

SEA TURTLES- MARIANA ISLANDS

GH BALAZS



# Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

## Office of the Governor

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

FOR OFFICIAL USE  
CABLE ADDRESS  
GOV. NMI SAIPAN  
REPLY TO

June 07, 1988

Mr. Ernest Kosaka, Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
300 Ala Moana Blvd  
P.O. Box 50167  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Ernie:

This is in response to your request for information on endangered species usage of a 6 to 7 acre tract of wetlands at San Roque, Saipan. The tract in question is proposed to be filled for the construction of a hotel by the Nansay Corporation.

We are inclosing a site map of the general area in question, and provide what information we have on endangered species usage in the immediate vicinity. The Division of Fish and Wildlife has performed no field work specifically at the site, so this information has been derived from past field notes taken on an opportunistic basis by our biologists who happened to be working nearby. A comprehensive field effort on the site would in all probability turn up evidence of much more extended use by these species. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

The wetland site in question is dominated by a dense growth of Phragmites karka (Karisu) which in the past has apparently been burned or cleared occasionally for agriculture. During the rainy season standing water often extends past the edges of karisu growth, forming open ponds and occasionally reaches almost to the highway; and during the dry season the site can be totally dry.

The site is one of 7 wetland sites on Saipan officially designated as "Areas of Particular Concern" by the Coastal Resource Management Office and as such is subject to major site designation in the CRM permitting process. It is the farthest north of Saipan's wetlands. It is the only wetland site immediately adjacent to a beach along Saipan's North Lagoon and the only wetland in the northern one-third of Saipan.

We do not presently have figures on the area of this wetland site, the percentage of Saipan's wetlands it represents, or the percentage of Saipan's area and total Marianas area which are wetlands; but we are working on this and should be able to provide it by the end of this

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summer. We consider this information critical to any meaningful assessment of impacts to wetland-dependant wildlife species endemic to small Pacific islands.

The Division has information on four Federally-listed Endangered or Threatened species known to occur in the immediate project vicinity, as follows.

Marianas Common Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus guami) pulatat - Our information is limited to a sighting of 4 individual birds in open water immediately to the south of the Phragmites edge and 40 m to the east of the highway during fall/winter of 1986. Conversations with the landowner and nearby residents indicate that the Moorhen is commonly seen throughout the site when standing water is present, and our information at other sites verifies that this species often invades newly flooded wetlands within a few days after standing water becomes available. The inclosed figure shows locations of Moorhen sightings on Saipan by DFW biologists during 1986-87. The San Roque wetland sighting thus represents the only sighting in the northern half of Saipan and the farthest from the permanent (and probably source) population of Lake Susupe.

Nightingale Reed-Warbler (Acrocephalus luscini) gaga karisu - During January 1988 Robert Craig, a visiting ornithologist from the University of Connecticut studying Pacific Reed-Warblers, reported a sighting of a male bird giving territorial songs from the Phragmites along the highway at the project site.

Green Sea Turtle (Chelonia mydas) and Hawksbill Sea Turtle (Eretmochilis imbricata) - Our biologists have seen 5 Green Sea Turtles or their sign on the beach or within the lagoon between Tanapag Village and Wing Beach, including 3 nests, from 1986 until the present. The entire North Lagoon area, including the area immediately adjacent offshore to the proposed project site, is a well-known sea turtle use area, and sandy beaches along this entire stretch, including those immediately adjacent to the project site, are subject to turtle nesting. A young Hawksbill Sea Turtle was seen approximately 1 mile south of the project area in Tanapag Channel during March 1988.

As we understand it, the Federal agency performing the action (the Corps) is now required to prepare a report (Biological Assessment) which assesses the predicted effects of the project on the listed Endangered or Threatened species, including any cumulative effects as a result of this and other similar projects on the species and their habitats. We would be happy to provide information as to the

objectives and outline for such a study. In order to honestly evaluate the effects of the proposed project on the listed species, it would seem that the following questions would have to be answered:

- 1) How many Moorhens normally use the area during wet and dry seasons?
- 2) Do Moorhens nest in the area during wet season?
- 3) Approximately what percentage of the total Saipan and world population of Moorhens does this represent, and how many other similar areas of habitat are available on Saipan?
- 4) How many Nightingale Reed-Warblers use the area during wet and dry seasons?
- 5) Do Reed-Warblers nest in the area?
- 6) Approximately what percentage of the total Saipan and world population of Reed-Warblers does this represent, and how many other similar areas of habitat are available on Saipan?
- 7) What is the frequency of sea turtle nesting along the North Lagoon beach?
- 8) If this beach is effectively removed as sea turtle nesting beach by the project, how many other nesting beaches free of structures and heavy tourist use will remain on Saipan?
- 9) To which population do Saipan sea turtles belong, and what is the status of that population?
- 10) What will be the immediate and long-term effects on adjacent sea turtle habitat (seagrass beds and coral reefs) from the increased runoff due to erosion and siltation from construction activities and normal year-to-year maintenance and operation?
- 11) In light of the fact that 3 major resort developments totalling about 800 tourist rooms have been completed within the last 6 months or are now under construction and several others are in the planning stage, all along North Lagoon beaches, what will be the cumulative impacts of this additional 800 rooms and 1,000+ additional tourists per day on a). sea turtle nesting, b). sea turtle use of the lagoon, c). long-term degradation of adjacent coral reefs and seagrass beds by tourist use, d). long-term and chronic degradation of adjacent coral reefs and seagrass beds due to increased erosion and runoff. In this respect, it should be noted that the recent construction of the 500-room Hotel Nikko along Paupau beach approximately 1 km to the north has effectively precluded turtle nesting at that site by dredging the lagoon and beach and introducing heavy tourist activity. Each of these activities in turn renders less suitable nesting habitat for turtles along Saipan's northern beaches. As we understand it, the Federal

that the regulations in CFR 50 regarding the requirements for a Biological Assessment are quite explicit in delineating that the action agency (the Corps) must provide an analysis as to cumulative effects of its proposed activity on the species in question. The Division would appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the Corps regarding these effects.

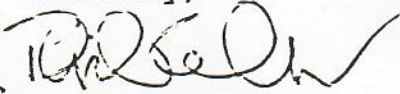
- 12) Will machinery and/or construction materials for this project be coming from Guam? If so, what are the plans of the developer to screen this material to guard against accidental introduction of the Brown Tree Snake. An 800-room hotel is a massive project requiring thousands of tons of materials. That any material stored on or transhipped through Guam could be infested with snakes is a very real possibility. It would seem that any Biological Assessment would have to address this possibility in some detail. Further, in light of the fact that the nearby island of Guam has within the last 5 years become the scene of at the largest cases of mass vertebrate extinction (i.e. "Jeopardy") any where during the last half of this century, it would seem inconceivable that any "will not jeopardize" Biological Opinion could be rendered without seeing an adequate snake protection plan and proof that the developer has the will and resources to implement it. It should be mentioned in this context that on 1 Mar 1988 3 of our biologists, while inspecting damages caused by a thick turbidity plume created by the dredging of the lagoon at Hotel Nikko, chanced across an earth-mover actively performing grading and filling operations within the proposed site. The operations our biologists personally witnessed on that date included grading earth into the wetland itself, windrowing fallen trees and brush within the site, and digging and grading beach sand (and sea turtle nests?) from the level of the beach berm down into the edge of the surf zone. This incident is related merely to reiterate to the Honolulu - based U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel that, historically, real estate developers on tropical Pacific islands have not been overly sensitive to local natural (or human) resources. Therefore, it would seem that the USFWS should require adequate proof of commitment to such a sensitive thing as a snake protection plan BEFORE it would feel justified in issuing a no jeopardy opinion. Recent USFWS Biological Opinions have simply stated something to the effect that "plans will be formulated" to deal with this, which we feel is inadequate and unrealistic given recent history.

Again, the Division considers the answers to these questions to be the minimum base of information on which to base any meaningful conclusions regarding "extent of effects" and "jeopardy" to Endangered and Threatened species. We would appreciate being appraised at each

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step of your agencies' Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation process. Thank you.

Sincerely,



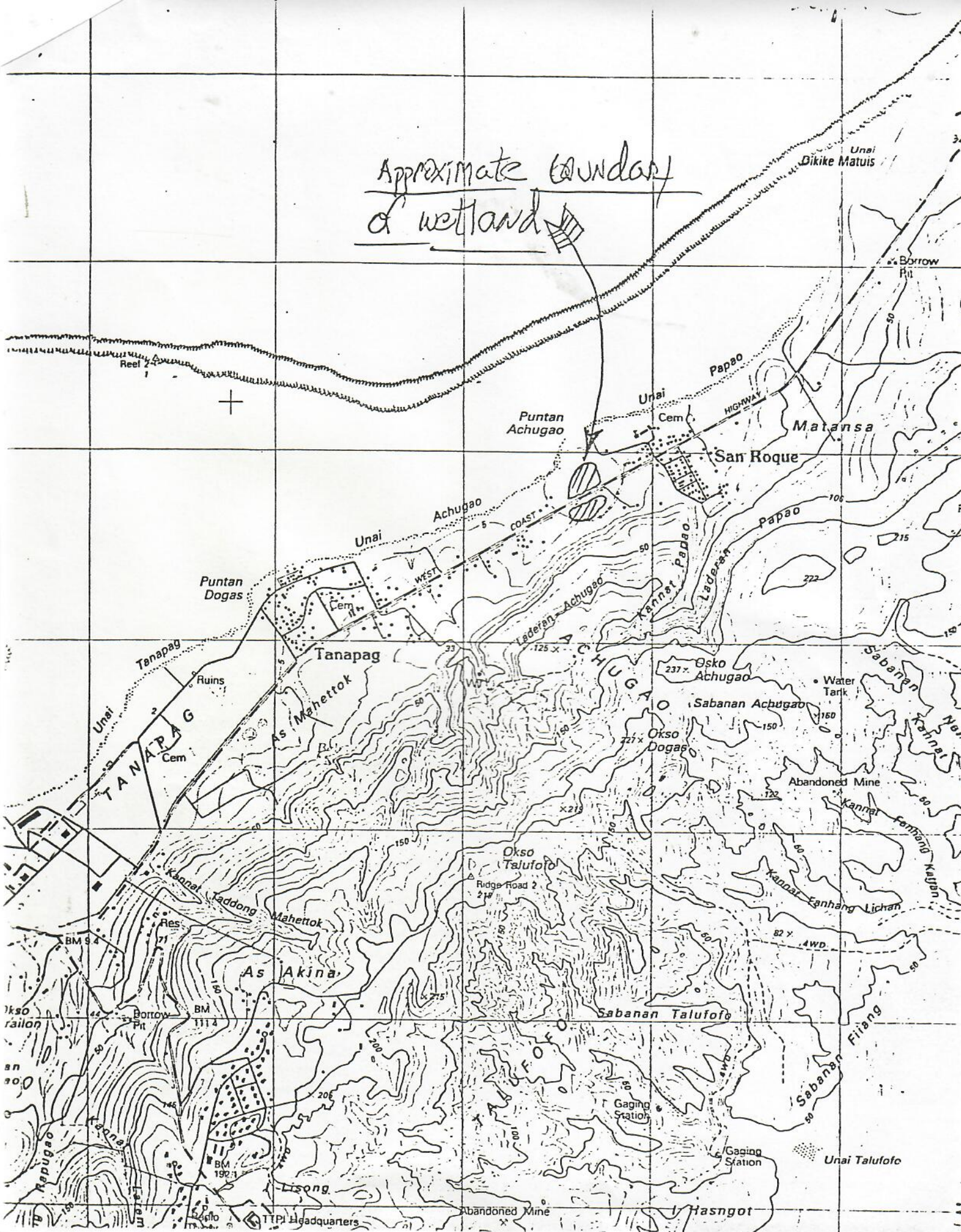
Acting for

Arnold I. Palacios  
Chief of Fish and Wildlife

cc: Coastal Resources Management  
Marianas Audubon Society



Approximate boundary  
of wetland



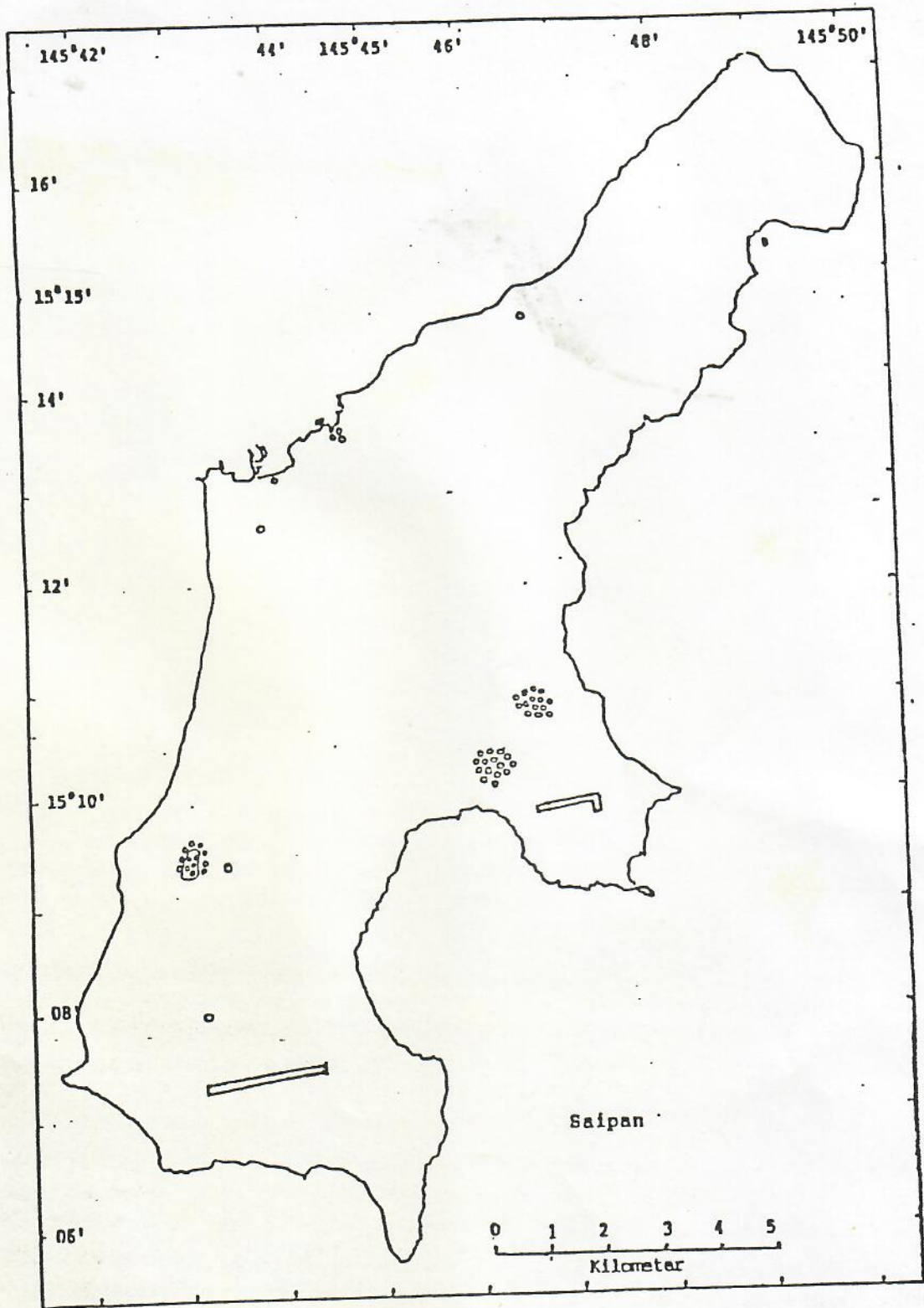


Figure 6. Marianas Common Moorhen Sightings, Saipan 1986-1987  
 From - CNMI Div. Fish & Wildl. 5-yr. progress  
 Rpt. 1983-87.



# Marianas courts U.S. firms

The writer was born and raised in Micronesia, including the Northern Marianas. He covers Pacific issues for The Advertiser, and writes a regular political analysis column for the Australian magazine Pacific Islands Monthly.

By Floyd K. Takeuchi  
Advertiser Editorial Writer

Pedro A. Tenorio wants to unleash U.S. private enterprise in the small chain of Pacific Islands where he is lieutenant governor.

The University of Hawaii educated politician, who has masters degrees in hydrology and environmental health, says the Northern Marianas Commonwealth has everything going for it: good weather, a very favorable tax structure, a politically stable government, a reliable work force and a minimum wage out of the distant past — \$1.95 an hour.

Trouble is, few American firms have nibbled at the Marianas bait. Companies are investing in the Marianas — and heavily in the booming tourism sector — but the great majority of them are Asian, dominated not surprisingly by the Japanese.

"We're somewhat disappointed that we don't have more U.S. investors," the 43-year-old Tenorio says. "We're the newest territory of the U.S. and politically we're bound to the U.S. But economically more foreign companies are interested. We'd certainly like to see the presence of American companies. We have a better business climate" than surrounding islands, he adds.



Advertiser photo by Carl Viti

**Pedro A. Tenorio**  
N. Marianas lt. governor

Presently, there are about 3,000 foreign workers in the Northern Marianas, most of whom reside on Saipan, capital of the group. The bulk come from the Philippines and South Korea, but there is a small contingent of Mainland Chinese laborers who came by way of Hong Kong.

**MORE SO THAN** any other island group in Micronesia, or even the nearby U.S. territory of Guam for that matter, the Northern Marianas appear ready for a sustained economic boom.

And the top leadership says it wants to let the private sector rather than government take the lead on economic development.

"The government policy is to encourage foreign investment as much as possible," emphasizes Tenorio. "We're trying to scale down government services as the prime source of employment."

**A GOOD** part of the problem is that the Northern Marianas, a chain of 16 volcanic islands in the Northwest Pacific, are 5,800 miles from the U.S. Mainland. Since World War II, the former Japanese colony has been under American administration.

The people, most of whom call themselves Chamorros, are a mix of Micronesian, Filipino, Spanish and Japanese blood.

In the mid-1970s nearly 80 percent of the population voted to become a U.S. commonwealth. That status, approved by Congress, becomes effective when the Trust Territory administration is terminated.

When that happens, this year or most likely next, the distant islands will formally become the first expansion of American territory since the Virgin Islands were purchased from Denmark in 1917. At the same time, most of the chain's 21,000 residents will become U.S. citizens.

The Northern Marianas was able to cut a generous deal with the U.S. It operates on an annual budget of about \$50 million, a good part of which is supplied by Washington.

And the local government, headed by Tenorio's cousin, Pedro P. Tenorio, can call the shots on immigration. The Northern Marianas cannot confer U.S. citizenship on foreigners or supply "green cards," but it can and does allow in those outsiders who it feels can benefit the economy.

