



THE SENATE  
CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA  
P. O. BOX 825  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

01/5

SENATOR EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN

Telephone — 6241 Office  
6290 Residence

COMMITTEES:

- (Chairman) Health
- (Member) Ways and Means
- (Member) Future Political Status
- (Member) Budget and Program Planning

X June 22, 1973

~~Handwritten signature/initials~~

- (Chairman) Marianas Political Status  
Commission

Attorney at Law

Howard P. Willens, Esquire  
Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering  
Farragut Building  
900 17th Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Howard:

I hope by now you have had the chance to spend some time with Susan and the children. I regret that our over-extended negotiation had kept you longer than expected from your family. You had been more than generous in sticking it out with the Commission for six solid weeks.

I am taking this opportunity, on behalf of the members of the Commission, to extend our deepest appreciation and gratitude to you, Jay and Susan for the success of the recently concluded Negotiation. The excellent research and your patience and competent guidance contributed immensely in meeting the U. S. Delegation on an equal par. Frankly, our Commission had demonstrated to the U. S. Delegation its superior negotiation ability and efficiently in all aspects of the negotiation. Ambassador Williams and Company gave me the impression that you, Jay and Jim were not their favorite people.

Your letter of June 15, 1973, arrived this morning with the statements delivered before the Trusteeship Council by Ben and Mitch. I had followed the Micronesian News Service coverage of the presentation and I must say that the statements had made tremendous impact in the U.N. and our people in the Marianas were exceedingly pleased with such an impressive presentation. I sincerely believe that we have put forth our case forcefully and persuasively once and for all. Again, this would not have been possible without your assistance.

Howard P. Willens, Esquire  
June 22, 1973  
Page 2

I appreciate it very much your continued interest and concern to assist the Commission on the legal matters that have to be performed before the next round of negotiation. The Commission members join me in expressing our confidence in all the work that you have undertaken on behalf of the Commission.

Enclosed for your information are copies of the three musketeers' (Palacios, Rabauliman and Tenorio) interview with Pacific Daily News, and the letter to the editor responding to the interview. I regret that the interview was printed but my colleagues insisted to have their names on the paper. The letter to editor was written by my staff, John Rosario.

The Commission will hold several meetings next week on important internal matters. I have enclosed a copy of the agenda for your record.

Activities in the home front has become considerably less hectic. But somehow, I have missed the challenge of running around like an idiot.

Please convey my best wishes to Jay and the good people at Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering. Kindly tell Susan that we have enjoyed the honor of her visit to Saipan, and we all shared the pleasure of her company.

With best personal regards and wishes to the family,

Sincerely yours,



Edward DLG. Pangelinan

Enclosure

EGP/rrs

04625 N

# Marianas' Future: Problems

By Mike Malone  
News Saipan Bureau

SAIPAN - Three members of the Marianas Status Commission have predicted "problems ahead" over certain aspects of a preliminary agreement reached with U.S. representatives during talks that ended here last week and claimed the local delegation was relatively unprepared for the negotiations.

Dr. Francisco T. Palacios, Jose Tenorio, and Felix Rabauliman said decisions were reached on key provisions of the commonwealth that could jeopardize effective home-rule. These included an agreement to vest sovereignty over the Marianas in the United States. "We believe the Marianas should retain sovereignty over internal affairs and allow U.S. control only over external matters. The long-range implications of such agreements are still unclear," they said, and "we are convinced other members of our delegation are not in full accord with these preliminary agreements." Rabauliman, Palacios and Tenorio are all considered key members of the 15-man

commission. Although none hold public office, Rabauliman represents the United Carolinian Association which includes a third of Saipan's population; Palacios is president of the Territorial Party and Tenorio represents the local business community.

Responding to questions submitted in advance, the delegates said the Marianas commission "simply did not have enough time to evaluate the U.S. proposals, air differences among ourselves and make counter-proposals, along the lines they had planned.

"In our opinion, there have

been no real negotiations as far as we can see. Talks, yes. Negotiations? No, they said.

"We feel we were at a decided disadvantage during the talks," said Tenorio. The U.S. side came fully prepared and were most candid on their positions, but at the same time they were most unwavering. We were unprepared for the most part.

There was too much of a rush on to get agreements on the basic fundamentals of the future relationship in the form as proposed by the United States."

The delegates said some "serious misgivings exist" concerning the application of a provision of the U.S. Constitution (Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2) that grants full powers to the U.S. Congress to legislate for territories - and in effect could threaten effective home-rule. An original Marianas position paper opposed granting this provision to the U.S., but, according to the delegates, it was agreed to on the grounds

that both delegations would later "...explore means to reconcile..." the full powers of the U.S. Congress to permit self-government in the Marianas.

"These agreements were reached despite our concerns because our legal consultants from Washington were confident that the U.S. will not interfere in local affairs. But we feel this is inadequate," said Tenorio. "Our aspirations for self-government could possibly be circumscribed by granting these still-undefined powers to the U.S. This is precisely what these negotiations are all about."

Palacios said he has informed the Marianas delegation that he cannot support the principle of vesting full sovereignty in the United States until the extent of the applicability of U.S. laws are defined in a draft compact. He said the leadership of the Territorial Party has been informed of his stand of his

position on the issue and agree that home-rule could be threatened.

