

1223A

7424221

Ref. MSC
Period Reply
7

P.O. Box 321
Nicholasville, Kentucky 40356

November 26, 1974

DECLASSIFIED

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Sir:

The enclosed article recently served to call my attention to an apparently disgracefully imperialistic state of affairs to which your personal representative, F. Madyn Williams, is an active party. I am referring to the proposed annexation by the United States of the Mariana Islands - a part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, which is currently administered by the U.S. and is supposedly scheduled for independence.

Until reading of this situation I had supposed U.S. policy towards indigenous non-citizens under its protection to have finally matured beyond gross disregard for the rights of such people to self-determination. However, Mr. Williams, acting as your representative, has apparently chosen to totally ignore the valid desire for autonomy expressed by legitimate representatives of the people of the Marianas in favor of the interest in annexation expressed by the members of the local "negotiating team," whose anticipatory speculative activities clearly place them in a conflict of interests, rendering them unfit to represent anything save their own greed.

As a veteran of the recent conflict in South East Asia, I recognize that the Pentagon expansionism underlying this situation is at best a difficult force to control. However, I had hoped that our recent military adventure in South East Asia had served to re-instruct us in a lesson from our own history: it is dangerous as well as impossible to ignore the will and desires of the people for long.

I would therefore appreciate your explanation of Mr. Williams' conduct in this matter, as he would appear to be yet another unfortunate example of the type of thinking which has already cost us so much in the western Pacific.

Sincerely,
Paul Van Kiewerburgh
Paul VanKiewerburgh

Enclosure
cc:

United Nations Trusteeship Council
Senator Walter D. Huddleston
Representative Tim Lee Carter

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/LR

PER
w.n.

REVIEWED by BHB DATE 10/24/88

RELEASE DECLASSIFY
 EXCISE DECLASSIFY in PART
 DENY Non-responsive info.

DECLASSIFIED

FOL, FO or PA exemptions

TS authority to:
 CLASSIFY as _____, OADR
 DOWNGRADE TS to () S or () C, OADR

Why U.S. wants the Micronesia

Pentagon envisions an island military base

By ROGER GALE © Pacific News Service

Roger Gale, former chairman of the political science department at the University of Chicago, just returned from a fact finding trip in Micronesia.

TINIAN, MICRONESIA—The United States may soon make its first outright territorial acquisition in more than half a century—the proposed Commonwealth of the Marianas, 14 islands located 1,600 miles off the Marianas island. Already administered by the United States under a United Nations trusteeship, the islands would become formal U.S. territory through an act of Congress.

Driving force behind the acquisition effort is the Pentagon, which has begun plans to construct a \$500 million air and naval base on Tinian, the flat-topped island which the U.S. launched the B-29 that dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Pentagon views the Tinian base as part of the Nixon doctrine's goal to secure more strategic "fallback positions." Along with nearby Guam, a U.S. territory since the Spanish-American war, Tinian will be a key military complex in the Pacific on U.S.-owned land.

Unknown to the public, and not yet a major Congressional issue, private talks aimed at an agreement on the acquisition have been under way for some time between the President's personal representative (who holds the rank of Ambassador) and a group of Micronesians.

Just as the 2,000 islands that make up the rest of Micronesia, the Marianas came under U.S. control with the defeat of Japan's forces during World War II. Last year, however, the United States announced it had agreed to return Tinian to the land to the Micronesians.

the Micronesians would submit to a "formal commitment to accommodate Pentagon needs" in "good faith." Now, while the rest of Micronesia is pressing for self-government and independence, the Marianas negotiating team is pushing for full U.S. territorial status.

According to Edward Pangelinan, chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission, "the 14,000 people of the Marianas want to become part of the American family as soon as possible."

Pangelinan, along with a number of other members of the negotiating team, has been involved in land speculation on Tinian. Before the United States placed a moratorium on land transactions on the island last year, the negotiators were buying up land from those few Tinian residents who owned their own homes—planning to sell it either to the military or to gambling and resort interests. Pangelinan is an attorney for the reputedly underworld-controlled Bally Corporation—the largest manufacturer of slot machines in the world.

Chief U.S. negotiator F. Hayden Williams says talks with the Marianas representatives have "resolved nearly all fundamental questions," and predicts a final agreement will be reached this fall, allowing the acquisition plan to be submitted for Congressional approval next year. Williams, a deputy assistant secretary of defense from 1958 to 1962, is now president of The Asia Foundation, a San Francisco based organization that funds educational projects and that—according to the New York Times—has been closely linked to the CIA.

PENTAGON PLANS: call for turning two-thirds of the Marianas-shaped island into a combined air base, supply

depot, and Marine guerrilla training base—with live air and naval bombardment of the island. Williams, however, assures the people that "military operations and their noise will not disturb them."

Since plans for the base were first announced in May 1972, the number of troops stationed there has more than tripled. During war exercises, as many as 13,000 troops are scheduled to be on the island.

The Pentagon also plans to maintain control of two parcels of land on Tinian by Saigon (where the CIA trained Chinese Nationalist guerrillas) between 1951-62) and to continue use of its 45 miles north of Tinian.

