

10
5,4,6

(STATUS COMMISSION MEETS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE)

SAIPAN, FEB. 12 (MNS)---MEMBERS OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION MET MONDAY NIGHT (FEB. 11) WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON SAIPAN TO PRESENT THEM WITH THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE LAST ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN THE MARIANAS AND U.S. DELEGATIONS. THE MEETING WAS HELD AT THE SAIPAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HALL IN CHALAN KANOA.

MPSC
Pls net to
MUT

THE FIVE-HOUR MEETING RANGED OVER POLITICAL EDUCATION, U.S. LAND REQUIREMENTS, U.S. LAWS TO BE MADE APPLICABLE TO THE MARIANAS, MARIANAS FINANCIAL NEEDS AND THE PLEBESCITE. SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, SUMMARIZED THE LAST MEETING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND MARIANAS GROUP. HE SAID THAT AT THE CONCLUSION OF TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS, WHEN AGREEMENTS ON SEVERAL KEY ISSUES HAVE BEEN REACHED, THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE WILL REVIEW THEM AND INSTITUTE A PROGRAM OF POLITICAL EDUCATION, AND THE FINAL DECISION WILL WILL HAVE TO BE MADE BY THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS THEMSELVES.

AN INTERESTING EXCHANGE AT THE MEETING OCCURRED WHEN ONE MEMBER OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ACCUSED THE COMMISSION OF CAMPAIGNING ON ONE ISSUE AND NOT POLITICAL EDUCATION. DR. CARLOS CAMACHO STATED THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS SHOULD BE GIVEN OTHER ALTERNATIVES, RATHER THEN ONLY ONE-- COMMONWEALTH OR A PERMANENT ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. HE WENT ON TO CHARGE THAT THE COMMISSION IS NOT CONDUCTING ITS POLITICAL EDUCATION PROPERLY. DR. CAMACHO ADDED THAT NOT VERY MANY PEOPLE CAN EXPRESS THEIR OPINION IN A MICROPHONE.

SENATOR PANGELINAN COUNTERED BY SAYING THAT THE

SENATOR PANGELINAN COUNTERED BY SAYING THAT THE COMMISSION IS MANDATED BY LAW ENACTED BY THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION, WHICH PROVIDES THAT THE COMMISSION WILL NEGOTIATE A STATUS CLOSE TO THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID THE ONLY WAY THE COMMISSION CAN NEGOTIATE ON OTHER ALTERNATIVES IS BY AMENDING THE LAW.

OTHER MEMBERS VOICED THEIR OPINIONS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS, EMPHASIZING THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CENTERED ON WHAT THE MARIANAS WANTS, NOT WHAT THE U.S. WANTS TO OFFER. A QUESTION WAS RAISED ON WHETHER THE U.S. CONGRESS IS BEING CONSULTED ON MAJOR AREAS OF DECISION. THE CHAIRMAN ANSWERED THAT SEVERAL COMMITTEES OF THE U.S. CONGRESS ARE CONSULTED ON THE STATUS OF THE ON-GOING TALKS. HE DECLARED THAT AFTER THE TALKS ARE COMPLETED AND AGREEMENTS REACHED ON KEY ISSUES, THEY ARE SUBJECT TO POLITICAL SCRUTINY BY THE U.S. CONGRESS.

OTHER AREAS OF CONCERN OF THE CHAMBER MEMBERS WERE THE JOBS THAT WILL BE LOST WHEN THE HEADQUARTERS MOVES AFTER A CHANGE IN STATUS, AND THE MONEY THAT WILL BE INVOLVED. PANGELINAN SAID THE COMMISSION IS MONITORING THAT MATTER CLOSELY AND AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE COMMISSION WAS FORMED TO STUDY SUCH PROBLEMS. ONE OTHER MAJOR CONCERN HAS TO DO WITH JOBS WHICH THE CHAMBER FEARED WILL BE EXPLOITED BY OUTSIDERS TAKING AWAY THE OPPORTUNITY THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS SHOULD HAVE. PANGELINAN ADMITTED THAT THIS IS A "TOUGH AND DIFFICULT POSITION," BUT THE COMMISSION AGAIN IS STUDING THE MATTER.

THE MARIANAS SENATOR POINTED OUT THAT THE MILITARY ALONE WILL OPEN 300 TO 500 JOBS TO ABSORB THOSE EMPLOYEES THAT WILL LOSE THEIR JOBS AT THE CHANGE OF STATUS. HOTELS AND OTHER PRIVATE BUSINESSES ARE ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH SOME OF THE EMPLOYEES MIGHT WORK.

MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION LATER CENTERED ON LAND ALIENATION AND THE U.S. LAND NEEDS ON TINIAN, TANAPAG HARBOR AND THE JOINT USE OF ISLEY FIELD. PANGELINAN ASSURED THE CHAMBER MEMBERS THAT SOME OF THE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE CHAMBER WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY THE COMMISSION DURING THE COURSE OF ITS NEGOTIATIONS.

(CHAIRMAN OF FCS COMMISSION TO VISIT IT)

SAIPAN, FEB. 12 (MNS)---THE CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION, J. RAYMOND BELL, IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE TRUST TERRITORY FEBRUARY 17, ACCORDING TO A SPOKEMAN WITH THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION BASED ON SAIPAN IN THE MARIANAS.

BELL WAS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON TO HEAD THE FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR. HE SUCCEEDED LYLE S. GARLOCK AS CHAIRMAN.

THE PURPOSE OF BELL'S VISIT TO SAIPAN IS TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION AND DISCUSS PLANS CONCERNING THE ORDERLY DISPOSITION OF SOME 11,000 CLAIMS FILED BY MICRONESIANS FOR WAR AND POST-SECURE LOSSES OR DAMAGES, PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE COMPLETION DATE OF THE CLAIMS PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 15, 1976.

THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION, WHICH WAS CREATED BY THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS ACT OF 1971, IS UNDER THE CONTROL AND DIRECTION OF CHAIRMAN BELL.

BELL ATTENDED NEW YORK UNIVERSITY AND ATTAINED HIS LAW DEGREE FROM THE ATLANTA LAW SCHOOL, WITH SUBSEQUENT ADMISSION TO THE BAR OF GEORGIA, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND NEW YORK.

PRIOR TO HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION, HE HAD SERVED AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COLUMBIA ENTERTAINMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS COMPLEX. IN ADDITION. BELL HAS SERVED ON THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Bob
Did you receive invitation for reception in Bellon Monday?

034036

OF NEWSPAPERS IN ATLANTA AND DETROIT, AND HAS BEEN AN OFFICER
OF A MAJOR AIRLINE IN THE UNITED STATES.

BELL IS ALSO WELL-KNOWN IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
AND IS A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS SOCIETY OF AMERICA. .
ACTIVE IN MILITARY MATTERS, HE HAS WON VARIOUS AWARDS AND
CITATIONS FROM THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION.

THE CLAIMS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN WILL BE ON SAIPAN UNTIL
FEB. 21.

034037