

27 October 1960

MEMORANDUM

From: 14
To: 1

Subj: Integration of the Northern Marianas

1. From time to time throughout recent years the GUAM LEGISLATURE has discussed and passed Resolutions pertaining to the possible integration of the Northern Marianas with Guam.
2. Until recently there has been little reaction to this subject on SAIPAN. However, in early 1959, pushed by Jose R. CRUZ, at that time a member of the Saipan Legislature, now a permanent resident of the U. S. residing on Guam, this matter was activated on Saipan. CRUZ was, and is, all out for integration with Guam at the earliest possible time. To line up support for his cause CRUZ advised the Saipanese that integration would give the Saipanese U. S. citizenship, \$1.00 an hour minimum wage (compared to about 40¢ for government employees and less for private industry), Social Security benefits, etc.. Needless to say CRUZ was able to line up overwhelming support from the "man on the street". In August 1959, the Saipan Legislature passed a Resolution extending an invitation to members of the GUAM Legislature to visit SAIPAN to discuss the matter of integration. NAVAD advised CNO, CINCPACFLT and COMNAVMARIANAS of the invitation and was directed by CNO to inform the SAIPAN Legislature that the "U. S. Government does not Officially Support the subject being discussed". NAVAD complied. On 11 and 12 September 1959, 3 members of the GUAM Legislature met with the SAIPAN Legislature on SAIPAN. The Guam representatives were all FOR integration and the discussions were slanted accordingly.
3. On 25 September 1959, the SAIPAN Legislature, by a vote of 7 to 5, approved Resolution #7 which officially requested the United Nations to look into the matter of the unification of the Mariana Islands.
4. During the 1959 session of the U. N. Trusteeship Council, the matter was discussed and the Council voted to have the next visiting Mission of the Council look into the matter.
5. The next visiting mission is now scheduled to visit Saipan in early 1961.
6. During my recent visit to Saipan it was immediately apparent that this subject is uppermost in the minds of the Saipanese. They talk of little else. The leaders of the Community are extremely anxious for GUIDANCE. I was asked to provide same by many persons. The NAVAD is asked to do likewise seven days a week by one or more of the local leaders. They are so obviously sincerely anxious to receive guidance that every word uttered by anyone with any Naval responsibility must be very carefully thought out. All of our replies were to the effect

that "all coins have two sides" and that the Saipanese must "look into and study ALL facets of the matter before making up their minds".

7. From my observations I believe they are doing this. Apparently, they were originally given the impression that the NAVAD UNIT would remain in place and intact even with integration. They now realize that integration would remove the area from under U. N. auspices and would likewise remove the requirement for a Navy ADMINISTRATIVE Unit as GOVGUAM would perform these functions. They are curious as to what, if anything, in the way of a Naval Activity would remain at Saipan. They have been told that a definite answer to this question cannot be made at this time inasmuch as no decision on this matter has yet been made by the Navy Department. The MISSION of NAVAD SAIPAN is known to the Saipanese and they now realize that the Navy would no longer "administer civil government" in the Saipan District if integration occurred. Another factor that is now being heavily weighed by the Saipanese is the fact that not one Saipanese Teacher, Medical Practitioner, Dentist or other so-called Professional would qualify as such under existing GOVGUAM criteria. In addition, the few (but important and influential) Saipanese who would be heavily affected by an income tax are, and have been, strongly opposed to integration. People are also becoming aware that, in all probability, medical and hospital fees would be heavily increased as would utility fees, if, in fact, power and water were even available.

8. It was also apparent to me that there is considerably LESS than a burning desire to integrate with GUAM. What the Saipanese really want is U. S. CITIZENSHIP. Integration with Guam, has, in my opinion, been pushed and found favor, primarily because the Saipanese feel that it represents the fastest and easiest path to U. S. Citizenship.

9. In addition to my discussion of this matter with NAVAD personnel, CDR Bridwell and I had a long talk on this subject with Mr. Spencer TAGGART and Mr. Norman LARUM, the #1 and #2 civilians at NTTU. They are fully cognizant of the possible ramifications of integration and hinted that they planned to seek guidance and advice on this matter in the near future.

10. It is fully realized that the Navy cannot come out in the open and take a positive stand on this matter. On the other hand, the Naval representatives on Saipan and, to a lesser degree, those on Guam are really under the gun on this thing and have to live with it on a daily basis. Any policy guidelines or advice that they can receive would be very much appreciated by all concerned. During your forthcoming trip to Washington it is hoped that you will be able to discuss this matter with cognizant persons there and that such discussions can lead to policy guidance.

Very respectfully,

R. D. Law, Jr.

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