

Military Trims TT Patient Rate

SAIPAN (MNS) - The U.S. Department of Defense has lowered the daily military hospital rate charged for Trust Territory medical referrals from \$126 a day to \$66 a day.

The action was taken after Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton appealed to Defense Secretary James Schlesinger for a special rate for medical patients from both Micronesia and American Samoa who must be referred to either Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii or the Guam Naval Hospital.

Last July, the daily rate for such patients went from \$42 a day to \$126 a day. TT health officials said then that the increase would force a cut of two-thirds in medical referrals, the program whereby patients

with medical problems which cannot be handled by territorial health facilities or personnel are referred outside the territory.

In a letter from Schlesinger to Morton on Dec. 22, the Defense Secretary said he was instructing the two military hospitals to initiate the special inter-agency rate of \$66 a day, and to keep that rate in effect until the end of fiscal year 1975. The new rate still represents an increase, but TT Health Services Director

Dr. Masao Kumagai said this week on Saipan his department can "live better" with the \$66 figure.

"We appreciate the cooperation of the Department of Defense in making this gesture," Dr. Kumagai said of the rate reduction. He added that while the possibility of still higher rates will face the TT in mid-1975, the health services budget can be planned to take this into account, whereas the

drastic increase announced last year came after budgets had already been worked up and funds appropriated.

The TT referred some 600 patients to hospitals outside the territory during the past year; most of these went to either Guam Naval Hospital or to Tripler. Although the number of actual referrals is not very great, the expense is high since most of these patients require special,

and therefore expensive, treatment.

The so-called "inter-agency" rate which is charged by the military hospitals is not one which the patients have to pay. The billings are made to the TT government and payment is made from the health services budget. In most cases, Micronesian patients pay nothing for the medical care they receive in U.S. military hospitals.

Sees Big Saipan Growth

SAIPAN (MNS) - Saipan's population is likely to reach at least 18,000 six years from now, and could go as high as 85,000.

The figures were based on actual, proposed and potential hotel space, the potential of Japanese tourism and the possible 500 jobs to be created by the proposed military base on Tinian.

Tom Sheehan, Marianas district planner, who made the studies, said there are three levels of development, the "low-level" with 500 hotel rooms in operation and under construction, would require a permanent population of 18,000. "Mid-level" projections suggest 3,000 hotel rooms and a

in construction fields. Under the mid-level prediction, there would be 26,000 aliens on the islands and possibly 50 to 60,000 or more with the high-level, according to the report.

The study further points out that there will be strong pressure to relax immigration laws to allow more aliens to enter the Marianas. Attempts to limit or restrict such trends would create serious social tensions between the aliens and the indigenous population, the report states.

In concluding, the study adds that without development of tourism, with 900 government jobs and the projected 500 to be created by the military on Tinian, by 1980, the unemployment rate would reach 800.

The study did not mention the effect on government jobs

should the TT administration move to another district at the change in political status.

Ag Students To School

SAIPAN (MNS)-Four Trust Territory students have been selected by the division of agriculture, department of resources and development to further their education in tropical agriculture and forestry.

The students are: Mathias Kugumagar from Yap and Glastine Cornelius from Ponape, both of whom will attend Bulolo Forestry College in New Guinea, and Adelino Lorens, Ponape and Ismael Mike of Truk who will attend Vudal Agriculture College, also in New Guinea.

IN THE ISLAND COURT OF GUAM IN AND FOR THE UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY OF GUAM

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PEDRO LEON GUERRERO MAFNAS, BERNARDO LEON GUERRERO MAFNAS and JOSEPH MAFNAS IRIARTE and JESUS MAFNAS IRIARTE, by their father and next friend, JOSE DUENAS IRIARTE, petitioners, for the registration of Lot No. 2351, Canada, Municipality of Barrigada, Guam.

LAND REGISTRATION CASE NO. 122-73

MOYLAN SAYS: "LOOK INTO CAR LEASING"

Brand New 1973