

Oct 25, 1974

Editorial

Welcome, Mr. Secretary...

We're thinking of changing the name of Guam to Pentagon West.

Over the past four years, starting with a visit by Gen. Walt of the U.S. Marine Corps, Guam and Tinian, and some of the other islands have had a steady flow of important U.S. military officials.

Today is no exception. The island will be honored today by a group of highly placed Defense officials, including the Honorable J. William Middendorf II, Secretary of the Navy. The Secretary will be on-island for a two-day tour of military installations here. He is accompanied by an impressive group of dignitaries, including: Vice Admiral William D. Houser, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Air), Rear Admiral William Thompson, Chief of Navy Information, and Brigadier General Ernest R. Reid, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps representative.

Besides the tour of the many Navy and Marine facilities here, the group plans courtesy calls on Gov. Carlos Camacho and Guam Legislature Speaker F.T. Ramirez. The group will also take a short trip to Salpan as part of their Mariana visitation.

We join with the people of Guam in welcoming the Secretary to our island. As we pointed out some day ago, Guam is a Navy island, by virtue of its history and sentiments.

Despite the outraged mutterings of a vocal minority, we believe that generally the military has been very good for Guam. It has brought the people here perhaps the highest living standard in the Pacific. We would like to see further expansion, in an orderly way, of the military establishment here to provide more jobs for the local people. We would like, for instance, to see an upgrading of the Ship Repair Facility. We would also like to see another hard look at the relocation of the ammunition wharf, with such facilities going to property already owned by the U.S. Navy, or the federal government. We would like the Navy to take another long, hard look at the land use of their property on Guam. It may be possible, for instance, that some unused land could be turned back to GovGuam for recreational, or educational facilities. Certainly there could never be any need for their part of Cocos Island. The former Naval Hospital Annex at Assan, and adjacent property also seems to be useless to the Navy at this point. It may be that the Navy could see its way clear to leasing certain lands to agricultural production if they have no immediate use for it.

It has taken a long time, from 1950 when the Navy relinquished governmental control, to 1962, when they lifted the coercive Security Clearance to the present, when the military officials realize that the Guamanian people, as American citizens, are to be treated as equals in every way. The relationship between local Navy officials, and the people of Guam has never been better than it is today.

We would like Secretary Middendorf to know that the people of Guam are looking forward to the proposed re-location of a destroyer squadron here, although rumors keep circulating that budgetary restrictions may block that move.

All of us, of course, are curious about future military plans in Tinian, and the other islands. Because our future, along with the rest of the nation's, is at stake. We don't think in terms of The Navy, or The Marines—rather, its OUR Navy, and OUR Marines. We're happy to see that now the DOD is treating the people of Guam as equal partners, rather than looking at it as just another island to be exploited. We feel strongly that for the first time that there is a unique kind of equality here—the military needs Guam, and Guam needs the military. Again, welcome Mr. Secretary and members of your party. JCM.

