

# Tinian Welcomes U.S. Military

After retaining local lawyers to represent them against the Department of Defense and the U.S. Air Force, three Tinian politicians and other residents of the island said they "welcome" establishment of the

U.S. military on the island but have hired lawyers to "oppose resolutely the take-over of two-thirds of the entire island of Tinian" and "the relocation—like cattle—of the inhabitants of San Jose village."

District Congressman Herman Manglona, Tinian councilman Sylvestre T. Cruz and former Tinian Speaker Felipe C. Mendiola made the statement in a prepared release distributed by the office of Arriola, Cushnie and Stevens, their Agana law firm.

According to the release, they recommend the U.S. military "establish its facilities on the northern one-third of the island, but must pay rental for the use of such land to the inhabitants of Tinian..."

The trio said they also deny ownership of lands by the Trust Territory Government and particularly deny the claim of the U.S. to lands designated

"military retention lands."

Another reason they sought legal assistance, the release states, is "to knock off the arbitrary and capricious economic moratorium imposed on the island of Tinian by the Trust Territory Government. They insist such moratorium is illegal and is strangling the Tinian economy."

"They are willing, ready and able to stand up and fight for their rights—including their rights to just compensation for the taking of their lands and homes."

The proposed military takeover of Tinian was revealed in a Daily News front page story last year, but little motion has occurred in that direction since.