

## An Editorial

# Time To 'Reason Together'

There are many interesting areas of speculation concerning the plan we understand is proposed by the military to take a major part of the island of Tinian for a large military installation.

But one thing stands out perfectly clear to us: Any military establishment developed on Tinian won't necessarily take any part of the bases away from Guam. The Tinian establishment would, we believe, be in addition to the present Guam installation.

Very logically, it wouldn't make any sense otherwise. Nobody is that stupid in the Pentagon, or in Congress. Nobody could justify moving any bases off Guam, and re-establish them 125 miles down the road, at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Even at the Guam Economic Conference held yesterday at the Hilton Hotel, the military admitted that they projected a growth factor of eight per cent a year in military personnel on Guam, for the next three years. That doesn't look like they are planning any cutback.

People have a tendency to read what they want into a major news story. Some, who think that the Guamanian people are being unloyal and unpatriotic about not wanting the U.S. Navy to take Sella Bay, look at the possible military takeover on Tinian as some sort of dark punishment to the local establishment, or at least as a clear warning. The argument goes, as Managing Editor John Walter pointed out yesterday, that if the people of Guam put up too big a fuss over Sella Bay, then the military could take their estimated \$120 million to Tinian, and put the ammunition wharf there. It is possible, Walter said, that the contingency plan that the Navy and GovGuam have been discussing, all the while they've been denying having any contingency plan, might very well be Tinian.

But again, this wouldn't necessarily detract from Guam's present bases. There is no way that the Naval Station, Naval Communications Center, NAS, Naval Supply Depot, the Naval Hospital and

many of the other installations would be affected, or moved. In fact, any installations on Tinian would cement the logistics role of the men stationed on Guam.

Given the present recreational value and the scenic value of Sella Bay, we're inclined to think most islanders would say, "Fine, put the ammunition wharf on Tinian"—provided that the other bases here remain fairly constant in population, and in job volume.

The people of Tinian and the Northern Marianas have a different problem.

We don't go along with Trust Territory liaison officer Capt. L. Gordon Findley, who cited Bikini Atoll, Eniwetok, and Kwajalein as three cases in which the U.S. has exercised its option in the past to relocate native Trust Territory populations for reasons of international security.

Those moves took place more than 25 years ago. The situation around the world is much different today. We don't think that the U.S. would want to incur the wrath of the people of the world by arbitrarily moving 700 people off an island like Tinian. We're afraid that world reaction, through the United Nations, would cause an uproar which would cause the U.S. a good deal of embarrassment.

There is a certain amount of irony in the fact that most of the Tinian people actually wanted the military to move to their island. None, though, expected that they might be forced to move off themselves. It is a good deal like a thirsty man, stopping to desperately ask for a drink of water. Instead of giving him a drink of water, you stuff his head in a rain barrel, drowning him.

We too believe that the whole show is a "trial balloon," sent up to get the reaction of the people, not only on Tinian, but to see what the rest of the world would think.

It is quite likely that the military can move a little slower, move into Tinian, but still not disrupt the island life completely—the picture, in fact, painted by the carefully-drafted statement issued

on Saipan yesterday. They should consider not a Kwajalein-like takeover, and military government, but instead consider working out a close relationship with the people of Tinian, who should have a civil government of their own.

As far as the village of San Jose, this too might be negotiated. As one resident, Mayor Antonio Borja, put it, the residents would probably relocate if the U.S. government paid each homeowner \$35,000 for new housing, along with adequate compensation for business owners.

In other words, if the military really needed San Jose relocated, it could be done, although it would require new housing, new port facilities, a whole new infrastructure, such as hospital, sewage disposal, water, power, and schools for the people. But again, those civilians should not have to be subservient to the military in such matters as immigration, or capital investment. This surely would be unacceptable to the people. Tinian isn't that small an island; there certainly must be room for both the military and the civilian population.

Congressman Felipe Atalig said it best: "The people of the Marianas, I am sure, to some degree wish to see the U.S. military return to Tinian, but they do not want to become virtual peons on what was formerly their own land, where they cannot have some voice in their government, economic development, or where the island will become a dumping ground for war materials and personnel not wanted in Guam."

We think that it is vitally important that the military make their plans known, to the people of Guam, and the people of Tinian. Then, it is vital that we sit down and reason together on the alternatives that would allow us all to live with each other. We don't consider the people of Tinian as just another bunch of islanders with no rights or friends. They are people, and it is their island. If the military can work out some solutions that are acceptable to the people, fine. If not, perhaps they had best consider yet another option. JCM.

## Will Solicit Views

(Continued from page 1)

Chairman Pangelinan emphasized that the Marianas Political Status Commission includes two representatives of Tinian. He stated that all fifteen members of the Commission are determined to represent and protect the interest of all the people of the Marianas, including the people of Tinian, in their status negotiations.

Both the Marianas Political Status Commission and the U.S. Delegation are committed to undertake full consultation with the people of Tinian before any final decisions or agreements are made.