A Floating Island

Dear Editor

Dear Guam

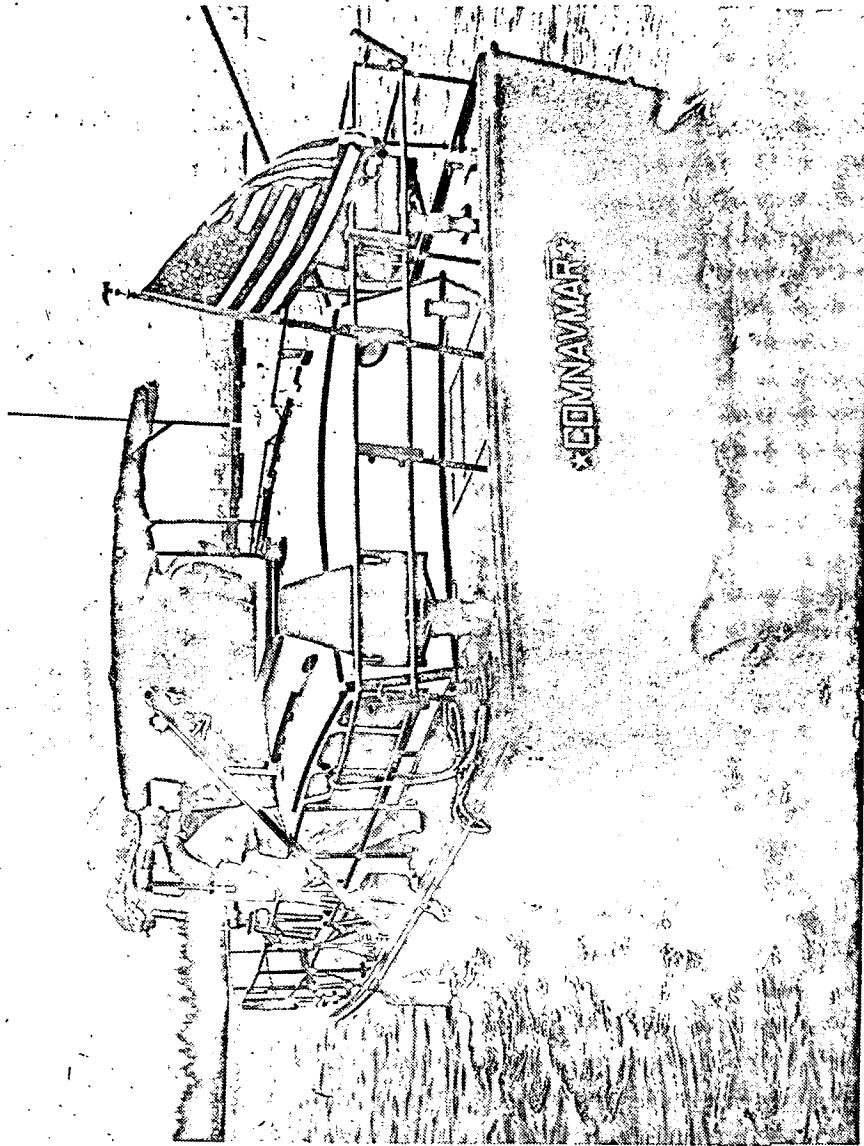
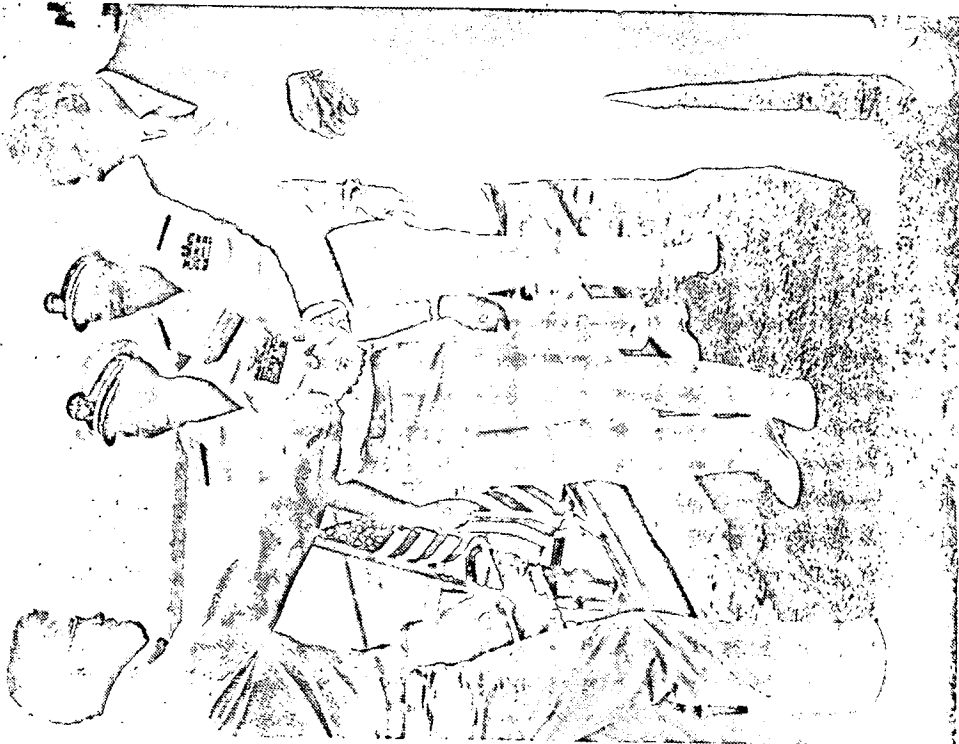
You are make me now I don you. You about your thieves... drugs...they rate gosk control. A talking an that talk i feeling is th Guam, mak put yoursel out of the The youth i and not r you. They s and music "adult" Gu believe in y we trust." R

Where hav past days v youth t Incorporate non-profit youth for performing Revival in th I'm sure y watching " beer and tal problem. By know that problem b make money

Where wer when the Gu trying to bri needed cultu you were at thinking of your neigh and talking youth crime

Where hav past days w together tryi they are as through mus sure you we night clu "champagne and talking sexual liberty

The youth Susana are tr to meet y "adult" Gu



Secretary of the Navy J. William Middendorf, left photo, is greeted by Rey Johnson, far left of Dillingham Corp. at Pier F-2 at the Naval Station. Adm. G. Steve Morrison approves while behind him, Vice Adm. William D. Houser looks on. They're taking a ride, above, in the admiral's barge. (Photos by Tom Walsh)

Navy Dignitary Visits Here