

Editorial

The Palau Bridge

It looks as though Palau will finally get its much needed bridge, a vital link between the huge island of Babelthup, and the district center of Koror, where most of the people live.

This bridge, once completed, could go a long way towards opening up the island of Babelthup to commerce, and agriculture, and tourism. One of the largest islands in Micronesia, Babelthup is fertile, and lovely, and practically roadless or unpocopled. Only about 6,000 people live on the entire island, many of them close to the airport area, and near the irritatingly slow ferry that now takes passengers and cars to Koror.

Getting off of Koror now is something of a chore, because you've got to plan on a several hour trip to Babelthup, waiting in long lines, for the cable drawn ferry. With the bridge, and a good road system, development will inevitably follow. It is welcome news, we imagine, for the people of Palau.

The supplemental appropriation bill signed last week by President Nixon included \$10.1 million for the Trust Territory, and included \$1.7 million for the proposed bridge. The span, which only covers a hundred yards or so, is over rough tidal water, and will be difficult to build. Earlier bids on the bridge brought the estimated cost of building the bridge to more than \$5 million total. The Trust Territory administration had already appropriated about \$3 million for the bridge, so it appears that there will now be sufficient funds for the project.

A Gannett News Service writer, John Simonds, in Washington, said that building the bridge could provide a key link in restoring U.S. negotiations with Micronesia over the status of the Pacific Trust Territory. The talks on the political future have been stalled, and Simonds reported that the proposed bridge is a top priority for Sen. Lazarus Saini, head of the Micronesian negotiating team. Officials have hinted privately, Simonds said, that getting the money for the bridge was of greater importance to the Palau people than the differences over future U.S. financial support that caused the 7th round of the talks to break up recently in Washington.

We don't know if the bridge can be linked with starting the talks, but we do know that upon its completion in a few years, you'll see a beautiful tropical island empire opening up like a flower's blossoms. JCM.

Master Plan Needed

We're glad that two leaders of the local American Institute of Architects chapter came out and said what needed to be said: That Guam is in desperate need of a Master Plan. And more than that, a Master Plan that will tolerate no divergence, variations, and exceptions.

In a story in yesterday's Progress section of the Daily News, Bill McAlister, chapter president of the American Institute of Architects, and past president Murray McNeil say that the development of the island, up to now, has proceeded orderly

Voice Of The People

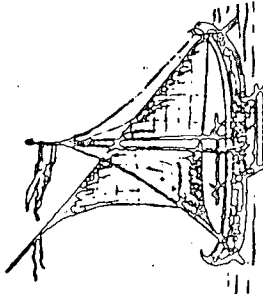
Dear Editor:

At times I read with amusement and amazement the trials and tribulations of the people of Guam with their telephone system. One gets the impression that it is easier to call someone on Guam from Saipan than it is for someone on

Guam to call someone on Guam. The lovely telephone operators at RCA Global Communications do a tremendous job keeping Saipan plugged in to the world. They have always been prompt, kind and sometimes even tenacious in their efforts to complete a call.

We here on Saipan really appreciate this kind of service and I wanted them and all of Year girls, keep up the good work.

/s/ J. F. Screen  
General Manager  
J.C. Tenorio Enterprises  
Saipan, Mariana Islands



Domestic Vs. Foreign Affairs

By Senator Frank G. Lujan  
Chairman, Political Status Commission

Any young man thinking of marriage carefully considers the faults of his beloved as well as her charms. And, if he is sensible, he considers whether or not he can endure a life-long intimacy with those faults, or whether they might eventually alienate his love.

