

# Mariana Islands spark protest

by Roger Gale

As the U.S. cuts back its military commitments on foreign soil, the annexation of the fourteen Northern Mariana Islands will give it a new home base for expanding military installations and booming American investment in the Pacific Basin.

This first legal acquisition since 1898 splits the UN-mandated Trust Territory of Micronesia, sparking strong criticism from the UN Trusteeship Committee and representative of the other two Micronesian island chains. Critics say the secession of the Northern Marianas to become a U.S. commonwealth will cut off the richest part of Micronesia and violate the UN-guaranteed right of self-determination for the whole territory.

(Micronesia, three island chains, was taken over from Japan by the U.S. after World War II and has been administered as a UN mandate. The mandate expires in 1981, when the territory is supposed to become independent. Of the original ten trust territories created after World War II, only Micronesia and Namibia (Southwest Africa) remain under foreign control.)

The secession was approved by 78 percent of the Northern Marianas' 5,300 registered voters in a U.S.-sponsored plebiscite last June.

Under the agreement, the people of the Northern Marianas will become U.S. citizens and will be self-governing except in matters of military and foreign policy.

## U.S. INTEREST

U.S. interest in the area has always been military. Guam, the southern most Mariana island and a U.S. colony since 1898, showed its strategic potential during the Vietnam war, when B-52 bombers based there made daily raids over Indochina.

Army Lieutenant General James Hollingsworth, until recently commander of U.S. forces in Korea, told PNS (Pacific News Service) in an interview that B-52s from Guam would participate in any new Korean war. The Marianas are closer to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang than to Hanoi, and they are within easy flying range of the USSR's Pacific military headquarters in Vladivostok.

Vital as Guam has been to recent U.S. military strategy in the Pacific, the island is only thirty miles long. And according to former Secretary of the U.S. Air Force John McLucas, has "limited space and facilities."

The Pentagon now wants to build a \$300 million naval and air base on the island of Tinian, 100 miles north of Guam and one of the Northern Marianas. The Tinian base would complement the massive facilities already on Guam—reducing the need to secure approval for military operations from foreign nations hosting U.S. bases.

The annexation agreement includes a 50-year renewable lease by the Pentagon on 19,182 acres of land on Tinian.

With U.S. direct investment in East Asia rapidly increasing—to \$12 billion in 1975—the Marianas offer an attractive home base for American firms doing business in the region. As a U.S. commonwealth, the islands would provide U.S. military protection, stable political surroundings, inclusion in the dollar zone and a familiar social environment.

And the Marianas—equidistant from Tokyo, Hong Kong and Manila—are at the center of a communications network extending over the whole Pacific.

With Americans and Japanese seeking island paradises, a growing tourist industry invites U.S. investment. A new international airport has just opened on the Mariana island of Saipan, and Pan American and Continental airlines have recently opened hotels there, hoping to attract some of the 240,000 tourists who visited Guam last year.

## DIVISION OF MICRONESIA

But U.S. interests don't necessarily match those of the 115,000 inhabitants of all three island chains of Micronesia. In 1969, the Congress of Micronesia, the legislative body for the whole Trust Territory, rejected an offer of commonwealth status similar to the one now being implemented. The Congress insisted on independence or significant autonomy.

The rejection came at the end of five years of intensive U.S. economic and educational development—including a Peace Corps blitz of the islands—under a plan outlined by a Kennedy-appointed commission. The commission, headed by Harvard Business School professor Anthony Solomon, had projected approval of commonwealth status as the culmination of the development drive.

A new effort to secure a legal U.S. status in Micronesia began in 1972—this time through negotiations with a newly formed team of representatives from the Northern Marianas alone. In the previous negotiations only the Northern Marianas, whose economy has been dominated by U.S. military installations since World War II, had supported closer ties with the U.S.

Headed by Edward Pangelinan, an attorney representing slot machine interests and a speculator in Tinian land, the new negotiating team agreed on a proposal for a Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas separate from the rest of Micronesia.

Four-fifths of the electorate voted in favor of annexation last June. But critics charge the wording of the ballot was biased. UN Charter provisions for such plebiscites stipulate that voters must be offered the choice of independence. But the ballot allowed only approval or disapproval of the commonwealth plan, with no alternatives suggested.

Already the most developed of the 2,100 Micronesian islands, the Marianas were promised significant economic benefits from annexation. These included seven years of development aid and land rent totalling almost \$154 million, as well as eligibility for federally funded welfare and employment programs and food stamps.

The cash payments alone average over \$10,000 per person and are expected to provide improved roads, schools and health facilities as well as jobs.

Meanwhile, as the U.S. Congress was voting to acquire the Northern Marianas, delegates from the Caroline and Marshall Islands—the rest of Micronesia—met in a U.S. funded constitutional convention last summer and fall to draft a constitution for a federated Micronesian nation.

Despite the cultural differences and distances separating the islands, convention chairman Tosiwo Nakayama was confident the constitution would work. The very fact that the convention had

accomplished its task "shows that Micronesia has a way of solving its problems," he said.

