

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Curtis Cutter, ODA, State

DATE: 23 June 1960

FROM : CAPT L. G. Findley, OPNAV-09B25, Navy

SUBJECT: Newspaper articles re the integration of Saipan with Guam and wishes of Okinawans to return to Saipan and Tinian

1. Pursuant to our conversation of Wednesday, 22 June I am enclosing two articles from the Okinawa Morning Star concerning the integration of Saipan with Guam.
2. I feel sure these articles will be of interest to you and your colleagues in the Office of Dependent Area Affairs.

L. G. FINDLEY  
Captain, U.S. Navy



NARA APPROVED

8w/11/06/12

# Guam, Saipan Residents Asking Marianas Islands Be 'Reunited'

(Editor's note: The author, who recently joined the staff of the MORNING STAR, is one of the few newsmen to enter the Saipan district since WW II. He lived in the Marianas for nearly five years. This is the first of two articles.)

By RICHARD R. WILLIAMS

Residents of Guam and Saipan are anxiously awaiting further action from the United Nations concerning the so-called re-integration of the Marianas islands.

Acting Governor of Guam, Marcellus Graeme Boss, received official information last month that the United Nations plans to send a UN team to the western Pacific islands to determine if the people of the Marianas want to be incorporated into one government under the framework of the Organic Act for Guam.

The principle Marianas islands include Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Both Saipan and Tinian are closed to newsmen by order of the Chief of Naval Operations. The author was permitted to enter Saipan last October to cover events of UN Day celebrations, only after a request to CNO and favorable endorsement from RAdm. William L. Erdman, former commander naval forces Marianas.

Persons other than newsmen may enter Saipan and Tinian after the issuance of a security clearance from the naval commander. It has been a policy to deny entry clearance to persons other than American citizens, and then only to persons who have specific business there. Salesmen are discouraged as well as "tourists."

by Guam's 21 seat house. Sablan noted that the language and customs of the people of Saipan and Guam are identical and that many people of the two islands are blood relatives.

The Saipan legislature followed up Sablan's measure by introducing a similar resolution which was passed by a majority vote in the 12 seat house. The only difference in the two measures was, the Guam legislature referred to "re-integration." They based this on the contention that the two peoples were one during the Spanish regime up to 1899.

Each year the two legislative bodies bring the question back to life by reintroducing resolutions and forwarding copies to the UN, the president, the Department of Interior, Trust Territory headquarters, the governor of Guam and the commander naval forces Marianas.

Two years ago a five man survey team from the UN toured the Pacific Trust Territory. During their stops at Guam and Saipan they were queried as to their feelings on the subject of integrating all of the Marianas into one government. The UN members parried the questions by answering, "we intend to look into the matter."

The subject often comes up in "coffee break" conversations in Guam, and the concensus seems to be highly in favor of integrating. The same held true on Saipan last Octo-

ber when this writer visited there.

Many feel Saipan could become not only an agriculture source for Guam civilian markets, but a recreational island as well. Saipan today has many vine covered momentos of a great war. Look three miles across the channel to Tinian and one may see where the end of that great war started.

There are still many evidences of the great precautionary measures that were taken in the assembly of the A-bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Tinian is criss-crossed with runways, taxi ways and reinforced concrete buildings, now being taken over by the ever creeping jungle.

Saipan has some of the most attractive beaches in the Pacific, many photogenic scenes and boasts one of the best kept and nicely layed out nine hole golf courses in the Pacific.

The Saipanese are friendly and energetic. Under the Japanese, from 1898 to 1941, they learned to make the land work for them. They produced such crops as sugar, tapioca, coffee, citrus fruits and many varieties of vegetables. Remnants of a narrow guage railway to the sugar plantation still stand.

Predominately Catholic, the Saipanese take their religion seriously. Many of them operate small village stores; many are successful farmers, selling their produce to the military on the island and in Guam.

the Organic Act for Guam was passed by the U.S. Congress. The Guamanians are Ameri-

critics and opposition from the Navy, Trust Territory and the Russian bloc in the UN.

Rota is under the administration of the Pacific Trust Territory and permission to enter this island may be granted by the High Commissioner of the Pacific Trust Territory. But here again, there is a "closed door" policy. The High Commissioner, Deimus H. Nucker, apparently does not want to open any part of the Pacific Trust Territory to tourists. There has even been some indications that the door is closed to American businessmen in Guam who would like to sell their wares to the many stores within the vast trust territory area.

However, even if the Navy and Trust Territory did become more liberal in their policies there are two problems. Transportation within the islands is limited. The trust territory operates an inter island airline but use of it is primarily for administrative purposes and for transportation of trust territory personnel on official business.

The other problem is housing facilities for transient persons. On Saipan and Tinian the Navy must limit the travel of its own personnel because of limited transient housing facilities. Rota has no transient facilities and neither do the other islands in the Carolines, Marshalls and other areas which comprise the Pacific Trust Territory.

Six years ago Guam Congressman James T. Sablan introduced a resolution asking that the Marianas islands be integrated into the framework of the Guam government.

