

YOU AND THE MASTER PLAN

The Master Plan for Tinian is the first major Islands Master Plan to be developed by the Administration Planning staff. Where Saipan's and Rota's Master Plans were done by consultants, the Tinian Master Plan is being done by the district planning office.

This plan is about half finished and again because there is no Planning Commission, the DistAd's Representative staff, the Mayor, and the Municipal Council are representing the people of Tinian while the plan is being developed.

Tinian is faced with the possibility of substantial military development. About 1/3 of the island is in retention held by the U.S. Military and although numerous references have been made about military plans for bases in Tinian, no definite plans have been published. The effect of a Military Base in Tinian will be considerable. Both the economy and social fabric of the island will change in direct proportion to the size of the base. The larger the base the greater the rise in the economy and the greater the change to the social features of the present society. The plan for Tinian is being developed as if there will be no great military development, but care is being taken in the location of various functions to see that they can be expanded easily if there is a sudden future rise in development.

About 1/3 of Tinian is also under lease to Mr. Ken Jones who operates a cattle ranch on the islands. This leaves about 1/3 of the islands open to public development at the present. This area is sufficient for present and near future needs and the lease land and retention land form a natural reserve of future demands.

Tinian's present economic base is agriculture, but the presence of a fine harbor gives it great opportunities to develop an equally sound industrial base.

This is supported by several industrial proposals which have already been made. The tourist potential of Tinian is relatively limited when compared to that of Saipan or Rota. Tinian will have to develop superficial tourist attractions such as a dude ranch on the cattle ranges if it desires to attract tourists in any great numbers.

Presently, the Tinian Master Plan makes provisions for the expansion of the village and agriculture areas. The development of industry on Tinian will require further study as to what types are desirable and as to a reasonable amount of industry to expect.

Next week a look at Saipan.