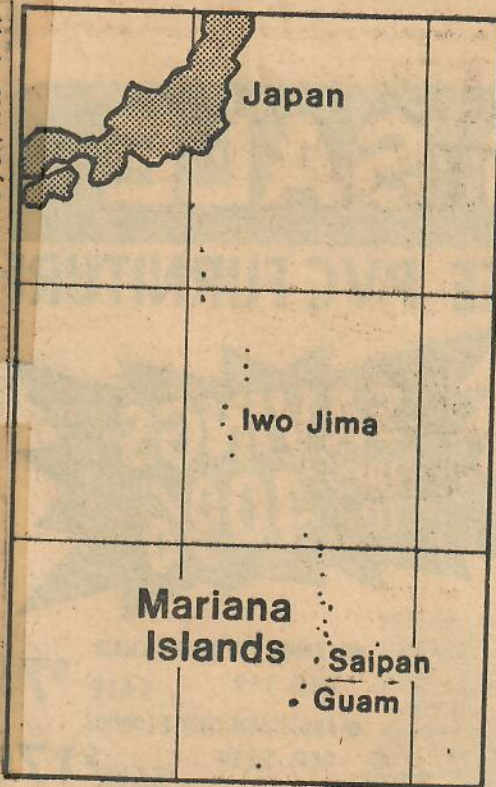
The strongest sector is tourism. Visitor counts for the past few years have been on the plus side in the double digits. Japanese account for the bulk of tourists, who now number about 9,000 a month. There are 700 rooms mostly on Saipan, and the flagship hotels are managed by Inter-Continental and Hyatt.

Beyond tourism, Tenorio believes the future is good for companies that want to use the Northern Marianas for production purposes. He points out that there are two garment factories on Saipan, and the firms pay no gross receipt tax.

In addition, "we have a very favorable import tax waiver" from the U.S. if at least 30 percent of a product is locally produced.

**WHILE THE** future of the Northern Marianas is tied up in the fate of the other Trust Territory components — the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau — the local government has gone to considerable lengths to establish itself and its economic base.

There are still notable problems to overcome including adequate water supplies during extended droughts and affordable electricity. But Tenorio says progress has been made, and "the business outlook looks good to me, the prospects are very good."



## Isle business gets Marianas pitch

By Floyd K. Takeuchi

Advertiser Staff Writer

Look to the Pacific Islands for opportunities was the message carried last Friday to some 50 Hawaii business persons. Gov. Pedro Tenorio of the Northern Mariana Islands gave his pitch at a breakfast meeting at the Ala Moana Hotel.

"We know we cannot sustain our people with local and federal government programs only," Tenorio said. "We want our people to be more productive, and the only way we can accelerate this development is to involve the private sector more fully."

Tenorio and three aides are here to drum up business sponsors for September's 23rd South Pacific Conference, which will be held on Saipan, capital of the Northern Marianas. Businesses will be given three days before the meeting begins to hold their own "Year of the Pacific" session with local and other Pacific leaders, and will have space for display booths.

The Marianas is a chain of 16 islands stretching northward from Guam, and while still part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, has been self-governing since 1978. The group, with about 16,000 people, will become a full-fledged U.S. Commonwealth when the trusteeship is terminated.

The conference is held annually by the South Pacific Commission, a regional development organization based in Noumea, New Caledonia. Last year's meeting was held in American Samoa, and was the first time private sector sponsorship was attempted. Approximately 50 American, Asian and Pacific firms signed up, many for the full \$5,000 fee.

This year, the Northern Marianas is pushing the same idea, but leaving the amount of sponsorship open. During Friday's meeting, however, Glenn Elkins, chief executive officer of Hawaii-based Global Associates, pledged \$5,000 toward the Marianas conference. Global, which provides service-related support systems, has extensive interests in the Marshall Islands, particularly at the U.S. missile range on Kwajalein atoll. It also helped underwrite the Samoa session.

George Chan, Marianas Chief Physical Planner and chairman of the conference task force, said he hopes 30 Hawaii businesses will become sponsors of the Sept. 28 to Oct. 3 meeting. He's expecting about 100 firms to pledge support, and Chan said the group has already received feelers from Asian and European companies.

# Union Pushes Case to Enter Marianas

By Lee Catterall  
Star-Bulletin Writer

An electrical workers union presented its case to the National Labor Relations Board yesterday for extending the board's powers to the non-unionized Northern Marianas.

Federal laws regulating collective bargaining "were intended to be applicable to the Northern Marianas," union attorney Herbert Takahashi told Thomas Cestaire, the NLRB hearing officer.

Electrical Workers Local 1357 launched a drive in September to organize 54 employees at the Micronesian Telecommunications Corp., the commonwealth's telephone company.

The hearing was to resume today.

Witnesses for the union testified yesterday that the Marianas are an essentially English-speaking land where U.S. agencies now operate and which are heavily dependent on American imports.

THUS, Takahashi said, the islands are suitable for union activity regulated by U.S. laws.

The phone company has resisted the effort and tried unsuccessfully last month to persuade a commission reviewing laws in the Marianas to forbid union activity.

The commission was established to conduct a review by June to determine which U.S. laws should apply in the Marianas.

The company warned the commission that union activity in the Marianas "would most likely impede the economic growth of the islands and encourage and foment industrial strife."

Richard Rand, the company's

attorney, refused yesterday to acknowledge making the statement to the commission. Takahashi brought it to the NLRB's attention, apparently in the belief that the statement's harsh criticism of union activity may alienate the labor board from the company's position.

THE STATEMENT refers to "violent and destructive aspects" of past union activity on Guam, where the NLRB now oversees collective bargaining.

It says that Operating Engineers Union Local 3 encouraged striking employees to "litter the roads" with "union jacks," three nails attached in a triangular pattern which resulted in the destruction of a large number of tires on the employer's trucks.

"Armed guards were hired to patrol the employer's premises to prevent sabotage, and on one occasion the guards had to turn away intruders," the statement says.

The company also contends in the statement that the NLRB in Honolulu "simply does not have a budget large enough to permit it unlimited travel" needed to properly supervise union activity in the Northern Marianas.

In Guam, the statement says, employers and employees "were put in limbo" because of infrequent visits by NLRB officials.

# Military Battles for Tinian Lease

By Michael Mecham  
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — In response to a critical General Accounting Office study, the Defense Department has mounted a lobbying effort to try to persuade Congress to exercise a 50-year-lease option on Tinian Island in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Under terms of the Northern Mariana Islands covenant signed in 1977, the United States has until January 1983 to exercise the lease. The GAO determined last month that the Defense Department has not carefully defined what use it has for 17,799 acres on Tinian, 177 acres on Saipan and 206 acres on the island of Farallon de Medinilla.

Last week, the Pentagon briefed staff members of the House Appropriations subcommittee on

military construction, presumably hoping to soften their opposition to the Tinian lease. The staff has, thus far, sided with the GAO's criticism of the lease.

A PENTAGON spokesman said the military's interests in the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) "are for strategic considerations, for posturing U.S. forces into the next century and also that it contributes significantly and enhances the operational readiness of forward deployed forces by providing training areas in the Western Pacific."

NMI Washington representative Edward Pangelinan said his government won't be disappointed if the lease option isn't picked up. Without a lease, the Tinian land now used for cattle grazing and brief U.S. Marine exercises, can be put to other uses, like more

intensive agriculture production, he said.

"As far as we're concerned, we've lived up to our responsibilities under the covenant by making the land available," said Pangelinan. "If, in its wisdom, the Congress doesn't want to exercise the lease, then so be it."

The House has already voted not to appropriate \$35 million to acquire the lease. The Senate Appropriations subcommittee on defense is scheduled to mark up its military construction bill in another two weeks.

A SENATE staff member would not guess whether Tinian money would be included in it in light of the critical GAO report.

Others speculate that Republicans in the Senate are under pressure to side with the Pentagon because of the White House's defense buildup. If the Senate votes funds, they face an uncertain future when the issue reaches a House-Senate conference.

In its report, the GAO — the investigatory arm of Congress — said the Defense Department had not demonstrated a need for over half of the total land it sought. It said the lease option contains limitations that aren't in the interest of either government and that an alternative lease should

be negotiated. "DOD is able to demonstrate a need for only 8,306 acres currently used for military training," the GAO said.

Farallon de Medinilla, a tiny island north of Saipan, is used as a bombing target for carrier-based Navy planes and gunnery practice.

THE NORTHERN half of Tinian, the World War II takeoff strip for the Enola Gay when it dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima, is used to practice Marine infantry assault exercises from C-130 cargo planes and amphibious assaults from Navy troop transport ships.

Land not used now is needed for "fallback alternative basing," the Pentagon told GAO.

GAO said two reports provided by the Pentagon to justify the lease option were out of date.

"We are told the perceived need at the time the covenant was written for the land on Saipan no longer exists," GAO said.

It noted that appraisals valued the Saipan land at much more than the United States has agreed to pay but the Tinian land at less.

GAO said the United States should let the lease option expire and then renegotiate for only 8,100 acres of Tinian and the Farallon de Medinilla land.

## Military Use of Tinian Island

The little island of Tinian got a line in the history books as the launching site of the planes that dropped the atomic bomb on Japan in 1945. Three decades later, Tinian became important again as a factor in the bargaining that resulted in the creation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

It was agreed that the U.S. would have the option to lease most of Tinian (17,000 acres) — as well as another, uninhabited island — for military purposes for 100 years. The United States was to pay \$19 million for the lease, based on 1977 dollars, or an estimated \$29 million today.

At the time negotiations were in progress in 1974, there was little doubt that the Pentagon had big plans for Tinian. There was talk of a \$300 million joint-service base there. An official announcement spoke of income to the Marianas "from military construction and a growing military presence and spending."

Since the approval of the commonwealth covenant in 1975, however, nothing in the way of a "growing military presence" has occurred. The question now is whether anything ever will.

Washington has until January 1983 to exercise its option for military use, and it isn't clear whether something will happen by that date.

The Navy had planned a visit to Saipan and Tinian this month to gather information for drafting a lease. But the visit had to be delayed because of congressional opposition to funding the lease. The money was cut out of the budget by a U.S. Senate subcommittee on military construction.

On Saipan, commonwealth House Democrats said if Congress refused to fund the lease option this year, they would regard that as an indication that the United States would not exercise its option by 1983. They said they would ask Congress to appropriate funds for agricultural development instead.

At the time of the commonwealth negotiations, the United States had pulled out of Vietnam and seemed in need of fallback military positions in the Western Pacific. Tinian appeared to be the answer.

Since then, however, the U.S. bases agreement with the Philippines has been renegotiated and the post-Vietnam fears of a pullback have not materialized. Construction of a big new base on Tinian does not seem to be in the cards at a time of pressing military demands elsewhere.

However, the Pentagon wants to go ahead and exercise the lease option. That seems reasonable enough, considering the importance that was attached to the option in the commonwealth negotiations. Moreover, our bases rights in the Philippines, even under the new terms, are limited and we may well need to move out sometime in the years to come.

Even if Tinian isn't needed by the military now, it could come in handy someday.

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

# Saipan — battlefield gives

By John Needham  
*United Press International*

SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands — With the Japanese porn shop, the Japanese honeymooners and the Japanese-jammed tours, it's easy to forget Saipan is part of the United States.

Only 1,513 miles from Tokyo but 7,620 miles from Los Angeles, the Americans captured Saipan in a bloody World War II battle and it has remained U.S. since.

Saipan and the two smaller islands of Rota and Tinian make up the Northern Marianas. They are now a commonwealth, like Puerto Rico, and also part of a trust territory administered by Washington.

But the tourists don't care about the politics. They come for the palm trees, the white sands, the sparkling blue Pacific Ocean waters.

And when one speaks of tourists these days, one speaks of Japanese.

"The Japanese aren't going to Hawaii or Southeast Asia as much anymore," says Dave Sablan, a Saipanese businessman who owns the hotel managed by the International chain.

"It's too expensive to go to those spots. Air fares are up. Fuel costs are up. We're only 3 hours away, so they're coming here."

Aside from the beaches, the Japanese tour the battle sites where the Imperial Japanese forces were mauled by U.S. Marines and GIs in the summer of 1944.

They visit landing beaches, rusted artillery pieces and Suicide and Banzai Cliffs, where hundreds of Japanese civilians afraid of the Americans, jumped 800 feet to their deaths on rocks below.

"When we first got here, this road was only a path and the sword grass would reach across the car from both sides," said Gerry Craddock as he took visitors up to Suicide Cliff.

"I never dreamed I'd see tour buses up here," said Craddock, who has lived on Saipan for several years while working for the U.S. government as a development official.

Now the road is wide and cleared of barriers for the buses that chug to the top.

Offshore lies a wrecked landing ship, a casualty of the battle that

entered history as the "Marianas turkey shoot," when 402 Japanese and 17 American planes were shot down in one day.

The ground fighting lasted for weeks and, when it ended, all but about 600 of the 30,000 Japanese defenders were dead. So were more than 20,000 Japanese civilians. The American casualties totaled 14,000 killed or wounded, all on a 47-square-mile island.

The Japanese had occupied the Northern Marianas and other Pacific islands since the end of World War I.

Magellan discovered the islands in 1521 and 200 years later they were

## way to a new invasion

named for the widow of the king of Spain. Following defeat in the Spanish-American war, Spain sold the islands to Germany, which was ousted in World War I.

In Japanese days, the occupiers worked the Saipanese hard, but the island thrived, producing sugar cane, sweet potatoes, cotton.

The train that tootled through the sugar plantations, restored and stationary on a track, is part of the tour, as is the decrepit jail cell where Amelia Earhart, who disappeared on a round-the-world flight,

may have been held, if one unproved theory about her disappearance is really true.

Saipan has more paved roads — not many, really — than other Pacific island because of the huge U.S. military presence in the closing days of World War II, when B-29 aircraft took off from the island to bomb Japan.

The planes that dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki took off from the island of Tinian.

Saipan also has better housing

than other islands because the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency used the island in the 1950s to train Chinese guerrillas and built a \$25-million complex.

Now the island has increasing numbers of tourists, Japanese coming to pump their yen into the economy.

Although the Japanese were tough on Saipanese toward the end of the war, most people have chosen to forget the nastiness, according to Lt. Gov. Francisco Ada.

# 54 missing in Pacific isle eruption

May 15, 81

Novo S-B

By Dick Williams  
*United Press International*

AGANA, Guam — A volcano erupted today on the tiny island of Pagan and surveillance aircraft reported seeing no sign of the island's 54 inhabitants, the Coast Guard said. The Coast Guard Rescue Center on Guam was coordinating efforts to evacuate the islanders but said so far there have been no sightings of the people.

First reports of the eruption reached Guam this morning and were confirmed later by the pilot of a U.S.

Air Force B-52 bomber flying in the vicinity who reported a dust cloud rising 35,000 feet in the air over the island.

Pagan is the northernmost inhabited island in the Marianas chain, 300 miles north of Guam and 300 miles south of the World War II battlefield island of Iwo Jima. It is part of the American Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

Aircraft rushed to the stricken island shortly after the first reports of the eruption were received but details on damage and injuries, if any, were not immediately available. One

aircraft reported sighting ash over the north and eastern side of the island.

Coast Guard officials said preparations were being made to send two helicopters to Pagan from Guam.

In addition, a light aircraft piloted by Joaquin Flores of Guam was to try landing on Pagan's 2,500-foot unimproved coral runway. But Flores said his civilian aircraft could evacuate only three adults.

Trans Micronesia Air Lines has an Australian-built Nomad aircraft which was heading to the area.

The Nomad is a short takeoff and

landing plane configured to carry 16 adults and should be able to get in and out on Pagan's short runway. Trans Micronesia has two other Nomads which could be pressed into service if needed.

U.S. military forces on Guam do not have aircraft capable of landing on the short runway which was built several years ago by the Seabees, a Navy construction unit.

The Coast Guard reported that a B-52 and a Navy P-3 patrol plane remained over the island to conduct surveillance and relay communications.



# Pagan Islanders Want to Go Back Home

PAGAN ISLAND, Northern Marianas (AP)—Groves of coconut trees on this onetime "paradise" are encrusted in lava, and valleys are black from ash and fires that accompanied the furious eruption of Mount Pagan.

The 53 islanders who lived here are safe on another island because they hid in caves during the blast. But they're eager to return home, despite the risk that Mount Pagan could again roar to life as it did May 15.

The 54th resident, Mayor Danny Castro, was on the island of Saipan, 180 miles to the south, when the eruption occurred.

"I ... want to come back to Pagan. It is like paradise," said Saturnino Kaipat, who has been staying on Saipan since he and the others were rescued from Pagan.

"If it is okay, then I want to live on Pagan. It's my home," said his uncle, 54-year-old Mariano Kaipat, the oldest islander.

Yet no one knows when the 13 families might be able to leave Saipan.

THREE SCIENTISTS from the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park observatory who went to Pagan after the eruption say Mount Pagan may blow again. Harmonic tremors, subterranean shivers that often herald an eruption, still occur. And much of the tropical Pacific island is unlivable.

Castro was stunned by the island's appearance when he and 12 residents made a brief visit recently to collect a few belongings and surviving livestock before abandoning their homes, perhaps forever. "I didn't think it would be like this," he said.

Mount Pagan, one of the island's two active volcanoes, erupted for the first time in 56 years last month, blasting plumes of ash, steam and smoke 45,000 feet high.

The islanders, including 29 children, fled their homes in the island's only village and hid in caves until a Japanese freighter took them to Saipan.

They had only one small boat to cross a small inlet to the caves, and many people made it across the water on their own. "It was like God told the children how to swim," said Pete Castro, the mayor's brother.

The islanders and scientists said lava had buried 10 percent of the 185-square-mile island. And ash covers the entire island, one of the northernmost in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, 6,000 miles from the U.S. West Coast and 1,200 miles south of Japan.

LAVA FLOWS, one nearly 100 feet high, ran down the mountain slopes.

covering Pagan's two main roads and half its airstrip, killing thousands of animals and destroying acres of coconut trees, the island's only source of income.

Ash has clogged rainwater catchments, and animal carcasses litter the island. The returning residents, who burned the dead animals to prevent disease, said they lost 2,900 pigs, 540 cattle, 1,200 goats and 100 chickens.

Northern Marianas Gov. Carlos Camacho said he wants a seismometer, which records movement of the Earth, installed on the island before allowing residents to return.

Danny Castro, also mayor of five other islands in the Marianas chain, all with active volcanoes, hopes for government aid to rehabilitate Pagan.

"Living with a volcano is a gamble, but life is a gamble," he said.

# All 53 Are Saved on Volcano Island

By Lee Gomes  
Star-Bulletin Writer

All 53 residents of the Northern Marianas island of Pagan, who escaped injury from a volcanic eruption Thursday by hiding out in deep natural caves, were rescued yesterday by a Japanese container ship and were to arrive in Saipan today.

The rescued islanders told officials that they escaped injury from the eruption by swimming or taking boats across a bay to the protected side of the island and then hiding in the caves.

Those rescued, including 32 children, were expected to arrive in the Northern Marianas capital of Saipan at about noon today.

A military rescue team on Guam reported that none of the islanders had been injured.

The Coast Guard said a Japanese cargo ship, the Hoyo Maru, was in the area when the eruption occurred and was detoured to Pagan after receiving an SOS message.

The ship picked up the island's residents and transferred them to the Trust Territory vessel Fentress, carrying lifeboats, medical supplies and a doctor, which then made sail for Saipan.

