

# 3 Cite Dangers In Our Growth

Three of the men charged with shaping Guam's economic destiny yesterday told an audience of world scientists that the island's current boom could well become a nightmare if prosperity is not accompanied by a dramatic increase in local political power.

The speakers were Greg Sanchez, special assistant to the Governor for planning and budget; John Gilliam,

GovGuam planning director; and Bert Unpingco, director of the Guam Visitor's Bureau. They were among those who addressed a session of the Pacific Science Association's second Inter-Congress, currently being held at the University of Guam.

All three made strongly-worded demands calling for a rapid end to the erosion of local control which has accompanied

Guam's recent economic boom.

Taken together, their remarks constitute an economic manifesto with a single message: Progress without power can only lead to "disaster" for Guam citizens.

"Inability to control those factors now heavily influencing the economy will, I fear, result in economic wealth and political power passing into the hands of well-heeled interlopers," said budget specialist Sanchez. "It could conceivably result in the polarization of wealth and the creation of a large majority of landless poor. It could result in the rapid and reckless destruction of the natural environment."

Sanchez opened with a short history of Guam since 1898, emphasizing

throughout that the island's development has been controlled by exterior forces for exterior ends. He detailed the various Federal and military sanctions which Guam has known under U.S. domination, and stated that such restrictions continue today to the ultimate detriment of the island's overall welfare.

"The continuation of an enforced and artificial economic relationship with the United States could, conceivably, wreak havoc with Guam's tenuous development," he said. He called for a revision in immigration policies "in order to control the rapid increase in population", and for amendments to foreign labor import laws. He also said that the island must "impose brakes upon the rapid acquisition of land by

overseas corporations", and that current investment policies must also be altered to protect island people.

He also said that the Government of Guam needs "the freedom and authority to negotiate the importation of technical skills, goods, and capital from neighboring countries in the form of trade treaties", and that Guam must be free to purchase development capital from whatever foreign or international sources are available.

"I believe that unless the Federal government is willing to recognize Guam's right to develop an independent and viable economy, some form of confrontation will take place in the near future between the plans of the Department of Defense, and the plans of the residents of Guam to assert their political rights and determine the character of their economy," he said.

Local autonomy was also Gilliam's subject.

He noted that Guam's "remarkable" economic expansion in the past 10 years is indicative of the island's "natural economic potentials" and the ability of the Guamanian people to respond quickly "once opportunities were offered". He said that this ability must be encouraged with an increase in local political power, or "Guam's fate will continue to be