Even without the economically more advanced Northern Marianas, the proposed state of Micronesia has a valuable resource in its oceans. Foreign vessels now take an estimated \$75 million worth of fish in Micronesian waters, and under the proposed UN law of the sea, the islands could collect \$10 million annually in fees.

But the new state will be fragile—and some feel it will be vulnerable to attempts to incorporate it into the Marianas commonwealth. In a complaint to the UN late in November, the International League for the Rights of Man charged that the separate vote had violated the right of the people of Micronesia to determine their own future. According to League counsel Jose Gabranes, separation of the Northern Marianas would make it "difficult if not impossible for the other island groups to survive as a unit."

And in a report prepared for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, James F. McHenry described the separate agreement with the Marianas as "contrary to international law and international practice."

## Philadelphia to hire women

The Department of Justice obtained an agreement to a consent decree requiring the Philadelphia Police Department to hire 100 women as police officers within nine months.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi said the proposed decree was filed in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, partially resolving an employment discrimination suit filed by the Justice Department. The court took the proposal under advisement.

The suit, which was filed on February 19, 1974, charged that city officials discriminated against women in police jobs and that less than one percent of Philadelphia's 7,300 police officers were women.

The proposed order requires police officials to fill 100 to 471 existing vacancies with qualified women within nine months.

The proposed order specifies that each of the next five police academy classes shall include at least twenty women selected from the eligibility list resulting from the May 31, 1975, examination.

In addition, the 74 women who now work as juvenile aid officers will be given the opportunity to transfer to police officer and to carry over seniority rights and to have immediate promotional opportunities.

Under the proposed order, the city will abolish the separate job titles of policeman and policewoman and establish the entry-level position of police officer.

During the next two years, the city will study the performance of the 100 new women police officers and submit a report to the court for possible modification of the consent decree.

The city is also required to file with the court job statistics every six months and for each training class of the police academy.

The proposed decree defers resolution of the issues of back pay and the city's hiring and promotional policies until the two year study is submitted to the court.

The agreement was negotiated during a recess in the trial of the suit.

## Summer school begins June 21

Portland school district's regular summer school session will begin June 21st, Edwin Schneider, assistant superintendent for instructional support programs, announced.

Summer high school sessions are scheduled to be held at Lincoln High School again this year. Benson High School will also offer career education courses related to facilities at the schools. High school summer classes are scheduled to run six weeks to July 30th.

Elementary summer school is scheduled to begin on June 21st, and will run four weeks to July 16th. Summer programs will be offered at Wilson, Grant and Franklin high schools. Additional elementary summer school programs will be held in some of the Title I schools in the district, Rasmussen said. Information about the Title I program is available from the area offices of the school district.

The district will also offer driver education classes as part of the summer school program. Wilson, Franklin, and Adams high schools will serve as operation centers for the program. The program will be divided into two sessions beginning July 6th to July 21st and again from July 22nd to August 6th.

Tuition for the summer school program is \$30 for the high school session and \$15 for the elementary summer school program. The driver education fee is \$7.50. Tuition for out of district students is double the regular fee.

Registration information is available in the local elementary and high schools.

## School seeks advisory committee members

Deadline for filing petitions for one of nine adult vacancies on the three Area Citizens Advisory Committees of the Portland Public Schools has been extended until May 14th by the Board of Education.

Interested citizens will now have another week to turn in petitions which must have the signatures of 25 registered voters. The earlier deadline was May 7th. Applicants do not need to have children in school. A total of nine vacancies are open, three on each of the committees. Applicants must live in the

area for which they apply, or have a student attending school in that area; and must be eighteen years or older.

Applicants are screened by a Review Panel of five citizens appointed by the Board. Appointments are made by the Board of Education and are expected to be announced by mid-June. Each committee has nine members, seven adults and two students. Students are appointed directly by the Board after nomination by the student body governments in each of the high schools in the city. Two students serve on the

committees and are appointed for one year terms.

School officials say the deadline was extended to make sure as many persons as possible be given opportunity to apply.

Petitions are available from the district Public Information Office or each of the three area offices and local schools. Interested persons should call the information office, 234-3392; Area 1 office, 244-7541; Area 2 office, 255-7210; Area 3 office, 233-2487 for petitions and they will be mailed, or individuals may pick them up at any one of these places.



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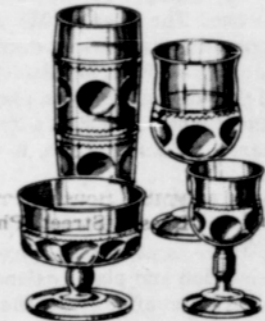
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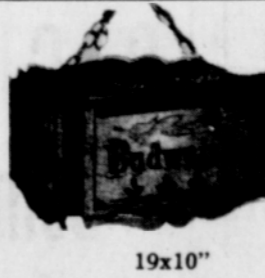
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