THE SUCCESSFUL rescue followed earlier fears that no one on

the small island would have been able to survive the eruption.

Earlier reports said that 54 persons were on the island when the eruption occurred Thursday at about 1:15 p.m. Hawaii time. It was discovered yesterday, however, that Pagan's mayor was on Saipan when the eruption occurred.

The eruption was the first on the island in 26 years, and during its most active period on Thursday, ash was thrown 40,000 feet into the air, creating a cloud that made it impossible for circling planes to see land.

The volcano was reported to have quieted last night.

Mark Skinner, a Guam Pacific Daily News photographer who flew over the island yesterday in an Air Force C-130, interviewed one of the rescued islanders by radio.

Skinner said he was told that when the residents saw the smoke, ash and flame of the eruption, they fled across a bay to the safety of the other side of the island.

Some of them swam, while the island's older residents and young children were transported in canoes and in the island's one boat, which was motorless.

ONCE ON THE other side of the island, they stayed in caves that were deep enough to assure that the air would remain cool.

The caves are places of refuge during typhoons and were used by islanders during a 1925 volcanic eruption.

Some portions of Pagan above-ground registered temperatures of more than 200 degrees Fahrenheit, according to military monitoring devices.

Skinner said that earthquakes had preceded the eruption by about an hour.

The northwestern portion of the island was blanketed with ash, he said, and the ocean surrounding Pagan was darkened in some places as far as 10 miles out.

The lava flow from the eruption missed the island's one town, Banadera, but the area was covered by other volcanic debris.

Skinner said that considerable clearing and construction work would be needed to make the town habitable again.

Pagan is about 3,500 miles west of Hawaii and 350 miles north of Guam. It is a member of the U.S. Commonwealth of North Marianas.

The major features of the island are two volcanic cones on its northwest and southeast ends. It was the northwest cone, Mt. Pagan, that erupted. The other volcano is dormant.

MOST OF THE ISLAND is moun-  
Turn to Page A-2, Col. 4



**AFTER THE ERUPTION**—Molten lava flows from the north end of Mt. Pagan after a volcanic eruption on the Northern Marianas island of Pagan Thursday. The eruption blew off a 1,000-by-2,000-foot section of the cone, leaving a crater about 650 feet deep, those flying over the island said. —M.P. Warner Photo via AP.

# Residents of Pagan Isle Rescued by Japan Ship

Continued from Page One

tainous with a few flat areas. The residents make a living by fishing and growing their own crops.

The island has both electricity and running water, some of that the result of work by Navy Seabees in 1970. The island has no harbor but small cargo boats are able to call there.

Pagan, usually a quiet island made up of black-sand beaches, a fresh-water lake, lava rock and coconut trees, goes largely unnoticed by the rest of the world except when it is struck by natural or man-made disasters.

The volcanic peaks often produce steam and smoke but actual eruptions have been few, according to accounts.

Mt. Pagan, a 1,883-foot-high peak on the northwest side of the island, last erupted in 1922, according to news accounts.

It is not known how many persons, if any, were injured then.

In 1959, Pagan was thought to be erupting when flames were observed by a weather reconnaissance airplane. Later it was learned that brushfires, not uncommon to the island, caused the flames and the report of the eruption was unfounded.

IN 1966, ANOTHER huge brushfire swept across the island, wiping out

many of the coconut stands, news accounts said.

The island has often been battered by typhoons and in 1969 Typhoon Elsie forced island residents to caves for protection. The caves saved the residents from any injuries, according to news accounts.

An airstrip was built on the island by the Japanese during the war and that airstrip was rebuilt after the island became a U.S. possession.

In 1970, the airstrip was dedicated and it was thought that tiny Pagan finally had been connected with the modern world.

The strip, however, is used mainly for emergency reasons or for the occasional tourists who visit the island, according to news accounts.

A-19

May 15, 81

Honolulu S-B

# Volcano Erupts on W. Pacific Island

By Michael Leidemann  
Associated Press Writer

A volcano erupted on the remote Northern Marianas island of Pagan, blasting ash 40,000 feet into the air and oozing lava toward the only village, where the island's 54 residents were thought to have ducked into caves, U.S. authorities said.

Rescue vessels carrying lifeboats, doctors and medical supplies today were speeding to the island, a U.S. territory.

The island's only shortwave radio operator said Mount Pagan, one of two volcanoes on the island, erupted shortly after 1:15 p.m. Hawaii time yesterday. The operator then abandoned his radio and has not been heard from since.

The crew of an Air Force B-52 bomber diverted to Pagan reported seeing a red lava flow oozing toward the village and an ash cloud climb-

ing to 40,000 feet. Crew members reported temperatures of more than 100 degrees inside their plane when they flew near the cloud.

A PRIVATE PILOT who caught glimpses of the island through the dense smoke spotted no signs of life.

Joaquin Flores, a pilot for Freedom Airlines, a commuter service, also said he believed the village and the island's grass airstrip were covered by lava. The only possible escape route would have been by boat, and Flores said he saw no boats near the island.

His craft, another commercial plane and several military planes from Guam were forced to turn back because of poor visibility and volcanic ash fallout.

The Air Force crew also reported seeing no signs of life, but Northern Marianas Lt. Gov. Francis Ada said he believed the island residents, almost all farmers and fishermen,

were hiding in caves as they do during typhoons.

Officials were to dispatch a C-130 rescue aircraft from Andersen Air Force Base on Guam to scout the island and attempt a landing if possible.

The Office of Civil Defense on Saipan, capital of the northern Marianas island group, also was preparing rescue efforts.

The island residents live in 11 tin homes. There is one jeep.

The 1,879-foot Mount Pagan had not erupted since 1955, but was considered a live volcano. The island's other volcano is dormant.

TWO VESSELS, a U.S. Trust Territory ship and a Japanese merchant ship in the area, were en route to the area and expected to arrive sometime during the night, according to Lt. Ed Marmol of the Joint Rescue Coordination Center on Guam.

Pagan is the northernmost island in the Marianas chain, about 350 miles north of Guam and 3,500 miles west of Hawaii.

"The island doesn't have a harbor," Marmol said. "If they can even approach the island, they'll have to use smaller boats to ferry the people over the reef."

If an evacuation was possible, the residents probably would be taken to Alamagan, the nearest inhabited island in the chain.

Two Navy helicopters and a Navy P-3 plane dispatched to the island were later called back to Guam for the "safety of pilots and crew members," Marmol said.

He said the Coast Guard would conduct an air search of Pagan at first light if conditions permitted.

The island's only dirt airstrip was reported clouded in ash, making an attempted landing earlier by a small commercial plane impossible.

ON  
THE  
GO

## SAIPAN'S GOT ME!



A visitor's guide to the island

### HAFA ADAI!

Welcome to Saipan! You're here at the western edge of the vast North Pacific Ocean where Saipan stands as a four-mile-wide borderline between the Pacific and the Philippine Sea.

At least 400 years of tourists have preceded you. The first big name visitor to the Marianas was a voyager named Ferdinand Magellan who arrived in 1521 and left almost immediately because he considered the place to be a clip joint. In fact, on his navigation chart he penned "*Islas de ladrones*," the islands of thieves.

Quite the contrary today, with Saipanese very generous and hospitable by nature, a visitor who has taken the time to get acquainted takes home with him a sense of kinship and the love of friends.

Saipan is a modern community with its abundance of paved roads, TV, daily air traffic and newly built typhoon resistant houses. Some people call it a pocket size edition of Guam, and there is good reason for the comparison. The Chamorros' language, culture and attitudes on Saipan certainly are very similar to their cousins and brothers on Guam. It was only at the beginning of this century that Germany's Pacific administration, desiring to stimulate agriculture on Saipan, offered Guamanians free transportation and parcels of land to those who would become permanent settlers. These immigrant Chamorros joined the handful of other islanders who had migrated from the Western Caroline Islands about a hundred years earlier.

Also along with the Guamanians in the early 1900s, a number of Carolinians were evacuated from their home islands to the Marianas because of severe typhoon destruction. However, the truly early days of Saipan go back at least to around 1500 B.C., as dated by the *latte* stone remnants still to be seen at Obyan Beach.

Today's Saipanese family names record the meandering of islanders, explorers, whalers, traders, missionaries, settlers and others from all corners of the earth, as well as government employees of Micronesia's four foreign administrations. Spain loosely ruled the Marianas until 1899 when Germany purchased the islands of Micronesia, excepting Guam. The Japanese took over by quietly landing military forces on Saipan in October 1914 to begin an occupation of Micronesia later sanctioned by the League of Nations. World War Two brought a U.S. naval administration followed by continuing American administration under a United Nations trusteeship beginning in 1947.

The Mariana chain of islands, geographically, includes Guam. Politically, however, Guam is a territory of the U.S. while the northern Mariana Islands, until 1976, served as one of the U.N. Trusteeship's six administrative districts. U.S. President Gerald Ford on March 24, 1976, signed the "Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas in political union with the United States of America." The Covenant will not come fully into effect until the Trusteeship Agreement

is terminated for all of the Trust Territory, most likely by the end of 1981. Some of the Covenant's provisions however, including those calling for a locally approved constitution and an elected governor may become operational as early as 1977/1978.

Stretching nearly 400 miles northward from Guam, the northern Marianas are the tips of a massive mountain range rising more than 30,000 feet above the ocean floor. At least one inhabited island, Pagan, has an active volcano. Total district population is estimated to be about 15,000. Three islands, Saipan (pop. 13,000), Rota (1,100) and Tinian (800) have regular air service. The other sparsely settled islands, Pagan, Agrihan, and Alamagan are serviced by field trip vessels, with Pagan's WW II Fighter strip capable of handling small charter aircraft.

**T**our operators have found that a visitor with limited time is able to circle the highlights of Saipan's beauty spots and historic sites in about three to four hours. But this, of course, does not permit time for responding to the serenity of the island's west-side lagoon and sparkling beaches, or marveling at the relentless ocean as it crashes against the rocky eastern shore, or succumbing to the recurring review of battle relics and sites cloaked in their awesome aura of Japanese and American deaths by the thousands.

The standard quickie tour, whether conducted by a professional guide or self-driven, usually starts somewhere along Beach Road.

On the shore side, almost any stop will reveal good spots for sunbathing and numerous relics of war: tanks, landing craft, gun emplacements, and pieces of this equipment. It was along this now peaceful stretch of beaches that more than 3,000 American marines and soldiers met death and another 11,000 were wounded during the invasion hours of June 15, 1944, and the three weeks that followed.

A quick spin down to Puntan Muchot, now called Micro Beach, should be made to evaluate swimming possibilities against other beaches you'll be seeing. Micro Beach is the most popular of Saipan's picnic and play grounds and is being developed into a full scale public recreation area.

Main points of interest along the mountain side of Beach Road begin with the civic center and Marianas High School complex, built with budgeted T.T. and U.S. disaster relief funds following ferocious Typhoon Jean, in April, 1968. Here in distinctive architectural form are the offices of the district administrator, the police and fire departments, and the Marianas Tourist Commission.

Continuing along Beach Road, after passing the intersection marked by a monument and two U.S. artillery pieces, you'll run abreast of several miles of tangled *tangan-tangan* now hiding the area of the former town of Garapan, a major seaport of Japan's Micronesian empire. Nearly 13,000 Japanese and several thousand Micronesians lived in the approximately 150 acre townsite. Criss-crossing, narrow streets, still traceable today, carried the busy traffic of the peacetime populace through the civic center and its surrounding residential and business neighborhoods. Before the Japanese, the site was headquarters for the German administration of the Marianas.

Well worth a second and longer inspection are the civic center's hospital and jail, usually visited on the return loop of the island tour. However, the center's lone concrete church tower can be seen from Beach Road, just behind the temporary Garapan Catholic

Church. The tower was built in the early 1920's at the site of the original Spanish mission. On the hillside above can be seen the remains of the Japanese lighthouse. The *tangan-tangan* you see everywhere, covering the island like a stiffly teased Afro hairdo, was seeded to prevent soil erosion. The land had been laid bare during World War II.

Farther down beach road, as you approach the intersection with Middle Road, is the commercial port of Saipan and the entry road to the government's lower base industrial and public works area.

Two villages, Tanapag and San Roque, both with interesting churches and homes and friendly faces, are passed before reaching the Marpi (Magpi) area of northern Saipan. Rugged and almost completely overgrown with wild brush and trees, the uninhabited Marpi region contains some of the finest beaches and saddest natural monuments of the battle for Saipan.

Nearby is Papau Beach and its distant reef, a sweeping lagoon to see and enjoy when you have more time. Its narrow access road begins at "Marpi Gate," a gateless location one-half mile beyond San Roque. The spot is easily recognized by a dip in the asphalt road now leveled with concrete, and by a four inch pipe upon which the Marpi gate once swung at the right. Turn left here for Papau Beach. At the far northern end of the beach are cleverly camouflaged machine gun nests dug into the rocks by the Japanese defenders.

Back on the main road, signs will lead you to Wing Beach, given its name because of an American Navy airplane wing lying lightly covered in the sand; to the Last Japanese Command Post, a natural cave where the decision was made to capitulate; to the watery grave at Banzai Cliff, and to the solemn Suicide Cliff.

An onlooker standing at the upper rim of the somberly beautiful 800 foot high Suicide Cliff views the panorama of a battle-scarred land plateau rising sharply from the dark blue, rolling sea. Straight ahead is the monument marking Banzai Cliff and below to the left lies the Command Post, recognized by its mounted cannons.

In mid-June, 1944, nearly a hundred U.S. Navy ships, including 16 carriers,

stood off Saipan delivering a three and a half day softening up blow in preparation for invasion. A few days later, just beyond the horizon, Japanese and American aircraft carriers steamed head to head, and on June 19th engaged in "The Marianas Turkey Shoot" air massacre: 402 Japanese and 17 American planes downed in one day; three Japanese carriers sunk.

The land battle for Saipan was slow moving and gruesome. By the first week of July, American ground forces, having secured the southern and central sections of Saipan, were sweeping in wide columns up both sides of the island, intending to join at the Marpi plateau below Suicide Cliff. At the Garapan plains to the left, on the night of July 6th, GIs ran into the most fanatical banzai attack of the entire Pacific war. The last several thousand Japanese troops, all that remained of the 30,000 original defenders, pushed American forces back across the Tanapag plain, into the sea and on to the reef at Papau. The Japanese charge had been sparked by Gen. Yoshitsugo Saito's *shichi sei hokoku* order calling for each man to take seven lives for the emperor. The defense chief watched the fierce combat from the Last Command Post, finally conceded defeat and sent his men into a mass suicide attack. Later, quietly kneeling facing Japan, he pressed his dagger into his stomach and an aide shot him in the head with a pistol. There was no formal surrender of the island.

Meanwhile fighting continued through the early morning hours on Garapan plain: artillery, machine guns, rifles, pistols, bayonets, swords, bamboo spears, clubs, stones and fists. The calm that eventually settled over Tanapag saw nearly 5,000 men dead, about 1,500 in the last few hours. Of the more than 30,000 Japanese defenders of Saipan on D-day, only a little more than 600 survived to be repatriated.

One of the most lamentable episodes of the war took place at Suicide and Banzai cliffs. During the last week of fighting, Japanese civilians by the hundreds, choosing death rather than surrender, plunged over the rocky precipices. Many families were seen lining up single file, each younger member being shoved over by the next

older child. As the final action, the father would run backwards towards the edge so he would not sense his last step. Other families were seen circling a hand grenade detonated by a parent. Americans and Saipanese with loudspeakers had failed to convince many Japanese that surrender would be harmless and shameless.

Invasion date estimates place Saipan's Japanese, Okinawan and Korean civilian population between 25,000 and 30,000. About 15,000 were held in protective custody when the island was secured. Virtually all were returned to their homelands.

In memory of the 400 Saipanese who died and the thousands of other unaccounted for civilians and the well over 30,000 military dead, numerous memorials have been placed around the island. On Banzai Cliff rise two marble columns shaped to represent youth and adults kneeling in prayer for peace. This monument was built in 1969 by students from Japan. Among the largest remembrances is the peace memorial park atop Suicide Cliff, a shrine proposed by a former head of the *Nanyo Kohatsu Kaisha*, the Japanese firm which had developed the sugar cane business of the Marianas.

Setting aside the somber thoughts of Saipan's wartime history, there is much to see and enjoy from other natural wonders on this 14.5 mile long tropical island. On the eastern shore of the Marpi end, accessible by auto as you descend from that cliff, is a "calendar picture" view of Bird Island, a marvelous limestone islet set upon a secluded reef. A difficult, half-hour hike (later when you have more time) from the end of nearby Bird Island access road brings you to a snorkeling, shelling, spearing, sunbathing Shangri-la. Another road leads to the Grotto, a mammoth sunken pool connected to the ocean by two underground passages. Because of the powerful surge as the Pacific Ocean swallows and spews back large volumes of water from the grotto, dipping is best left to the strongest of swimmers.

The entire Marpi region is pockmarked with caves, both large and tiny, many still replete with the rusting remains of war. Few have trails; most are discovered through machete labor.

Heading back toward southern Saipan along the Marpi road, a cenotaph marks the left turn to Capitol Hill and the so-called Cross Island Road. The presidio-like community of Capitol Hill is topped by the offices of the Congress of Micronesia. The TT's executive branch headquarters occupies several buildings and the almost identical concrete houses are home to 113 Micronesian and American families. The entire complex was built in 1948 for use by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency as it conducted Nationalist Chinese guerilla training at Marpi. The area became TT headquarters in 1962.

From the Congress parking lot, an auto path meanders through an abandoned coffee plantation and radar station on its way to the 1,545 foot high Mt. Tagpochau, Saipan's highest elevation. Some drivers are known to have made it up and back without trouble. Many others prefer rambling on wheels only as far as their bravado and skill will take them and then ambling on up to the top. This side trip is not recommended for the quickie tour.

From Capitol Hill, the sightseer has a choice of returning to his hotel via the Cross Island Road or traveling the Middle Road through Garapan. Most one-day visitors will head for Middle Road to make stops at Garapan's former civic center surrounding Sugar King Park.

The little red railroad engine at the park once hauled sugar cane and firewood along a route roughly following Middle Road. The cane, brought in from as far as the Marpi plateau in the north and Magicienne Bay, to the southeast, was processed in a multi-storied factory located at the present site of Mt. Carmel Church.

The towering bronze figure, set in the park in 1934, honors Haruji Matsue, pioneering president of *Nanyo Kohatsu Kaisha*, the firm which produced Japan's molasses and industrial alcohol. A *torii* (shrine gateway) and a tiny concrete teacher's cottage are the only other prewar structures remaining in the park.

Directly across Middle Road, reached by circling as shown on the map, is the island's pre-war hospital. Still easily identifiable are its circular waiting room and two tiled surgeries.

Other rooms served as an office, pharmacy, library, consultation room, x-ray, laundry and even an office for the eye-ear-nose-throat specialist. Graffiti, said to have been scribbled during typhoons, line corridor walls. Adjacent is the former laboratory building, with a flaking Palauan mural over its entrance, and an underground roundhouse whose construction and use is unrecorded.

