

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRANSMITTAL SLIP		CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
		DATE Feb. 4, 1976
For the Attention of		
TO OMSN		
A Status Liaison Office, Saipan		
TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE		TO THE DEPARTMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> For Transmittal to Addressee at the Discretion of Post <input type="checkbox"/> Post Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Transmit to Foreign Office <input type="checkbox"/> Submit Report <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to the Individual		<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> CERP Publications <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosure to Previous Airgram <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Department Request
<input type="checkbox"/> Transmit to: (U. S. Agency) <input type="checkbox"/> Inform:		
REFERENCE 1001		
ITEMS/REMARKS I believe there is less to this than meets the eye. I understand that Frank Palacios has been in contact with Benitez to get the latter's assistance in recruiting personnel for the new Commonwealth, but I doubt that this involves any commitment on the part of the MPSC or the MDL. Glimpses of Guam" is a Hilton Hotel handout. FEB 9 1976 Amb de Graffenried Trent Schelle Loftus Crumpher Wyttenbach		
IN REPLY REFER TO FILE NUMBER AND DRAFTING OFFICE		
FILE NO.	SIGNATURE Alf E. Bergesen	
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Puerto Rican To Draw Up Marianas Plan

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (UPI) - Jose A. Benitez, former U.S. Deputy High Commissioner to the Trust Territory (TT) has been asked to formulate an economic development program for the Northern Marianas.

The Northern Mariana Islands, are expected to become a U.S. commonwealth and possibly an associate state along the lines of Puerto Rico.

Benitez said he was asked to develop the program by Francisco T. Palacios, president of the Free Associate State Movement of the Marianas.

He said he welcomed the request and "will do all in my power to help and cooperate with the Marianas in this respect."

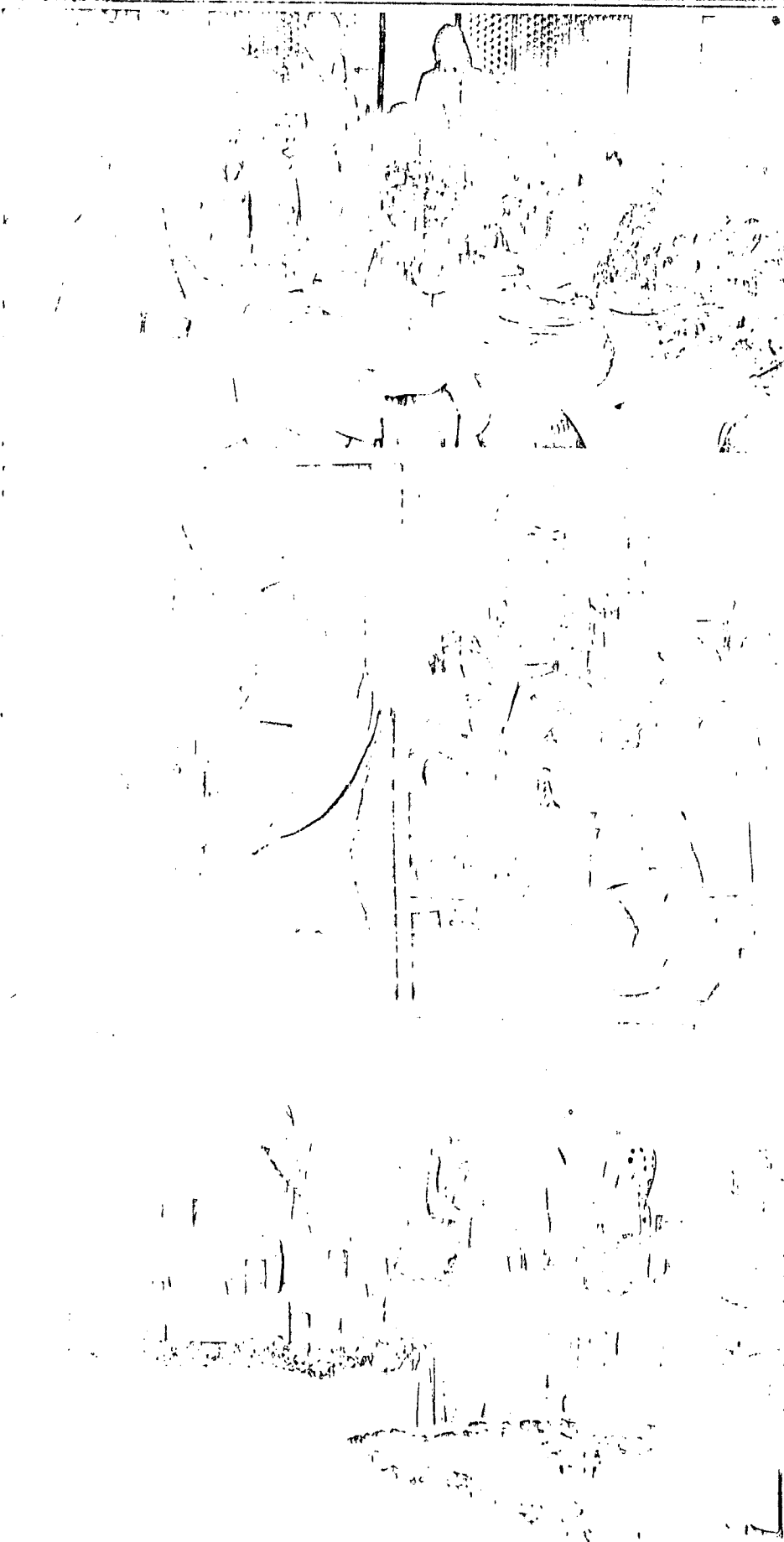
Benitez, who was appointed deputy high commissioner by the late President Kennedy, said he was meeting with Puerto Rican government officials, industrialists, bankers and economists to put together a technical assistance mission to the Marianas.

