

# For Marianas

# Self-Sufficiency Seen A Reality

By Diane Maddex  
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SAIPAN Economic self-sufficiency is in the long-term picture for the Marianas, an economic consultant to U.S. Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams and the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations believes.

"I don't want someone to come back five years from now and say 'Saul Silver said so.' But yes, I think they will be self-sufficient," said Silver on Saipan yesterday.

The Washington economist will conclude a two-week orientation trip here tomorrow. The visit was planned to allow him to familiarize himself with the people and the district's economic potential under the proposed new Marianas commonwealth.

Silver made a quick trip to Tinian on Tuesday - to study an irrigation project, not military sites - but otherwise has confined his work to Saipan.

One framework for Silver's studies is the Marianas Political Status Commission's proposal for U.S. financial support during its first year of transition to a commonwealth status. In a paper presented at the May-June round of status talks, the commission estimated it might need \$4.5 million for various Phase I planning and reorganization studies.

Rather than trying to put pipe tags on these studies while

to define what studies are actually needed. When he returns to Washington, he plans to meet with the Marianas commission's consultants to draft a joint working paper on the financial aspects of a commonwealth arrangement. This should be ready, said Silver, before the next status talks get underway about mid-November.

"The important thing is for us to reach agreement on what studies need to be done and in what sequence." The dollar amounts will come later, he said.

Silver explained that he and consultants from the States and Interior Departments have had two meetings with the Marianas commission's Washington consultants attorney Howard P. Wilens of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering and James Leonard of James R. Leonard Associates.

Among the studies contemplated are land survey needs, master planning, government reorganization, economic and social development and legal plans, including a constitutional convention and political education programs.

Once the new commonwealth gets past its early transitional work, where will its future economic self-sufficiency come from?

"I see this as a multi-pronged effort," said Silver. "Tourism isn't the only industry. It's a service industry. It doesn't produce anything directly."

He suggested a mix of tourism, increased agricultural production, light industry and government.

Then, there is the proposed military base on Tinian. "But the military is another market like tourism," Silver said. "It's

basically a buyer of goods, except it is also an employer of labor, which in turn uses its pay to buy things."

Silver stressed the need to keep more money, especially from tourism, in the islands. For instance, more locally grown foods should be used in the hotels, he said.

This is turn will require expanded agricultural production. Silver acknowledged that to accomplish this, additional labor will have to be imported. He offered greater mechanization, (Continued on page 36)

# Senator Urges Status 'Air Clearing'

SAIPAN - Sen. Olympio T. Borja of the Marianas Political Status Commission (MPSC) said yesterday he is thankful for the U.S. Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams' effort to come to Saipan to "clear the air" by candidly admitting that his office had ordered the Tinian moratorium and that Williams now considered it a mistake to have done so without first consulting with the commission.

Borja said also he is strongly opposed to the United States' unilateral imposition of the Tinian moratorium. He asserted that such action by the U.S. deprives the people of Tinian their rights to due-process of law and equal protection of the laws as guaranteed by the Bill of Rights in the Trust Territory Code.

Borja emphasized that the Marianas commission had requested the U.S. delegation "to join in asking the High Commissioner not to approve any more public land leases without consultation with the commission." He indicated, however, that such a request "hardly warranted the sudden, complete and unilateral moratorium on the development of Tinian."

He went on to say that during recent negotiations, the U.S. agreed in principle "to establish an effective means for preventing land in the Marianas from being alienated to persons not of Marianas ancestry."

The senator continued: "The United States also agreed in principle to establish a consultative group to discuss the detailed

plans for military and related land use in the Marianas as they are developed and to consult with the the people directly affected by those plans."

He also stated that the elected leaders of the Marianas cannot properly represent their constituents if they are "kept in the dark" as to what the United States plans to do.

According to Borja, Williams stated during the meeting that the Tinian moratorium is only temporary and it could run for about a week, a month or more. Borja, however, urged the ambassador to lift the moratorium immediately to prevent "further injustice to the people of Tinian."

Borja further stated that the obvious admiration and fondness that the people of the Marianas have for America stems from their understanding of American freedoms and justice and even-handed judicial processes. He indicated, however, that such actions by the United States on the unilateral moratorium have cast shadows of doubt over these ideas of America and could even undermine the status negotiations.

Borja went on to say that the recent action of the United States on the Tinian moratorium could possibly cause the Marianas to opt for different types of association or independence, instead of what is currently under negotiation. Borja said he also supported a District Legislature resolution opposing the moratorium.