

# DATELINE

SERVING GUAM, SAIPAN, AND THE REST OF THE TRUST TERRITORY

### WEATHER

Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers.  
Winds: northeasterly, 10-18 miles per hour.  
Sunrise 6:35 a.m.; Sunset 5:55 p.m. Maximum temperature 85 degrees; minimum temperature 75 degrees.

## SAIPAN EDITION

### THURSDAY

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# MARIANAS STATUS TALKS

It may be necessary to develop a totally new political status for the islands.

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SAIPAN—Micronesian Senator Edward Pangelinan told U.S. Ambassador Franklin Hayden Williams yesterday that although the people of the Marianas Islands want closer ties with the United States, it may be necessary to develop a totally new political status for the islands.

Pangelinan said Marianas leaders intend to examine several political alternatives, in particular unincorporated territory and commonwealth, to determine if either could be adapted to meet the political and economic aspirations of the Marianas people.

The occasion was an historic one for the Marianas. The meeting between the Mariana Islands Political Status Commission and Ambassador Williams' delegation was the first round of negotiations between the United States and the Marianas to find a new future for the islands.

The meeting symbolized a decade-long campaign by local leaders to end the 25-year UN trusteeship over the islands.

United States. Ambassador Williams, President Nixon's personal representative at the talks, responded to Pangelinan saying that the United States was pleased that the people of the Marianas Islands had chosen the path of close permanent affiliation with the United States.

"Today marks the end of a long campaign on your part for recognition of your long held desires," he said. "But the end is also the beginning for all of you as we commence the formal process of negotiations to obtain your stated objectives."

Williams told Marianas delegates and citizens that attended the public meeting at the Royal Tagna Hotel, that the very presence of his delegation on Saipan demonstrated the "serious intent" of the American government to take into account the political aspirations of the people of the Marianas and their desire to become a part of the "American family."

Neither delegation offered concrete proposals since the talks were primarily organizational in nature to prepare for

later talks. But both sides mentioned key areas for consideration: future status, land and future financial arrangements.

"Once a political format of close association is developed for the Marianas, it would then be appropriate for all military retention and public land to be turned over to the government of the Marianas Islands." He said later military and public land needs would then be negotiated with the new government of the Marianas.

Williams' response: "We hope as part of these negotiations to arrive at agreements which will provide for the federal government's future land requirements in the Marianas. With these minimal needs met, we expect that all remaining public lands would be to the new government of the Marianas." Williams said that current U.S. thinking was to consolidate military activities as much as possible on the island of Tinian. He said current plans call for harbor rehabilitation and development of a joint

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were acquitted of criminal association charges.

## Status talks

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military service airfield-logistic facility.

"It is also possible that limited activities, such as maintenance, communications and logistics support facilities might be developed on Saipan at Isley Field and Tanapag Harbor, but these will not, repeat, not constitute major requirements."

Reviewing past documents, he said that though U.S. policy for the Trust Territory has been to develop the islands toward a common status upon termination of the trusteeship agreement, the differing attitudes and desires of the Congress of Micronesia, joint committee on future status, from those of the people of the Marianas would mean a denial of the right of self-determination to the Marianas if they were forced into a status they have said is unacceptable.

Because of this long-standing desire of the people of the Mariana's, the U.S. responded affirmatively to the request made with the knowledge of the Joint Future Status Committee last April for Mariana representatives to hold separate negotiations, he said.

The President's personal representative said the people of the Mariana's will be given the opportunity to review and approve any final agreement reached between the two delegations. He conveyed greetings and best wishes from President Nixon to the people of the Marianas.

Preceding Ambassador Williams was the chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission, Edward DLG Pangelinan, Senator, Congress of Micronesia, who said the opening of the status talks marks the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the people of the Marianas.

"For on this day our people are taking a very crucial step toward the attainment of that inherent right of all the people of the earth—the right of self-determination," Pangelinan said.

He related how over the course of 400 years of Marianas history, and domination by four foreign powers, the United States was the first nation to allow the enjoyment of fundamental human rights by the Marianas people.