

Separate Status Too

Rota May Quit Marianas

By Duane Maddex
Daily News Staff Writer

SAIPAN - A report to be presented to the Congress of Micronesia today recommends that the congress consider making Rota a separate district if the residents vote to stay with the rest of Micronesia rather than join the breakaway Marianas District.

The recommendation comes from one of two subcommittees of the Joint Committee on Future Status that held public hearings on the future status issue throughout the Trust Territory in July.

The western group, which visited Yap, Palau and the Marianas, urged that Rota be treated as a separate district at least when a vote is taken on a constitutional referendum and the plebiscite by which the people of Micronesia will decide their political future.

In making this recommendation, the group noted that prior to 1962, Rota was administered as a separate district under the Trust Territory government. It also cited the residents' long history of favoring separation, "and the fact that the United States

delegation has used a similar history in the Mariana Islands District as a whole to justify separate talks with the people of the Marianas."

The eastern subcommittee, which toured Truk, Ponape and the Marshalls, also issued a report setting forth a series of recommendations based on the findings of the public hearings. Both reports include recommendations on political education, land and its military uses, and the unity of Micronesia.

Among the major proposals are recommendations that substantial change be made in the U.S.'s proposed authority over Micronesian foreign affairs and defense, that the status label "free association" be dropped, that no Micronesian lands be sold outright to the United States, that the future government of Micronesia be a loose confederation and that the Congress consider creating independent media in Micronesia or taking over the present news facilities of the TT administration.

Sen. Edward D.L.G. Pangelinan, who is a member of the Joint Committee as well as chairman of the separate

Marianas Political Status Commission, did not sign the report of the western subcommittee, on which he served.

In addition to urging accommodation for the possibly anti-Marianas views of the people of Rota, this subcommittee relates that it was told the district's 2,000 Carolinians "are nearly unanimous in their desire to remain with the rest of Micronesia in the future, and do not support the efforts of the majority in the Marianas to separate." The group suggested immediate liaison with the MPSC to protect the Carolinians' interests.

Sen. Lazarus Salii, chairman of the Joint Committee, headed the western subcommittee. The eastern delegation was led by Joint Committee Co-Chairman Rep. Ekpap Siik.

Analyzing the wishes of the people they talked with during the hearings, both groups recommend that every effort be made to maintain Micronesian unity.

The western members expressed their confidence that a future status agreement can be reached that would be equally acceptable to the Marianas. They also suggested that "While support for the (Marianas) Commission and for separate talks is widespread, it is far from unanimous..."

Separatist leanings in the Marshalls and Palau were dismissed by the respective

"Interestingly, support for a continued relationship with the United States seemed to be based on the uncertainty which would accompany independence rather than enthusiasm for a close association with the United States."

The subcommittee adds: "A number of people also seemed to view the free association arrangement as not significantly different from the Trusteeship and therefore as an unnecessary transitional stage between the Trusteeship and independence."

The two groups agreed that the lack of political awareness evidenced by the hearings should be corrected immediately by initiation of a political education program.

"The Subcommittee's discussions in the eastern districts served to emphasize the fact that the people are not now prepared to decide their political future," says its report, "and they will not be until they acquire a much more sophisticated understanding of the status alternatives and their consequences."

Said the western group: "To the people, the issue is an economic one, and not a political one."

The eastern members recommend a "face to face" program of community meetings supported by broadcasts and written materials in the vernacular, with special attention given to the remote islands where half of Micronesia's population lives. "Great care must be taken to

vital to a political education program "are thus not necessarily responsive to the Congress of Micronesia....The Subcommittee therefore recommends that the Congress of Micronesia give its most serious consideration to the establishment of independent media in the Trust Territory, or to the takeover of the operations and ownership of the present government-owned facilities."

Other recommendations of the subcommittee on the use of lands by the military are that:

-Micronesian lands be leased, not granted or sold outright, if needed by the United States.

-No land be made available for military purposes unless Micronesia requires the economic benefits to be gained as a direct and indirect result of the lease of such lands.

-The Joint Committee agree only to grant the rights to negotiate for these leases, with approval vested in the Congress, district legislature, municipal council and the landowner.

-Storage of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons by the military be prohibited.

The subcommittee has additionally urged that the prosecution of three TT land management employes for contempt of Congress "proceed without further delay." The three were charged with refusing to turn over subpoenaed land reports to the subcommittee.