"It is much too soon to rush into a permanent relationship granting the U.S. absolute sovereignty," said Tenorio. "Before any agreements can be made, there should first be a drastic upgrading of our educational system. We are now woefully under-educated. To join the U.S. political system now with all the responsibilities that go along with it, is simply too much too soon. We are not ready for U.S. citizenship today....perhaps an interim period as U.S. national would

better suit our needs until we are better prepared to decide what we want."

Asked if there is any significance in the fact the agreement will finally be approved by the Marianas people in a referendum, the delegates said:

"There is an element of uncertainty as to whether the Marianas Status Commission will be able to wholeheartedly support the political agreements as they now stand. Rushing towards an agreement with major implications not clearly spelled out or understood is dangerous. There was an element of 'take it or leave it' in the talks and that is what we are concerned about."

Two of the delegates, Palacios and Rabauliman, both former Congress of Micronesia members, said the Marianas have the right to become an independent state by virtue of the United Nations trusteeship agreement or to at least develop their own government independent of the U.S. Congress. Describing this as their "bargaining power" in light of the strategic location of the Marianas they said:

SEE PAGE 11

# Continuation of Marianas' Future: PROBLEMS

**'We feel we were at a decided disadvantage during the talks...the U.S. side came fully prepared and were most unwavering...we were unprepared for the most part.'**

"We believe the Department of Defense has a very real need to keep us neutral, and on their side to allow military bases to be established here. But nowhere has this position been mentioned in the talks. Our political aspirations, as far as we are concerned, have been misinterpreted because we are admittedly pro-U.S. and want a close political relationship."

Rabauliman said the U.S. delegation's "unwavering position" in the negotiations has enabled them to convince many of the Marianas delegates that termination of the agreement by mutual consent was something the U.S. "is giving us...something we need."

"On the contrary," he said, "this is something we are giving them - a permanent relationship they need. Admittedly we don't want to become independent, but the U.S. doesn't want this either....they probably wouldn't allow it. But giving a clause of mutual termination is a plus for the U.S. and our giving up the right for any possible future independence should result in the Marianas gaining the economic support we need for total self-government."

But the rub, according to the delegates, is that no concrete financial commitments have yet been made by the United States - only promises of federal grants, with strings obviously attached to military access to the islands.

Pointing to a recommendation of the 1973 U.N. visiting mission report, Tenorio said Micronesians must be informed of all possible levels of U.S. financial assistance available for each different status alternative in order to make an informed choice.

"We have every right to know now the exact cost in terms of self-government, personal dignity and quality of life for every concession we make to the United States," said Tenorio.

Contrary to this concept, he said the U.S. has insisted on general preliminary status agreement - including vesting full sovereignty to the U.S. - before going on to discuss financing and land matters.

"Although these agreements are not yet final, one question can be raised," said Tenorio.

"Have we bargained our sovereignty blindly?"

# Voice Of The People

Dear Mr. Editor:

I wish to comment on statements made by Dr. Francisco Palacios, Mr. Felix Rabauliman and Mr. Jose C. Tenorio regarding the recently concluded talks between the U.S. Delegation and the Marianas Political Status Commission, published in the June 15th edition of PDN.

The three gentlemen, all members of the Commission, asserted that "decisions were rushed on key provisions of the commonwealth that could jeopardize effective homerule."

Gentlemen, this assertion is rather foolish on your part in that you did not take appropriate action to remind the Commission as a whole to take its time in considering U.S. proposals at the time of the session. Airing your dis-satisfaction at the pace the Commission has conducted its work outside of the working session does not do neither you and the people you represent any good! Why didn't you bring this grudge out on the table for everyone's benefit? Now, is it fair to blame the whole Commission for what happened during the recent talks? Why didn't you do something about it?

For your information, I learned from various members of the Commission that Palacios is in the habit of coming to the meeting late and usually mid-way through any discussion; Tenorio failed to show up during the last two weeks of the session during which time most of the substantive issues were considered; and Rabauliman has practically muted himself throughout the whole meeting. This, evidently, is sufficient for this writer to conclude that the statements made by these three gentlemen is more of a grudge than facts!! In fact, I am of the opinion that they are confused of their statements.

With respect to *sovereignty* or "internal sovereignty" as it was used in the story, it appears to this writer that these gentlemen are confused in their understanding of *sovereignty and internal autonomy!* There is really a big difference in the meaning of the two and as such, may I suggest that my three friends consult the expertise of an attorney for a little clarification on the definitions of *sovereignty and internal autonomy.* And until such time that my three friends get a clear view of what these words mean, nothing much could be done in the interim.

*Sovereignty for the Marianas???* Mmmmmmm!!! I have the sense that these gentlemen are essentially asking for *independence!! Independence* does not have any place in our midst these days. If we want independence, we should have asked for such a status some twenty-six years ago when the so-called Western Culture was relatively foreign to our indigenous. Let's be more realistic and practical and rid-off any fancy dream of advancing to the rear!!!

Sincerely yours,  
Taotao Saipan Yo!!