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## Writer Refuses Offer To Spy On Palauans

By David L. Teibel  
Daily News Staff Writer

The Navy's desire to know "everything" that happens in Palau led a high Navy official to try to recruit a Daily News correspondent to gather intelligence there, the former correspondent said.

Ruth Gilliam, now a Guam Bureau of Planning employe, said the job offer was replete with promises of \$500 a month, trips to Japan for clandestine training, a secret radio transmitter-receiver, free "booze," a tape recorder and monthly trips to Guam "to see my family."

The offer was refused.

It reportedly was made by Robert A. Wiecha, who Gilliam said was introduced to her in Palau as a high-level military planner, is generally rumored there to be a Central Intelligence Agency agent, and who later told her he worked for Naval Intelligence.

Wiecha's efforts to recruit the former newspaper-woman led him to tell her that he was interested not only in the political situation in the Palau District, but also in Japanese interests there and information on specific Palauans. He also told her that the Japanese were carrying on an intelligence operation on Guam, Gilliam said.

Palauan High Chief Ibedul Gibbons, the island's traditional leader, was offered a "military retainer" by Wiecha, Gilliam said she was told by the high chief's wife.

Photographer and author Douglas Faulkner, in a letter to the Daily News, said he was told by the high chief that the chief "was offered a retainer by Mr. Robert Wiecha on behalf of (Rear) Adm. (G. Steve) Morrison."

The retainer on behalf of the former commander of Naval forces in the Marianas was refused by the high chief, Faulkner and Gilliam said.

In telling Gilliam of the Japanese intelligence efforts on Guam, Wiecha reportedly explained to her that the Suehiro Hotel in Tumon was owned by a man affiliated with a Japanese intelligence agency, she said.

Palauan business and political leaders frequently stay at the Suehiro when on Guam, Gilliam said, adding that they are well treated at the Suehiro.

The claim that the Suehiro was a front for an intelligence operation drew ringing laughter from the hotel's general manager, Hisamo Nakanishi, followed by a burst of "no, no, no."

"Japanese agents are not on Guam," he said, ad-

ding, "the Japanese government does not send agents to Guam or Palau."

Although Japanese government officials come Guam and often stay at the Suehiro, Nakanishi said. "The Japanese government and Suehiro are connected."

Pressed on Japanese interests in Palau, Nakanishi suddenly asked, "Do you know Mr. Robert Wiecha?" "Wiecha knows a lot about Palau," Nakanishi said, going on to praise Wiecha as a "good friend" and

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### Letter From Gachong

Dear Mr. Editor:

I asked Uncle Joaquin what he was giving up - Lent. He said: "I'm giving up on that \$20 I lent brother-in-law."

Gachong

# Intelligence Palau 'Wanted'

(Continued from page 1)

"high-class gentleman."  
Nakanishi seemed less than sure of Wiecha's profession, however. "He may work for a secret organization," the hotel manager said, adding, "I think he may be with the CIA."

The ComNavMar Personnel Office informed the Daily News that Wiecha had an office at ComNavMar, and a Japanese businessman provided a home phone number at which Wiecha finally was reached.

A Navy spokesman then was given a list of questions for Rear Adm. Kent Carroll, and several of Gilliam's statements, with the request that the admiral comment on them.

The reply: "Mr. Wiecha is assigned on detached duty from the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations for mid- and long-range planning in the Western Pacific, and to research cultural, economic and political trends as they relate to the military."

Contacted about 9:30 one night last week, Wiecha said that Japanese interests in Palau were primarily economic and that he could not substantiate, nor did he believe, that the Japanese maintained any intelligence interests in the Trust Territory (TT) or Guam.

Asked why he tried to recruit Gilliam for \$500 a month, he hung up.

Called back and told the phone must have disconnected, he replied, "No, I hung up."  
He offered to meet the Daily

News at a later date to discuss the matter, said he was in bed and tired when called and did not care to discuss the matter at the time. He again hung up.

Gilliam said she went to Palau in August 1975, decided she liked it and moved there in October.

While there she worked as a correspondent for the Daily News.

"I was meeting a lot of people and got to talk to all kinds of people. People got to like me and they talked to me about politics and that sort of thing," she said.

