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Senator Gary Hart, (D-Colorado), said Sunday, (March 9) he is attempting to rally support to block measure aimed at converting the Mariana Islands from a United Nations Trusteeship to a "United States Military Colony," according to a recent United Press International (UPI) story.

"The only reason the Ford Administration wants to take control of these tranquil islands, against the wishes of the Legislature of Micronesia, is to build additional, enormously expensive bases in the Pacific," Hart said. "But the Congress and the American people have never been asked what they think of this idea."

Hart said, a measure to be considered in the Senate soon provides \$1.5 million to aid in converting the sparsely populated chain of islands, and was included in a bill to increase housekeeping money for this fiscal year for Micronesia.

He said he would offer an amendment to the bill that would delete the "takeover provisions." "There is lot wrong with this scheme," he said. "It is appalling that the United States of America would involve itself in this type of archaic policy."

Hart said the Administration had planned a timetable calling for an election to be held in June for Marianas citizens to determine whether they want to become American citizens.

"Right after the election, the Pentagon plans to set up a new United States-Administered Government and then approach the Congress to ask approval for the takeover," Hart said.

According to the timetable established in the Commonwealth Compact signed last month between Marianas and U.S. Negotiators, the U.S. will not begin leasing

or controlling land in the islands until full Commonwealth Status is established. That has been estimated by Franklin Haydn Williams, the Chief U.S. Negotiator, to be about 1980.