Tinian is Micronesia's most fertile and productive island, with 500 people living and farming 40,000 square miles. It is Micronesia's only major market. Tinian could easily feed everyone in Micronesia's 400,000 white Tinian even plans to sell watermelons and cantaloupe in West Coast markets. A cattle ranch on the island already is supplying Micronesia's beef and pork and soon will begin producing the fresh milk in the Western Pacific. But Mangona complains that "it will be a little difficult to be farmers when the Pentagon plans to turn our best land into an airbase. All they plan to leave us is a rocky hillside."

As the Pentagon quietly pursues its acquisition plans, supported by speeches from Saigon, opposition to the takeover is mounting. The United Nations Trusteeship Council is reported on record in opposition to the private Marianas talks. The Congress of Micronesia also opposes the talks and, says Tosiwo Nakayama, president of the Senate, "Micronesia must remain united; we will continue to oppose any U.S. attempt to dismember our nation."

Marianas complex

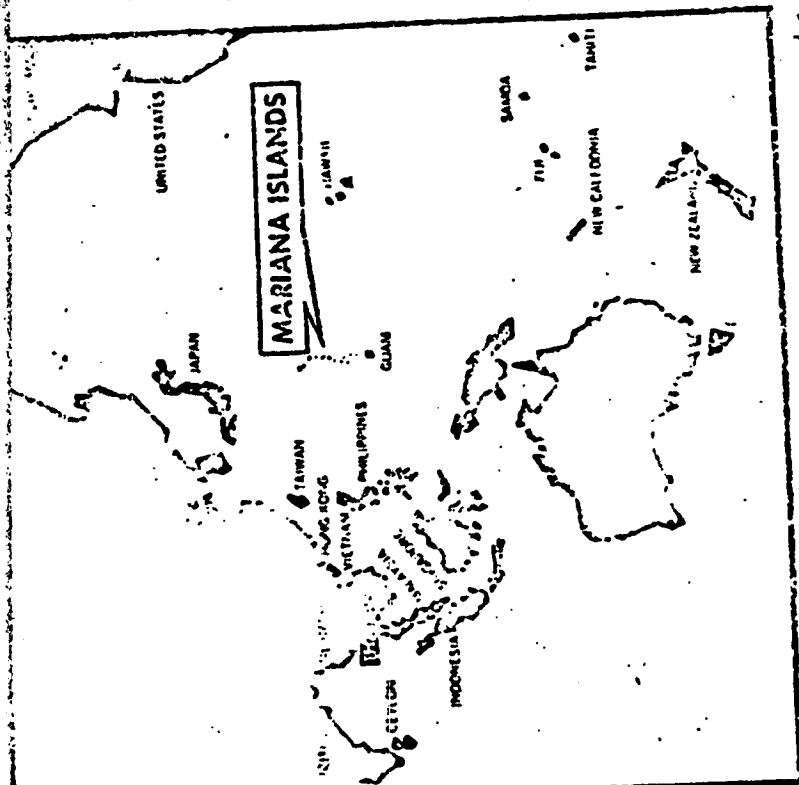
In response to U.S. cancellation last spring of a referendum drawn up by the Tinian council, more than half of the adult population signed a petition opposing U.S. plans, calling for an end to the talks, and saying they no longer wished to be represented by the present Marianas negotiators. Williams refused to accept the petition.

When Williams announced that a surveying team would be visiting the island in September, Tinian's newly elected mayor, Felipe Mondiola, replied in a letter, "You and your surveyors are not at all welcome on the island of Tinian. He quitted accordingly." Mondiola is also head of the newly formed Tinian Committee for Justice, which plans to send a delegation to Washington to lobby against the base.

Although Congress has not yet been asked to authorize construction of the base, the House Appropriation Committee said last month that "it would be construction of a new base complex can be justified." And a number of congressmen, including Senator Alan Cranston, D-Calif., and Congressman Ronald Dellums, D-Calif., are already on record against its construction.

AS A HEDGE against the possibility that Congress may refuse to appropriate funds, one Navy source says that Seabee units from Guam may be called in to begin construction — as they were during the first phase of building several year ago on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean (The Defense Department appropriates general funds for Seabee "construction work.") In addition, Air Force plans call for a "bare base capability" that will allow portable base facilities, already in storage in New Mexico, to be used on an interim basis.

But what the Pentagon is really counting on to secure the base is the



The Marianas, part of the 2,000 islands in Micronesia, came under U.S. control with the defeat of Japanese forces in World War II.

successful conclusion of the negotiation talks with the Marianas representatives. Although no formal request for acquisition of the Marianas has yet been made to Congress, Williams and other administration spokesmen are beginning to make appearances before Congressional committees. Philip Burton, D-Calif., chairman of the House subcommittee on island territories, already has given his tentative vote in favor of the takeover. Congressional approval of the new condominium arrangement will facilitate final approval of funds for the base — which would then be on U.S. territory.

The major stumbling block left in the negotiations comes ironically from the Marianas team, who now find it

more lucrative to lease the land they have purchased, rather than sell it outright as the Pentagon desires. However, it is doubtful that the talks can be stalled long on this issue. Under international law, the United States owns 99 per cent of the land in the Marianas, has the power of eminent domain, and even has the power to take back the land it had granted to the people of Tinian as homesteads. This means that neither the Marianas negotiators nor the opponents of the takeover have much real bargaining power.

"As far as the Trust Territory goes," says a Micronesian Congressman Atafu Palao, "it is the Micronesians who have the trust, and the Americans who have the territory."