"While I was there I met a man named Scott Harrison, I think in late October," she said.

"He made the comment that the military was so curious about happenings in Palau, that every time he came back from Palau, the military people on Guam asked him all sorts of questions as to what was going on down there.

"So, he said, they really could use somebody on the spot in Palau as a liaison.

"He said if I liked he would mention that I was in Palau and knew a lot about the local situation, to the military people in Guam.

"I said okay, check it out. What I thought it was, it would be like an out-and-out liaison person who would not be working in a covert manner," Gilliam said.

She added that the next day Harrison told her an advance man for Carroll was on Palau making arrangements for a visit by the admiral.

They all met at the Palau Continental Hotel for cocktails, "where I was introduced to Robert Wiecha," she said.

"The conversation was vague. He just asked if I would be interested in doing some work for us. I said yes, but that I would like to know more about it. So, he said he would return to Palau in November and that he would meet me at that time," she said.

"Then," she said, "I got a note in the mail about the second week in November saying Wiecha would arrive to spend Thanksgiving in Palau and asking me to meet him at the Continental Hotel bar sometime around Thanksgiving."

They met at the Royal Palau Hotel instead, and sat on the hotel porch and talked, Gilliam said.

Gilliam added that he supposed they go to his room and that he would explain the job offer to her.

"At that time it became clear to me that it was an undercover type thing," she said.

"I asked Wiecha if I was doing a secret, and he said yes. He said the secrecy was needed because the Palauan people would not tell Navy officials the truth, so the Navy never knew what the Palauan people were thinking, or they thought they did not.

"I asked him, what do you want to know? He said everything," Gilliam said.

They agreed to meet again at

her house and he gave her some employment forms to fill out. Gilliam said.

"Then I began to get bad feelings about who it was that he was really working for," she added.

"The night he came to my house, he showed up with a bottle of vodka under one arm and two cans of corn chips," she said, adding that, "that evening he offered me a monthly salary of \$500 and asked me to take a trip to Japan to undergo training."

"I asked what kind of training and he said to teach me to write reports in the proper manner. He said I would have to take a lie-detector test. He also offered me a radio and a tape recorder. He suggested a small cassette tape recorder that I could carry in my purse," she said.

Gilliam said Wiecha indicated to her that he would like information on Roman Tmutuchl, a Palauan delegate to the Congress of Micronesia, and one of Tmetuchi's associates, who Wiecha termed a "Communist," Gilliam said.

Wiecha also indicated he wanted information on Francisco and Moses Uludong, she said, adding that they are brothers.

"They run a Palauan newspaper, called Tia Belau, and are very anti-PT-administration and pro-Palauan," she said.

Before Wiecha left Palau, Gilliam said, he cautioned her "not to tell Adm. Carroll about the job offer."

"I asked why not, isn't the admiral your boss?" she said, "And, then I asked him who are you working for anyway?" she said.

"He said U.S. Navy in-

she said, adding "he told me that the first time we met."

About a week after Wiecha ended his three-day stay in Palau, Gilliam was in The Factory, a bar in Palau, when a Palauan man called her to his table and introduced her to a man named George, a subordinate. Wiecha said he would send to talk to her, Gilliam said.

"George had a much more low-key, practical approach than Wiecha, Gilliam said.

"He said, all we want to know is whether or not the Palauan people are going to be receptive to future U.S. military interests in Palau," she said.

"Because, if they are not," she quoted him as saying, "we want to make plans to go elsewhere."

She said George had seemed "perturbed" about the approach Wiecha had used on her and added, "When I told George about the training Wiecha said would have to go through, George shook his head, laughed and told me that was not necessary."

"I asked George what the usually pay for people who do this kind of work, and he said that if I took the \$500 a month, would be the highest-paid person we have down here (Palau)," Gilliam said.

She added that George said he was not at all interested in Japanese interests in Palau. Gilliam said she never learned George's last name and the Navy declined to comment when asked.

Shortly after Wiecha made his offer, people started telling her they knew it had been made and that she was working for the CIA. Gilliam said, adding that the suspicion she was under was on of the reasons she decided to

DIRECT FROM PALAU

FRESH

