



THE VOICE OF TINIAN: More than 100 residents of the tiny island crowded inside and outside its small municipal chambers this weekend for a seven-hour meeting with some representatives of the status talks, to debate their future. (Daily News Photo by Mike Malone)

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They Hear The Plans

By Mike Malone
News Saipan Bureau

SAIPAN -- From the moment U.S. Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams stepped off the plane, the message was clear -- Tinian was divided.

While one group welcomed his delegation, another paraded with signs opposing the reason for his visit. As President Nixon's personal representative to the Marianas status negotiations, Williams had announced in a radio broadcast from Saipan a U.S. proposal to acquire the entire land -- and then set aside 1/3 of it, 7,700

acres, for the local people. Then at dusk Friday, specifics of the proposal for Tinian, which based the giant 7th Air Force in 1944-45, were revealed.

Williams said "if agreements are reached" Tinian would be acquired through a lease arrangement with the option to purchase the island when the United Nations Trusteeship there is ended. In the meantime, as early as 1975, he said, planning and land acquisition would begin -- the first part of a seven phase plan to build a massive \$144.6 million joint-service base complex that

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