sort Of Limbo

As thousands of airline passengers en route to Saipan fly over Tinian, most of them look down at a fascinating sight. A good portion of the island, crossed with runways, looks remarkably like a football field.

Since the fall of Saigon, nearly 1 1/2 years ago, many people have expected to see more activity on Tinian, as America's newest "fall-back" base.

But there has been little work on the little island, a mere 100 miles north of Guam. Some contractors have been eager to get at the "rebuilding" of Tinian for the past four or five years, but nothing keeps happening. The military has offered no clues as to what work will be done and when it will start, if ever.

In the meantime the people of Tinian — and to a lesser degree those in Rota, Saipan and Guam — sort of hang in a state of suspended animation. Nobody can build a future, not having any indication to what is going to happen.

Thirty some years ago Tinian was one of the world's busiest places as huge B29s roared down the runways and maze of ramps, off to bomb Tokyo and other Japanese cities. As many as 100,000 men were there when two planes were loaded with atomic bombs for Hiroshima and Nagasaki to inaugurate the atomic age. Two tiny monuments now mark the spot where the bombs were loaded. It's tough finding the monuments through the jungles that slowly are taking the island back.

Tinian should be the site of yet another U.S. military buildup, if the plans materialize. It already has been announced that the U.S. plans to build a joint-

## Editorial

activity with open arms. There were some who thought half the land was ample for the military, who really wanted to take over the whole island.

Today there are fears that with the military there, Tinian's people won't be allowed to move freely and develop business interests. That fear has some basis in fact when you consider that the military keep Guam closed until 1962, and currently has made Kwajalein a closed island.

There is additional fear among the islanders that any large influx of military people will disrupt their culture, and lifestyle. This seems to be a foregone conclusion, considering the small number of people living on Tinian today.

Other fears generated by the impending military takeover is that Tinian will again become a target for missiles from possible enemy countries such as Red China or the Soviet Union. Still another worry is that the island might be used as a dump for radioactive material, or for nerve gas, and certainly for the storage of nuclear bombs and weapons.

Last year Marines from Okinawa's Third Division made their first practice assault on Tinian. But the Marines were just as much interested in public relations as they were in amphibious assaults, and spent much of their time in community projects, trying to convince the local people that it wouldn't be so bad having the military back again.

Much of the beach land the world, from Vietnam, to Thailand, to the Philippines has been lost to the U.S. military over the past few years. So the Marines don't really have much space left in which to practice what they do. They are looking, with some interest, towards the largest of the Palauan islands, Babelthup, as a possible fall-back position as well, but real negotiations haven't even begun there.

There are some skeptics who believe that changing defense needs may have outdated the idea of a base on Tinian even before work on it even gets started. Today defense is geared towards missiles, an not a stockpile of conventional bombs or amphibious landings.

Thus we wind up with two kinds of people among the islanders — those who worry that the U.S. is going to build a base on Tinian, and those who worry that the U.S. won't.

Any such activity is bound to have inmediate economic affect in Tinian, and to a lesser degree, an economic fallout for Guam and Saipan.

Unresolved also is the question of the large dairy ranch on Tinian, leased by Ke Jones. Will it remain, or will the ranch the largest in Micronesia — be forced out of business for the sake of national defense?

What ever shape the Tinian base takes in the future, let us hope that the military makes up its mind soon and announces a timetable for the work to begin. Thus for some monies, for planning, have been approved, and are being spent. We appreciate more concrete information. We think that the people of Tinian have been limbo too long already. JCM.

By Louis Harris  
Gannett News Service

North. He is ahead in the suburbs by only a narrow 44-40 percent.

PHOTO BY AP

gain five points among these groups, he will be in a good position to win the three-way contest with Ford and McCarthy is certain

# Ford Picks Up In The Industrial North

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