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Senator Frank F. Blas, Jr.  
Ste. 908, DNA Bldg., 238 Archbishop Flores St.,  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

RECEIVED  
DATE: 5/19/11

Dear Senator Blas:

Thank you for your letter of March 24, 2011, addressed to Secretary Gates, on the issue of Guam war claims compensation.

As I am sure you are aware, on December 7, 2010, Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, expressing the Defense Department's support for the compromise language of the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act proposed for inclusion in the FY2011 National Defense Authorization Act. The legislation would have provided appropriate compensatory payments in recognition of "the suffering and loyalty of the residents of Guam during the occupation of their island" in World War II. Unfortunately, this language was not adopted in the final legislation.

The Department of Defense will continue to support appropriate legislative efforts to bring closure on this issue for the people of Guam.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

R. Michael Schiffer  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, East Asia

