

Marianas Talks End With Land, Money Posers

By Diane Maddex
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SAIPAN - Although the United States still insists that it needs two thirds of Tinian for a military base, it has relented on its earlier demand to acquire the entire island and lease back only the portion that will stay in civilian hands.

The U.S. remains steadfast, however, in its preference to purchase, rather than lease, all the lands in the Marianas required by the U.S. military.

These were among the dozen significant disclosures made yesterday in a joint communique ending the third round of future status talks between the U.S. and the Marianas District of the Trust Territory. Read by Sen. Edward DLG. Pangelinan, chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission, at a rare public session held in late afternoon, the communique was signed by Pangelinan and Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, head of the U.S. delegation.

For the first time the U.S. revealed that it has offered the proposed new Marianas commonwealth \$14.5 million annually in direct financial assistance for the first five years.

This figure is a great deal lower than the approximately \$20.9 million a year asked by the Marianas during its last talks in May and June. That sum was spread out over an eight-year period.

U.S. military land requirements and the level of financial support for the Marianas are two of the major areas left to be resolved in negotiations and interim working sessions of the delegations' technical advisers.

There was no attempt to agree on language of a final status agreement during this round. A joint legal working group, however, is set to begin drafting provisions of the pact

relating to local self government.

Pangelinan said he did not expect the next round to take place until at least after Easter.

Both sides expressed satisfaction that this round had resulted in "substantial progress" toward the mutual goal of a secure and enduring place in the American political family for the people of the Marianas.

"Much work, however, remains to be done on a range of complex issues before the signing of a final agreement," the joint communique said.

Basic tentative agreements reached so far include:

- Marianas citizens will become U.S. citizens, although those wishing to become a national but not a citizen of the U.S. could do so by making a declaration to that effect in court.

- Federal income tax will apply only on U.S. sources of income, not on income earned in the Marianas, and this will be rebated to the Marianas government along with customs duties and excise taxes collected by the U.S. in the Marianas.

- Certain fundamental provisions of the status agreement may not be amended or repealed without the mutual consent of the parties.

"To this extent," said the communique, "United States authority in the Marianas would not be plenary," or absolute.

It is the two sides' intention also that the agreement be made enforceable in the federal courts.

- The MPSC intends to recommend that the Marianas District Legislature establish a nonprofit corporation to receive and administer public lands once they are returned by the U.S. The corporation also would be responsible for making the necessary public

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