

South O.S.G.  
E.A.P.A.P. - 12/1/73

If we analyze this and look at it with broader spectrum I think there's a chance we can save our Paradise. I would like to ask you to view this situation inside out, outside in, right side up and up side down; view it in every possible way. In this way maybe we can tell Uncle Sam we don't want to trade his destroyer with our Normar and his B52 with our 727, Thank you. Yours truly,

Jose C. Mafnas

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter to express my views on the proposed military occupation here in the Marianas.

First of all have you ever consider what a military occupation calls for? In my opinion, military occupation calls for tremendous amount of land. And I think the U.S. has made that clear. However, we are awaiting our delegations to make if even clearer to the people.

Williams said or at least implied that the U.S. will protect us from the bad boys (Kossacks and gooks). I doubt very much if we need that kind of protection. After all, we are gooks too. Right, Whitey?

Farallon de Medinilla which Uncle Sam wants indefinitely for "Target Practice" may not mean much now to some of the members of the Marianas Political Status Commission. After all Williams said of Farallon de Medinilla, "Its isolated location and difficult terrain makes it uninhabitable."

It might sound true now and possibly for the next ten years but indefinitely, NO!

Take a good look at our neighbor Guam. What chances do the upcoming generation have therein acquiring home-stead? NONE! Because all of what's left for home-



Dear Mr. Editor:

Correct me if I'm wrong but I ran into some rumors that the military will be occupying the Marianas in the near future. Anyway, I'm very much oblige to elaborate some of the impacts that will occur incase the military occupies our island. I'll be hanged if my guess is wrong but when we speak of the military many of our people will visualize the tall buildings, the huge hospitals and schools, and the mass imports of goods, but the point we always overlook is the question -who will be able to live in these tall buildings, be treated in these huge hospitals and buy these goods?

First let me start with the land, the military would call for a tremendous amount of land. I am sure that in choosing a place to establish their so-called military base they will not be occupying the dump at Puerto Rico or San Antonio. In my own understanding Mr. Williams had stated a very confusing and unconditional proposition. All he said was the returning of some land and the taking away of others.

Second, Mr. Williams also stated that the military would establish means of preventing our land from falling into the hands of outsiders. Let me site Guam our friendly neighbor as an example. How much of the land in Guam is now own by outsiders? I have a big hunch that Mr. America guaranteed Guam the same protection we are now being offered. I, as a citizen of the

Marianas would not lean a hundred and eighty degrees and watch Uncle Sam laugh us all out of our land with his American dollar. I own a very small piece of land but no American dollar is going to take that away from me. Hell no, either they take it over my dead body or they don't get it at all.

I will not wait until my eyes are scratched out and my arms pulled off to start fighting back. Right now we have a very strong chance, later there is not prayer that could save us. There are living evidences of what is happening and what has happened in places occupied by American Military. Uncle Sam started pulling out of Okinawa a few years ago. Why? Because there are not wanted there. In Subic Bay (Olangapo Zambo-lifo) Philippines and Clark Air Force Base Philippines there are frequent riots and demonstrations by anti-military organization. This is not necessarily pro-communist.

Neither am I a pro-communist, but I just want to protect my land from any outsiders including Uncle Sam. Mr. Williams stated very clearly that the Military might have to move the village of San Jose to some other suitable location in the Southern part. The question there is where in the Southern part there is nothing there but rocks and cliffs where the waves pound to make enough noise to shatter your ear drums and beat your brains out. Is this the so-called suitable location that Mr. Williams stated. If I were a Tinianese and were told that I must move my home to another place I would feel like a caged animal being moved to another zoo. How would you feel if you were in a Tinianese's boat?

To summarize, I would like to reemphasize that I have briefed you in what is going to take place here in our Tropical Paradise if Uncle Sam walks in with his blue boys.

steading are military retention land or presently occupied by the Military.

In my opinion let's get it on with the status talk. But let's keep cool. Let's talk about us first and U.S. Military later. In this case no hassle will occur. Right on .....

Yours truly,

/s/ James P. D. Leon Guerrero



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## GUEST EDITORIAL

While the subject of political status for the Marianas District is still a "RED-HOT" issue especially after the revelation by the U.S. Delegation that Tinian island will be taken over by the U.S. Military after full consultation with the people of Tinian, I would like to share my observations of the status issue and comment on some vital points brought out by the head of the U.S. "Bargaining Team".

