

CONGRESSMAN WON PAT CONGRATULATES MICRONESIANS FOR
STATUS TALK SUCCESSES, CRITICIZES WASHINGTON FOR
REFUSAL TO OFFER GUAM EQUAL BENEFITS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - JANUARY 31, 1974 - Guam Congressman Antonio B. Won Pat said today in a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives that the people of Guam wish "our brethern in the Northern Marianas every success" in their status talks with the United States.

In the same statement, however, the Congressman charged that many Guamanians are unhappy with the White House and the Administration's indifferences to the manifest aspirations and desire of the people of Guam to enjoy a greater degree of political autonomy of their own choosing.

The Territory's first Congressional Representative told his colleagues that from the results of the latest round of talks between Saipan and the U.S., "it is apparent that the N. Marainas are well on their way to achieving the degree of political and economic stability and autonomy that they have strived for since the end of World War II."

Included in the list of goals which the Micronesians have so far won, the congressman noted, is the right to draft their own constitution, the sending of a special Presidential emmissary from Washington to discuss Marianas' political status, and the right of Micronesians to determine how much land the U.S. Department of Defense will be allowed to occupy in the Trust Territory.

All privileges, he added, "which we on Guam do not enjoy."

Their growing resentment of this fact was not interfering in the support that the average Guamanian felt for the successes of their fellow Micronesians of the Marianas in the status talks, the Congressman noted however.

"Guam is part of the Marianas Islands. And as a people who are ethnically and culturally related to our brethern in the N. Marianas,

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it is only natural that the people of Guam are following the status talks with considerable interest. We wish them every success. And, we look forward to welcoming them into the American system," he added.

As an indication of the good will of the Guamanian people towards the residents of the N. Marianas, the Congressman inserted in the Congressional Record the text of the 12th Guam Legislature Resolution supporting the Micronesians in their quest for a political status.

The Congressman pointed out, however, that while Guam has been a part of the U.S. since 1898 and that the Guamanians are American citizens, they are still not governed by a constitution of their own choosing. "Nor has the President of the United States deemed it necessary to appoint a White House or political status commission emissary to discuss our many problems and relations with the Federal Government," he added.

And last, but equally important, the Congressman noted, "the American citizens of Guam have additionally been denied the right to determine how much of our limited land areas shall be controlled by the Federal Government, the result being that one-third of Guam is now occupied by the military."

As a consequence of Washington's failure to accord Guam the same degree of political autonomy it has given other Americans, Congressman Won Pat said that the Members of the Guam Legislature Political Status Committee will endeavor to review the Territory's present relationship with Washington and propose some badly needed changes -- changes the Congressman said he would bring to the attention of the Congress in the future.

Congressman Won Pat concluded his speech by acknowledging that the "United States is desirous of utilizing the N. Marianas for military

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bases."

Whatever the needs -- whether real or imagined -- of the Pentagon in the Western Pacific, " he added, "the willingness of Washington to deal so generously with non-citizens while denying their fellow Americans equal treatment can only be viewed with resentment by the people of Guam."
