



Territory of Guam

U.S.A.

OFFICE OF GUAM'S REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON
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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242

May 20, 1968

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A. B. WON PAT
REPRESENTATIVE

encl
The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

H
As an American citizen and a popularly elected representative of Guam, a part of Micronesia, I have been concerned over the growing feeling on the part of the people of the Trust Territory that they have been somewhat neglected with respect to their economic, social and political development.

Incidents such as the one described in the enclosure can be a subject of embarrassment to us -- the United States.

As of this writing, there is little chance that this manifestation of discontent will spread to Guam, although there will surely be some degree of sympathetic sentiment among Guamanians; and it would be a mistake to take this for granted as an insignificant fact.

I am hopeful that you, Mr. President, and Members of Congress recognize this problem and take immediate necessary action to meet it to the mutual interest of these people and the United States.

Respectfully yours,

Antonio B. Won Pat

Enclosure

Officials are blasted

By GINGER SINNIGEN
Journal Staff Writer

In a move which may prove embarrassing to the United States government, four Saipanese officials left this morning for Tokyo to seek financial assistance from their "friends" in Japan.

The delegation is seeking funds for the rehabilitation of the typhoon-ravaged island, center of the Trust Territory government administered by the United States under a United Nations mandate.

Before they left, the group took a swipe at the Americans who administer the U.S. program.

The criticism was directed at the entire administration of the Trust Territory in general.

Vicente N. Santos, president of the Mariana Island District Legislature, outlined their grievances. "We've belonged to four nations," he observed, citing previous masters, the Spanish, Germans, Japanese and now Americans, "and who knows what tomorrow will bring."

"The United States has never asked our opinion when they decide to do something. We're not thinking of the price tag (which may be attached to Japanese assistance). The Japanese are our friends and have offered to help us. We're just innocent bystanders."

The others in the delegation, Vicente D. Sablan, mayor of Saipan, Herman O. Guerrero, speaker of the Saipan Legislature and Olympio T. Borja, vice-president of the Congress of Micronesia, nodded their agreement.

In response to offers of economic aid from Japanese businessmen, the group is traveling to Tokyo to investigate the opportunities. They had previously

facilities. This amount, they said, did not take into account the losses suffered by individual people of the islands.

And, the amount of assistance pledged to the islands by the United States Office of Emergency Planning was only \$2.5 million, for rehabilitation of government and public facilities. None of that was earmarked for private reconstruction.

Their interest, they said, was to find financing for the people. And they would seek the funds wherever they could get them.

As the officials prepared to board the plane for their pilgrimage to Japan, High Commissioner William Norwood was in Washington attempting to obtain a \$10 million supplemental appropriation for the Trust Territory.

But, they explained, of this amount (which was not guaranteed), only \$3.2 (in the form of loans, would be channeled to the people for low-cost housing, and that would have to be split among the needs of the entire Trust Territory.

They estimated that for the Marianas Island alone, at least \$6 million would be needed to provide the type of housing which would withstand the constant threat of typhoons.

"We will seek every avenue of assistance, one of them added.

Motivating their move to employ Japanese assistance, Santos bluntly stated his opinion.

"Development has been very slow in the Trust Territory. It's not that the United States isn't subsidizing it, it's the people who are absent here. They're not trained, they don't know the customs, the language, the needs of the people."

Hitting away, Santos cited the inequities of salaries between local workers and state-siders. "Local people may get \$ 40 an hour, while a statesider in the same capacity may receive \$4.00 an hour.

"Give us good people, with good minds and good hearts," Santos pleaded, "and the government will run smoothly."

As if to emphasize his point, the legislator continued, "Other countries are making better social advances, the Japanese for example, because their people are better trained."

"We need people who don't follow the book. Our situation

in the Trust Territory is unique. They (the U.S.) need to see the reality of the islands' needs and throw away the book. They must be imaginative."

"Many of the (American) people are looking for an easy way out," Santos concluded.

And, the other delegates, listening intently to Santos, concurred.

In a prepared statement, Mayor Sablan observed of the trip, "it should be made plain, it is not intended to show any offense to the U.S. government, because we have been offered many times, by our friends in Japan,

any assistance that we may a sometimes need, and we feel the time is now here."

"For the welfare of the typhoon-stricken islands, we are going to answer these offers (from Japan)."

"As leaders of our community, we are only thinking of the welfare of our people. We do not wish to create any dissension among people. We are very grateful for the present assistance that we are now receiving from the U.S. government."

Sen. Borja concluded, "The aid coming from the U.S. is not adequate to cover the immediate needs."



HEADLINE FOR TOKYO: Four Saipanese officials pass financial assistance from Japan. Shown from left are Sen. Vicente D. Sablan and Vicente N. Santos. (Journal photo)



HEADING FOR TOKYO, four Saipanese officials pass financial assistance from Japan. Shown from left are Sen. Vicente D. Sablan and Vicente N. Sarria. (Journal photo)

5/10/68

PACIFIC

Journal



GUAM'S COMPLEX

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"Development has been very slow in the Trust Territory. It's not that the United States isn't sending here. They're not trained they don't know the customs, the language of the needs of the people."

"They're only interested in their pocketbooks. We hope in the future, whoever is sent here gets training and is a dedicated representative of the United States."

"Even though the high commissioner is good, his subordinates are not," said Sablan, "and you can quote me."

vious masters, the Spanish, Germans, Japanese and now Americans, "and who knows what tomorrow will bring."

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In response to offers of economic aid from Japanese businessmen, the group is traveling to Tokyo to investigate the opportunities. They had previously sent a resolution to the Federal government of Japan to ask aid in providing financial backing for the building of typhoon-proof housing to replace the shacks which were blown away by twelve hours of gale winds from Typhoon Sam last month.

The spokesman of that office said that the office is now studying the request.

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Secretary of the Interior

Date: May 28, 1968

5/29/68

ACTION REQUESTED

- Draft reply for:
 - President's signature.
 - Undersigned's signature.
- Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- Direct reply.
- Furnish information copy.
- Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- For your information.
- For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

Letter: Telegram: Other:

To: The President
 From: Rep. Antonio B. Won Pat, Territory of Guam
 Date: May 20, 1968
 Subject: Expresses concern over growing feeling on the part of the people of the Trust Territory that the U. S. is neglecting them with respect to their economic, social and political development; attaches news article which indicates "friends" in Tokyo were being asked to furnish financial assistance rather than the U. S.

By direction of the President:

Hm

Harry C. McPherson, Jr.
Special Counsel to the President