

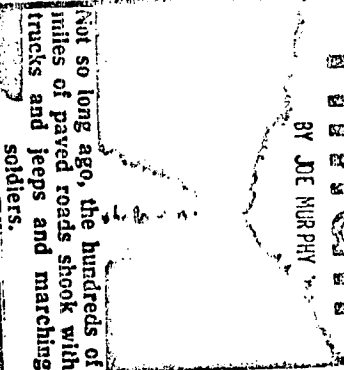
Micronia, Aug. 6, 1973

here is such a pulse of history being generated out of Tiniian these days that one feels somehow as though the whole of Micronesia is roiled in the fuss that has Admirals and Rear Admirals, State Department representatives and even local Tiniian councilmen running up and down the roads and by-ways of Tiniian looking for places to build facilities, places to move the people out of the way to, places to put up fences so that one group can be segregated from the other, oh, so many places.

The glint in the eyes of the military men can not be hidden--they can almost taste the land and the power and control they will soon exercise. Two reports carried on the

# Tiniian

BY JOE MURPHY



Not so long ago, the hundreds of miles of paved roads shook with trucks and jeeps and marching soldiers.

government news service in the past two weeks alone tell the story: On July 24 the Micronesian News Service reported, "A team of military and civilian planners is scheduled to visit Tiniian Island in the Marianas this week." MNS received the word from Miss Innocent Slip herself--Mary Vance Trent, the State Department representative who replaced spiffy John Dorance as political advisor to HiCom Johnston. One would hope that Mary is a little more perceptive than John proved on occasion to be. For example, do any of you remember the incident in 1971 when the Congress of Micronesia buildings in Saipan were burned down by unknown arsonists? John's re-

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action (as noted by a reporter who was in the Capitol Hill area on the morning of the blaze) was worthy of Hollywood. John was racing along the road on a motor bike with an unstrapped helmet flapping wildly in the wind shouting, "It's come--the revolution is here. It's rebellion." Well, hardly.

Mary's approach is a little more direct and understandable (after all women could always get away with alot more than men). She states in her released information concerning Tinian that the US Air Force, as the designated executive agent for Tinian Base Development, has been requested to proceed with early planning for a military presence on the island, "To demonstrate US willingness to honor preliminary agreement (made) with the Marianas Political Status Commission." That's gotta be the un-statement of the year. I can't imagine anyone at this late date requiring the US to actually demonstrate its willingness to build bases in Micronesia (or specifically Tinian). If anything, people here are more interested in the US demonstrating a willingness to (for once) live up to its original obligations which were assumed under the Trusteeship agreement--to protect the land of the inhabitants of Micronesia for Micronesians. We are not interested or desirous of witnessing the fact that the US successfully kept the people and land of Micronesia intact for the past quarter-century so that they could have enough time to work on the people through every known piece of political subterfuge (Yes, the Solomon Report) at their command to effect a total and complete UN recognized and sanctioned land grab in the Western Pacific. The Guam Dream Machine is going to hell--the hippy liberal freaks are stopping the bomb trucks and the Sella Bay issue is writing on the wall for any worthwhile military planner to see. So you work on Tinian--don't let any businesses develop there that might get in your way, keep the people under thumb by callous un-development policies, and then wiggle a few jobs as base attendants before their eyes, in exchange for complete and everlasting control of the island (and ultimately the people of the island) so that the US can be ever poised to leap headlong into another Viet-Nam or Cambodia and keep unfriendly groups of gooks from gaining power.

But like most things around here Mary's release was not without redeeming comic value. Among the members of the planning team which is working on the new Tinian Base is none other than Bernard Dove: living proof that you can't judge a book by its title or whatever.

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