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a new Guam

Although he is talking about it in the context of eventually becoming a state, Guam's Carlos Camacho is apparently thinking of a new kind of political status for his island.

This could result in important changes for Guam and may also affect Micronesia's efforts to end its days as a Trust Territory.

CAMACHO WANTS more internal authority for Guam as it develops and grows. At present Guam is bound by United States' immigration policies, trade agreements and other international restrictions.

This prevents Guam from importing needed foreign labor to work in the burgeoning tourism industry. It also hampers Guamanian efforts to establish independent trade relations with other Asian and Pacific countries.

Part of Camacho's feeling appears to stem from the example he sees in Micronesia. The people of Micronesia want to work out a deal with the United States which will grant them autonomy similar to what Camacho seeks for Guam while still guaranteeing considerable American support.

For now, Camacho discusses his plea for more local autonomy as a stepping stone toward eventual statehood—a standard theme for most Guamanians. But given a taste of a new status as a more independent American/Asian crossroads island in the Pacific, the lure of statehood may

begin to pale for many Guamanians. Such an attitude has begun to surface in Puerto Rico.

Insofar as the people of the Trust Territory are concerned, a more independent status for Guam could affect bargaining between Micronesia and the United States. Much of that bargaining hinges on what the U.S. is willing to offer in exchange for military use of Micronesian lands.

IN RECENT MONTHS, the U.S. has turned away from five of Micronesia's six districts to concentrate its dialogue with the Mariana Islands District. The people of those islands want close ties with the U.S. and are more than willing to share their lands for military uses.

What may eventually develop is a new entity composed of Guam and what are now the Mariana Islands.

The new entity would have closer ties with the U.S. than the Marianas now have but more independence than Guam currently enjoys as a territory. Such an alliance would seem to make geographic, cultural and practical sense.

It might also create an entity which would more than meet U.S. defense and land needs in this part of the Pacific.

The rest of the Trust Territory then, would be forced to seek its political future with much less assurance of major American support than had once been anticipated.