In contemplating her future political status, Guam is in a similar position. Rather than leap headlong into permanent wedlock with the United States, Guam should examine not only the more obvious and glamorous advantages of such ties, but the problems which have arisen in the past as a direct result of her relationship with the federal government. The Commission's approach to the political status issue is that Guam can only determine what direction to take in the future by carefully examining the past. And one striking factor which has emerged thus far from our studies, and which raises important questions, is the impact U.S. foreign and defense policies have had on Guam's economic and social development. We find that Guam's general history

"practically defenseless" against attack by a major power in the Western Pacific, although it had potentials as an advanced fleet base. It is significant that no attempt was then made by Congress to prepare Guam for war. On the contrary, no action was taken until October, 1941, when dependents and American personnel were evacuated in anticipation of the Japanese invasion. Two months later, Guam was captured by the Japanese who encountered little armed opposition. We conclude the U.S. Congress, for reasons of its own, had decided not to fortify and defend Guam against attack.

Thus Guam, the ward of the United States, became the victim of hostilities with Japan. During the years of Japanese occupation, Guam's economy was solely dependent upon the products of the soil, and socially Guamanians were even further downgraded to the status of laborers and servants to the imperial Japanese.

In the course of their recapture by American forces in 1944, Guamanians lost their ancestral homes, their personal possessions, and their businesses. American bombs razed the island, showing no mercy to church, housing or public

McAlister, chapter president of the American Institute of Architects, and past president Murray McNeil say that the development of the island, up to now, has proceeded orderly enough, but there is a growing tendency to squeeze the most money from the land, spelling trouble for living conditions here.

McAlister said of the Master Plan, "The plan should include virgin areas where no exceptions would be made to build on it. Some open spaces with residences and support businesses would make up the plan along with some congested areas."

McNeil pointed out that so many plans have come and gone without any real attention being paid them because they were outmoded before they hit the presses. He said that there is enough expertise on the island now to form a good planning board to develop a master plan. He noted that planning is especially essential in the Tumon Bay area, where a master plan would be vital. "Tourists are the main backbone of the economy and should be considered in any master plan development for the entire island."

McNeil said that one area especially geared to attracting tourists and keeping them interested is a master plan for "seascaping" Tumon Bay and Agana Bay. He said that some places, such as Hawaii, have been very successful in seascaping. It is done on the same scale as landscaping, only live colorful fish and coral take the place of bushes and trees. McAlister warned that such a plan done on Guam right now would take years, noting that it took over three years to get an okay to blast some coral near the Hilton Hotel. He said that under the top crust of the coral is sand—just what Tumon beaches need. What should be happening after the blasting is some digging and transplanting of deepwater coral, fish, and other sea life, he said, but all of this takes a unified plan for the whole area.

"This is something that sounds like a dream and the hotel owners and managers have some more pressing problems than thinking about a seascape," McNeil said, "but maybe that's what is really needed, something out of the ordinary—like a spot that will encourage snorkeling, skin diving and swimming that a tourist cannot find anywhere else."

Another project discussed by the AIA chapter, whose announced purpose is to promote good design and to take up projects that would enhance the island, is the landscaping of Marine Drive all the way from the airport to Agana. McNeil said that first impressions were a most significant ingredient to tourism.

All three of these ideas are important to Guam, the master plan, the seascape idea, and the landscaping of Marine Drive. How all of them can be implemented is another thing. There is no question, though, that Guam does urgently need the master plan before the island does turn into a concrete jungle.

We even would go so far as to question the remark made by the architects that the island's development has proceeded rather orderly up to now. It may be true in the main, but there are some examples of a complete lack of planning, such as the Tumon area, and the Harmon Field area.

Guam's population per square mile is already one of the highest in the nation, and we're expecting yet more growth. It's time that we started thinking ahead, or be inundated by asphalt. A master plan for the island would be a first step in trying to point that growth in an orderly direction. JCM.

questions, is the impact U.S. foreign aid and defense policies have had on Guam's economic and social development. We find that Guam's general history since 1898, is, in fact, a reflection of U.S. foreign policies and defense commitments.

Guam, in 1898, was "captured" from the Spanish by Captain Glass en route to Manila. Anxious to convert the Philippines into an outpost of American trade and democracy, President McKinley had decided that Guam would supply a convenient fueling station for American vessels plying between Hawaii and Manila. Thus, Guam's fate as an American colony, along with that of the Philippines and Puerto Rico, was sealed by the Treaty of Paris in December, 1898.