In the body of his resolution, which was unanimously adopted

MORNING STAR  
OKINAWA  
June 8, 1960 Page 8

the Organic Act for Guam was passed by the U.S. Congress. The Guamanians are American critics and opposition from the Navy, Trust Territory and the Russian bloc in the UN.

# Saipanese, Okinawans Have Much in Common

(This is the second of two articles concerning the possible integration of the Marianas islands).

By RICHARD R. WILLIAMS

The Saipanese have much in common with the Okinawans. Prior to World War II Saipan was a Japanese mandated island. Many Japanese customs are still evident on that central Pacific island. Many Okinawans lived in Saipan prior to WW II and many still have friends, property and fond memories there.

Like the Okinawans the Saipanese are industrious and take great pride in their little farms and livestock.

There is no question but what the majority of the Saipanese people would appreciate an opportunity to develop an economy of their own, be it agriculture or tourism. And the proponents of re-integration feel that as part of the territory of Guam this could be done.

But then there is another group which feels that Saipan is better off under the administration of the Navy. The Navy has provided jobs for many Saipanese and they are doing a commendable job of providing for the health and welfare of the islanders.

The opposition group is headed chiefly by an American of Saipanese ancestry. He is Dave Sablan, who gained American citizenship four years ago and is now a successful sales manager for Atkins-Kroll, Ltd., representatives in Guam for General Motors.

Sablan, son of the first post-war mayor of Saipan, feels that the Guam legislature would attempt to exploit Saipan. The elected representative group from Saipan would be comparatively small, and the larger more experienced group from Guam would run rough shod over them when legislative measures are under discussion.

Sablan also feels that Saipan has more to offer Guam than Guam has to offer Saipan. "Saipan has adequate schools, medical facilities, police and fire protection," Sablan contends "and they don't pay taxes for it. The only thing Guam would give Saipan is taxes," he says.

The island of Guam is a territory of the United States and has been since July 1950, when the Organic Act for Guam was passed by the U.S. Congress.

The Guamanians are Ameri-

can citizens just as much as Texans, and should the desires of Saipan and Guam be favorably recognized by the UN, the Saipanese would become American citizens.

Should the Marianas be integrated chances are the area would become known as the Territory of the Marianas, with an economy, form of government and way of life similar to Hawaii's before that territory became a state. It would be a great deal smaller, but similar.

No plebiscite has been held on Guam with reference to integration of the Marianas, but KUAM Radio and TV, and the Guam Daily News both have taken editorial stands in favor of the move. A plebiscite was held on Saipan last year and the results were almost unanimous in favor of becoming part of the Guam territorial government.

Now, the UN apparently intends to look deeper into the prospect. But political observers feel victory is not yet in sight. The Russian bloc in the UN undoubtedly will oppose the action with the cry of, "land grabbers," in spite of the fact that the people of Saipan have almost unanimously voted to become a part of the United States.

And they voted for this course of action only after the advantages and disadvantages and the responsibilities of American citizenship were explained to them in detail.

The Saipanese have already had a taste of life under the Americans. Following World War II Saipan became a part of the Pacific Trust Territory with a naval officer as administrator.

Some observers also feel that the UN has more important matters before the assembly at the moment.

But there is every indication that the people of the two islands will continue to fight until they are once again united, with Tinian and Rota along with them.

And if and when it happens the estimated 100,000 people of that area would owe it to one man, Guam Congressman James T. Sablan, (no relation to Dave Sablan) who has been waging a courageous battle for nearly six years against local critics and opposition from the Navy, Trust Territory and the Russian bloc in the UN.

## Would Return to Pacific Isle

Shinzo Omine, director of the Okinawa Repatriates Assn., said yesterday that some 40,000 Okinawans who formerly lived on Saipan and Tinian are eagerly petitioning today to return to these Mariana isles.

The number, according to his survey, constitutes about 90 percent of all Okinawan returnees from the Pacific islands following the war.

Omine stated that there are 20,000 former Saipanese who, though they are aware of difficulties in entering Saipan, are dreaming of their re-emigration to the south seas.

They were farmers and fishermen who operated prosperous sugar plantations and bonito fishing industry under Japanese on Saipan.

He said that about 60,000 Okinawans are recorded to have resided on Saipan in 1940, a year before the war started. They enjoyed amiable relations with native Saipanese.

"I know one thing that will happen if Saipan and Tinian become open to Okinawan settlement," he said, "One day's notice is enough for the Okinawans to pack up and go."

Many of their relatives have died on the shores of Saipan. There are still bones of 500 Okinawans weathered in the hulks of sunken Japanese vessels off Saipan and Tinian, Omine reported.

He said the typhoons, vicious windstorms that flatten homes and plants on Okinawa, are unknown on Saipan where a gentle climate and cool ocean breezes prevail all year-round. This is one reason Okinawans are ready to go," he added.

Omine explained that his association has repeatedly asked the U.S. authorities for permission to travel to Saipan but this has been in vain.

MORNING STAR  
OKINAWA

June 9, 1960

Page 2