

# Saipan Awaits Amb. Kennedy

By Joseph Murphy  
Editor, Pacific Daily News

An open letter to Ambassador Kennedy:

Dear Ambassador Kennedy--people of the Marianas are eagerly awaiting your arrival today which is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. via military plane from Guam to Rota. They promise you a warm welcome. By warm we mean warm of heart. The leaders of the Marianas promise you that there will be no fire, no violence, no demonstration, for two reasons. They want to see you to tell you of their problems. Also,

they are vastly hospitable people and would feel embarrassed if something happened to mar your visit.

There will be a big crowd, one of Saipan's biggest, to greet you at the airport. TV spots are urging all to show up to welcome you.

Saipan's biggest import, rumors, were in evidence here yesterday as high Commissioner Ed Johnston returned from Washington aboard the 727 Micronesian jet.

Anticipating trouble blue started Saipanese police could be spotted next to jeeps along the airstrip. However, there

were no problems. District leaders said that they were afraid that any demonstration against Johnston would immediately cancel your plans for your visit and we do want to see you. Federal agents, either FBI or CIA, have been on the island closely checking out the details of your arrival and itinerary.

But please Mr. Ambassador, don't equate the warm welcome and cheering crowd on this tiny island with peace, harmony, and contentment. That isn't so. You will meet with Marianas leaders, Marianas District legislature presidents Ben Santos, Mayor

Vicente Sablan, and the others at 3 p.m. and they will tell you the truth. The people of the Marianas want out of the TT agreement.

They want three things: A plebiscite now which will enable them to begin forming a commonwealth of the Marianas. An end to the favored nation agreement clause so that Japanese capital can be invested on the island.

The removal of High Commissioner Johnston, whom they unfortunately regard as a symbol of repression.

Only a few weeks ago the Marianas District legislature

passed a resolution highly critical of Johnston. This week, the Saipan municipality passed a resolution asking President Nixon to remove Johnston. 14 members unanimously approved this resolution.

Mr. Ambassador, listen to these people--they want closer alliance with the U.S. and that is unusual in this day and age. We hope that all this can come about through reason and talk but they are serious, and they are determined. I know that you will enjoy your stay. I know that you understand the people of the Marianas. They need your help.

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