The release also says that both delegations have "preliminarily discussed land requirements and U.S. military requirements in the Marianas but

have not yet exchanged position papers..."

Tinian, though, at least once last week was the subject of discussion in preliminary talks as one of the U.S. representatives, Army Col. Athol M. Smith, displayed a map of the island at one session.

Formal talks began this week with Williams absent.

Early discussions, according to one confidential report, have involved nothing specific about land or even what form Marianas affiliation with the United States may take.

According to the source, topics discussed have been foreign relations and future internal security of the Marianas.

## Senator Worries On Land Issue

Congress of Micronesia Senator John Mangefel of Yap, expressed concern yesterday over the revelation of military suggestion for the island of Tinian. Mangefel, a member of the COM Future Status Committee, is on his way to an adult education workshop in San Francisco.

"I grew up with many of the Tinian people," Mangefel said.

"If the people of Tinian want the military to take their land, fine," said Mangefel, "as long as they get a fair deal and receive the land which was promised to them in black and white when the Navy relocated the Chamorros living on Yap to Tinian in the late '40s."

A community of several hundred Chamorros was relocated on Yap during the Spanish administration of Micronesia. In 1947-48, they consented to be moved to Tinian by the United States Navy.

"Now I read that these people may not get to keep the land which the Navy promised them," said Mangefel. "Their decision to leave Yap was based on the understanding that they would receive this Tinian land. Now the Navy wants it back."

"These Yap Chamorros acquired land in Yap from Yapese friends. Giving up their Yapese land was based on the understanding that the Tinian land would be theirs. Their lives have been disrupted already," said Mangefel.

"I wish the Navy would come out and discuss the matter openly. That has been the problem all along in negotiations between Micronesia and the U.S.—the U.S. will not come out openly and say what



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the score is," said Mangefel. "Their 'no comment' answer about the Tinian plan leads me to wonder if they are negotiating in good faith or not."

The Congress of Micronesia probably will not take action on the Tinian matter since they do not meet until January and "since the Marianas is already conducting status negotiations on their own," said Mangefel.

"If what I read is true, there are certainly reasons for mistrust in our negotiations. The Chamorros on Yap were promised Tinian land in a plan originated by the Navy. Now the Navy wants it back."

## Text Of Official Statement

Draft joint press release by Senator Edward E.L.G. Pangelinan and Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, chairmen respectively of the Marianas Political Status Commission and the American Delegation to the Marianas Status Talks.

A series of informal discussions between our two delegations in Saipan last week initiated the current phase in our continuing joint endeavor, begun here last December, to create lasting ties between the Marianas Islands and the United States. These informal exchanges provided an opportunity for preliminary consideration of most exchanges provided an opportunity for preliminary consideration of most of the major topics bearing on the Marianas' future status, including such matters as the nature of the political relationship, finance, self government, public land, land alienation, and U.S. military land requirements. Both sides found the sessions useful as they prepared for the resumption of the formal talks this week.

The formal discussions were renewed in a plenary session May 15. Each side pledged to work earnestly to design a Marianas-U.S. relationship which will reflect the desire of the peoples of the Marianas for close association and will be beneficial to both the Marianas and the United States. In lengthy working sessions yesterday morning and afternoon and again today the delegations have taken up that task. In a constructive atmosphere characterized by free, frank, and searching exchanges, we have discussed the nature of our future political ties. We have already identified substantial areas of agreement and are now examining some of the more complex legal and constitutional aspects of the political relationship.

Both delegations plan to give equally intensive consideration to such other major topics as finance, arrangements for the protection of local interests in land, U.S. land requirements, and enactment and implementation of the new status agreement.

The delegations have preliminarily discussed land and

U.S. military requirements in the Marianas but have not yet exchanged position papers or any kind of documentation on the subject. The nature and extent of these requirements is a subject for negotiation which we expect to review in great detail.

Ambassador Williams made it clear as early as October of 1971, at Hana, Maui, Hawaii, that to the extent feasible the U.S. wishes to concentrate on Tinian island any military facilities it might establish in the Marianas. Ambassador Williams restated that position here in Saipan last December. These requirements are extensive. But the U.S. is not asking for exclusive use of all of Tinian. Furthermore, Ambassador Williams wishes to state categorically that the U.S. Government has no plans whatever to give the U.S. military responsibility for the civil administration of Tinian, as alleged in recent news reports.

Chairman Pangelinan emphasized that the Marianas Political Status Commission includes two representatives of Tinian. He stated that all fifteen members of the Commission are determined to represent and protect the interest of all the people of the Marianas, including the people of Tinian, in their status negotiations.

Both the Marianas Political Status Commission and the U.S. Delegation are committed to undertake full consultation with the people of Tinian before any final decisions or agreements are made regarding the use of land on Tinian for military purposes. After the matter has been fully discussed in these negotiations, representatives of the Commission and the U.S. Delegation will schedule appropriate meetings with the people of Tinian to disclose these plans in detail and solicit their views.