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Deliberating Work: Next Formal Session For Talks Not Set Tuesday, May 21, 1974

News Saipan Bureau

SAIPAN -- The United States and Marianas delegations to the Marianas status talks traveled to Rota and Tinian over the weekend, but they did not meet yesterday and are not saying when the next formal negotiating session will be.

The fourth round of talks got under way here last Wednesday.

Sen. Edward DLG. Pangelinan, chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission, yesterday said only, "We have a great deal of deliberating work on our side."

The Marianas group met alone yesterday afternoon at the Saipan Municipal Council chamber.

Three of the major topics being covered in this round are future financial support for the Marianas, U.S. land and military needs and the proposed future status covenant.

One participant in the Sunday visit to Tinian reported that an attempt was made to present U.S. Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams with a position paper taking a hard line on the U.S. delegation's past proposals for use of Tinian. The attempt was made by Joaquin C. Arriola of Arriola, Cushnie & Stevens on Guam.

The law firm was retained by Marianas District legislator Herman M. Manglona and two other Tinian politicians on behalf of Tinian residents opposed to U.S. plans for the island.

According to the report, Williams suggested it would be more appropriate if the paper were given to the Tinian delegation to the status talks for presentation to the full commission. The paper reportedly was left with the mayor of Tinian.

Since the paper was initiated, the U.S. has announced that it has reduced its land requirements for the joint military base on Tinian. It also has eliminated the need to relocate the island's only village.

This amended plan for Tinian, announced here last Thursday, was the subject of "particular interest" on Tinian during the delegations' weekend visit, said a press release.

The two delegations went to Rota Friday and returned to Saipan via Tinian Sunday.

The U.S. delegation said the Tinian stop was planned to allow Williams to place a wreath at the memorial to the eight persons who drowned on a boat trip from Tinian to Saipan.

While on Tinian Williams and his deputy, James M. Wilson Jr., met with the mayor, the speaker and members of the Tinian Municipal Council. Also present were Pangelinan; Vicente N. Santos, vice chairman of the Marianas delegation; and Jose R. Cruz and Bernard Hofschneider, Tinian's representatives in the delegation.

According to the release, Pangelinan and Williams briefed council members on the talks and said they hoped to return to Tinian for another public meeting to hear the views of the people. The delegations traveled to Tinian during the negotiating session last June.

On Rota the two delegations held a joint session Friday with the Rota Municipal Council. At a public meeting the next day, the delegations reported "considerable interest in the benefits of citizenship of the people of the Marianas after the Trusteeship ends."

It also was reported that Williams indicated initial funding has been appropriated for an accelerated public land survey and adjudication program expected to take three years.

Sessions were held at the Continental Hotel, but sources indicate one member of the Marianas delegation, Rep. Herman Q. Guerrero, felt uncomfortable meeting there. Guerrero is one of 10 Saipan residents who sued to prevent the hotel from being built. A decision in that case is pending in the U.S. Court of Appeals.