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COMMUNICATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA,
CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

(Circulated in accordance with rule 24 of the rules
of procedure of the Trusteeship Council)

Congress of Micronesia

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1974

24 March 1974

The President
Trusteeship Council
United Nations
801 United Nations Plaza
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith a certified copy of House joint resolution
No. 88, HD1, HD2, SD1, which was adopted by the Congress of Micronesia, Fifth
Congress, Second Regular Session of January 1974.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Asterio R. TAKESY
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 1974

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 88, H.D. 1,
H.D. 2, S.D. 1

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Demanding that the Government of the United States of America forthwith terminate the unilaterally imposed moratorium on homesteading on Tinian Island.

WHEREAS, throughout the course of the negotiations regarding the future political status of Micronesia, the United States has promised that it would negotiate in "good faith" as to its military land requirements in Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, on 8 May 1973, the United States announced its intention to utilize vast areas of Tinian Island for an immense military base; and

WHEREAS, since 8 May 1973, no new permits for homesteading on Tinian Island have been granted, and on 14 December 1973, the High Commissioner issued a policy statement formally imposing a moratorium on the issuance of any new homestead permits on Tinian Island; and

WHEREAS, the moratorium was imposed without consultation with the leaders of people of Tinian Island, the Mariana Islands District, or the Congress of Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, in early September 1973, the personal representative of the President of the United States for the Marianas status negotiations, Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, traveled to Saipan and personally assured the Mariana Islands District Legislature and the Saipan Municipal Council, in a joint meeting, that the Tinian moratorium was "very temporary" and would most probably be ended in a few weeks; and

WHEREAS, to date the moratorium remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, the real motivation for the imposition of the moratorium is apparently to simplify and lessen the expense to the United States Government of acquiring land for a military base on Tinian; and

WHEREAS, only about 5 per cent of the land on Tinian is privately owned, the remainder being public land or military retention land; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tinian Island are desperate to obtain land for agricultural and village homestead purposes as evidenced by the more than 150 homestead applications pending for which permits to homestead have not been granted; and

WHEREAS, the United States interest in obtaining military land with ease and at a low cost has been permitted to take precedence over the interests of the people of Tinian to obtain land for farming and other purposes; and