A bit bewildering is the route to the old Japanese jail. Try driving (airport direction) a few hundred yards down middle road from Sugar King Park. The first coconut trees on the right mark an entry road into the boonies. (A house stands close to the palm trees.) Less than a hundred steps from Middle Road will bring you to a path on the right. This in turn leads to the jail.

The main cellblock normally held male civilian prisoners and the smaller five room unit opposite was reserved for bad girls who violated employment agreements, didn't pay debts, abandoned their children, or rifled pockets of customers' clothing left hanging in Garapan's three dozen geisha houses. The jail's administration building and workshop stands near the women's unit. And behind the two is a corner section of the 13 foot high concrete wall which once surrounded the prison.

Some people insist that downed American aviatrix Amelia Earhart was held briefly in one of the two smaller, recessed cells of the main block. More certain is the record of a handful of American GIs confined there after crashlanding in the Pacific during the war.

The sightseer who chooses to return from Capitol Hill around the other side of the island will enjoy the Cross Island Road as it skirts the slopes of Mt. Tagpochau, passes near small scattered farms, transits San Vicente Village and goes by the present hospital and nursing school before joining Middle and Beach roads. Numerous foot trails lead to the sandy pockets of Saipan's mostly rocky eastern shore. A half dozen rather large, sandy beaches, however, may be reached or at least approached by car.

From Capitol Hill, the first coral road heading left from Cross Island Road leads to Talofof Beach (secluded, half-hour hike) and Old Man by the Sea



(spectacular rock formations and tidal pools, half-hour walk when rains have left the last stretch of road impassable).

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, a few minutes away from the main road, marks a cave where local residents took shelter during the war and still seek refuge during typhoons. The two *torii*s and park-like surroundings are maintained by grateful neighbors.

The side road to the Kagman (Hagman) communications and housing areas also leads to Marine Beach (turn left by Ag. Station) and Tank Beach (straight ahead through U.S.-built Kagman airstrip). Both offer sand for sunbathers, tidal pools for naturalists, caves for boondockers, and foaming seascapes for meditators.

The setting is similar at wide-stretching Laulau Beach reached by narrow road from near San Vicente. One of the island's three Japanese coastal defense pillboxes faces the skyline of Magicienne Bay.

**A**n extra day can most pleasantly be spent by taking a picnic lunch and exploring the unfrequented vast area around Japanese-built As Lito Airfield (Isely Field) and its two nearby beaches, Obyan and Ladder. Among the airstrip's attractions are three mortar pounded bunkers lining the road from San Vicente, a crumbling communications station, and three abandoned concrete structures now serving occasionally as typhoon shelters. Small white arrows have been painted on the asphalt edge of the airstrip where auto paths lead to the two beaches. Obyan Beach (pronounced Ohb-zahn), with its *latte* stone pillars dating back to 1500 B.C. and its striking pillbox guarding the channel, is lengthy enough to offer a good seaside hike and rewarding beachcombing. Ladder Beach, for those who don't mind shinnying down a ten-foot pole or plank (whichever may have been left propped against the small cliff) is a cove with caves and hypnotic waves, an isolated setting for building castles in the sand or sky.

One other south coast beach worth exploring is Agingan, entered near Kobler Field. Long and rocky, as Obyan

is, Agingan is much easier to find. Its pillbox facing Tinian island three miles distant, is Laulau and Obyan's double.

Drivers to all the beaches from Talofoto to Agingan on the east and south coasts should be wary of the auto paths leading to the sea, particularly after a rain shower. The depth of mud holes and ruts often is not realized until you're up to your exhaust pipe in slush. And if the way has grown into a *tangan-tangan* tunnel, scouting ahead makes good sense.

After sightseeing, boondocking in search of wartime treasures and a wide variety of watersports tempt most visitors during daytime hours. Night-time action includes occasional live entertainment at hotels, three movie theaters, swilling at the hotel cocktail lounges or swigging with the local people in more than a dozen village bars. If the latter intrigues you, it might be wise to note the locations of the scattered local taverns as you make your daylight sightseeing tour. The bright lights of night are pretty dimly lit on Saipan. If you're here on a Sunday, you might ask to be directed to the cockfight arena in Chalan Kanoa. Matches begin in the afternoon and continue through the evening. Visiting golfers can join a foursome at the Whispering Palms Golf Club, a nine-hole laid out in the triangle between Middle and Cross Island roads. Billiard enthusiasts can find pool tables in many villages.

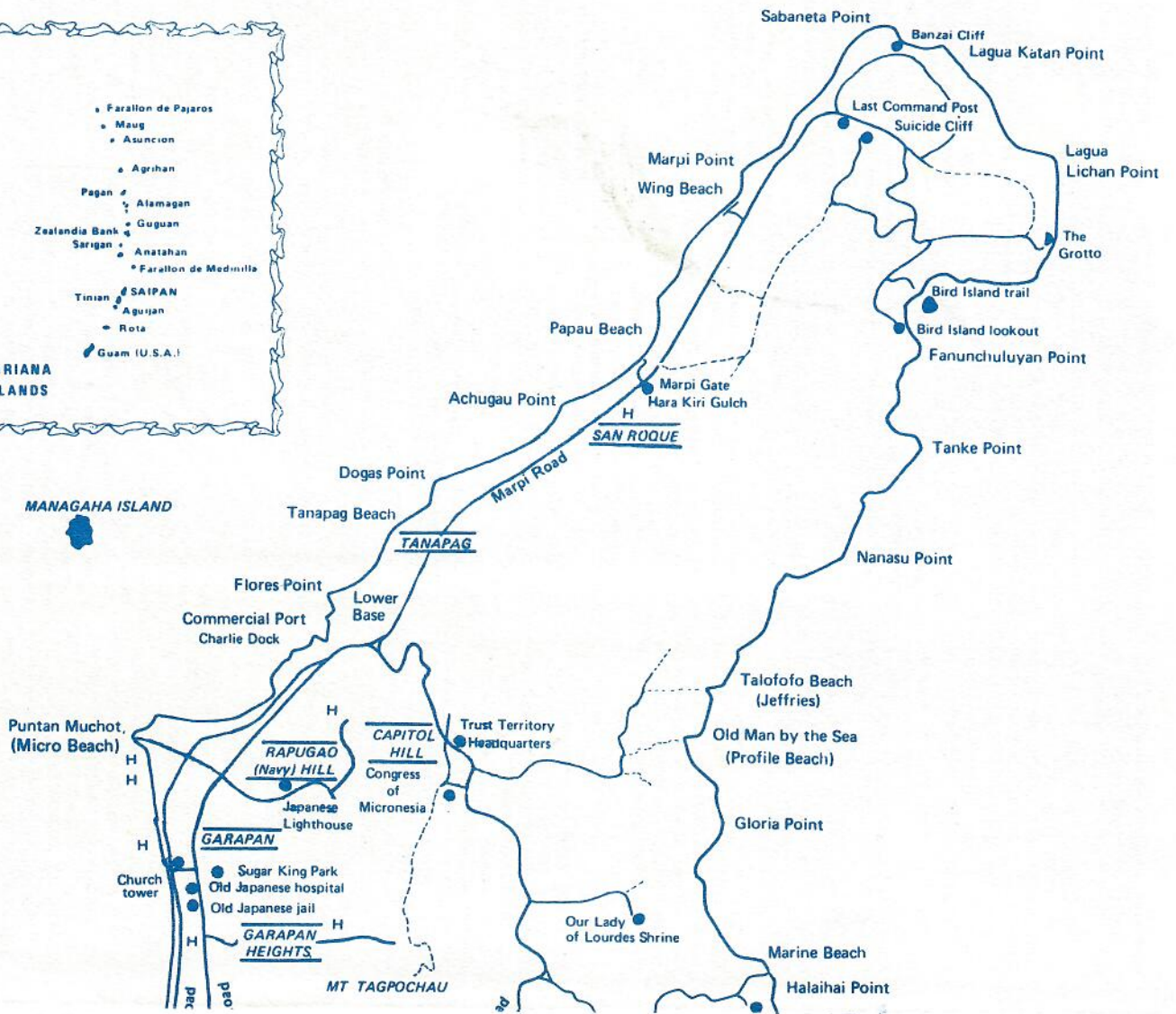
Saipan's sister islands of Tinian, Rota and Pagan would entice travelers with their own singular allurements. The volcanic peak of Pagan, up north, offers hot springs as well as warm lagoons and a black sand beach for relaxing. Rota, down south, adds to its beaches the fascination of wild deer and birds on Tipingot peninsula and visits to the quarry area for *latte* stones used in ancient Chamorro house construction. Next door neighbor Tinian, with its white sand beach near the main village of San Jose, beckons with excursions to the House of Taga, home of a great Paul Bunyonesque Chamorro chief, and to the North Field airbase from where the American B-29 Enola Gay launched the atomic age when it left for Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.

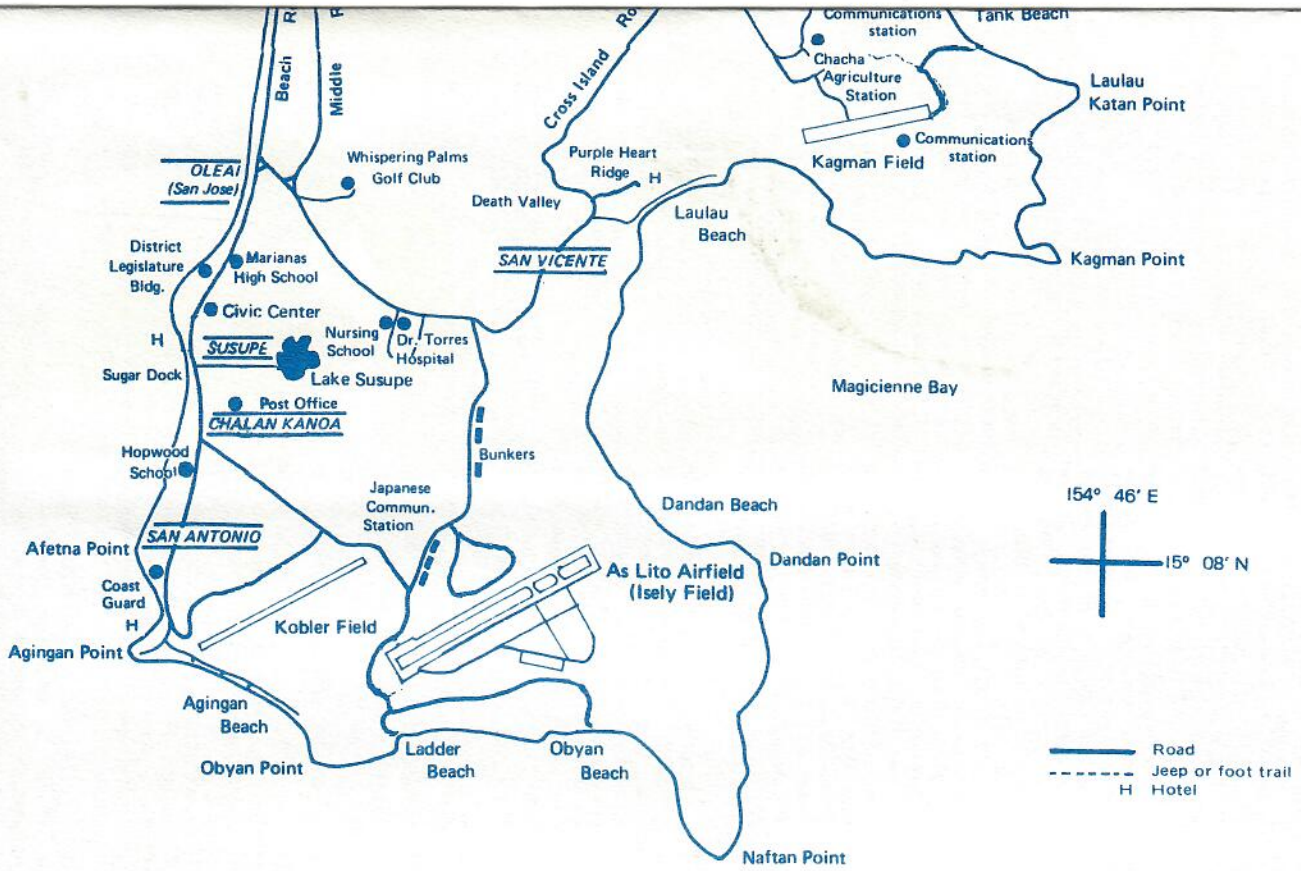
The island of Rota is a regular stop on Air Micronesia flights between Guam and Saipan. Air service is available to Rota, Tinian and Pagan from either Guam or Saipan.

Saipan's own tiny island of Managaha, across the lagoon, is a popular weekend picnic site reached only by small boat. Three Japanese artillery pieces remain as sentinels over the channel. Added to the islet in 1970 was a Carolinian monument dedicated to a Chief Ahgrub who is said to have been buried there many, many years ago. The Chief came up from Satawal in the Western Carolines and is said to have been granted rights to colonize the Marianas. As payment for this permission, the Spanish governor is said to have accepted Satawal's floating currency brought in by canoe, namely two golden cowries, three ropes and two women.

**F**or detailed information about hotels, restaurants, u-drives, handicraft, tours, boat rentals, church services and other community activities and services, visitors should pick up a copy of the Marianas Visitor's Bureau directory of services. It's available throughout the island.

Knowing a few Chamorro expressions may help to make your visit more enjoyable. Good morning, afternoon and evening are taken directly from the Spanish *buenos dias*, *buenos tardes* and *buenos noches*. Goodbye, similarly, is *adios*. Thank you is the Chamorro *si yuus maase*, "see yooos mah-ah-say." *Hafa adai* is a greeting and a spirit of hospitality much like the Hawaiian *aloha*. *Hafa* is pronounced "hah-fah." The first letter "a" of *adai* is not sounded so that in common use the expression becomes *hafa 'dai*. Many people pronounce 'dai as "day" However, the rules of Chamorro pronunciation sound it as "dah-ee," very close to the English "dye". No matter how you hear it spoken, the greeting *hafa adai* means you are a genuinely welcome guest in the Marianas.





# SAIPAN

Mariana File



# University of Guam

MARINE LABORATORY  
UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96913  
Cable: "UnivGuam" Telex: 721 6275

Dear George -

Feb. 21, 1983

Ed Gomez indicated that you two were collecting turtle stamps--the enclosed have just been released the Solomon Islands. I spent three days there en route back to Guam from the Pacific Science Congress in New Zealand. Found the enclosed at the Philatelic Bureau while looking for marine invertebrate stamps.

We also visited the Fisheries people and found the enclosed turtle literature. The review/status report is fairly new. If you have these already, pass them on to an interested group, such as the UH Pacific Collection at Hamilton Library or Hazel.

You did give me the Necker specimens last year, and I have them here. We have not given up hope entirely about visiting Medinilla sometime. Am not sure what the long-term agreement means.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. G. Eldredge'.

L. G. Eldredge

# Food for All in Micronesia



NANCY RODY

by Nancy Rody

**A** number of feeding programs have been instituted in both urban and rural areas of Micronesia in recent years. These United States Department of Agriculture programs were begun as part of expanded U.S. federal aid in the islands during the past decade.

The expansion of food programs in the area has been nothing short of spectacular. Over five million pounds of rice alone were shipped to one island district in a single year, an average *daily* ration of one half pound of uncooked rice for every man, woman, and child in the area. This was accompanied by an array of 16 other food items, surplus commodities purchased by the U.S. government in its price support program for American farming interests.

No needs assessment was performed prior to the start of these programs, and to date the effects of these massive food distribution programs have not been systematically evaluated. Measures of success have been based on the numbers of individuals reached, the effectiveness of the distribution system, and program costs, rather than on the effects of

**Have free food programs in Micronesia been nutritionally motivated, or has the U.S. found that the way to Micronesia's political heart is through its stomach?**

these programs on the nutritional status of the population.

The development of food dependency as a result has been attracting an increasing amount of attention as the Micronesian island entities have begun to formulate development policies for the newly-emerging governments. Controversy has surrounded the USDA programs, with particular concern focused upon their effects upon the economy of the islands. While many are of the opinion that the programs have a negative effect on local initiative and economic development, others feel

**Micronesia children eating USDA-donated food in a free school lunch program.**

that the programs serve a valid health need.

Over the centuries, the people of Micronesia lived in nutritional equilibrium with the traditional foods that were available in the region. One of the first roving Spanish missionaries in Micronesia wrote, "I have not come across any islanders as well adjusted to their environment as these." But with increasing contact with the outside world, rural-urban migration, rapid economic growth and greater mobility, significant changes have occurred in both urban and rural areas of Micronesia.

Thirty-two percent of the population now lives in crowded towns. For Micronesians who have migrated to these towns, food supply and family budgets cause many problems which have a direct effect on the nutritional state of the people and consequently on their general health.

The landless urban migrants have had to face a very sudden change in their life-style. Apart from being almost cut off from their extended families, they have had to adopt a life

in which almost everything costs money: housing, transportation, clothing, entertainment, and, of course, food. This is in sharp contrast to the cashless, subsistence-type lifestyle of their home islands.

In the urbanizing areas, fishing is limited by population concentration and the consequent overexploitation of local marine resources, and by pollution of lagoons because of the lack of sewage systems. Few can afford the boats and equipment needed to fish the outlying areas. Land for home gardens is no longer available when families move from their ancestral lands, with the consequence that everything has to be bought at the store.

**I**n this new cultural setting, where average family income is less than \$2,000 a year, families rely on low-cost, low-nutrient-density imported foods such as rice, bread, noodles, and the like. Micronesians are trading their erstwhile self-sufficiency and healthy life-style for one that is both physically and financially costly.

The role of women is rapidly changing. They are no longer solely engaged in farming, food gathering, and food preparation. Because of the low salaries and the high prices of food, they are obliged to join the work force. As a consequence, child-rearing is becoming a problem and dietary habits are changing very swiftly. Breastfeeding is fast declining in favor of bottlefeeding.

Fresh local foods are not readily available, and when they are, they have prohibitive prices and require long preparation; hence the preference for packaged imported foods which are nutritionally inferior, but are less expensive and involve less labor in preparation. Today people depend heavily on foods high in poor quality carbohydrates. Fish meat, fruits, and vegetables are beyond the reach of most budgets.

In the outer islands the picture varies a little. Families still go fishing and have their gardens; they do not have to pay for many of life's necessities. However, with improved health care, populations are increasing rapidly. The cash economy is beginning to have its influence, and nutrition very rarely improves as a result. Some outer islanders are abandoning the cultivation of traditional food crops for cash crops such as copra. If food is purchased, the price is much higher than in urban areas because of high transportation costs. Addi-

tionally, it is usually of low nutritional quality and provides the family with a monotonous diet of rice, corned beef, and canned fish.

Increasing concern has been expressed recently over the development of nutritionally related diseases and of possible malnutrition in Micronesia, which in turn may be related to these changes in life-style and the adoption of western dietary and activity patterns.