He said he was also trying to organize investments there.

"When a people freely votes, like that of the Marianas did, to associate with the United States, and the election is supervised by the United Nations, it is impossible to reject it," he said.

Benitez said he formulated the project for converting the Marianas into an associate state along the lines of Puerto Rico while deputy TT high commissioner.

Envoys from the Marianas have visited Puerto Rico many times to study the status of the island, he said.



Mr. & Mrs. Jose Benitez were the guests of honor at a dinner party given by Mr. Robert H. Jones in the Guam Hilton's Galleon Grill. Mr. Benitez was formerly the Deputy High Commissioner of Guam and High Commissioner for the Mariana Islands. He will now represent the new Commonwealth of the Marianas as Ambassador to the United Nations. Pictured above from left to right: Mr. & Mrs. Leo Slotnik, the Governor of Guam, the Hon. Ricardo J. Bordallo and Mrs. Bordallo, Mr. Robert H. Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Manfred Joennes, Mr. & Mrs. Jose Benitez, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Jones.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD in the Guam Hilton Kitchen . . . Former Executive Chef, Gerhard Zimmer, (pictured center left) seen giving a taste of his culinary skill to the new Executive Chef, Peter Bucher.

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY! . . . Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Rice celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary by taking a suite in the Guam Hilton for a weekend. The Hotel provided a bottle of "bubbly" to help the couple make it a very memorable weekend. (Pictured center right.)

A "WINE TASTING EXTRAVAGANZA" . . . jointly sponsored by Mid Pac Liquors, Tommy's Bakery and Conmost Dairies, took place in the Guam Hilton during July. On opening day, the Hilton's Marianas Ballroom was converted into a total Wine Taster's **HAPPENING** . . . a wide selection of Paul Masson wines, a variety of cheeses and breads were displayed, (bottom photo) together with an exhibition of artwork by local artist, Chad Reaubien and handicrafts from the Guam Rehabilitation Center.