

Interior's Hathaway tells Saipan: we must wait on Congress



STANLEY HATHAWAY

by John E. Simonds
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Interior Stanley K. Hathaway has notified Trust Territory officials that nothing will be done to separate the government of the Northern Marianas from the rest of Micronesia before the U.S. Congress acts on the proposed commonwealth agreement that the Marianas approved 10 days ago.

"I regret that the schedule

capital from Saipan for carrying out the conversion of government in the Marianas, but because of criticism by some members, such as Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., that this was a premature gesture of U.S. influence prior to the plebiscite, the Interior Department's Office of Territories has decided to move more cautiously.

"I am therefore withholding the issuance of a secretarial order providing for a full administrative separation pending congressional consideration of the covenant," Hathaway said.

"During this time, the detailed planning process in consultation with the local leadership can be completed."

Hathaway said that, "upon approval of the covenant by the U.S. Congress, I will issue a new secretarial order providing for the separate administration of the Marianas District." This order would be based, he said, in large part on the final report of an "ad hoc committee" headed by Peter Coleman, deputy high commissioner of the Trust Territory, that is in charge of planning the transition.

envisaged earlier — namely that full separate administration of the Marianas would occur upon acceptance of the covenant in the political status plebiscite — now must be adjusted to provide opportunity for necessary detailed planning for separate administration and transition while the covenant is under consideration by the Congress.

Hathaway said in a message to Saipan:

Under the terms of the covenant, the Marianas, which include Saipan, would set up their own commonwealth government as part of the U.S. family of territories. The remaining districts of Micronesia would continue under the Trust Territory arrangement but would have to relocate their \$1.5 million in transition money.

man bites dog

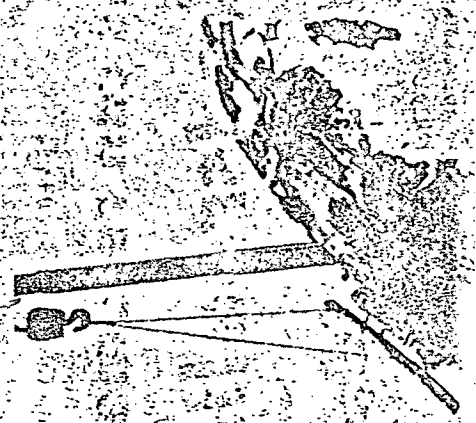
Compiled by the Dateline staff

EDITOR'S NOTE: The title for this column comes from the newspaper adage:

"Dog bites man is no news... man bites dog — now that's news!" Every once in a while some items will come over the wire that prove another old adage that "truth is stranger than fiction." We enjoy them, and hope that you will, too.

indentured at the plant

MANKATO, Minnesota (UPI) — A pair of false teeth was flushed down a toilet. The dentures showed up at the local



R.P. defense

chief warms