

# TT Legislators Visit Washington

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underway on a sugar plantation-factory in Tinian, and a hotel complex on land adjacent to the existing Royal

Taga Hotel in Saipan. Under present restrictions these developments wouldn't be possible. Japan Air Lines has already received permission to land in Saipan, through

agreement with the CAB, but the present airport isn't equipped with lights, so no such landings can be made.

3. The Marianas leaders say that something must be done about the military retention area. President Ben Santos said: "Either use it or release it." Most Marianas leaders, in a different view than leaders of the other districts, would welcome the U.S. military on the islands. But they are concerned about the military controlling one fourth of Saipan, and large existing runways on Tinian, without using them. Tinian was once the busiest airfield in the world near the end of the World War II. Mayor Jose R. Cruz of Tinian said recently in a letter to the editor of the Pacific Daily News "Please Uncle Sam, listen to our plea! We want to be a permanent part of America. Bring in your Army, Air Force,

and the Navy. We don't need plenty of room with no money (sic) Go Home! sign, like you and we love you so dearly. Why look for a base in Singapore when there are eight 8,500 foot long air strips on Tinian that can easily be extended to meet current standards."

4. The final message given to Ambassador Kennedy was a pair of resolutions, one from the Marianas District Legislature, and the other from the Saipan Municipal Legislature soundly and roundly criticizing High Commissioner Edward Johnston for a variety of things, including frequent absences from Micronesia. The Municipal bill, in fact, asked President Nixon

to remove Johnston. The leaders in Saipan said that Kennedy "hand cuffed" the messages to the President.

Ambassador Kennedy listened, and promised to look into the four complaints.

The delegation which will leave Saipan Thursday, March 25, arriving in Honolulu March 27, will be in Washington to meet with Department of Interior officials March 29th, and will attend Senate hearings on March 30th, followed by House hearings March 31. They will return to Saipan April 17, following a visit to Puerto Rico, with another visit to Washington.

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# Breakaway Stance Gets Boost With D.C. Visit

By Joe Murphy

The next apparent step in the cooled down mini-revolution of the Marianas will be a delegation visit this week of leading members of the Congress of Micronesia, and Marianas District Legislators to the U.S. Congress.

The visit will be primarily for discussion with Congressional leaders on the War Claims, a \$30 million claim that is still hanging up in the air 25 years after the shooting in the Marianas stopped.

Yet Marianas leaders like Sen. Edward Pangelinan, Cong. Daniel Muna, District President Ben Santos say they hope to present some convincing arguments to U.S. Congress regarding the Marianas hope for a break-away government that would become "The Commonwealth of the Marianas." In fact, the delegation plans to continue on to Puerto Rico following their Washington-visit-to-study-the-Commonwealth operation there. Sen. Pangelinan said they were also going to study Puerto Rican

gambling while there, with a view towards introducing a bill in the next session of the Marianas legislature towards legalizing gambling.

District leaders presented Ambassador-at-large David Kennedy four points in a closed door, half hour session with him last week. They included: 1. The Marianas Island chain wants out of the Trusteeship agreement. Such a sign also greeted Kennedy upon his arrival at the Saipan airport. They want to form their own Commonwealth of the Marianas,

although the legal ramifications on how this one district termination of Trusteeship agreement would be possible remains in the air.

2. The Marianas wants immediate termination of the "Favored Nation" clause of the U.N. agreement, which follows only U.S. investment in the vast island empire of Micronesia. Saipanese leaders maintain that the Japanese capital is poised, ready to begin economic development that is needed. Already discussions are

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