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TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL



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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PETITION FROM MAYOR FELIPE C. MENDIOLA, AND MR. SYLVESTRE T. CRUZ,  
SPEAKER OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF TINIAN, MARIANA ISLANDS,  
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 85, paragraph 1, of the rules  
of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

TINIAN ISLAND  
MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

29 August 1974

Trusteeship Council  
United Nations  
New York, N. Y. 10017

Dear Sirs:

The people of the island of Tinian, Mariana Islands, seek your assistance.  
We desire a closer association with the United States of America, and we agree to  
the establishment of a military base on Tinian, but not two thirds of our island.  
We believe one third of Tinian is sufficient for the needs of the United States  
military establishment.

Again, we seek your help to reduce the military taking of Tinian.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Felipe C. MENDIOLA  
Mayor

(Signed) Sylvestre T. CRUZ  
Speaker, Municipal Council

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Enclosure 1

28 August 1974

The Honorable Franklin Haydn Williams  
United States Ambassador  
The White House  
Room 361, Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20506

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I received your undated letter regarding United States Navy surveyors "visiting" Tinian for the purpose of surveying the proposed military base.

Surely you must know that I am a member of the Tinian Committee for Justice, being the first Tinian resident to sign the Tinian Proclamation of 19 May 1974, which you uncereemoniously rejected when presented to you by the people of Tinian. For your information, in the very recent election, I campaigned and won on the issue raised in the Tinian Proclamation, that is, that the military take no more than one third (1/3) of our island for war purposes - an extremely generous offer, considering the attitude of the officials representing the most powerful and wealthiest nation. Also, the newly elected Speaker of the Tinian Municipal Council, Mr. Sylvestre T. Cruz, was one of the founders of the Tinian Committee for Justice.

Thus, so long as the United States military machine insists on taking over two thirds (2/3) of our island for a military base, you and your surveyors are not at all welcome on the island of Tinian. Be guided accordingly.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Felipe C. MENDIOLA  
Mayor of Tinian  
Mariana Islands 96950

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Enclosure 2

Tinian Proclamation

Dated: 19 May 1974

We, the undersigned, all being 18 years of age and over, residents of the island of Tinian, in the Mariana Islands, Pacific Ocean, do hereby make the following declaration:

First. Neither we, nor our predecessors, have ever committed any acts of aggression against any person or nation. To the contrary, we and our predecessors have been the recipients of aggressive acts from various nations. Thus, we recognize no claim to the island of Tinian by virtue of conquest by war or otherwise. Accordingly, we contend that the island of Tinian belongs to the inhabitants thereof.

Second. The United States Department of Defense may establish military facilities on the island of Tinian, but only in so far as it involves the northern one third (1/3), and certainly not the entire island, or even two thirds (2/3). The harbour and existing airfield shall be under the jurisdiction of the people of Tinian.

Third. For establishing its facilities on the northern one third of the island, the United States military must pay a fair rental for the use of such land to the inhabitants of Tinian.

Fourth. The village of San Jose - and its inhabitants - shall not be relocated.

Fifth. We deplore and condemn the "sales" pitch and tactics utilized by representatives of the United States military in their relentless attempts to convince the inhabitants that "what is good for the military is good for Tinian". The "land grab" tactics employed on Guam several years ago shall not be repeated in Tinian.

Sixth. The economic moratorium imposed on the island of Tinian by the Trust Territory Administration is arbitrary and capricious, and without the consent and permission of the inhabitants of Tinian, and is therefore illegal and of no force and effect whatsoever. Thus, for such illegal and dictatorial action, the Trust Territory Administration and/or the United States Department of the Interior, are liable to the inhabitants of Tinian for all damages resulting therefrom.

Seven. Pending a referendum, all discussion, conferences, and negotiations involving the island of Tinian and its people - particularly such conferences as are being conducted by the Marianas Political Status Commission with representatives of the United States Government - shall immediately cease and desist, it being the desire of the undersigned that this Proclamation be the official position of Tinian and its people. Such referendum shall be held only after full disclosures have been made by the United States Department of Defense as to their bona fide intentions.

Signed by the following persons:

/12 signatures, illegible/  
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