

P.D.N. 12/11/75

# U.N. Has A Point...

This might be an excellent time for our man in Washington, Rep. A.B. Won Pat, and the other friends of Guam in our nation's capital to push for our right to vote for president.

The U.S. government can't have it two ways. Either it allows the people of Guam full partnership in the American system, which means voting for president, or it starts allowing Guam to exercise more independence, such as deciding which airlines can come into the island and how many immigrants we can accept and which ships can serve us.

On the surface the United Nations General Assembly's resolution urging self-determination and independence for the people of Guam is arbitrary and premature. Instead of simply railing at the perfidy of the U.N., however, Guamanian leaders might better consider how to capitalize on this resolution by trying to move the U.S. Congress and the Ford administration into giving Guam a fair shake.

U.S. Ambassador Daniel P. Moynihan denounced the report containing the recommendation as "rubbish" and rejected the resolution as interference in the internal affairs of U.S. territories. Since the resolution (which deals with the decolonization of American Samoa, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands) is so much "rubbish," he said, the United States would not ignore it and would vote against it. "The resolution is undermining this assembly and damaging the prestige of the United Nations," he said.

Moynihan lashed out at the Decolonization Committee and said democratic institutions exist on Guam, "something the majority of the committee of 24 do not have." He also said that there has been no significant opposition by Guamanians to U.S. bases, which he said are fully compatible with the principles of the U.N. charter.

We hate to tell Moynihan this, but the U.N. committee has a point.

The people of Guam never have had a chance to vote on self-determination, and that should be the right of all people everywhere. The people of Guam never have had the right of negotiating with the U.S., as have our sister islands in the Northern Marianas. And, finally, the people of Guam never have been able to develop their own constitution, although one may be in the making in the years ahead.

The British are making a strong effort to divest themselves of their Pacific colonies, first in Fiji, with the Cook Islands next, to be followed by the Solomons and later the Gilberts. The French have included French Polynesia as an integral part of France, including having French Polynesians as voting members of the French national assembly.

In a recent community survey on Guam a mere 8 percent of the people opted for independence, so we don't see any ground swell toward anything but closer alignment with the U.S. But Moynihan and the U.S. should be served notice that the Guamanian people want to be first-class citizens - which includes being able to vote for the top leader.

Moreover, Guam should be allowed to exercise its right of self-determination by having its people vote, for the first time, on their political future. JCM.

me wondering about the public schools on Guam as compared to stateside standards. Believe me, I worry no longer.

My son who is attending college now is doing the same quality work. Sometime when you're in this area give me a call and I will substantiate my findings by taking you to the individual schools. In fact, I would be curious to see how "professionals" here would react to you and your irrational statements concerning the public school system on Guam.

There are other parents who have found out these same results concerning their children upon returning to the states and I have talked with them. I wish more of them would write back to Guam and let the people there know just what the actual truth is. The teachers should be praised and "backed up." They should be treated as "Professionals" and appreciated for all the hard work they are doing.

Thank you,

/s/Patricia O. Moody

## Pacific Daily

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