

November 17, 1976 .

Mr. Howard P. Willens, Esq.
Saipan Beach Inter-Continental Inn
Saipan, Mariana Islands

Dear Mr. Willens:

As I mentioned to you in our conference this morning, a distinguished group of natural scientists has urged me to do everything possible to preserve the character of Maug Island which is in the group of islands north of Saipan. After a visit in August, 1976, I received the following recommendation:

"Both above and below the water, MAUG ISLAND is relatively little disturbed and worthy of close biological investigation. More than any other island we have seen in the Marianas, it merits the designation of Protected Research Area as suggested at the meeting of the International Biological Program held in Koror, Palau in November 1968. We heartily recommend that such protection continue indefinitely and we urge those in authority to do everything possible to ensure that MAUG retains its character and accessibility to scientists. We would further recommend that a restraint be placed on research there similar to that which we ourselves have exercised - which is a total embargo on the collection of specimens. Through the skill and experience of Peter Scott (with the assistance underwater of Ron & Valerie Taylor and Soames Summerhays) we were able to identify 113 species of reef fish without touching one. The limitation of research in the initial stages at least to sight records only would do a great deal to preserve the habitat for future and more thorough exploration.

Sir Peter Scott	CBE	DSC	LL.D
Dr. Lyall Watson	Ph.D.		
Soames Summerhays	B.Sc		
Robert Hernandez	B.S		

Expedition Staff of the Lindblad Explorer August 13th, 1976."

Therefore I urge that Maug Island be added specifically to those mentioned in Article XIV Section 2 of the Draft Constitution. I am sure this action will be warmly approved by all well-informed naturalists and conservationists.

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I am enclosing the full text of the report to me of the Lindblad Explorer group.

Sincerely,

Erwin D. Canham

Erwin D. Canham
Resident Commissioner

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