Guam's value as a strategic military base was given prompt recognition when, a few days after the signing of the Treaty of Paris, President McKinley issued his two-sentence Order placing Guam under Navy control. At the beginning of the Twentieth Century world conditions were such that it was deemed expedient to fortify the island against attack by other aggressive colonial powers. At the same time, Guam's port was closed to foreign flag vessels until the Japanese invasion in 1941. As a result of United States foreign policies, trade with Japan, the Philippines, New Mexico and Spain, which had flourished freely under Spanish colonial rule, came to an end -- with the exception of limited trade with Japan and the Philippines, for which special permission had to be sought.

Thus, during the initial forty years of Naval administration, Guam's trade with the outside world declined, and the economy reverted to dependence upon agricultural production, and minor support services to the Naval establishment. The benefits of normal economic development were forfeited to a dependence upon the generosity of the Navy and its limited annual budgets.

The standard of living, although much improved in health, schooling and sanitation, remained little above the subsistence level. Socially, Guamanians were divorced from intercourse with the outside world, and a submissive obedience towards Naval paternal authority characterized the relationship of the people to their government. The development of free political institutions and initiative was sacrificed to military law and order. Moreover, having once enjoyed the full rights and privileges of Spanish citizenship, under American rule Guamanians found themselves divested of all civil rights and the citizens of no country at all.

In the early 1930's Guam was defortified and all heavy armaments were removed from the island. In 1938, when hostilities between the United States and Japan were surfacing, the U.S. Congress authorized Admiral Hepburn and his task force to appraise the need for additional naval and air bases in the U.S. and its possessions. Concerning Guam, the Hepburn Report declared that the island was

in ruins, their personal possessions, and their businesses. American bombs razed the island, showing no mercy to church, housing or public facilities. Immediately after the war, Guam was placed under military rule and the Navy assumed control of private lands which had originally been seized by the Japanese. Between 1944 and 1950, the Navy also condemned up to one-third of Guam's land area, including formerly agricultural land. After the cessation of hostilities with Japan, Guam was also placed under strict Naval Security Clearance regulations which had the effect of placing Guam in quarantine and prohibiting commerce with the outside world.

Once again, Guam's economy was influenced by U.S. defense policies. Massive construction activities by the military offered the civilian populace new forms of employment and new opportunities in the service industries, and farmers who had lost their land sought employment with the Naval government. Thus, overnight, Guam's economy changed from an agrarian to a government economy which absorbed as much as ninety percent of the civilian labor force.

In 1962, when President Kennedy abolished the Navy Security regulations, Guam was opened up to commerce with the outside world for the first time in sixty-four years. Despite the initial setback by Typhoon Karen, during the ensuing decade Guam's economy bloomed in its new climate of freedom. Countries of the Orient who had entered into trade treaties with the United States immediately perceived Guam's business potentials. And Japan, now on friendly terms with the United States, and with a large surplus of capital at her disposal, is quietly invading Guam's economy and assuming the business initiative. In recent weeks, moreover Guam's economy has felt the pangs of America's foreign policies in the Middle East. Shipments of crude oil from the Persian Gulf to Guam, on which Guam depends for the generation of her electric power, have made subject to the Arab oil embargo, and future shipments of crude oil to Guam from alternative sources remain uncertain.

It takes only a cursory glance at Guam's history to perceive the dynamic impact which American foreign policies have had on Guam's economic and social development. Surely our neighbors in the Northern Marianas and in Micronesia, who are currently discussing political status with the United States, should take heed. Under the terms of the proposed commonwealth status, the United States would continue to control foreign and defense affairs, which raises the inevitable question: How can the island adequately control their domestic and economic affairs so long as foreign policy is dictated by Washington, D.C.? Guam's own experience suggests that domestic and foreign affairs in the islands of the Western Pacific cannot be divorced.