

as per

# MILITARY TEAM PROMISES TINIAN

SAIPAN - On July 26, a team of military planners (See MVN of July 27) visited Tinian and held a meeting with the citizens to explain plans concerning future surveys planned in accordance with the agreement between the US and

the Marians Political Status Commission. The spokesman for the military team explained that the Tinian Council had taken appropriate government. The first team of investigators would consist of about 12 men. They will examine the environment, social situation, health, education and economy of Tinian.

The spokesman emphasize

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## MILITARY PROMISES . . . .

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the people of Tinian. It was emphasized that only 2 or 3 people would be on the island at any one time for this survey.

The environmental study would determine the quality of the water, air, vegetation animals etc. They will operate in two stages: The first being a thorough study of the reports which have been made in the past and the second will be to conduct new studies where necessary.

If the base is constructed, the goal of the military would be to have the least possible effect on the environment. The spokesman for the environmental survey team indicated that their work would involve little or no contact with the local population.

The Engineering study would be similar to the Westfield study made two years ago on Saipan. It is scheduled to be done in November and will include entire island, soil and water surveys. A maximum of 15 people will be involved at any one time with this investigation.

It was stated that the reports will be combined into one volume and will be open to the public for comments and evaluation. The final report will contain no recommendations or decisions. It will just evaluate the situation on Tinian in regards to the

feasibility of a military base on the island.

The spokesman for the group emphasized that the survey teams will utilize local resources as much as possible on a reimbursable basis.

There were very few questions from the audience, but in response to one inquiry concerning the type of survey, the spokesman stated that the work was simply a background study in sanitation, education and other areas to determine the effect that a base would have on the people of the island. He indicated that it was possible that some agricultural land would have to be taken for the base and a study of the effect was absolutely necessary. There were the possible relocation of agricultural lands and other alternatives ways to doing things that indicated the need for this feasibility study.

Speaker Harry Cruz of the Municipal council thanked the group for their presentation.

Both parties congratulated the other for the spirit of cooperation exhibited in the meeting and the military team expressed the intention of notifying the population of any decision as soon as possible in order to minimize any disruption to their lives.