In 1973, immediately prior to the proliferation of federal feeding programs in Micronesia, a territory-wide nutrition survey was made by the Trust Territory Health Department. The survey attempted to cover both the district centers and the outer, of more subsistence-level, areas. None of the individuals included in the study were participating in any type of federal feeding program.

The researchers concluded that a nutritionally adequate diet was available in every district, except possibly the Marshall Islands because of their severely limited agricultural potential. However, a nutritionally adequate diet was not being consumed on many islands because of unwise food choices and decreased local food production. The survey did not indicate that the families studied were in any need of food assistance, and no recommendation was made for feeding programs. The investigators did recommend measures to increase local food production and provide nutrition education, but none of these measures were implemented.

**A**t the time of the survey, the only feeding programs in existence in Micronesia were short-term disaster relief food distributions after emergency situations such as typhoons, and small-scale lunch programs in some schools. These schools served some USDA-donated commodity foods and local foods donated by parents. Children paid a small fee for their lunch to partially cover operating expenses.

The Trust Territory became eligible for the USDA National School Lunch Program almost immediately thereafter, and because virtually every family in the Trust Territory fell below U.S. federal minimum poverty guidelines, all of the new school lunches were served free of charge and local food donations ceased. This program was rapidly expanded and was quickly followed by the School Breakfast Program, the Child Care Food Program, Hospital Foods distribution,

a widespread expansion of emergency food relief which escalated into long-term Needy Family Food Programs, and a feeding program for the elderly. It is estimated that 50% of all Micronesians now participate in some type of government feeding program, although this figure may be artificially high since some participate in more than one program.

There is no doubt that food assistance programs have brought temporary relief to hungry people. Population pressures and the rapidly rising costs of food have convinced many that food assistance programs



are necessary. Proponents cite increasing evidence of nutritional diseases and malnutrition in Micronesia, and feel that these problems have a legitimate claim on public expenditures.

Advocates cite the fact that malnutrition is an impediment to national growth because it reduces work output and life expectancy; it is one of the causes of high infant mortality; it impairs mental development and therefore reduces the effectiveness of investments in education. They contend that school attendance improves, and students are more

attentive and receptive to learning, when given the benefit of school food programs.

Some fairly objective observers such as anthropologists who have spent time in outer island areas have reported that some islands have a definite need for food assistance. According to them, islands which were devastated by typhoons several years ago are still not producing enough food to support the increasing populations. In some cases, breadfruit and coconut trees were completely destroyed, and as much as five years must pass before new trees

who are resettling recently decontaminated home islands which were nearly destroyed by U.S. nuclear weapons testing programs are in need of food assistance until food crops can safely be reestablished.

Feeding the hungry in the wake of disaster, in which the use of donated foods may be the only means of survival, is hardly open to criticism. It may be quite another matter, some Micronesian leaders feel, to apply the same rationale to much broader programs under quite different circumstances. Whereas disaster conditions permit little choice, one might legitimately ask whether similar programs are the most effective way of being helpful in more normal times. To quote Congressman Julio M. Akapito of Truk:

It is dubious that there are many people... who are in need of food supply by the government. I would like to examine the need before implementing such a program. The situation deserves closer scrutiny. I do not believe that just because many people want such a program makes it a real need. I know for a fact that there is no need for such a feeding program, at least in most of the islands. There may be poor nutrition, but not because of lack of food but lack of nutrition education.

A petition from Ponape submitted to a USDA office stated: "While the decision to bring USDA food here attempts to address a problem of nutrition and economics, we do not feel that the answer lies in a crippling addiction to free food."

Thus, many have expressed reservations about the effects these aid programs have on the emerging island nations. Critics claim that when the USDA started distributing food, food production in Micronesia fell in 10 years from 33 million pounds a year to one million pounds. In their opinion, food dependency has reached a critical state, given the islands' very narrow economic base and susceptibility to the increasing costs of shipping, and the inflation-prone nature of imported foods. They cite increasing food dependence as manifested in the decreasing ability of islanders to depend on local food resources and "self-help." One group of islanders who had their total food needs supplied for three years was unsuccessful when they tried once again to become self-sufficient. "We have lost our will," commented one of the islanders.

Some have concluded that dependency on food assistance is potentially the most dangerous form of dependency, a dependency that could destroy island cultures. A few have accused the U.S. government of deliberately fostering such dependency in order to ensure Micronesia's close future association with the United States for strategic military purposes. Tony de Brum, secretary of foreign affairs of the Marshall Islands, publicly stated in reference to such programs, "There is a definite policy of fostering dependency. There must be."

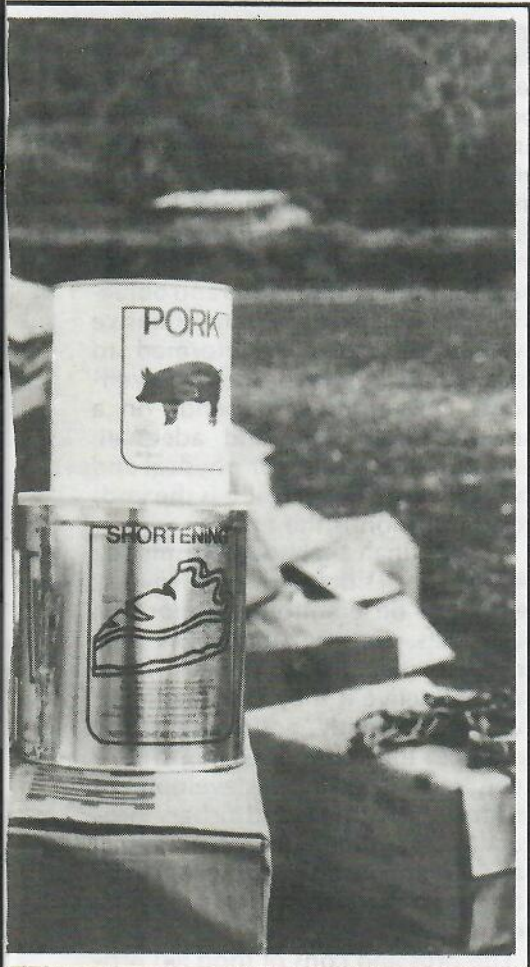
Some fear that becoming dependent on a foreign power for their very basis of life will put them in an extremely vulnerable position and make them more susceptible to manipulation by their supplier. They are wary of U.S. intentions as expressed in statements such as Hubert Humphrey's oft-quoted pronouncement:

I have heard that people may become dependent on us for food. I know this is not supposed to be good news. To me that was good news, because before people can do anything, they have got to eat. And if you were looking for a way to get people to lean on you and become dependent on you, it seems to me that food dependence would be terrific.

In 1976, the Northern Marianas voted favorably on a covenant to become a permanent possession of the U.S. A major issue of the plebiscite was the expansion of U.S. food aid into a Food Stamp Program if the vote was affirmative. The Northern Marianas Senate Vice President Benjamin T. Manglona noted that the Food Stamp Program was "one of the most discussed and debated issues during negotiations for the Covenant." Said he: "It was a major factor of persuasion and influence when the people voted for the covenant during the plebiscite." (See story, page 31.)

Some Micronesian leaders have publicly opposed free food distribution programs, and have suffered the loss of political office for their stand. A leader who opposes food programs may be committing political suicide because these programs affect many people, are highly visible, and are generally well received.

Even in areas where USDA foods are being distributed, nutritionally-related health problems are on the increase, especially among young



PETER VAN NAME/ESSER

could begin to bear fruit, although critics claim that islanders have not bothered to replant their food crops and continue to rely on shipments of USDA foods.

It has been demonstrated that the soil of taro patches inundated by salt water during typhoons still has retained such a high salinity content that plants do not grow well and are often diseased. In some areas the coral reefs were almost completely destroyed by battering seas and have not yet recovered, reducing the supply of fish and other seafoods. And no one can deny that islanders



children. In a single week last year, three small children died of malnutrition in the Marshall Islands hospital. Their families were recipients of USDA foods.

Some feel that the increasing malnutrition reported in Micronesia is due to the increasing consumption of imported foods. People seem to have been better off with their traditional diets because the nutritional values of most of the imported foods which are distributed in the feeding programs, (polished rice, bleached flour, macaroni, dehydrated potatoes, and the like) are nutritionally inferior to fresh local foods. Observations of many of the group feeding programs have indicated that often the meals served are of low quality, nutritionally. In a typical situation, 125 pounds of USDA-donated white rice and 14 pounds of canned corned beef were used to prepare lunch for 450 children. No milk, fruits, or vegetables were served.

Quite sincere and well-intentioned measures have been undertaken by food program managers to stimulate the Micronesian economy by purchasing locally-produced agricultural and fishery products in an effort to provide food to program participants

without the necessity of utilizing large amounts of imports. Such efforts have been largely unsuccessful, since shipping, refrigeration, and storage capacity in Micronesia remains far below the requirements of these programs. No food processing facilities exist in Micronesia. Locally produced foods purchased for distribution often spoil in the humid climate; processed imported foods do not.

To meet such infrastructure needs would require the expenditure of large amounts of capital, far beyond the budgets of the island governments. More than one commercial fishing or farming venture has failed because of the lack of storage facilities and transportation for such products. Many families still fish and grow food for their own use, but there is little surplus for sale in Micronesia. Thus, program managers encounter nearly insurmountable difficulties in the purchase, transportation, and storage of fresh local foods.

As an alternative effort, these broad sweeping food aid programs could be replaced by more selective target nutrition programs planned and developed at the community level on the basis of demonstrated needs.

These programs should be short-term interventions which directly address the problems of specific groups and individuals who do not have adequate diets for economic or other reasons. Such programs would be less likely to foster the development of dependence. Nutrition education and information should be basic to these projects to insure that limited buying power is wisely used. The community should be made aware of the options available, and should be provided with the knowledge to make reasoned and intelligent choices.

Compared with nutrition education, food aid is an obviously more tangible asset. Available supplies can be measured, costs can be estimated, and plans formulated. Nutrition education on the other hand is a much vaguer term meaning little to governmental planners who want measurable assets. But problems can be defined, nutrition goals and objectives can be set, and comprehensive evaluations can be performed to ascertain the effects of such interventions. Development depends on a healthy population, and adequate nutrition is essential for physical and mental well-being. Health is the end; good nutrition is the means.

In the final analysis, it would be better if both sides of the controversy relied less on emotion and more on hard facts. Some of the USDA programs could probably have been more effective if they had been conducted differently, and some of the resources they consumed might have been better used in the development of local agriculture and fishery production. But in certain instances they have served a good purpose, and may have been the only way of providing needed assistance.

The pros and cons of food aid programs need to be closely examined if costs and benefits, both financial and social, are to determine whether or not such programs are desirable in the future for Micronesia. Gifts of food should be handled like medicine; a life-saver at times, but, like all drugs, potentially dangerous, especially when there is danger of addiction.

*Health and nutrition specialist Nancy Rody worked several years in Micronesia, including two years with USDA on Saipan. She's now developing health education curriculum materials for Hawaii, the Trust Territory, and the SPC.*



# Food Stamps for Saipan Shoppers

by Jane L. Dickhudt

July 1 marked the beginning of the long-awaited Nutrition Assistance Program, better known as food stamps, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

First proposed in 1977 and credited as being the impetus to the signing of the Commonwealth's Covenant of Political Union with the United States, the food stamp program became tangled in federal bureaucracy, with some delays charged by Commonwealth officials as intentional. Only when the Commonwealth began to press a lawsuit against the U.S. government in late 1981 were steps taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to implement the program.

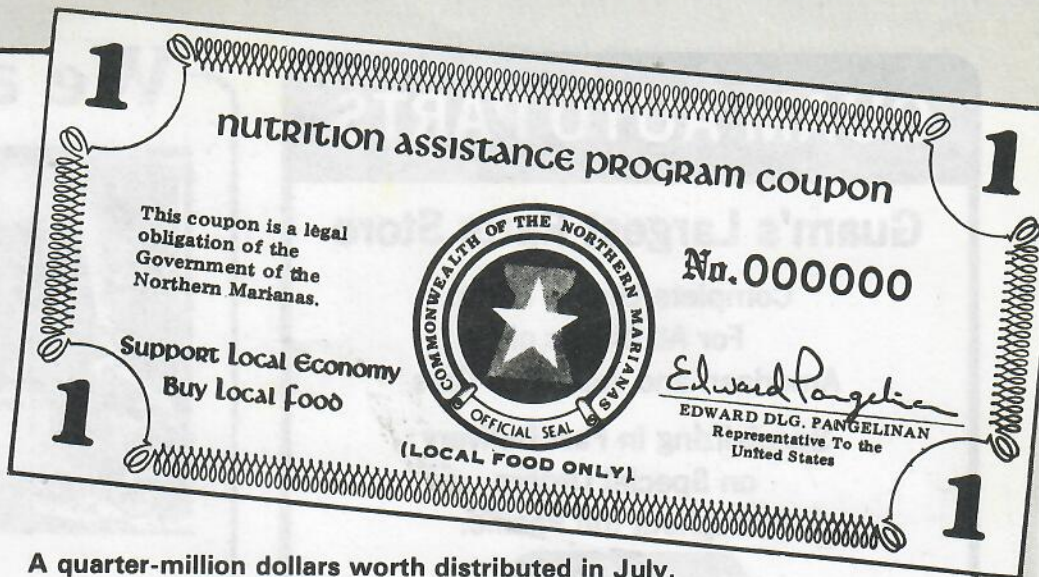
The \$3.7 million federal program is tailor-made to the islands' cultural, social and economic needs:

- Twenty-five percent of all coupons must be spent to purchase locally-produced foodstuffs, which at present include local fruits and vegetables, fish, eggs, bakery products, and Tinian milk and meat. (The Jones and Guerrero ranch on Tinian has the only USDA-approved slaughterhouse in the Commonwealth.) Coupons are distinguished by color—green and blue—with green coupons to be spent only for local foods.

- Unemployed applicants must register with the Department of Commerce and Labor and accept suitable employment if it is available. Food stamp program administrator Joaquin "Jack" S. Torres noted: "There is a misconception about the program being purely welfare. It's not a pure and simple government handout; you have to work if you can, and help yourself."

Two weeks after the program had begun, 819 households, or 4,616 persons, were certified to participate on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Average family size ranged between five and six individuals, with a high of 19 in one family. This represented 28% of Commonwealth citizens. Earlier estimates had suggested as many as 60% would qualify.

The total allotment for July was



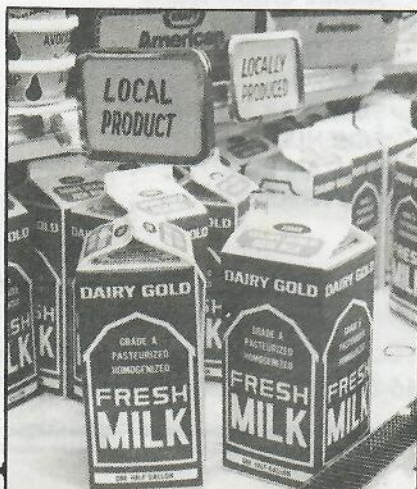
## A quarter-million dollars worth distributed in July.

\$247,723, with an average allotment of \$302 per family for the month. Thirty-six stores on Saipan, four on Tinian, and six on Rota had been authorized to accept food stamps as of July 19. A means of including the sparsely populated, store-less northern islands in the program is under discussion.

The value of food stamps awarded to each family varies according to income and family size. As a yardstick, consider a family of four: if they have no income, they can receive \$300 per month, the cost of an adequate diet as calculated locally by a nutritionist. A family of four earning over \$459 per month does not qualify for aid.

The food stamp program replaces a food commodity program which had begun some years ago as typhoon assistance. Reports of abuse of the commodity program were widespread. Leftover USDA commodities were given to the local hospital, jail, and school

## Local products must make up 25% of food coupon purchases.



JANE L. DICKHUDT

breakfast and lunch program.

The food coupons, printed locally, are issued to recipients from an office next to one of Saipan's largest supermarkets. J&G Payless Supermarket offered the lowest bid—\$0—to win the job as issuing agent. Business at their store, as well as others around the island, was booming the first week of July as participants were eager to cash in the paper chits.

Food store managers noted that meat products, in these islands where meat and rice provide the staples of the diet, were the most popular items purchased. One store which had a special on canned tuna and Spam ran low on those items.

Any foodstuff can be purchased with the coupons as long as 25% is spent on local products. Tobacco products and alcohol, as well as non-food items, are not allowed.

Some merchants have questioned whether enough local foodstuffs are produced to fulfill the 25% requirement. There is a fear that the rule may backfire and instead of promoting local production, curtail it by raising prices on those items. The manager of the farmers' cooperative noted that farmers were already asking for higher prices for their produce the first week of the program.

One side effect of food stamps, noted a local judge, is that many people are legally adopting children who live with their families. That way they'll be able to count them in when applying for aid.

Jane L. Dickhudt is editor of the Marianas Variety, Saipan.

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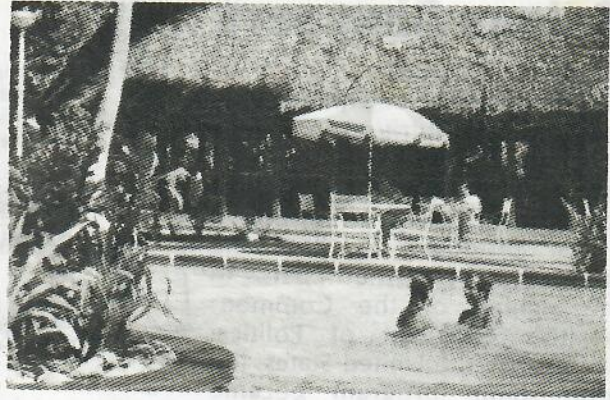
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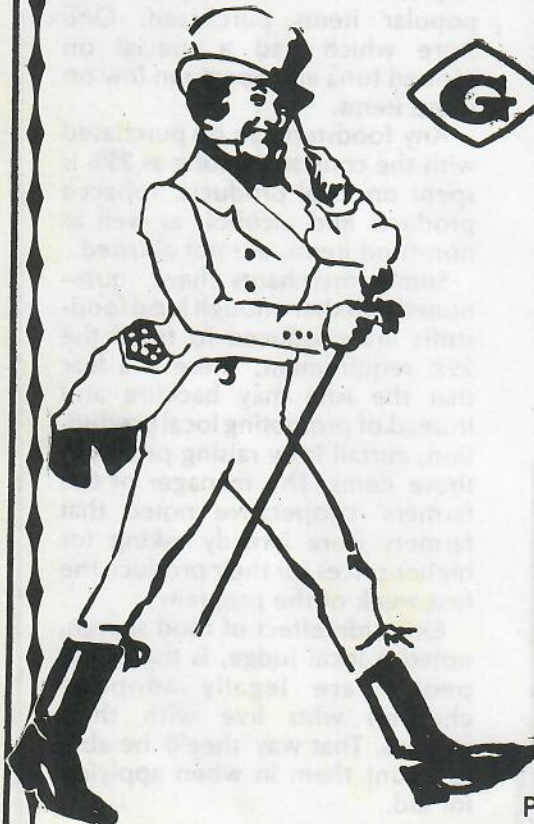
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Thank you for thinking about

# SAIPAN

the capital of the Commonwealth  
of the Northern Marianas



Thank you for thinking about Saipan in the Mariana Islands. We think the facilities and easy going atmosphere on Saipan will suit you or your client just fine and hope that this informative material will aid you in planning a trip to one of the most beautiful spots in the Pacific!