I am now more convinced than ever before that the only reason why the U.S. is interested in pursuing, possibly to the end, the "Political Status" negotiation with the Marianas District is to fulfill its selfish interest of acquiring lands for its military requirements "in order to meet its defense responsibilities in the Pacific".

The so-called "Political Status" negotiation should be more appropriately labelled "Military Status" negotiation as it is obvious that the success or failure of the whole negotiation hinges on whether land compromise for military uses can be reached between the two "Teams".

I am further convinced that other than the demonstrated fact that the U.S. Military is interested on our islands, there is not a single honest sign of humanitarian concern on the part of the U.S. for welcoming the Marianas District people into the U.S. political family. There are certainly two sides to every story, but I feel that in the present political status story, there is only one. If the people for

Although I feel strongly that the Tinianese should have an important input in the area of military land requirements and agreement as it will ultimately and directly affect them, if and when the built-up takes place, I feel equally strongly that as long as they are a part of the Marianas District, they are in no way or in no position to decide for themselves matters that will ultimately affect the rest of the islands. To put it simply: A military installation on Tinian, should the people be conned into accepting the U.S. proposal of luxury living and unlimited prosperity, will disrupt the daily living of people on Saipan for sure.

Perhaps citing examples from other areas under military control is unfair, but one thing always stands out as a matter of myth or perhaps a fact: The feeling of threat to the people's lives due to the ever-present danger of enemy attack either to be aimed directly to the military become the fact of life for the people on Tinian as well as Saipan if Tinian is converted into a "target area".

Before going into my analysis and critique of Mr. William's public announcement on the U.S. interest and conditions for a mutually satisfactory and lasting political relationship with the Marianas District, let me expound a little on the already agreed upon political status, the elusive democratic concept called commonwealth. If we refer to Webster's definition, we'll end up confused as it has no bearing on the be-

some valid reasons will not give up their lands for Military use, then we might as well kiss U.S. citizenship goodbye.

There is no reliable indicator at the present to show whether or not the people of the Marianas District are for or against the proposed Military built-up on the islands. There was a general consensus in the past of the people wanting, wishing, desiring, and praying that someday they will be U.S. citizens. This was understandable as most of the people naively viewed such move to benefit them economically. Those same people, however, had no idea or were never informed of the real sacrifice they have to make as a price to pay to be U.S. citizens.

The newspapers are always full of accounts of remarkable success of various discussions between the people, specifically "Tinianese", and the "Teams". There are also conflicting opinions, but more often opinions expressed against the idea of a "major" military complex on Tinian. Why did such "rash" backfire developed when all along the U.S. thought they had the people under controlled? One reason is perhaps the fact that the military plan was not made known earlier and its potential impact not revealed.

What bothers many people, including this writer is the naive attitude by both teams to solicit opinions only from the Tinianese on the issue of military built-up on Tinian.

Why narrow down the sampling of public opinion on such an important part of the "Political Status" negotiation to the people of Tinian alone? Don't the people of Saipan, Rota, and the rest of the Marianas District have just as much right to express their opinions on the issue? Was it because the U.S. negotiators were confidentially assured by our "team" that the Saipanese will welcome them with open arms just as the Tinianese did several years ago?

tween the U.S. and the Marianas Political Status Commission of mutual understanding and lasting political relationship between the two sides, we still end up without a definition, because the two teams never bother to fully explain to the people what a U.S. Commonwealth is all about. Our team somewhat took the concept for granted as being the best choice as recommended by the U.S. consultants. Perhaps some of our team members have been to Puerto Rico and they liked what they saw, so naturally, what's good for Puerto Rico is good enough for the Marianas! I feel that we are all following ourselves by embracing a form of political association that only a handful of people here know anything about, and not much, to say the least. Additionally, to make us look even more ignorant, we are already embarking on a political journey that is totally uncharted. The Political Status Commission should, as a starting point, initiate a public education program now, otherwise the "Commonwealth of the Marianas" will never turn out to be what it is "intended" to be. We are having problems right now understanding the workings of the government of the Trust Territory and we've been at it for a long time.

