

LETTER

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ilities in Micronesia. Because of overcrowding on Guam, he believes that ultimately Rota and Saipan will be required, and there may well be need for facilities at Ulithi Atoll (Yap) and in the Palau group.

Mr. Baldwin's scale of priorities-Guam first, then the Marianas, and later possibly Yap and Palau coincides with the political receptivity of these islands to military facilities. Guam is U.S. territory and the Guamanians are U.S. citizens who have long been accustomed to the presence of the military. The people in the Marianas have expressed their desire to reintegrate with Guam and become U.S. citizens and also have petitioned for U.S. bases. The Yapese are apprehensive, however, while the Palauan have gone on record against military bases."

The opening of the first round of talks with respect to the negotiation of the Marianas Political Status is a significant achievement in the history of the islands, and it would be very much of an under statement to say that its importance lies only within the confines of the Marianas chain, but to the rest of the island and more so to the rest of the people of Micronesia.

The task and responsibility which the commission has been charged with are monumental ones in that it must be a milestone for:

1. A Political Status Quo that assures involvement of the people in every aspect of decision making with regard to Internal Affairs;
2. A viable economy that will provide self-suffi-

ciency both to the government of the Marianas and its people;

3. The extension of much needed social services tailored to meet the needs of the people of the Marianas.

Permit me to again say that the task of the commission is an important one in that it is responsible for building the future of the Marianas, and that we are confident that you have the people of the Marianas upmost in your minds for you would settle for nothing less than what is best for all of us.

With every confidence and support, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Lorenzo Ig. Cabrera

An open letter to:

and Members
Political Status Commission
Marianas District
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Gentlemen:

I write this as an open letter to convey to you my thoughts and beliefs of what should be the basis that we all must adopt and the firm stand that we should take during the round of talks that will take place heretofore on the question of the Marianas Political Status. I am of the belief that the United States is desperate in its attempt to find sites to relocate its military installations within the Pacific in order that the U.S. may maintain its military supremacy in the Pacific area even after the complete pull back from Southeast Asia as per Nixon's Doctrine.

One might very well do himself a big favor by asking the question, "Why the sudden interest of the U.S. to negotiate with Micronesia?" The pertinent question at this time is... "Why the sudden willingness of the U.S. to negotiate separately with the Marianas?" The latter question can best be answered by stating that the United States negotiating team have met opposition from the Congress of Micronesia's Political Status Commission and that of the rejection of the Congress of Micronesia of the Compact Agreement.

If I might be able to speculate, I would say that it's because they see the Marianas as an easy take, and that by breaking the ties with the other districts, the U.S. can easily negotiate district by district and thus end up with a package, which normally they would not be able to secure through negotiation with the six districts as a whole.

I think it's about time that we start wakening.

Where was the U.S. when we voiced our desires to part of the U.S. ten or so years ago? What happened to those appeals? I believe those two questions best be answered by stating that the echo of our voice did not penetrate the deaf ears of responsible people in Washington as they were pretty secure in Okinawa, Japan, the Philippines, and in other Southeast Asian countries. But now the U.S. is faced with the dilemma which prompted their desperate search for sites to locate military bases that existed or still exist in Okinawa, Japan, the Philippines, and those bases would have to be pulled back from Southeast Asia because of the Nixon Doctrine.

The matter is even more pressing now with the effective Vietnam negotiation coming to an end.

I guess the message that I am trying to convey is that if we did ever have any strong position to gain from, we have it now. And in all due respect let's use it.

In support of what I have just said, I would like to quote two paragraphs from the Naval War College Review. It is a research paper prepared by Lieutenant Colonel Vicente T. Blas, United States Marine Corps and Samuel S.H. Lee, Department of State.

"As for future bases, a glance at a map shows clearly that the potential sites are in the Marianas, Yap, and Palau, for these islands are in the proximity of the Asian mainland and its offshore islands. Hanson W. Baldwin maintains that continued U.S. Control of Micronesia is essential points out that Guam, with its fine harbor of Agaña and well developed airfields and ammunition storage areas, is the natural focus for U.S. Military

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