

217
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Tinian

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NEWSCASTER:

The Marianas Political Status Talk has been tentatively set for May 15 in Honolulu but all is not well with the Marianas group. Tinian has retained a Guam law firm, Arriola, Cushnie and Stephen, as legal counsel for the Tinian people who are in ~~opposition~~ opposition to the 2/3rd land requirement of the U.S. military. Arriola, Cushnie, and Stephen has been asked by the Tinian Group headed by District Legislator Herman Manglona to prepare a position paper in regard to Tinian in the status talk. According to Manglona, he and two other Tinian political officials, Felipe Mendiola and Councilman Silvestre Cruz, planned to leave today for Guam to meet with their Guam counsel and also to pickup the position paper being prepared by the counsel. The position paper will deal, for the most part, with the opposition of ~~the~~ several Tinian people on the 2/3rd U.S. land requirement on Tinian. Councilman Silvestre Cruz planned to introduce a resolution in the Council meeting which would request the Marianas Political Status Commission not to continue the negotiation about Tinian until all the people of Tinian have expressed fully their positions regarding the U.S. land requirement on that island. Cruz hoped to introduced the resolution before the Honolulu Talk takes place next month. District Legislator Herman Manglona explained that the position paper will be presented to the Tinian Public for majority approval. Should the paper gets the desired vote, then the Marianas Political Status Commission will be asked to come to Tinian where the position paper will be presented to them. The law firm retained by Manglona and others will also be there on Tinian for the presentation of the position paper, according to Manglona. He also said that the Arriola, Cushnie, and Stephen law firm will be their legal counsel all the way in the Mariana Status Talk with the salary coming from the pockets of those Tinian people who are opposing the 2/3rd military land requirement.

NEWSCASTER: Last December 15, Marianas Political Status Commission Chairman Eddie Pangelinan signed a Joint Communique, co-signed by U.S. Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, where the U.S. delegation stated its land requirements in the Mariana Islands District. The U.S. was asking for about 2/3rd of Tinian for military purposes including the harbor and an adjacent safety zone. The present village of San Jose, which is the only village on Tinian, is included in the safety zone surrounding the Tinian Dock. According to the December Joint Communique, the remaining 1/3rd of Tinian would remain under civilian control and ownership with landowners retaining title or, in the event of relocation, receiving monetary compensation or title to comparable new land. The Joint Communique added that where relocation might be necessary, earlier offers of new private housing and community facilities remain in effect including roads and utilities. The other areas included in the U.S. land requirement in this district are Farallon de Medinilla, Isley Field and Tanapag Harbor. This morning, Congressman Felipe Q. Atalig expressed his surprise at the action taken by several members of Tinian headed by District Legislator Herman Manglona in ~~retaining~~ retaining a law firm ~~located in Tinian~~ as their advisor in the status talk. Atalig called the move "childish." He added that the Guam-based law firm has no business in the status talk.

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