Now to Ambassador William's statements and my thoughts on them:

On Public Land:

I like the genuine desire on the part of the U.S. to return all lands held in trust to the people of the Marianas. It is about time that the U.S. government start admitting the fact that the land belongs to the people and that continual condemnation of lands for the sake of "national security" as an excuse is a poor one. His remarks, however, about questions to be resolved regarding the return of land held in trust leaves me with the idea that the U.S. will take its sweet time

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## EDITORIAL

studying the "legal and technical" as well as the "Administration and timing" constraints. Will the U.S. really return the lands to the people if the Tinian Military Plan is voted down by the people? I personally don't think so, as it has been explicitly stated during the "Tinian Summit Conference" that the U.S. "has every legal right" to acquire and whether we like it or not.

Assuring the Marinas District then, with the hope of one day getting back the lands held in trust is an enticement to accepting the proposed Commonwealth - Joint Military Government. I'll say this about the Ambassador's statement on public land: Turn over all the land now then come back later and "let's make a deal".

### On Land Alienation:

Again, I think the idea of establishing an effective means for preventing the land from falling into outsiders hands is a good one, although, again, I think the proposal is about 10 years late. We really don't need the help of the U.S. government to protect us from loosing our lands to outsiders. We only need to help ourselves for it is through one own greed and selfish attitude that lands now are being "stolen" by outsiders, and responsible officials for land alienation. Legislations safeguarding land from outsiders should have been enacted a long time ago. We do not need to be told by anybody that we need such land legislations. Our own elected leaders are just as guilty in perpetuating the sale of land to outsiders as the Trust Ter-

fall should not be constructed near the retention area. This resulted in the TT spending additional capital improvement money to redesign the sewerage system. The moral of the story is this: Our rights to our land is not worth our shit. I'll say take your contingency plan elsewhere and leave Saipan alone.

### On Tinian:

During a meeting between the people of Tinian and the negotiating teams of U.S. and Marianas delegations, it was mandated by the Ambassador that "The U.S. does not intend to use "muscle" to acquire land, although it has every legal right to do so". If this kind of double-talk was properly translated into our vernacular, it would have created a catastrophe to the current talks. But apparently, the double-talk was translated very carefully.

I was hoping that the U.S. would be more explicit and specific in its military plan for Tinian, instead of talking in generalities. Why didn't the Ambassador come out and say that so many planes, ships, bombs, etc., will be located on Tinian so that the U.S. land requirement can be better understood by the people of Tinian? Perhaps if the U.S. had done this, it will save them the trouble of having to accommodate the people on Tinian with the remaining one-third of the island. Many people, if not all, I am sure, will probably leave the island voluntarily if they know what

CONT.P.?

teritory government is in not doing a thing to investigate and verify suspicious land transactions. The Congress of Micronesia is on record as being gravely concerned about illegal land transactions, yet, not a single land legislation to protect the loss of Micronesian land has ever been enacted. If we are to wait until the status agreement is fully signed and our constitution drawn up which will include provisions prohibiting the sale of land to outsiders, I would predict that a major part of Saipan's useable land will have been bought up by outsiders by such time. We need the help now, the the U.S. team can do us a lot of good if they undertake land inventory and nullify all illegal land transactions before the status agreement is formalized. If this is not done now, a change in our political status will reveal to us all who really are the large landowners of Saipan. NO, it will not be the military, but the businessmen from other countries. On U.S. Minimum Military (land) Requirements:

Farallon de Medinilla: Since the U.S. military has already set a precedent on consulting with the people, I fill that the Northern Marianas inhabitants should be asked of their opinions regarding the bombing practice on the island.

On Saipan:

I'll say please leave us alone!! I wish the Ambassador will come right out and say we will return the land instead of "we are proposing to return" the land.

