

representative of the Eniwetokese, which was not contacted about a reversion. Agreement until one working day before a Dec. 31 deadline suggested by U.S. Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams and Trust Territory High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston.

Mitchell's statement reads:

"In April, 1972, Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams and the High Commissioner jointly announced that by the end of calendar 1973, the U.S. military would give up Eniwetok atoll. The atoll has been taken by the military in 1947 and held for nuclear and other testing up

General; and Lyle Richmond, of the Attorney General's office, rushed into the MLSC Office on Saipan with a complicated three-page legal document, many provisions of which involve difficult and important questions. Attorneys Nakamura and Richmond wanted MLSC attorneys to immediately agree, on behalf of the People of Eniwetok.

"Instead, the Attorney General's representatives were told that the matter would have to be studied, analyzed and the people of the Eniwetok themselves would have to decide whether they agree or disagree

eight months ago, announced that the U.S. military would relinquish Eniwetok atoll. During that eight months, no effort whatsoever was made by the High Commissioner or anybody else in the Trust Territory government to confer with the people of Eniwetok or their counsel, until less than one working day before the deadline. The MNS news story cites "a spokesman for the IT Attorney General's office" as

clear the impression that MLSC attorneys for the people of Eniwetok are unreasonably delaying the long hoped for release of Eniwetok by the military. In light of the foregoing, that impression is obviously false. Any delay is a direct and sole result of the failure of the Trust Territory Government to expeditiously and appropriately plan the reversion in full consultation with the people of Eniwetok,

during this period of transition.

In a letter dated Jan. 7 to Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman, MLSC attorneys did all they could. They promised to review the document and at the earliest opportunity confer with their clients and then engage in discussions with the Trust Territory government about the appropriate terms for military relinquishment of the atoll."

Panel To Meet Public

News Saipan Bureau

SAIPAN - Beginning Jan. 19, the Marianas Political Status Commission plans to undertake a three-week schedule of public meetings to explain the district's future status talks to Marianas residents.

The schedule is:

- Rota, Jan. 19, Rota Elementary School; Pagan, Feb. 6, community hall; Tinian, Feb. 9, community hall.
- Saipan: San Antonio, Jan. 22; community hall; Chalan Kanoa Districts 1, 2 and 3, Jan. 23, Mount Carmel Auditorium; Chalan Kanoa District 4, Jan. 24, Kamalin; Susupe, Jan. 25, community hall; San Jose, Jan. 26, San Jose Elementary School; San Vicente, Jan. 28, San Vicente Elementary School; Guato Rai and Garapan, Jan. 29, Garapan Elementary School; Tanapag, Jan. 30, community hall; San Roque, Jan. 31, San Roque Elementary School.

All meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

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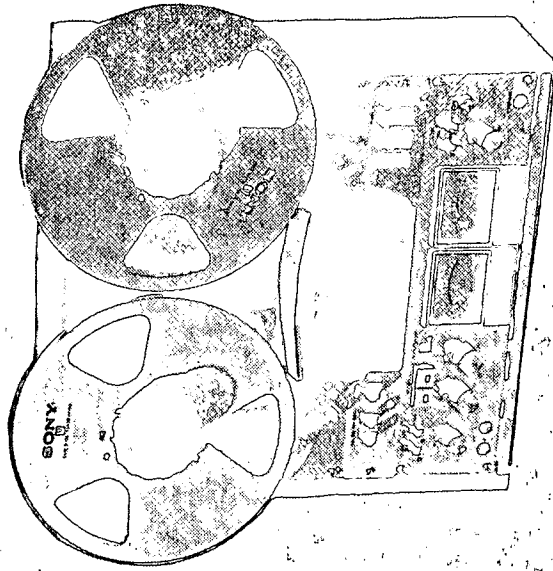
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