## Where is Saipan?

It's closer than you think! Saipan is about 1,000 miles north of the equator, 1,500 miles east of Manila in the Philippines and 1,400 miles southeast of Japan.

The Mariana Islands including the inhabited islands of Saipan, Rota, Tinian, Pagan and Aguijan stretch in a chain for more than 400 miles north of Guam. The Northern Marianas are the tips of a massive mountain range rising more than 30,000 feet above the ocean floor. At least one inhabited island, Pagan, has an active volcano.

From Europe, flight connections can be made in Tokyo, where there are daily direct flights to Saipan. For trans-Pacific travelers from Asia, Saipan is a natural stopover with minimal costs.

TOKYO / 1,550 MILES

TAIWAN / 1,500 MILES

HONG KONG / 1,800 MILES

MANILA / 1,500 MILES

SAN FRANCISCO / 5,600 MILES

HONOLULU / 3,300 MILES

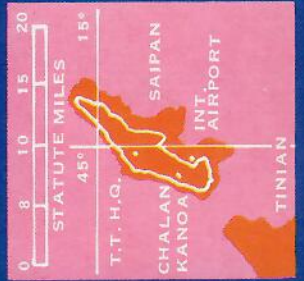
AUSTRALIA / 3,000 MILES

YAP

PALAU

PONAPE

TRUK



SINGAPORE / 3,000 MILES



# Can we meet the people?

You bet! Visitors to Micronesia often return saying the Saipanese are the most friendly people they met on their journey. Saipanese are mostly Chamorro, but the family names record the thousands of years of the meandering of the islanders, explorers, traders, whalers, missionaries and settlers from all over the world. The Chamorro's language, culture and attitudes prevail on the tiny island, but there is also a large group of islanders from the Western Caroline Islands who migrated to Saipan when typhoons destroyed their island villages.

"Hafa Adai!" means hello and whatever your language is -- answer back with a smile or a raising of the eyebrows for that is the way on this island. Raise your eyebrows and you can answer "yes", "maybe", "hello!",



"what's new?" or a host of other responses. Try it. You'll be surprised at the friendliness returned! Japanese is spoken fluently by many Saipanese so shopping and tours for visitors from Japan is easy!

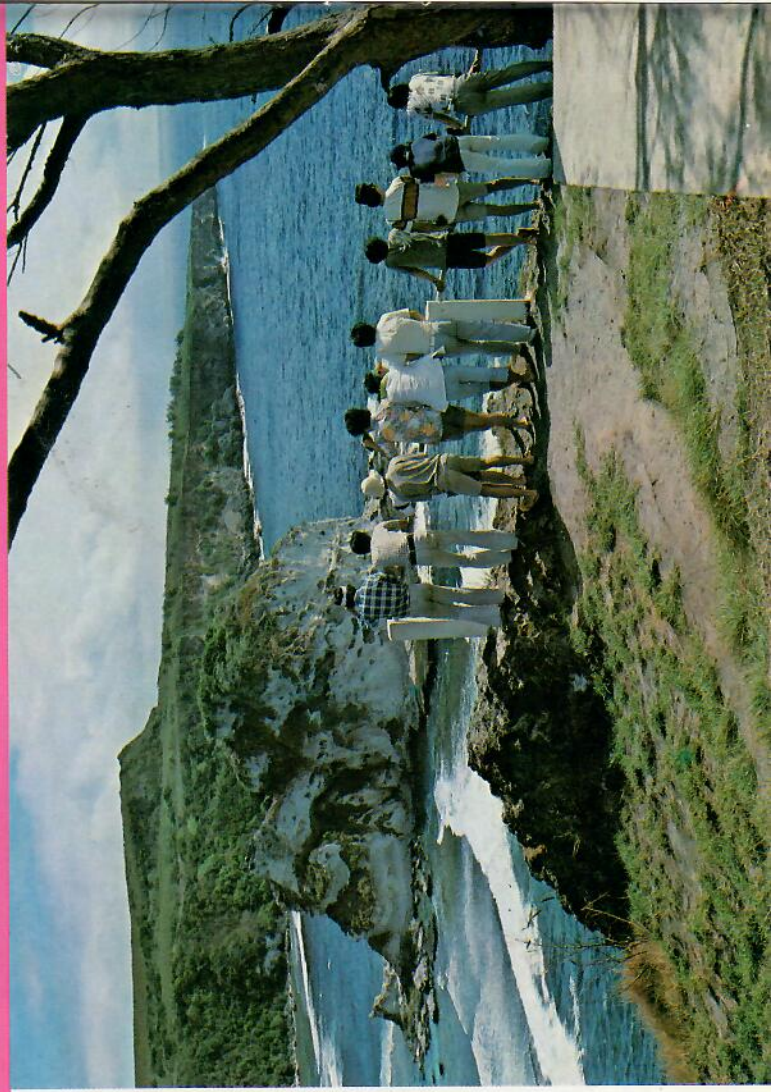
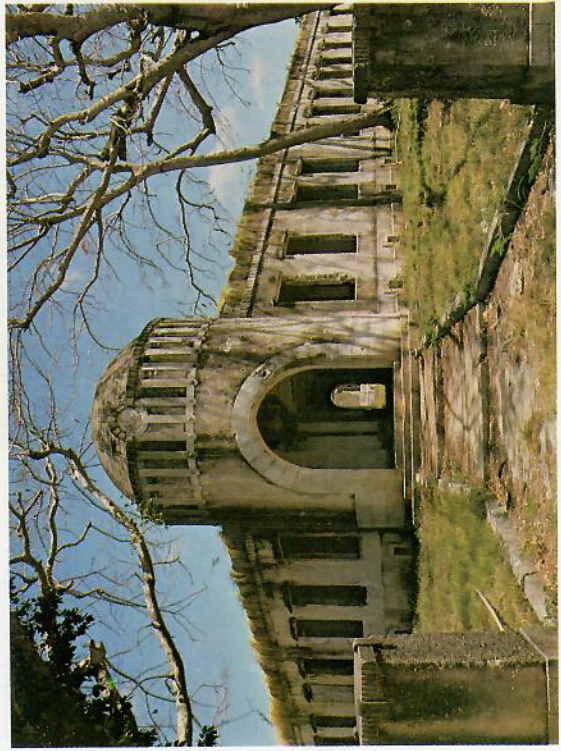
Saipan is quite modern which sometimes surprises the casual visitor. The tropical island has paved roads, cars and small trucks, television, cement block homes, daily air service, fresh milk, modern hotels . . . the list is endless. But, somehow, the island still retains the quietude of the island in your dreams. There are still farms and great expanses of uncluttered beaches just for that special picture to take home. Palm trees and bamboo grow wild next to flowing bougainvillea and hibiscus -- a perfect getaway!



## What is there to do?

What do you want to do? If sitting on the beach getting a suntan to make the neighbors envious is your idea of a vacation, Saipan is just the place. Most of the top hotels are located right on the beach, so you can catch the rays all day long! Saipan's tropical location just north of the equator provides sunshine year 'round, an endless summer.

If sightseeing for photography tops your list, get on the next plane. Saipan is dotted with beaches, but even more so has some of the most steep precipices in all of Micronesia, providing breathtaking views of the Pacific. Be sure to catch Bird Island and the Grotto on the eastern shore of this 14.5 mile long island paradise. Bird Island is a "calendar picture" limestone islet set upon a secluded reef and viewed from a cliff easily accessible by auto or one of the many tour buses. A cut-off from the main road leads to the Grotto, a sunken pool connected to the ocean by twin underground passages. Any photographic tour can last for hours or days on Saipan, so stock up on film!



## Sports alive!

Sports enthusiasts can combine sunning and sports at any pace they want on Saipan. Since the island basks in sunshine all year long, visitors can enjoy scuba diving (rated among the best in the world), deep sea and sports fishing, golf, bowling, tennis, snorkeling, spelunking, sailing or jet skiing with ease.

Guides are available for great sports tours including scuba diving, snorkeling, water skiing, glass bottom boat excursions, sunset cruises and inland cave exploring. Don't worry about equipment—it's all available for rental or purchase . . . you can even rent beach mats, air mattresses and umbrellas for a lazy day of beach lolling.

Golfers will find an always open tee at Whispering Palms Golf Course just a short drive from any of the hotels on Saipan. Visitors are welcome to join local golfers in the fun! Caddies and golf carts are available too, along with rental clubs.

For more information concerning any of these sports of a particular interest to you or your client, feel free to write to the Marianas Visitors Bureau.





## After sunset...

When the night lights come on, all the action is in hotel lounges or at the local nightclubs, but don't miss one of Saipan's greatest treats! As the sun glides down behind the horizon, take a walk on Saipan's grand expanse of beach just outside your hotel. It goes for miles and lays a panoramic view of the spectacular sunset almost right at your feet. Best of all, it's free, brought to you by mother nature!

After the sunset, join Saipanese and other visitors in one of the many lounges on the island to enjoy a happy-hour drink and then move to the dining room for a taste treat. Foods from around the world are featured on the menus of Saipan, with a special emphasis on Japanese cooking due to the long association with the Japanese before World War II.

If you are on Saipan on a Sunday night, ask someone how to get to the cock fights.

While you're on Saipan, expect only the best. A group of resort hotels awaits your arrival, to provide you or your client with every comfort expected from first rate hotels. Native dance floor shows are available at some hotels by arrangement.

The Marianas Visitor's Bureau offers the following list of hotels in the Northern Marianas for your convenience. For up to date information on rates, contact the hotel directly or the Marianas Visitors Bureau.



## The Saipan Grand:

Each of the 120 rooms at the Saipan Grand boasts an ocean view. The hotel sits on ten acres of white sand beach, and offers its guests boat, fishing and snorkeling equipment rental for maximum enjoyment of the crystal clear waters. You can enjoy dining at poolside, or in the Grand Hotel Restaurant. The hotel club follows a South Pacific motif, the perfect setting for its nightly entertainment. And there's plenty of Duty-Free Shopping in the gift shop. Convention facilities are available for up to 50 people. Room rates are commissionable, and are subject to a 7% government room tax. For more information write:

Saipan Grand Hotel

P.O. Box 369

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

## The Saipan Continental:

Beautiful hibiscus and bougainvillea bushes compliment the extensive facilities at the Saipan Continental. The seven-story hotel offers 126 rooms with two double beds each plus 54 additional rooms with queen sized beds as well as five spacious two-room suites. For lunch or dinner, the Oceana House provides clusters of intimate eating areas in a main dining room with a capacity of 230. Informal dining is found at the Kili Terrace, an indoor-outdoor brasserie type restaurant that will stay open for fun, food and entertainment. The spacious Trader Bar is an old-time adventure style bar with the robust character of 1890's Pacifica. A freshwater pool for swimming is nearby a small pond for reflecting. In addition, the Continental offers numerous sports activities, water sports equipment for hire and lessons in snorkeling and scuba for visitors to enjoy Saipan's underwater spectacles. Book through Continental Airlines in U.S., Tokyo, Sydney

and London. For more information, write:  
The Saipan Continental  
P.O. Box 239, Capital Hill Rural Branch,  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Cable: through Continental Airlines

CONTEL SAIPAN

Telex: SITA operator SPNHTCO

## Tour Arrangements

There are an abundance of tour services which cater to sightseers. Visitors can take bus tours around Saipan, a boat tour to the nearby island of Managaha, or charter tours to Tinian, Rota and Guam. There are tours to take advantage of Saipan's excellent fishing and trolling waters, tours to enjoy romantic sunsets, even tours which center around a delicious Chamorro feast. Arrangements for individuals and small groups are easily made upon arrival, but larger groups should write in advance to the Marianas Visitors Bureau.

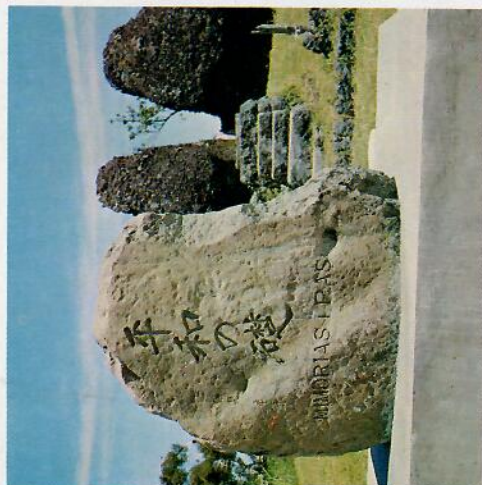
## An adventure in eating

A visit to Saipan is a tasty adventure to say the least. An exploration of restaurants will reveal Chinese, Korean, Japanese and western fare as well as mouth-watering local dishes.





Rota



Rota



Tinian

## Hafadai Hotel:

Located at the calm Garapan beach, the Hafadai Beach Hotel rooms are all air-conditioned for year 'round comfort and equipped with a bath and a shower. Shuttle bus service is available between the airport and the hotel. The hotel can arrange for a guide for sightseeing, a rent-a-car, trolling or diving and many other activities. Enjoy food and cocktails at either the indoor restaurant or the teppan-yaki as you view the panoramic ocean setting. Hafadai visitors can enjoy a private pool and beach area during their stay. With entertainment nightly, the cocktail lounge stays open until 2 a.m.

Visitors from Japan should note that Japanese as well as English is spoken in the dining room and at the front desk. For reservations and more information contact any travel agent or correspond locally through:

Hafadai Beach Hotel

P.O. Box 338

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Cable: Saihotel, Saipan

Telex: 5353 HBHMMN

## Saipan Beach Intercontinental Inn:

Completed in July 1976, the Saipan Beach Intercontinental Inn represents the second major hotel chain to develop on Saipan. The Saipan Beach with 200 completely air conditioned rooms joins the Saipan Continental Hotel nearby. Situated on 7½ acres with an excellent white sand beach, Micro Beach, the Saipan Beach Hotel is approximately five miles from the Saipan International Airport. The three-level hotel also features meeting facilities, three restaurants, the Brasserie, for informal meals and snacks, the Covered Terrace and the Japanese Restaurant Keio

with seafood specialties, and the cocktail lounge and bar with dancing. A complete line of shops and a large duty-free shopping area will be featured in this full service hotel. Swimming pools for adults and children, tennis courts and a dock with full water sports facilities top the list of facilities at the Saipan Beach. The rates are commissionable at 10% and are subject to a 7% government room tax. Reservations may be made through any Inter-Continental Hotels Reservations Office in 113 cities around the world. Locally, Saipan Beach Intercontinental may be reached as follows:

Saipan Beach Intercontinental Inn

P.O. Box 1029

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Cable: INHOTEL Cor.

## Royal Taga:

Beachside, the Royal Taga is an open, airy hotel featuring a swimming pool, complete restaurant and bar as well as room service. Airport transfer provides fast transport to the Taga where 72 air-conditioned rooms with private bath await. The hotel has both twin-bedded and double-bedded rooms with ocean and mountain views. Televisions are available, music is piped into all rooms.

There is a rental car agency in the lobby. Island tour service and glass bottom boat tours of the lagoon are available daily. Convention facilities for up to 150 people are available. Peak season is December 15th through January 15th. Book direct through any travel agent. No deposit required on FIT's. Group arrangements are negotiable. For more information, write:

Royal Taga Hotel

P.O. Box 66

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Cable: Taga, Saipan, M.I.

Telex: 5257, Taga MN



PULL OUT

## Transportation

Although there is no public transportation, getting around is easy. Hotels for the most part are located directly on the beach and within easy access of the main village. International car rental agencies with varying rates are readily available; most have offices in the hotel lobbies. Check with your hotel's front desk for the best rates. Taxis are also available in the hotel area, the main village and at the airport. Most hotels have transfer buses, so mention in your correspondence with the hotel if you will need transportation.



## Rota Wants You



Close your eyes. Imagine a quiet, sandy white, secluded beach — a beach all your own. Now imagine the sound of waves crashing off the reef and lapping the sandy shore. Sound like paradise? Call it Rota.

Rota, just 85 miles south of Saipan, is a picturesque island that can still be called “undiscovered.” It’s practically untouched. No smog. “Pollution” isn’t even in the Rotanese dictionary. Walk its beaches, hike its trails and tour its scenic areas . . . Rota is still just as nature intended.

With temperatures usually in the mid-80’s, Rota has all the makings of an island paradise. Sun/water lovers can bask in the warm rays on secluded beaches and cool off with a refreshing dip in the delightful Pacific waters that encircle Rota. With some of the world’s clearest waters, snorkeling and diving are irresistible ways to wile away vacation days. Rota’s waters abound with treasures. From shell collecting to diving to deep sea fishing, Rota is a water wonderland.

## Tinian's Lure

Located only three miles south of Saipan, Tinian is an island of fascinating contrasts. To be sure, this 60-square mile island boasts its share of sandy beaches and breathtaking scenery. But the island also offers glimpses into its world-famous past.

Visitors, lured to Tinian by its "small town" atmosphere, are often surprised to discover twin four-lane highways that traverse the island. Remnants of World War II U.S. bombing operations, these highways are silent reminders of Tinian's bustling war history. The northern tip of the island is covered with abandoned concrete runways, now overgrown with tangle-tangan. A peace memorial marks the spot where the Enola Gay took off in 1945 for Hiroshima laden with the atomic bomb.

For the traveler who wants to "get away from it all," Tinian is just the spot. Fishing, hiking, swimming, snorkeling, diving, shelling and just plain old relaxing - Tinian offers the best of each. One of the island's most popular tourist attractions, the House of Taga, contains some of Micronesia's best-preserved latte stones.

This sun-drenched island has family-style hotel accommodations and car rentals, island tours and boat charter assistance. Visit Tinian and carve out your own slice of paradise. We're waiting.



Goat Island from Taga Beach.

