

SAY HELL NO ON U.S. PROPOSAL

BY VIC PANGELINAN

TINIAN--A half page headline - "Exclusive! Say Navy Seeks All of Tinian"-splashed on the front page of the Guam newspaper, Pacific Daily News has created quite an uproar among the people of Tinian.

And as if adding insult to injury, the accompanying report, written by an unidentified PDN staff writer, said, "The United States is proposing...that the entire island of Tinian be turned over to the American military, and a massive military facility be constructed there..."

The controversial yet certainly exclusive report said, "The proposal - outlined in an inch-thick document - is made as part of the continuing status talks about the future of the Marianas, now in session on Saipan."

"Navy officials," continued the report, "have been on Tinian in recent months and talked to residents, and -- insiders say -- believe Tinian residents would welcome such a sweeping move."

"Hell no," said Ben Manglona former Mayor of Tinian, "I know that over

ninety percent of the people here won't buy that statement."

Another resident, the wife of a very prominent businessman on Tinian told I Gasetta that if there is any truth to the published report that the proposal suggests that, "all private property be either sold or leased to the U.S. ... or the people of Tinian would be hired by

the military or if they chose, be relocated off-island," then it is the first time that she or anyone on Tinian has ever heard about it.

A member of the Tinian Municipal Council said he was shock to learn that such a proposal has been in the hands of the members of the Marianas Political Status Commission.

According to PDN, Ambassador Franklyn Hydn Williams, the President's personal representative at the status talks was said to be indisposed at the Hafa Adai Hotel on Saipan and could not be reached for comment.

The report said that Daily News learned the outlines of the proposal from an "unimpeachable source."