

Tinian Project

TINIAN ASK.

Advance Bases - Island Govts.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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FRESH PRODUCE FOR GUAM MILITARY PERSONNEL
EXPECTED TO RESULT FROM PROJECT ON TINIAN

Approval has been given the proposal of a three-man group headed by a Guam resident to establish a large commercial farm on the uninhabited island of Tinian in the Marianas Islands.

The proposal followed a request by the High Commissioner for the Trust Territories in the Pacific for such enterprises in an effort to make the area more nearly self-sufficient agriculturally. The project will be closely watched by the government to see that it is operated in the best interests of the area.

Earlier efforts to gain the same results through establishment of all-native cooperatives or native cooperatives managed by non-natives had failed through lack of native agricultural education and organizational experience.

As proposed, the farm will occupy a total of 950 acres of arable land in three locations on the island. The initial lease of the land will be for five years.

The enterprise will employ not less than five native families on a full-time basis and will recruit short-term labor from the inhabited islands of the Marianas for harvests and other work loads.

According to the proposal, male members of the resident native families will be key supervisory personnel and will be trained in nursery development, field supervision, equipment maintenance and operation, construction, plumbing, insect control and allied agricultural practices.

The proposal outlines full plans for the health and comfort of the workers including establishment of schools and the provision of homes. Workers will be provided free transportation from their home island to Tinian and return. In addition, the resident working families will be provided from two to five acres of land for private use, together with use of agricultural equipment and marketing facilities of the company.

The produce from the farm, estimated to amount to 20 to 50 tons weekly at full production, will be marketed primarily to the military on Saipan and Guam, relieving a serious shortage of fresh produce on those islands.

The farm will be managed by Claire Young, a resident of Guam, and Bruce L. Bitler and Gerard Kennedy, both of this country.

Mr. Young is a crop production specialist with previous farming experience on Tinian and 14 years of sugar cane farming experience in Hawaii.

Mr. Bitler, a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, is a qualified accountant besides having had 11 1/2 years work with the Department of Interior and the Corps of Engineers in construction, soil erosion control, surveying and drafting and accounting.

Mr. Kennedy is a qualified plumber, electrician and navigator.

Vegetable crops to be produced on the farm include tomatoes, lettuce, onions, peppers, cucabits, corn, egg plant, Chinese cabbage, Chinese mustard, taro and sweet potatoes. Tropical fruit crops to be raised will be bananas, papaya, pineapple, citrus fruits, mangoes and avacadoes.
