

The Marianas Talks

'Substantial Progress

Here is the complete text of the joint press release made on Saipan yesterday as status talks between the United States and the Marianas recessed after a three-week session.

From May 15 to June 4, 1973, the Marianas Political Status Commission and the President's Personal Representative met in Saipan for negotiations aimed at achieving political union between the Marianas Islands and the United States of America.

The meeting consisted of public plenary opening and closing sessions, general working sessions, and meetings of subpanels of advisers on technical matters. The two sides recognize that any final agreement emerging from these and future sessions of negotiations will have to be approved by the Marianas District Legislature, the people of the Marianas in a plebiscite, and the United States Congress. The delegations attempted during these discussions to arrive at preliminary agreements where possible and to identify technical questions requiring further study by smaller panels of experts. There was no attempt to agree on precise language for formal agreement. However, both delegations believe their working sessions have resulted in substantial progress in that preliminary agreements were reached in broad areas.

4. The future Marianas government would be established under a constitution of the Marianas. This constitution would be drafted by a local constitutional convention and would be subject to the approval of the people of the Marianas. The Marianas constitution would include a bill of rights and provide for the separation of powers and a popularly elected chief executive. The Marianas constitution, as initially drafted and approved by the people of the Marianas, would be subject to approval by the United States Congress for consistency with the relevant provisions of the United States Constitution, legislation establishing the commonwealth arrangement, and any other relevant federal legislation. Constitutional amendments would not require approval by the United States Government, although federal courts would be competent to pass on the consistency of such amendments with relevant provisions of the United States Constitution and of federal law.

5. The United States would have responsibility for and complete authority in the fields of defense and foreign affairs. In this regard, the advice of the future commonwealth government on international matters directly affecting the Islands would be considered by the United States Government and the United States would support the membership of the Marianas in regional or other international organizations concerned with economic, cultural, or comparable matters of concern to the Marianas to the extent such organizations permit such representation. The Marianas would also be able to establish offices abroad to promote local tourism or other economic or cultural interests.

6. With respect to judicial matters, the new Marianas commonwealth would have the right to establish local courts to handle cases arising under local law. The operation of parties have agreed that the joint working group of lawyers will study federal laws in these and other areas to determine whether and how their application in the Marianas should be circumscribed by the formal status agreement and whether that agreement might provide generally for resolving questions as to the applicability of future federal laws in the Marianas.

12. At some future date a joint commission would be established to study and make recommendations on the applicability in the Marianas of the large body of federal legislation and regulations which will not be specifically addressed in the formal status agreement.

Economics and Finance:

1. The objectives of a long term economic development program for the Marianas should be:
 - a. To facilitate an orderly transition to the new political status;
 - b. to build toward an adequate social and economic infrastructure;
 - c. to provide necessary public services and programs; and
 - d. to encourage and to promote the future economic development of the Marianas.

The United States is agreed in principle to assist the Marianas in the attainment of these objectives in order to achieve the ultimate goals of raising significantly the per capita income of the people of the Marianas and moving the Marianas progressively toward economic self-sufficiency.

2. The accomplishment of the above objectives will require systematic long-range planning to identify specific economic priorities and evaluate financial needs and potential local sources of revenue (particularly as they may be substantially affected by proposed military activities in the Marianas) in order to develop estimates of the quantum of financial support from the United States which might be

Sovereignty over the Marianas would be vested in the United States.

2. Fundamental provisions of the formal agreement establishing the commonwealth relationship would be subject to modification only by mutual consent. The parties have agreed to explore alternative methods to implement this mutual consent requirement.

3. Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution would apply to the future political relationship between the Marianas and the United States, subject to the two delegations arriving at an acceptable arrangement under which modification of fundamental provisions of the formal agreement establishing the commonwealth relationship of the Marianas Political Status Commission that it will explore means to reconcile the plenary powers of Congress under Article IV, section 3, clause 2 with the exercise by the commonwealth of the Marianas of maximum self-government with respect to internal affairs.

With This Rink, I Thee Wed

VALDOSTA, Georgia (UPI) — The bride wore white satin, a broad smile, and roller skates.

Cathy Hayes and Harry Dewell were married at the Red Barn Roller Drome. The whole wedding party, including the Rev. John Hazelit, wore skates.

Dewell, 20, works at the skating rink and met his 17-year-old bride there.

"I've skated since I was six and she has, too," he said. "We met on roller skates and we fell in love on roller skates. It seemed only fitting that we get married on roller skates."

The bride was given away by Dick Davis, owner of the rink. He skated her down the 180-foot makeshift aisle to her waiting groom.

Honeymoon plans were kept secret, but the couple said it would include plenty of skating.

7. Recognizing that the question of Marianas representation in the United States Congress is ultimately a matter for decision by that body, the United States delegation has agreed to support a request by the Marianas for its own non-voting delegate in Congress. The parties have agreed to explore a common approach to the United States Congress on this subject.

8. Article IV, section 2, clause 1 of the United States Constitution relating to "privileges and immunities" would apply in the Marianas, subject to appropriate limitation in the formal status agreement to assure that the ability of the future Marianas Government to preserve control of the land of the Marianas in the hands of Marianas citizens will not be compromised. Citizens of the Marianas would be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states. Article IV, section 1 of the United States Constitution relating to "full faith and credit" would apply with respect to the Marianas as if it were a state. The requirements in the United States Constitution of indictment by grand jury and of a jury trial in civil cases need not be made applicable in the Marianas. The Marianas Political Status Commission will study further which additional provisions of the United States Constitution should be made expressly applicable in the Marianas.

