



July 29, 1953

CONFIDENTIAL

United States which resulted in a high level of radioactivity making the area uninhabitable for many years. This area has become an intercontinental ballistic missile recovery vehicle launch and scoring area and the western terminus of the Pacific missile testing range. There are defense installations on Tinian, and there is continuing research on missile impact. These testing operations with their inherent hazards will not accommodate the return of the former Tinian Island. It is necessary to continue current activities on Tinian.

We have not included reference to this situation in our proposed final agreement lest it offset the positive features of the plan return. However, if questions of Tinian are asked, the brief answer at the end is recommended.

We have also cleared with the Department of Defense and State a letter to the High Commissioner which he can pass to the former Tinian people advising that their security requirements with respect to Tinian are such that their return is not possible at this time.

Secretary of the Interior

7238-3108-PO-318

CONFIDENTIAL