

PDW 5/10/73
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Editorial

Pure Colonialism.....

It was bad enough when the Micronesian Political Status Commission sat down to talk with the United States, and President Nixon's special ambassador, Franklin Haydn Williams—and Guam was quietly excluded, even as observers—even though it is obvious to all concerned that Guam's political future is very much involved too.

But somehow it seems just a bit obscene now, with the Marianas conducting separate talks about the political future of the Marianas—and again, Guam is not included anywhere in the talks, even as observers. Doesn't anybody see that the Marianas is one island chain—a chain of which Guam is an important and integral part?

When the Hawaiian islands became a state, did Oahu negotiate separately from Maui?

The justification given us long ago by the U.S. State Department was that since Guam is already a U.S. territory, then it is being represented at the talks by our State Department in the form of Ambassador Williams.

That's utter nonsense, and we think the State Department, and the rest of the government knows it. What does Ambassador Williams, despite his intelligence, and good intentions, know about the people of Guam and their political aspirations? It is precisely that kind of colonialistic thinking that is beginning to drive the people of Guam further and further away from the strong arms of our motherland.

We appreciate how our Saipanese friends feel. They are out to negotiate for the best deal they can make with the U.S.—and more power to them. They can't see why Guam should be involved at all in any discussions. Possibly. But we don't see how a group of islands, all bearing allegiance to the United States, are going to maintain a series of separate governments. It doesn't sound very practical or realistic to us in the long run.

Even now Guam is expressing its genuine concern over its political future. The Governor's office, and the Legislature are both setting up political status committees. So, how does this differ from the talks the rest of the Marianas are now having with Ambassador Williams?

Frankly, we're not sure we want Ambassador Williams representing Guam at the meetings. We, the people of Guam, didn't select Mr. Williams. We don't think he has a broad enough background on Guam to make any decisions for us.

The second round of formal negotiations between the U.S. and the Mariana Islands Political Status Commission will begin Tuesday, May 15, in Saipan. The meeting was jointly announced by Senator Edward Pangelinan, chairman of the Marianas Commission, and Ambassador Williams. Pangelinan said that they have prepared for the talks for the past four months, since the last meeting in December. They have conducted intensive research, and have prepared reports on the legal, and economic situation that could arise under a new political status.

We suspect that the Marianas will be opting for some type of Commonwealth, one that wouldn't include Guam. Somehow, though, we on Guam feel slightly on the left-out side. We shouldn't be sitting here entertaining suspicions. If Ambassador Williams is, in fact, representing Guam's interest in the Marianas talks, then shouldn't he at least report to the people of Guam on what decisions are being made?

Certainly, the United States government can't blame the people of Guam for being slightly disenchanted with the whole show. Our entire future is being discussed, not by us, but by complete outsiders. That's colonialism, in our opinion. JCM.