9. Marianas residents would have the opportunity of becoming United States citizens. The parties have agreed to study further, through a joint working group of lawyers, the status to be accorded those residents of the Marianas who might not wish to become American citizens.

10. There would be continuing dialogue after establishment of the commonwealth, on the needs and interests of the Marianas. The parties have agreed to discuss, at a later stage in the negotiations, whether to provide for formal periodic review of all aspects of the relationship between the Marianas and the United States.

11. The question of whether certain major areas of federal legislation will apply in the Marianas may be dealt with explicitly in the formal agreement establishing the future political status of the Marianas. These areas include taxes, immigration, customs, banking, social security, maritime laws, labor standards, and the postal service. The

government reorganization plan, an economic and social development plan, and legal planning in such areas as political education, preparation for a Constitutional Convention, and development of initial legislative programs. The United States will



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Talks Recess In 'Progress'

(Continued from page 1)

number of subjects now, the joint communique said, and it was agreed the two full delegations "would meet again to pursue all of these matters further as soon as possible, probably in the late summer or early fall."

Aside from the issuing of the communique, there were no individual announcements or comments from either side yesterday as the talks recessed.

Some of what the communique covered had been reported in earlier official releases from both sides, as subject matters were discussed and basic agreements reached. Among these facets were some of the matters relating to the political setup of the proposed commonwealth.

The communique said sovereignty over the Marianas would be vested in the United States and home-rule would be based on a locally drafted and approved constitution.

U.S. Federal laws would apply, but to an extent subject to later negotiations. The constitution would also provide for a popularly-elected chief executive, a bill of rights and a separation of powers. Local courts would be established under the jurisdiction of the U.S. district court system.

U.S. citizenship will be offered, and the Marianas will seek its own non-voting delegate

to the U.S. Congress, but the U.S. will retain complete control over foreign affairs and defense matters.

Concerning finance, the U.S. agreed in principle to assist the Marianas in achieving economic self-sufficiency, but said long range financial needs would depend on potential local sources of revenue — most notably from proposed military activities.

The communique said the U.S. would agree in principle to finance a planning effort for a land cadastral program, physical, government, and social development plans, political education and preparation for a constitutional convention and initial legislative programs.

Concerning future uses of land, it was agreed all public lands would be returned to the people.

The Marianas delegation, said the communique, has also agreed in principle to make "land available to the United States" for its military land requirements, with the extent and terms of such agreements still subject to negotiations.

The communique said, "In light of the comments of the Marianas delegation" U.S. proposals could be further clarified and defined.

"Similarly the Marianas delegation has agreed to give further consideration to the United States' military land proposals."

The Marianas commission also agreed in principle that Farallon de Medinilla would be made available as a target area to the U.S., and that joint use of Isley Field on Saipan would continue.

Editorial

Chicken Step Forward.....

The island is taking another gigantic step forward in the long suffering field of agriculture shortly, when groundbreaking ceremonies will be held for the first local poultry processing facility. This facility will enable locally-grown birds to be sold in the island stores, and to the military base markets for the first time, according to Jose Barcinas, Director of the Department of Agriculture.

The key to the facility, to be built at the C&H Poultry Farm, is that processed chickens will bear the approval of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and will, therefore, produce meat in accordance with Federal specifications and requirements. That gives the meat products access to the public markets.

Right now, the Department of Agriculture says, some two to three million pounds of birds are brought in from overseas to Guam markets annually, at a cost that is probably in the millions.

The C&H expansion is being undertaken with a loan grant of \$143,000 of Federal money, under the supervision of the Guam Economic Development Authority. The funds are a part of a \$5 million development fund authorized and approved by Congress under the Development Loan Fund Act.

Barcinas estimated that as many as 6,000 stewing hens would be available for processing at the plant each month—birds that are currently lying idle, that cannot reach the market. A large number of egg laying birds, formerly producers, but past their prime, are also available for the stewing hen category. Barcinas envisions the development of a broiler industry to augment that supply. There is no good reason why a good fryer industry can't also be developed on Guam.

In the past we've been critical of the way that Guam's agricultural industry has been unable to get off the ground. Maybe it was just too much to take on all agricultural segments at once. The theory now seems to be get one operation off and running, and then turn to another.

Just a few years ago most of Guam's eggs were also imported from off island. Now, the island's poultry farms are producing enough local eggs to supply the island market. We see no reason, with the sophistication of modern chicken factories, that Guam can't raise and process our own chicken supply. The processing plant, which is like an assembly line operation, might be the first step in that direction.

There is no guarantee, of course, that such an operation would bring down the price of chicken locally. The cost of feed is still high on Guam, and will always be due to shipping costs. But it stands to reason that locally produced chicken would have considerable advantage over those shipped in. We would be better protected, for example, against shipping strikes. We know that the meat would be fresher. Besides, it would provide employment for local people. Barcinas said that the processing plant may employ as many as 15-20 people in its first stage.

We are pleased, of course, that agriculture—in all its aspects—is at last beginning to make an impact on Guam, and we're happy to congratulate the C&H people, the Department of Agriculture, and GEDA for making this new plant a possibility. JCM.