

Agreements on Marianas Announced

Gannett News Service

SAIPAN — Three weeks of negotiations between U.S. and Marianas representatives ended here today with preliminary agreements reached on all major aspects of a commonwealth arrangement, a joint communique said.

There was no attempt to draft precise language for the agreements; but both sides spoke of "substantial progress" in the broad areas of the nature of the future political relationship, U.S. economic aid and land matters, including U.S. military land requirements.

The communique said sovereignty over the Marianas would be vested in the United States and maximum home-rule would be based on a locally drafted and approved constitution.

U.S. federal laws would apply, but to an extent subject to later negotiations. The constitution would also provide for a popularly elected chief executive, a bill of rights and separation of powers. Local courts would be established under the jurisdiction of the U.S. district court system.

U.S. CITIZENSHIP would

be offered and the Marianas would seek its own nonvoting delegate to the U.S. Congress, but the United States would retain complete control over foreign affairs and defense matters.

The United States agreed in principle to assist the Marianas in achieving economic self-sufficiency, but long-range financial needs would depend on potential local sources of revenue — most notably the proposed military activities.

It was agreed that land would not be made available for sale to persons not of Marianas ancestry, and all public lands would be returned to the people.

The Marianas delegation also agreed in principle to make "land available to the United States" for its military requirements, with the extent and terms of such agreements subject to negotiation.

"It was the understanding of both delegations that the Marianas could be prepared to negotiate with respect to that portion of Tinian required by the United States for military purposes," the communique said.

The communique said negotiators would meet formally again in late summer or fall.

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U.S. Envoy 'Briefs' Residents of Tinian

By Mike Malone

Gannett News Service

TINIAN—From the moment U.S. Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams stepped off the plane here, the message was clear: Tinian was divided on the proposal he had.

While one group welcomed his delegation, another paraded with signs opposing it. As President Nixon's personal representative to the Marianas status negotiations, Williams had announced in a radio broadcast two nights before a U.S. proposal to acquire the entire island and then set aside one third of it, 7,700 acres, for the local people.

Now, on this visit, specifics of the proposal for Tinian, which based the giant 7th Air Force in 1944-45, were revealed.

"If agreements are reached," Williams said, Ti-

nian would be acquired through a lease arrangement with the option to purchase the island when the United Nations trusteeship here is ended.

IN THE meantime, as early as 1975, he said, planning and land acquisition would begin — the first part of a seven-phase plan to build a massive \$144.6-million joint service base complex that would be in full operation by 1982.

During a color-slide presentation, each phase of the plan was translated into Chamorro by the Marianas Status Commission chairman, Sen. Edward Pangelinan.

Islanders were told that Tinian would become an air, logistics and supply base and that occasional ground maneuvers would be carried out. Total military and civilian personnel would be 2,600, excluding dependents.