

Voice Of The People

Dear Editor:

The Navy, Tinian, and the question: It's funny how people get excited.

The daily paper came out: *say Navy seeks all of Tinian.* One of my friends from there came out with an even bigger sign: *Yankee go home!*

Oh, there had been a lot of cussing, and if I were Navy, I wouldn't dare walk alone in their village road. If the Chinese were angry at Americans a year ago, the Tinianese must be fuming mad. Just imagine, inviting someone in only to be told: out!

A lot of people have been disturbed. The islanders are hopping mad, terribly mad. Funny though, for \$35,000, they might re-consider. The students have plans, but who would listen to them? The village elders? Wonderful, but they are not ready yet to sit down with their children and discuss matters. Congress of Micronesia would find the idea acceptable, especially the congressmen from Palau. It will keep the military away from their island. And Saipan legislators will definitely go for the idea. They have been waiting for the military for quite sometimes.

Now, as for our Guam Congress, I pray they keep their kool. First of all, it will answer our problem with Sella Bay. Keep those bombs away. They are bad for growing children, as the many posters would say. Keep Sella in the hands of the people. If the Navy rebuild the port on Tinian, and, also, would be willing to build a separate port for the Tinianese, then, they certainly have the money to relocate their pier at Ritidian Point. Besides, it is a lot safer for us all if their bombs are both stored and armed there.

Now let us go into the question: Is the Navy really serious about taking over the entire Tinian Island and pulling out of Guam? To say *ridiculous!* would be an overstatement. So let us say, the Navy is bluffing. And, then, be angry at their callousness.

The Navy is not taking over the entire island. They have no retention on the island. It is the Air Force who has the claim. If they would be on Tinian, it is to rebuild the harbor and service the Air Force and Army contingent force. This is the plan.

It is probable that the Marines unexpected desire to move some of their men to Tinian directed the interest on a total take over of the island, but this is a different question from pulling out of Guam because Sella Bay wouldn't be forthcoming. A great deal is implied, then, which is bad.

The Navy isn't about to pull out yet. It is good living here, and they know it. Guam is American territory and they have rooted deeply. Should Micronesia go for independent, they'll be squeezed out as the other nations are doing today. The Navy isn't going anywhere. On Tinian they would have to build schools, and they cost money. And there's something about our northern islands. They're nice to visit, but damned to live on. Guam is good. It was the Navy wives in Saipan after the war who discovered this; Tinian is great. Truly great, for grazing, that is.

I would hate to criticize or condemn the Navy. But secrecy is unwarranted in this day and age. There must be openness in our society, for we are Americans, too. And as Americans our needs and our safety must be respected. Fairness and honesty must guide us all, for this is an island that can accommodate all needs, but not greed. We are men, and we must be fair.

de Paul Guerrero
Yona