

'Tired Of Politics'

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Manglona Quits Post On Talks Commission

SAIPAN—Saying he is "tired of politics," Herman Manglona has resigned as one of Tinian's two representatives on the Marianas Political Status Commission.

The Tinian Municipal Council, acting on Manglona's recommendation, quickly named former Tinian mayor Jose Cruz to replace him.

On Saipan yesterday Manglona emphatically denied that his resignation stemmed from a proposal made in July that he and Tinian's second representative, Francisco A. Hocog, be replaced by Tinian mayor Antonio S. Borja and Rep. Felipe Q. Atalig.

"Although he tried to have me removed, I feel sorry for my good friend Congressman Atalig," said Manglona. "I feel sorry for him because he really wants this position.

"But I recommended that Cruz take my place because I feel that he can do a better job than Atalig. He has a broad political background, he's a former senator in the Congress, he's a former mayor. The council this time didn't even discuss putting in Atalig or Borja," Manglona said.

Manglona also denied that his resignation was connected to a recent charge that he sold a piece of land on Tinian for a price designed to "inflate the value of the land" on the island. The accusation was made in a letter to the editor of a local Saipan newspaper.

"I'm very disappointed to lose one of our outspoken members who has been articulate in representing the people of Tinian," said commission chairman Edward D.L.G. Pangelinan.

Manglona indicated that Cruz has agreed to follow Manglona's basically anti-military positions in the commission's future status talks.

"My present position is that I don't want any military on Tinian," he said. "And I don't

Manglona also said he no longer trusts the U.S. negotiators. He pointed to the recent refusal of three TT employes to disclose land records subpoenaed by the Congress of Micronesia as one reason.

"If there's nothing wrong with what's in them, these people should tell us—especially where it involves land matters," said Manglona.

Manglona, a member of the Marianas District Legislature, said he has too many "pressing duties" to continue on the commission. "I won't turn for reelection to the legislature in

'76 either," he said. "But I'll do my best to serve the people of Tinian during the time I have left in office.

"With all the responsible positions I hold, I don't have enough time for everything. So it's in the best interests of Tinian to have on the commission someone they can depend on and have confidence that he's not tied up with other matters."

Manglona said he has already resigned as a board member of the Tinian Taga Co., a Mobil Oil distributor, and plans to resign from Tinian's scholarship board.