

1974 10/2

SAIPAN, SEPT. 16 (MNS)---THREE MEMBERS OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION'S JOINT LAND COMMITTEE WILL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEK TO WORK OUT RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE UNITED STATES REQUIREMENTS FOR LAND IN THE MARIANAS, ACCORDING TO THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS SATURDAY (SEPT. 14) EDITION. *Marianas Land Nego.*

PEDRO A. TENORIO, CHAIRMAN OF THE LAND COMMITTEE, SAID THAT MEETINGS WILL BEGIN SEPTEMBER 19 AND LAST ABOUT TEN DAYS. JOSE R. CRUZ OF TINIAN AND BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA OF ROTA WILL ACCOMPANY TENORIO.

THE JOINT LAND COMMITTEE IS MADE UP OF BOTH U.S. AND MARIANAS NEGOTIATING TEAMS AND WAS FORMED TO STUDY THE REMAINING AREAS OF: THE JOINT UDR OF HARBOR FACILITIES ON TINIAN; THE JOINT USE OF WEST FIELD ON TINIAN; THE INTEREST IN THE LAND THAT WILL BE CONVEYED TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT; AND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BE PAID FOR THE LAND.

TENORIO SAID THAT THE US WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE LAND, BUT IT IS THE FIRM POSITION OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION THAT LAND WILL BE LEASED, RATHER THAN SOLD.

WHILE THE JOINT LAND COMMITTEE IS WORKING ON LAND PROBLEMS, TWO OTHER COMMITTEES ARE WORKING TOWARD THE CHANGEOVER TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, WHICH COULD OCCUR BY 1976, THE DAILY NEWS STORY SAID.

A JOINT DRAFTING COMMITTEE IS PREPARING A PROPOSED FUTURE STATUS PACT WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO BOTH DELEGATIONS AT THE NEXT SESSION.

THE THIRD STUDY GROUP IS A JOINT COMMISSION ON TRANSITION WHICH WILL GUIDE THE PLANNING FOR THE CHANGEOVER TO COMMONWEALTH STATUS.

A TRANSITION SECRETARIAT HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED WHICH WILL BE THE "OPERATING ARM" OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO INSURE AN ORDERLY TRANSITIONS.

IN ITS MOST RECENT REPORT, THE STATUS COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE SECRETARIAT BE STAFFED BY HIGHLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS APPOINTED BY OR APPROVED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION, POSITIONS TO BE INCLUDED ARE: DIRECTOR--PREFERABLY A CITIZEN OF THE MARIANAS; DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WHO WOULD ACT AS AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PREFERABLY A U.S. CITIZEN; POLITICAL SCIENTIST, AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT; AN ECONOMIST, WITH SUBSTANTIAL EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; A PHYSICAL PLANNER; AND A LIAISON OFFICER.

AFTER BOTH SIDES HAVE SIGNED THE FORMAL STATUS AGREEMENT, IT WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL BY THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS IN A PLEBESCITE AND TO THE U.S. CONGRESS.
(MICRONESIAN TO HAWAII WORKSHOPS)