Its recommendation that the new Micronesian government be a loose confederation was based

Override

(Continued from page 3)
in his publication as being "in the work" by the Governor favors the Agana Reclamation Project, but not when its legislation is sponsored by Sen. Paul Calvo," said Salas.

Sen. Ben Ada, however, objected to the override, saying that the Legislature should override "in more serious pieces of legislation."

Seventeen votes were cast in favor of the override, with only one dissenting ballot—Ada.

Bills introduced would redefine amusement machines and change the amount of amusement tax the devices; audit financial records and accounts of the Guam Power Authority; appropriate \$100,000 for funding a Guam Law Revision Commission; amend a law relative to the office of the Territorial Auditor; provide that certifying officers be made classified employees and transfer \$5 million from the General Fund to the Hospital Construction Fund.

Also: Transfer \$1,348,289 from the General Fund to the Public Building Fund; reserve \$135,381 for the Land Grant College Building Reserve

Account; reserve \$300,000 for the Library Building Reserve Account; authorize the Governor to lease certain premises to non-profit religious organizations for use as a school site; to rezone lots in the Yigo municipality from agricultural for the Board of Cosmetology; appropriate \$10,500 for the operation of Youth Day 1974; appropriate \$100,000 for the installation of fire hydrants in the Borden and Salas subdivisions of Yona and require Gov. Guam to accept dedication of rights-of-way in existing agricultural subdivisions.

Also: Require the Territorial Board of Education to establish a five-day instructional week during the standard school year and appropriate \$225,000 for establishing retirement funds for those former temporary government employees made permanent employees on July 1, 1964.

The resolution introduced would study the feasibility of delaying school opening hours for one hour as long as Daylight Saving Time is in effect.

dismissed by the respective groups as having little real support.

"It is unfortunate that those favoring separation do not have the foresight to recognize that the welfare of our people and our strength lie in unity, and not in fragmentation," states the eastern subcommittee.

"There seemed to be no clear consensus favoring a particular political status alternative," it continues. "However, there was a frequently expressed opinion that independence was the preferred alternative if it proved to be practical — if not, free association seemed to be favored as the second best alternative."

COM Convenes Saipan Session

SAIPAN (MNS) — The second regular session of the Fifth Congress of Micronesia began on schedule yesterday.

Senate President Tosiwo Nakayama of Truk and House Speaker Bethwel Henry of

Make Rescue, Lose Boat

The Harbor Patrol wrecked its 14 foot patrol boat, but completed its rescue of five people in the Nimitz Channel on Sunday.

Sgt. Felix C. Gumataotao of Harbor Patrol reported three swimmers who were floating on inner tubes became stranded when they were swept out the mouth of the channel by a strong current. The three stayed in their inner tubes while two men swam out to rescue them. The two would-be-rescuers became fatigued and wound up holding on to the inner tubes waiting for rescue by the Harbor Patrol.

The patrol arrived and began towing the five victims to shore when a large wave capsized the boat. The boat had towed the five people close enough to the shore for them to get to the beach safely. Harbor Patrol personnel worked on the capsized boat for about two hours in order to get it back to the boat basin. The boat was said to be a total loss.

new Micronesian government be a loose confederation was based, says the report, on a possible lack of district autonomy, particularly in fiscal matters. Viewing this as potentially a further source of disharmony between the Mariana Islands District and the remainder of the Trust Territory, the group proposed that revenues received from the U.S. under the new political association "be specifically allocated, with a substantial majority of these funds going to the district governments, on the basis of population, on the basis of the population of military facilities, and on the basis of equality of each district."

Turning to provisions of the Draft Compact of Free Association the Joint Committee has already negotiated with the U.S., the subcommittee recommended that:

--Remaining finance and termination titles be completed soon.

--Substantial change be made in the proposed authority of the U.S. over foreign affairs and defense, to protect Micronesian interests.

--The "admittedly meaningless label of 'free association'" be deleted or its definition changed "to encompass a relationship that will be fully protective of Micronesian interests."

The report says: "The Subcommittee recognizes that the traditional appellation of 'free association' carries with it the connotation that the United States should be completely responsible for defense in and the foreign affairs of Micronesia..."

"Discarding the name will necessitate an examination of the provisions of the relationship, and hence, a more careful decision based on objective criteria rather than emotional ones."



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