### TRAVELER'S CHECK LIST

1. U.S. citizens don't need passports to enter the Northern Marianas. However, they must show proof of citizenship such as birth certificate, naturalization papers or passport.
2. Non-U.S. citizens must have a valid passport. All visitors need a round-trip or onward trip ticket and a valid visa to the next destination other than the home country.
3. Tourists planning visits of 30 days or less are given entry authorization at their port of entry. Persons visiting for more than 30 days or for purposes other than tourism must have an entry permit obtained in advance from immigration office, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.
4. United States currency is used throughout the Marianas. Banks are located in Saipan.
5. Communication telephone and telegraph service is readily available.
6. Further information on the other Micronesian islands and a brochure listing hotels and entry requirements may be obtained by writing Government Office of Tourism, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

For more detailed information concerning the Northern Marianas please write to:

## Marianas Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 861 / Saipan, M.I. 96950





**Saipan's Got Me**

Marianas Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 861

Saipan, M.I. 96950



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Fisheries Center  
Honolulu Laboratory  
P. O. Box 3830  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96812

September 19, 1980

F/SWC2:RNU

To: Distribution\*  
From: Richard S. Shomura, Director, Honolulu Laboratory  
Subject: Cooperative Study of the Natural Resources of the  
Mariana Archipelago--Planning Meeting No. 1

Honolulu Laboratory Director Richard Shomura called to order the first Planning Meeting of the participants in the Cooperative Study of the Natural Resources of the Mariana Archipelago at 9 AM, Friday, September 12, 1980, in the Conference Room of the Laboratory. Present were:

Dr. Steve Amesbury, University of Guam  
Dr. Paul Callaghan, University of Guam, and Western Pacific  
Regional Fishery Management Council  
Mr. Harry Kami, Guam, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife  
Resources  
Dr. Jerry Ludwig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mr. David Nada, Pacific Tuna Development Foundation  
Mr. John J. Naughton, NMFS, SWR, WPPO  
Dr. Jeffrey J. Polovina, NMFS, SWFC, HL  
Mr. Paul M. Shiota, NMFS, SWFC, HL  
Mr. Richard S. Shomura, NMFS, SWFC, HL  
Dr. James Sullivan, University of California, Sea Grant  
Mr. Richard N. Uchida, NMFS, SWFC, HL  
Mr. Joaquin Villagomez, Division of Marine Resources Develop-  
ment, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Other agencies invited to participate but not represented  
were:

Coastal Zone Management  
Pacific Basin Development Council  
University of Hawaii, HIMB  
University of Hawaii, Sea Grant

Purpose of the meeting

Shomura, serving as Convenor, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to bring together all the agencies that have expressed some interest in the comprehensive land- and marine-related resource survey and assessment investigation of Guam and the



and the Northern Mariana Islands. The Planning Meeting, said Shomura, is vital for coordinating all the research activities being planned and for the scientists to interact. Mention was also made of the February and August preliminary meetings.

Shomura emphasized that early planning was essential to the success of the program and that the Honolulu Laboratory has already produced a preliminary draft of a Planning Document for assessment and evaluation of the marine resources within 200 miles of Guam and the NMI. It was also brought out that the cooperative survey envisioned for the Guam/NMI area will involve many more agencies than first anticipated and that a well-planned, well-coordinated plan of action is essential so that all the agencies concerned will have access to those areas not easily reached in the Mariana Archipelago. Shomura also noted that with the Honolulu Laboratory's experience in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) investigation, we should be able to avoid the same shortcomings, that is, delays in getting the paperwork done on time. He also brought out that the WPRFMC will probably provide us with a Coordinator who will be responsible for pulling together the research proposals submitted by various agencies into one cohesive package. The funding for this Coordinator's position, according to Shomura, was endorsed at the Council meeting held in Hilo in August.

Discussion brought out that the Southwest Regional Office did not approve the WPRFMC's budget requests for FY 81 programmatic funds. Callaghan noted, however, that the requests will be resubmitted as individual programmatic items and among them will be one for funds to fill a position of Coordinator of the western Pacific work. At this point, Shomura referred to a letter received from Jerry B. Norris, Executive Director of the Pacific Basin Development Council. As viewed by Shomura, the PBDC plan will encompass all phases of fishery development and that the multi-agency investigation in which we are currently involved with will cover only a small portion of the overall PBDC package.

#### NMFS funding

The Honolulu Laboratory, according to Shomura, has received funding for the Guam/NMI survey for FY 81 and is now in a position to start implementing research programs as quickly as possible.

#### Election of chairman

Discussion brought out that the participants in the Guam/NMI survey and assessment investigation should elect a chairman who would preside at all future meetings and develop the agenda. Kami of Guam was elected unanimously. The meeting was turned over to Chairman Kami, who then asked for plans, reviews, and comments by the heads or representatives from each agency represented.

National Marine Fisheries Service, Honolulu Laboratory

Shomura outlined the approach that the Laboratory will be using. He said that Polovina has drafted a preliminary planning document for the Laboratory and that this draft is currently undergoing revision. Shomura proposed that the investigation be planned as a long-term program, and estimated that the total program would probably exceed 5 years. Concerning platforms, Shomura brought out that the NOAA Ship TOWNSEND CROMWELL, which is scheduled for midlife refurbishment in FY 81 (commencing possibly in August), will be available for western Pacific survey cruises after January 1982.

The Laboratory's initial plans for the use of the CROMWELL actually include two alternatives. One would be to request that the CROMWELL be based for a period of up to 8-9 months in Guam or Saipan. The other would be to schedule the CROMWELL for only one or two cruises to the western Pacific and leave the bulk of the field work to be conducted on a smaller vessel which will be based in the western Pacific and be operated by the Laboratory. Shomura pointed out that a 65' vessel would be ideal for much of the field work contemplated. The CROMWELL can then carry out all of the bottom surveys and trawling whereas the 65' vessel would be used for much of the fishing operations. The Laboratory has an Ad Hoc Vessel Search Committee to examine the various options in getting a suitable platform. The committee will also examine costs of operating full or bare-boat charters. The 65' vessel, according to Shomura, will have accommodations for a captain, an engineer, a deckhand, and at least five scientists.

One of the first objectives with respect to our field work will be to conduct a survey of the bottom topography in the Mariana Archipelago. Shomura noted that existing charts are based on very old data and information and, therefore, inaccurate with respect to positions of some of the seamounts and to depth. The CROMWELL, said Shomura, is ideal for conducting this type of work.

Shomura also mentioned that the Laboratory's initial plans include the establishment of a field station either on Guam or Saipan from which the 65' vessel would operate. It is also anticipated that a biologist or technician will be placed in charge of the Laboratory's field station. On personnel, Shomura said that there will be a gradual phasing out of the NWHI investigation and a simultaneously phasing in of the Guam/NMI survey. The Laboratory's primary objectives in the western Pacific would be to define what fishery resources exist in the area, estimate their magnitude and probable levels of safe harvest, develop information on their fishable concentrations, and provide information on seasonal variations in distribution and availability of the commercially valuable stocks.

In closing, Shomura noted that an acronym should be formed for the western Pacific resource survey investigation for easy reference in communications.

#### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

In reporting for NMI, Villagomez referred to his handout, which gives the dates, names, places, and types of surveys that were conducted in the past. Villagomez noted that although it appears that much has been done, there is still much that remains to be done. The Government of the NMI turned to chartering foreign vessels in the past to conduct their surveys. Villagomez agreed with Shomura that good bottom topographic and hydrographic surveys are badly needed to correct the many inaccuracies that have been found in existing charts. On a question concerning the disposition of all the survey data, Villagomez replied that some have been copied and furnished to the Honolulu Laboratory whereas others are available in his office.

#### Guam, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

Concerning Guam, Kami said that his office has prepared a list of the types of field work anticipated and made them available to the participants. Kami emphasized that all agencies planning to participate in the Guam/NMI survey should get their research proposals to him as soon as possible. Kami then raised the question of whether or not the 65' vessel can be used as a platform by other cooperating agencies. Shomura replied that although he anticipates that the small vessel will be made available to other agencies, they should bear in mind that their objectives would have to be compatible with NMFS objectives on any given cruise.

Kami also reported that there is currently a vessel under charter to PTFD and doing bottomfish surveys in waters off Guam and the NMI. The chartered vessel, TYPHOON, has been collecting not only data on fishing but also on bottom topography.

#### University of Guam, Marine Laboratory

Amesbury, in reporting on research activities proposed by the University of Guam Marine Laboratory, referred to the handout that was distributed. The proposals cover a wide range of interests from inshore benthic communities to offshore fish, lobsters, shrimp, and coral surveys. Amesbury raised a question of whether non-HL scientists will be required to pay for meals and lodging aboard the vessel. Shomura replied that, in general, all non-HL scientists will be required to pay their own subsistence charges aboard the vessel. There are, however, sources of funds that should be explored. For example, Sea Grant annually examines a whole variety of marine research proposals for funding. Shomura added that a variety of scientific gear and fishing equipment is

available at the Honolulu Laboratory and that these gear and equipment could be loaned to cooperating agencies. He also mentioned that periodically the Laboratory does award small contracts to outside agencies or investigators to carry out specific types of work which could not be carried out in-house.

#### University of California, Sea Grant

On Sea Grant funding, it was brought out by Sullivan that any principal investigator seeking support from Sea Grant should prepare a research proposal far enough in advance because of the need to screen and review all incoming requests. Sullivan indicated that for FY 81, for example, most of the University of California Sea Grant funds have been committed and, of course, the amount actually awarded will depend to a large degree on the size of the National budget. Sullivan emphasized that Sea Grant serves as a resource agency, that is, in addition to providing funds, it can provide people with expertise to assist fishermen and researchers in updating their skills. Shomura added that the principal investigator may also want to keep in mind that proposals for funding may also be submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service for Saltonstall-Kennedy funds or to PTDF, particularly if the proposal contains fishery development as one of its objectives.

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The USFWS, according to Ludwig, is interested in two areas of research in the Guam/NMI area--endangered species and migratory birds. On endangered species, the USFWS would be undertaking research that is similar to what is being done at the present time in the NWHI, with emphasis on endangered birds. Ludwig mentioned that there are no endangered plant species that he knows of in the NMI, but this may be due to lack of knowledge and information. The USFWS will also look at land snails, particularly the endemic species and the Mariana mallard. Concerning migratory birds, Ludwig pointed out that the USFWS plan to conduct sea and land bird surveys and will coordinate this work very closely with the Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources. In closing, Ludwig remarked that the USFWS will need to look very closely at the wildlife resources in the Guam/NMI area and determine the effects, if any, of military operations on those resources.

#### Pacific Tuna Development Foundation

Nada, reporting on developments within PTDF, informed the participants that the research activities planned for the western Pacific survey can be easily coordinated with those of PTDF. Nada pointed out that PTDF is currently in the midst of developing its 1981 budget submission and a meeting to finalize several project proposals is scheduled for October 14-15. Generally, PTDF submits its budget requests in October and receives approval by February; therefore, all proposals for funding should be thought out far in advance of submission.

### Other discussion

Discussion on cruise scheduling, on background documents, and on formalizing a cooperative agreement among all agencies brought out that cruise schedules are usually prepared a year or two in advance, but actual planning for the operational aspects of the cruise is done about four months prior to departure. On a question of whether archeological research could be included in the overall investigation, Shomura replied that, on a space available basis, the CROMWELL could be used to transport scientists from one island to another, somewhat similar to the arrangements that we have at present in the NWHI investigation.

On background document, Shomura brought out that the Honolulu Laboratory has an Administrative Report authored by Uchida and Sumida on environmental and tuna fishing information on the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. This 1975 report will be the basis for the background document which will be prepared for the western Pacific survey, that is, certain sections dealing with Guam/NMI will be lifted from the original Administrative Report and updated with new materials and sections. In this regard, Uchida requested that any publications dealing with the marine resources of the Guam/NMI area, particularly those published over the past few years, be sent to him immediately.

On a question of whether a formal agreement should be drawn up, Shomura suggested that a comprehensive, multi-agency Planning Document, which lists all the agencies and their responsibilities, should be put together and if agreeable, signed by the heads of each agency.

Another question raised concerned the possible conflict of the Southwest Fisheries Center's goals and objectives with those of the Southwest Region. Shomura responded that the SWR is in full support of the Guam/NMI investigation and, in fact, is looking at the cooperative investigation as fulfilling the objectives of the State/Federal Program Initiatives.

In response to a question on the availability of the CROMWELL and the vessel's capabilities, Shomura replied that the vessel will be available for the anticipated field work at the conclusion of the NWHI investigation. Shomura added that the CROMWELL has the capability of performing all types of oceanographic and fisheries work; however, the Honolulu Laboratory is not planning to become involved in an in-depth oceanographic study of western Pacific waters. Rather, the Laboratory will look to the universities, which have expertise in oceanography, to become involved in this phase of the investigation. Shomura anticipates that only a limited amount of oceanographic work will be conducted by the Laboratory, for example, describing salinity and temperature profiles through the use of the CTD and XBT traces.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

# Marianas Politician Tells of D.C. Visit

By Harold Morse  
Star-Bulletin Writer

The appropriations committee chairman of the First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature found Washington politicians "very receptive" in recent budget hearings there.

Plasido M. Tagabuel, 25, spent a day testifying before a Senate subcommittee and another day before a House subcommittee.

"The House was very receptive," Tagabuel said. He had kind words for Rep. Sidney R. Yates, D-Ill., chairman of the interior subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee.

His appearance in Washington on the Northern Marianas budget was a "courtesy," Tagabuel said.

"OUR COVENANT states funds will automatically be authorized."

The Northern Marianas representatives provided a booklet on the 1979 fiscal year budget and explained plans for the expenditures, Tagabuel said.

He was one of about 15 government leaders from the Northern Marianas who arrived in Washington earlier this month for the budget deliberations.

Tagabuel, who attended Chamorro University for three years, and

Rudy Sablan, public information officer for the First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, a graduate of the East-West Center in communications, stopped in Honolulu on their way home for a nostalgic visit.

Voters in the Northern Marianas chose commonwealth status and closer ties to the United States in 1975.

THE 14 TROPICAL islands that make up the Northern Marianas in the northwest Pacific on Jan. 9 became the first major U.S. territorial acquisition since purchase of the Virgin Islands in 1917 when U.S. officials took formal possession of the Northern Marianas.

Guam is the southernmost island of the Marianas, but it is governed separately from the Northern Marianas.

The covenant negotiated between the United States and Northern Marianas officials funds the new government with \$14 million in U.S. appropriations plus at least \$10 million in federal programs the islanders are eligible for thanks to their new commonwealth status.

The Northern Marianas have some 14,000 residents, Tagabuel and Sablan pointed out.

SAIPAN IS THE capital, and Rota

and Tinian are the other major islands.

People of the Northern Marianas have been agitating with the United Nations to let them be closely affiliated with the United States since 1949, Sablan said.

They were ruled by the Spaniards, Germans and Japanese before the Japanese surrendered the islands to the United States in 1944.

Since 1947, the Northern Marianas have been a part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific, a United Nations trusteeship administered by the United States. Other islands of the Trust Territory, more commonly known as Micronesia, still are negotiating their post-trusteeship status.

"The American system is more suitable to us," Tagabuel said. He noted, though, that some of the older folks in the Northern Marianas found much to their liking in the Japanese way.

SOME WHO received Japanese educations say they learned better than the younger generation, Tagabuel and Sablan indicated.

Tagabuel became a political figure almost accidentally.

"I never even dreamed of going into politics," the young politician said. "There were not enough candi-

dates so they had to pick me up. They asked me to run."

"They" is the Territorial Party in the Northern Marianas. The two-party system is fleshed out in those islands by the Democratic Party, which controls the governorship.

The Territorial Party controls the legislature, Tagabuel said.



Plasido Tagabuel

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A-8

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## Reunification of the Marianas

There is a provision in the Omnibus Territories Act just passed by the U.S. House of Representatives that assures Guam and the Northern Marianas that they would lose no federal grants as a result of a merger.

Guam's Delegate Antonio Won Pat commented that the provision "is clearly signaling our people that they will have the full support of the federal government if and when they resume reunification talks. I am proud of this historic statement, which is a reversal of official U.S. policy in previous years."

A merger of Guam and the Northern Marianas would make sense geographically, culturally, administratively and economically. The islands are all part of the same chain, with Guam being the largest, most populous and most developed economically. The people are of the same stock and cultural heritage. Merger would simplify administration and bring economic advantages.

All of the Marianas were under Spanish rule until the U.S. occupation of Guam in 1898. After World War II, the Northern Marianas became part of the U.S.-administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. But for roughly half a century, Guam and the Northern Marianas were ruled by different governments, and that separation has continued to this day.

In 1975 the Northern Marianas approved permanent association with the United States as a commonwealth. Guam, meanwhile, has grown dissatisfied with its present territorial status and is seeking a greater measure of autonomy from Washington.

There does not appear to be a strong desire for merger in either the Northern Marianas or Guam at this point. The Northern Marianas Commonwealth is very new and is still feeling its way. Guam is occupied with its own problems.

But in time both groups may come to appreciate the advantages of consolidation and develop a willingness to make the accommodations that will be required. Congress is correct in trying to smooth the way.

**NAVAL BATTLES** took place in these waters when the Japanese Mobile Fleet sallied against the U. S. 5th Fleet which, under the command of Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, had landed troops on Saipan. The Japanese lost 3 aircraft carriers and 400 planes. On June 19, 1944, in this "Battle of the Philippine Sea", the U. S. lost 58 aircraft.

On June 19, 1944, the Japanese First Mobile Fleet commanded by Admiral Jisaburo Ozawa, consisted of 5 carriers, 4 light carriers, 5 battleships, 11 heavy cruisers, 2 light cruisers, 28 destroyers and 430 carrier-based combat aircraft. U. S. Fifth Fleet Admiral Spruance had 7 carriers, 8 light carriers, 7 battleships, 8 heavy cruisers, 13 light cruisers, 69 destroyers and 891 carrier-based planes.

By the end of the day, the "Great Marianas Turkey Shoot" was over with disastrous results for the Japanese who lost 330 planes against 24 American planes shot down, two carriers sunk, the Shokaku and Taiho, the American battleship, South Dakota, was lost. Later that night, the carrier Hiyo and 65 aircraft were destroyed. American plane losses came to 100. The Battle of the Philippine Sea was over. The Imperial Navy suffered a severe blow, one from which it never recovered.

**THERE WAS NO FORMAL SURRENDER OF THE ISLAND,** after General Saito conceded defeat, he knelt toward Japan, pressed his dagger into his stomach and an aide shot him in the head with a pistol. The final official surrender of Saipan took place on December 1, 1945, when Army Captain Oba presented his Samurai sword to Colonel Scott, U.S.M.C.

**JAPANESE MONUMENTS** - Marble columns shaped to represent youth kneeling in prayer for peace. Built by Japanese students.

**LAST COMMAND POST** for Japanese Imperial Army. Here are caves and fortifications where Japanese resisted to the end. See crumbling tanks, howitzers, rusty machine guns, torpedo and naval guns. Saipan fell in July, 1944.

**SUICIDE CLIFFS**, one over a boiling sea, the other 80 above coral rocks, were the site of mass Japanese suicides. Thousands of Japanese troops and civilians jumped to their death. So their remains still lie in undergrowth.

**PEACE MEMORIAL PARK** at Suicide Cliff is the site of a shrine built by NANYO KOHATSU KAISHA, the Japanese organization which developed the sugar cane industry on Saipan. Tinian and Rota, during the Japanese regime (1914-1944).

**BIRD ISLAND**, a beautiful limestone islet located on a coral reef (1/2 hour hike).

**THE GROTTO** is a beautiful sunken pool connected to the sea by two underwater passages. Be careful of the powerful sea water roaring back and forth through the Grotto.

**THE SEA** takes on beautiful hues of green and blue, changing by the hour, as the clouds overhead and the rays of the sun change the angle at which they strike the surface.

**TO THE JAPANESE MILITARY MIND**, their situation in the last days of the battle for Saipan, namely disorganization, lack of supplies, lack of communications, etc., was no excuse for abandonment of effort. What the Japanese lacked in sines of war, he made up in effort.

