

*Tinian*

# Anti-Military Speaker Off Tinian Unit

*P.D.N. 6/13*

SAIPAN - Results of Tinian's municipal election indicate opposition to U.S. plans to acquire the entire island may be eroding. Felipe C. Mendiola, speaker of the municipal council and an outspoken critic of the plan, was defeated Sunday in an election to fill four vacant seats on the council. Marianas Public Affairs Officer David Manitta said eight candidates were running for the seats and Mendiola lost by a close 14 vote margin. He came in fifth.

Elected were Leonardo F. Diaz (176 votes), Alfonso S. Borja (160), Albert L. Cruz (160), all of the Popular Party, and Sylvester T. Cruz (126) of the Territorial Party. All were incumbents, except Albert L. Cruz.

Last week, Speaker Mendiola drew up and began circulating a petition sharply disagreeing with the military proposal to acquire all of Tinian, relocate San Jose village and set aside one-third of the island for civilian use.

Mendiola said the wishes of the Tinian population had been "misinterpreted," but welcomed the military on their present retention lands that now cover nearly a third of the island.

It is not known at present how many Tinian residents support the petition.