UPDATES ON GUAM BUILD-UP PROJECT

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam has reported the following developments on the planned transfer of the US Marines' Third Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa, Japan to Guam:

- Members of the local community in Guam had a series of meetings to discuss the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the changes within the new Japanese government. Media reports have indicated that the uncertainties over the military buildup have been growing, especially with Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's recent statement that Japan would completely re-examine its accord with the US after a mayoral election in Okinawa showed that residents oppose any new Marine base in the region.

- Guam Governor Felix Camacho and other local officials said that while the news of delay may cause more uncertainties over the build-up, it might allow more time for Guam to prepare for the relocation of the Marines.

- Guam Department of Labor said that delays in the build-up could also mean delays in the economic boost it is supposed to bring. There will be an additional uncertainty from the private sector and the federal government in funding projects if things will not proceed as planned.

- The Obama administration has already expressed concern over Tokyo's delays in finalizing the relocation of the Futenma Base, which is now in the larger Okinawa city of Ginowan.

- On 29 January 2010, proposals from the office of Governor Felix Camacho and Guam Senator Judith Guthertz addressed to the US federal government were raised, both of which essentially ask that the period for the relocation of the Marines be extended from its current schedule of 2014 to a later date.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

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Administrator