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By Arlene Lum
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON—A Carolinian from Saipan held a press conference at the U.S. Capitol Monday to urge the Senate to defeat the Marianas covenant on grounds that the Marianas Political Status Commission was founded illegally.

Abel Oopai, a chief of the United Carolinian called for adoption of an amendment offered by Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., and others to postpone commonwealth status and American citizenship for Marianas residents.

Under agreements setting up the Congress of Micronesia (COM) Olopai said, only that body "has power to represent the people of Micronesia."

When U.S. Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, chief U. S. negotiator, didn't like the COM's joint status commission, Olopai charged, "He illegally started discussions with a separate Marianas group which had no right to represent us."

Olopai also charged that "It is also common knowledge that Ambassador Williams was head of a CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) - funded agency" before then-President Nixon appointed him to head the status-negotiations commission.

Olopai said "Very few people know that one-third of the Island of Saipan was used for a huge CIA base between 1953 and 1952. I know because I worked in the base as an electrician's helper...No one has really explained what the CIA was doing there."

He called for a investigation into the matter and also asked for a probe of the Asia Foundation, based in San Francisco and headed by Williams.

Since the early 1950s, Olopai said, the U.S. has "deliberately" en-

couraged Marianas residents to "think of themselves as superior to other Micronesians and ... to think of themselves as a separate entity."

During U.S. Navy administration of the Marianas, he charged, the district was given "more money, jobs, development, roads (and) housing than the other districts." He said "It is obvious that the U.S. has deliberately pursued a policy to make the people of the Marianas

totally dependent on the U S so that the people will not be opposed to the construction of military bases when the time comes."

Treating the Marianas differently and considering their request for commonwealth status, he said, has "been the direce cause of (the) disintegration of Micronesia."

He pointed out that last week the Palau District took "formal steps to separate from the other districts"

and said the Congress "will soon be faced with similar proposed agreements from both Palau and the Marshalls--this means the Congress will be asked to approve different kinds of arrangements with four separate groups of islands in the Pacific that at one time were headed in the direction of a United Micronesia.

"Is this in the best interests of the U.S.?" Olopai asked.

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