It is interesting to note that the U.S. would like to return some land now held for contingency purposes, and will make some land available for civilian use. I question this proposal seriously. Not too long ago, the Navy refused to allow the Trust Territory government to construct a sewage treatment plant at Puerto Rico area and had even insisted that the sewage out-

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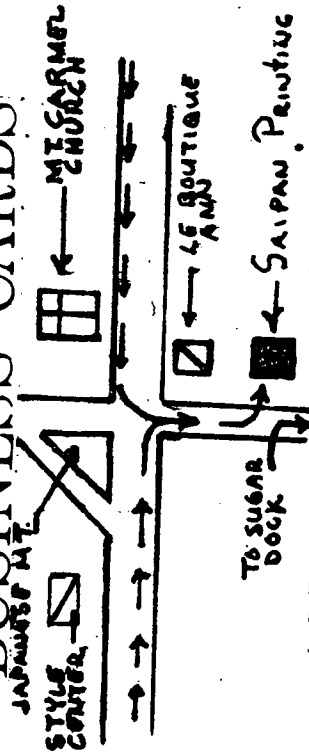
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kind of environment they will be expose to with the presence of the U.S. Military.

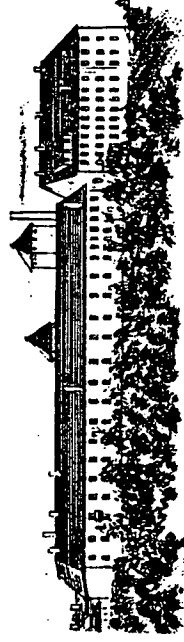
The U.S. Delegation, as the Ambassador stated, understands fully the important role that land ownership plays on the lives of the people, not only on Tinian, but elsewhere as well. But what in essence they are offering the people on Tinian is a complete change in attitude and economic and social values and life style. It is possible that the military presence on Tinian will either deliberately or unintentionally transform every single individual there into nothing more than a military-base parasite. Yes, money will be abundant and modern conveniences will be introduced, but the price to pay for all these are irreplaceable. Sociologically, a prolonged dependence on the military will ultimately result in complete degeneration of traditional mores, since of cultural virtues and values, and identity as people. Why? Because with the land area so small the people will be subjected to an environment that is not only new to them, but more importantly a confining environment designed without viable alternative to traditional life style now in existence. To some of us who have been to Ebeye, in the Marshalls, we would be less than honest if we don't admit that the living there is intolerable. Will the U.S. military guarantee decent living and respect to the inhabitants of Tinina? The Ambassador stated the U.S. military plan on the issue of community living as follows: "We plan to work with the local civilian community to plan and promote the rational economic deve-

support demands on Tinian, Saipan, and elsewhere in the district?

I personally feel that the proposal of the U.S. to take over Tinian completely should be reviewed carefully for its potential sociologic and economic impact on the people of Tinian as well as the entire Marianas District by everyone concerned not just by U.S. Consultants. I do not agree that the sacrifice to be made on our lands and our tranquility by allowing military installations is outweighed by the promise of economic development through unlimited military dollars. Ask yourself this question: Is commonwealth for the Marianas with a "military string" attached the most sensible approach for our future political relationship with the United States of America?

/S/ Pete A. Tenorio

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lopment of the southern one-third of the island. As the same time we would be protecting the essential character of the current Tinian community from unduly outside pressures and influences including a major influx of new residents and possible undesirable commercial and recreational activities".

The pain certainly says a lot but as the same time means very little. From another viewpoint, the plan seeks to avoid the very same "problems" that the military installation will bring to Tinian such as "unduly outside pressures and influences", etc.

A number of people on Tinian have expressed a deep concern over the possible loss of land for their children and their grand-children if the military comes to Tinian. How clearly the U.S. understands this important concern is hard to tell. The promise to compensate present landowners of their lands at fair market value is not enough to convince the people to give up their lands. The U.S. must realize that land is priceless to the people and parenthetically any land taken must be replaced by land in order to be fair to the people, and at the same time protect the interest of future generations on Tinian. But it seems like this is a far-fetched possibility especially when the U.S. has already made it clear that they want the entire island of Tinian, although it is willing to turn back one-third of the island for civilian use.

Let's look at the effect of the possible loss of Tinian to the military in terms of Saipan or for that matter the entire Marianas District economic future. Tinian is known for its industrious farmers and high agricultural productivity. Can the Marianas District in the future continue to depend on Tinian for agricultural produce after the military complex has been established? Will one-third of Tinian have enough useable land for future agricultural activities to

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