**BANZAI CHARGE** near Tanapag. The last of several thousand Japanese troops, all that remained of the 30,000 original defenders, charged American forces back across Tanapag plain into the sea and the reef at Papau. A stroller can find occasional bones. The Banai charge was sparked by General Yoshitomo Saito's order for each man to "take 7 lives for the Emperor." Many of the Japanese were poorly armed with rusty rifles, poles, crude knives and grenades. Poorly armed or not, the impact of this horde was overwhelming. In the words of one of the few American officers to survive the attack, "The Japanese kept coming and coming and didn't stop. It didn't make any difference if you shot one, five more would take his place." The Army was pushed back to Tanapag village. Americans were stampeded into the water and swam for the reef.

The American forces slowly regained themselves and counter-attacked. A count taken later revealed 4,311 Japanese dead. Many Japanese soldiers swam out to the reefs of Tanapag Harbor. From one reef, 50 to 60 Japanese were clinging with machine guns which opened fire on an approaching LVT (tank). The Americans returned fire and the force was annihilated. On another reef a Japanese officer was seen beholding his band of enlisted men with his sword before he was shot down by his would-be captors.

**JAPANESE PREMIER TOJO** was confronted for the first time with opposition to the war when certain members of Japanese ruling circles wanted to negotiate peace after the fall of Saipan. After Saipan was lost, Tojo resigned.

**PAPAU BEACH** - Sea camouflaged Japanese machine gun nests as you stroll north along the beach.

**WING BEACH** - so named because of the American Navy airplane wing lying in the sand.

**HERE, FAMILIES WERE SEEN** lining up single file, each younger member being shoved over the rocky precipice by the next older child. As the final action, the father would run backwards toward the edge so as not to sense his last step. Other families were seen circling a hand grenade detonated by a parent. These most lamentable events took place and Suicide and Banzi cliffs. Americans and Saipanese with loudspeakers convinced many Japanese that their surrender would be shameful and harmless.

**SAN ROQUE** サン・ロク

**MANY JAPANESE** defenders were sealed alive in caves after refusing to come out upon command to surrender.

**EXPLORE THE TRAILS**, half hidden by jungle growth, for the rusting remains of war. Beware of touching any unexploded ammunition.

**"HARAKIRI GULCH"**, as called by the troops of the 27th, was a canyon, winding uncertainly between steep, cave studded cliffs. Durling and after the fighting, the men found about 60 Japanese soldiers who had committed suicide by pressing hand grenades to their abdomens.

**FIGHTING** between Americans and Japanese consisted of ships, aircraft, artillery, tanks, machine guns, rifles, pistols, bayonets, swords, bamboo spears, clubs, fire, stones and fists.

**THE SAND IS STREWN** with shells. Among the thousands that are bleached as bones, there are others of brilliant color.

**OLD MAN BY-THE-SEA** is a spectacular rock formation which resembles the head of a man. It is a half-hour walk.

**CLIMATE** - EMBRACED BY THE SEA on all sides, Saipan is swept by cool breezes. The climate is tropical. Average annual low temperature is 77 degrees F., average high is 83 degrees F. Humidity averages 82 percent with little variation. Rainfall averages 81.0 inches. The wet season is between July and November. Light rains, lower humidity and easterly trade winds from December through June characterize the "dry season."

**THE BEACH BLAZES** in the sun and the sea sparkles. There is the salty smell of the water and the sound of the waves, rolling, booming and then breaking into a fringe of foam. There is the sound of the wind and the rattling stiff palm fronds.

**DENSE, GREEN TROPICAL JUNGLE** GROWTH, hot and humid, conceal steep hillsides and cave openings. War relics still lie in the primitive undergrowth.

**HEADQUARTERS** of the Trust Territory Government until 1981 when it is expected it will move to Ponape where the Congress of Micronesia is now located.

**CAPITOL HILL** - location of the Trust Territory's Executive Branch of Government since 1962. Built in 1948 by the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency to train Chinese guerillas in the Marpi and Kagman areas.

**ESCOLASTICA'S RESTAURANT and LOUNGE** - Good food at the right price and served with a smile.

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES SHRINE**

**CORAL REEF** - An underwater world consisting of living coral growing for a million years. See a "coral forest" of staghorn, leaf, tube and brain coral. A breeding ground for brilliantly colored fish. See the fantastic display of underwater marine life. Barracuda, shark as well as the moray eel live here.

**PHOTOGRAPH** bottom boats are pleasure.

**RUSTY, FLAKING WAR WEAPONS** still litter many fields and beaches.

**"TIKI-GODS"** - Souvenirs from Products of Saipan, c/o Frank Ferreira, P.O. Box 95, Saipan, M.I. - 96950.

**OF JAPANESE SUGAR** Uji Matsue, a graduate of State University, former of Nanyo Kohatsu

**WHEN DEATH VALLEY** was

**"AMELIA EARHART AND FR**





...RE OF MT. ...n June 25, 1944, ...llion, 8th Marines ...llion, 29th Marines, ...the advantage of ...observations and ...mericans to look ...ness. Elevation is



THE SAIPANESE, OR CHAMORRO'S, are an ancient sea-faring race akin to the Polynesians. Saipan has known Spanish, German, Japanese and American administration.

in a position to push his forces rapidly and seal off the Japanese remaining in the northern neck of Saipan. He ordered: "Massed artillery fire to support infantry attacks. Infantry will attack ruthlessly, absence of tanks is no excuse of failure of infantry to press home the attack." The thrust for Tanapag was so ordered.

THE CAVES OF SAIPAN still hold the remains of many Japanese troops who held out in prolonged guerilla warfare or committed suicide. As late as 1952, a few stragglers came out to surrender unaware that the war had ended.

DEATH VALLEY - June 23, 1944. The floor of the valley, less than 1,000 yards in length, is dominated by the rugged slopes of Mt. Tapotchau. The eastern hill system was called "Purple Heart Ridge". The Japanese had at their disposal all kinds of automatic weapons. The U. S. 27th Division failed to advance and General Holland Smith indicated, "that the division had suffered scarcely no (sic) casualties and in his opinion, he didn't think they (the U.S. Army) would fight".

When queried, Colonel Ayers, C.O. of 108th Infantry, was of the firm belief if he tried to advance across the open ground "his regiment would disappear". Because of the "all-round poor performance" of the 27 Division, General Holland Smith asked Admiral Spruance for the relief of General Ralph Smith. There is no doubt that this controversy seriously jeopardized harmonious relations at all levels among the U. S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.

...coral pieces. There are miles of beautiful, sunny golden sand beaches, wonderful for building sand castles.



EAT - delicious breadfruit prepared in a variety of ways, as well as coconut crab, chicken keisuin, fresh reef fish or sashimi. Try cool coconut wine called Tuba.

SUGAR CANE IS A DELICIOUS SWEET, well worth trying. Children know where to find it... free for the taking unless it is in a person's yard.



ONLY 600 JAPANESE PRISONERS from a total of over 30,000 troops survived the war.

MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENON of an unknown nature exists almost continuously across the Pacific. A reflecting layer (some times called E.C.R. layer) drifts by day to a depth of several hundred fathoms, only to rise to the surface again at night and then before sunrise, sinking back into the depths.

OCEAN LIFE ranges from the largest living to the smallest microscopic forms. With relief of the force of gravity, the supports animals as large today as ever has, much heavier than which roam the land.

DRIFTING BOTTLES - The longest undisputed drift of a bottle on record was one released in the Pacific at Perth, Australia, and recovered 5 years later on the other side of the earth on the United States east coast. The bottle traveled about 16,000 miles at about one-half mile per hour.

THE GREEN FLASH, some say a phenomenon occurring in the western sky at the precise moment the sun disappears below the horizon. It could be caused by the intense, brilliant rays of the sun refracted when passing through the curvature of the earth's surface thereby causing an optical illusion. Watch for it, don't blink your eyes.

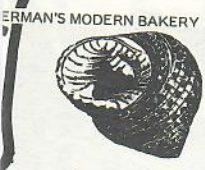
# サン・ビンセント SAN VINCENTE

STROLL THROUGH THE FRIENDLY VILLAGES of Saipan, particularly in the cool of the evenings when families are outside enjoying the sunset.

MAGICIENNE Bay

BEACHCOMB for driftwood, unusual sea shells, glass balls and interesting coral pieces. Coconut palms line the white sandy tropical beaches of Saipan. There are miles of beautiful, sunny, golden sand beaches wonderful for building sand castles.

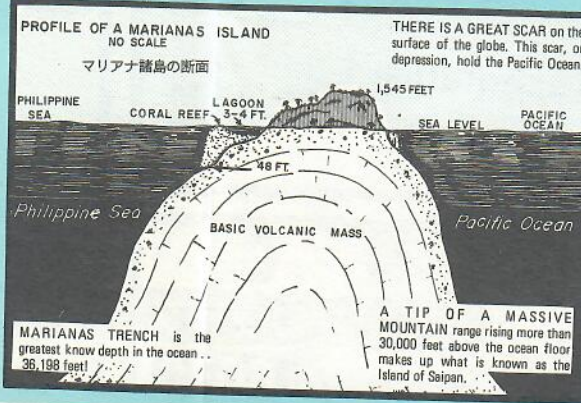
THE SPIRAL OF MOST SHELLS turns like the hands of a clock, to the right so that the opening aperture, is on the right side when the shell is held with the spiral up. Left side opening counter-clockwise, are "one in a million" find.



INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - Restaurant, Bar, Free Gift Shop, Auto Rental, Money Exchange.

FIELD (formerly Aslito) was named in honor of Major, Comdr. Robert H. Isely, who was killed in action over Saipan.

BOONIE DOGS - Many of the dogs you see are direct descendants of the mascots of U.S. military personnel brought ashore as good luck charms during the first wave of attack.



THIS MAP WAS DRAWN BY: WILLIAM H. STEWART INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIST & ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHER



PUBLISHED IN COOPERATION WITH THE

Marianas Visitors Bureau  
P.O. Box 861, Saipan, C.M. 96950 U.S.A.

HISTORICAL and GEOGRAPHIC

# Tourist Map of Fishing, Boating, Skin Diving ON SAIPAN

COMMONWEALTH OF  
THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

サイパン島の旅行地図

歴史的或は地理的に有名な所、またフィッシング、ボート乗りやスキン・ダイビング(海中もくり)についての案内付き。周辺の海洋及び太平洋戦争についての記載付き。

PACIFIC OCEAN

With Notes On The  
Ocean & World War II



©1980 Economic Service Counsel Inc.

weapons, artillery and mortar barges. In the 2d Marine Division's zone, 3 amphibian tanks and 4 tractors were knocked out between the reef and the beach. There was great confusion on the beach... the sea was red with blood! Of the 68 tanks in the first wave, all but 3 arrived safely. One burned, one was swamped on the reef and one received a direct hit. Two tanks may still be seen today, rusting in the shallow water.

G.I.'s were imprisoned here after crash landing in the Pacific.

ENJOY THE ENCHANTMENT of a night walk along these sandy beaches which remain untouched by commercialization.

MAGNIFICENT FLAME TREES bloom in summer.

INFORMATION - People on Saipan are very friendly - stop and ask them directions.

WORLD WAR II monument to honor fallen U.S. troops.

GUN TURRETS OF U.S. TANKS can be seen and explored in this region. These tanks were destroyed by Japanese guns as they came ashore on June 15, 1944.



オレアイ・サンノゼ

INVASION CRAFT - The greatest concentration went down, or were destroyed, in this area.

OLEAI San Jose

INVASION BEACHES. Here, on D-Day, June 15, the 2nd and 4th U.S. Marine Divisions under the command of Lt. Gen. Holland M. Smith, U.S.M.C., hit heavily guarded defenses which had not been silenced by pre-assault naval gunfire and air-strikes.

FISH from boats, sea walls, piers and beaches.

ススペ SUSUPE SAMURAI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

CHALAN KANOA

チャラン・カノア MONUMENT IN MEMORY of Japanese dead

日本人戦死者記念碑

郵便局と映画館 U.S. POST OFFICE and Movie Theater

HERE ON THE BEACH during the early moments of the invasion, the situation was chaotic. Trees, trenches and shell holes stopped many of the tanks of the 2d Marine Division, 28 tanks were disabled.

FARMER'S MARKET and FISHING COOPERATIVE - Fresh fish, fruits and vegetables.

MARIANAS VISITOR'S BUREAU Offices located near the Saipan International Airport. See us for information or write: Managing Director, Marianas Visitor's Bureau P.O. Box 861, Saipan, M.I., 96950 - U.S.A.

COCKFIGHTS! EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT!

SAN ANTONIO

サン・アントニオ

JAPANESE TANK on exhibit at Coast Guard Station.

沿岸警備軍内に展示された旧日本軍戦車

KOBLER AIR FIELD (closed)

AGINGAN BEACH (enter near Kobler Field). See the pillbox facing Tinian Island.

## LEGEND

- Primary Road (paved) ———
  - Minor Road (rough) ———
  - Trail - - - - -
  - Village ○
  - Points of Interest ■
- Note - Many roads and trails have been omitted for map legibility. Mileages are approximate between indicated road intersections.

SOURCE: The historical account of the Battle for Saipan was taken from the publications: Shaw, Henry I., Central Pacific Drive, Vol. III, Historical Branch, G-3 Division Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, 1966, and Crow, Philip A., Campaign in the Marianas, The War in the Pacific, U.S. Army in World War II, Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. - 1980. The publications are for sale by the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

OBYAN BEACH - look for white arrows at edge of airstrips to mark auto path. Lettie Stone dating back to B.C. and huge pillbox guard channel.

LADDER BEACH

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THE CAPTIVE TAPOTCHAU... by the 2nd Battalion and the 1st Battalion gave the Corps superior ground permitted the down on the Japanese, 1,545 feet.

グアロ・ライ GUALO -RAI

SOME STREETS AND ROAD have been omitted which you would need unless you are looking for someone.

GOLF AT WHISPERING PALMS GOLF CLUB - 9 holes laid out in a triangle.

三角形にレイウィスバリン

Hospital 病院

マリアナ観光局

SAIPAN AIRPORT Duty Rental ISELY Airfield naval field shot down 325 M 21st General Airfield bomb

GLASS BOTTOM BOAT TOURS and deep sea fishing charters.

SAIPAN CONTINENTAL HOTEL, Gift Shop, Trader Bar and Night club, Restaurant, Beauty Shop, Pool, Bunker Beach Bar, Auto Rental, Tours.

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RIDE THE BUS from Continental Hotel to the Townhouse.

JAPANESE TANK AND BUNKER from World War II.

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Chalan Kanoa

La Boutique De Ann Gift Shop

TOWN HOUSE SHOPPING CENTER, PAYLESS SUPERMARKET, KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN, CALIFORNIA FIRST BANK.

ビーチ道路

Inset Of Beach Road



Scale Of Miles

1/2

1

To Capitol Hill or Suicide Cliff

THE SAIPAN MUSEUM displays many World War II artifacts along with items of cultural interest.

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HANAMURA Restaurant

Garapan

ガラパン

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M.S. VILLAGOMEZ STORE SNACK BAR 日本病院の廃墟

MIDWAY MOTORS 日本砂糖王像

RENT-A-CAR 砂糖きび列車記念碑

AVIS Sugar Train Monument

日本の砂糖王像

日本の砂糖王像

日本の砂糖王像

日本の砂糖王像

HAMILTON'S RESTAURANT, BAR and Apartments



Gualo Rai

グアロライ

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL

SAIPAN BOWLING and Oleai Nightclub.

PROFESSIONAL BUILDING

MICROL CORPORATION

ゴルフ・コース

COURSE

To Saipan International Airport

サイパン国際空港へ

Police Station 警察

TAIPEI RESTAURANT

NAURU OFFICE BUILDING

Susupeススベ

To White Sands Hotel (closed)

ホワイトサンドホテルへ

JOETEN SHOPPING CENTER - If you can't find what you want here it is probably not on the island. Joe Ten has everything.

CONTINENTAL AIR MICRONESIA

BANK OF AMERICA, MICRONESIA

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, EAST WEST TRAVEL SERVICE.

CARMEN SAFEWAY



TRADE WINDS are a result of the heat at the equator which causes the air to expand and flow toward the poles at high altitude. Thus, the volume of air at lower levels is reduced. As a result, there is another, almost constant flow of air toward the equator at low altitude.



WRECKED LANDING CRAFT, their brown-orange hulls are slowly being dissolved by the sea.

SNORKELING - See the dazzling underwater gardens and the fantastic variety of colored fish. Stop frequently... wait quietly... take time to look. Enjoy the coral formations, explore for sunken wrecks.

ALWAYS, THERE IS AN ASSOCIATION of island arcs, as in the case of the Marianas, and deep trenches, always, the two are in areas of volcanic unrest. On the concave side of the islands are rows of volcanoes. On the convex side, there is a sharp down-bending of the ocean floor which results in deep "V" shaped trenches and submarine canyons with steep cliffs.



DEEP SEA FISH for swordfish, tuna and dolphin.

WEAR SANDALS or other foot wear when in the water as a foot cut on sharp coral takes a long time to heal. A step on the Turkey Fish, the Stone, or Rock Fish will result in a painful and poisonous sting as well as the barb of the Sting Ray. This is a serious hazard so be careful.



MANAGAHA ISLAND - A popular weekend picnic site. Here there are 3 rusting Japanese artillery pieces for the photographer. Also located here is a Carolinian monument dedicated to Chief Angrub.

TWO U. S. MARINE DIVISIONS and one Army Division assaulted Saipan on June 15, 1944, landing on Japan's inner defense ring. A campaign opened which later placed U. S. strategic bombers in range of Japanese home islands. Three thousand five hundred American Marines, soldiers and sailors died. Total U. S. casualties exceeded 16,500. The Japanese lost most of the 30,000 defenders, 400 Saipanese died.

BY NIGHTFALL on the first day of the invasion, the 2d Marine Division's casualties were estimated to amount to 1,575 men but the landing was a success. At no time on D-Day did the Japanese employ infantry in any great strength. They relied almost entirely on artillery, heavy weapons and tank attacks.



Sail aboard a two masted, south sea schooner for a day cruise or watch an evening sunset and dine under the stars. Contact John White.

MICRO BEACH PARK (PUNTA MUCHOT), a picnic and playground area.

GARAPAN - ONCE A TOWN of 6,000 buildings with factories, shops, and railroad was reduced to rubble after Japanese troops forming attacks from there made its destruction necessary. Garapan fell on July 3, 1944.

GARAPAN

ガラパン

RUINS OF CONCRETE CHURCH TOWER

RUINS OF A JAPANESE PRISON

with its damp cells hidden by tropical growth and green mold. Some believe that American flyer, Amelia Earhart, was held in one of the cells. It is certain that American

UNDERWATER ERSI - Glass, is available for your DEEP SEA FISH tuna and dolphin "Island Girl." Price.

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AMERICAN TANKS, once over the reef, together with the invasion force, faced Japanese submarine

RUINED JAPANESE HOSP with crumbling walls.

STEAM ENGINE, eaten once used to haul sugar Japanese factory.

STATUE KING, Har Louisiana President

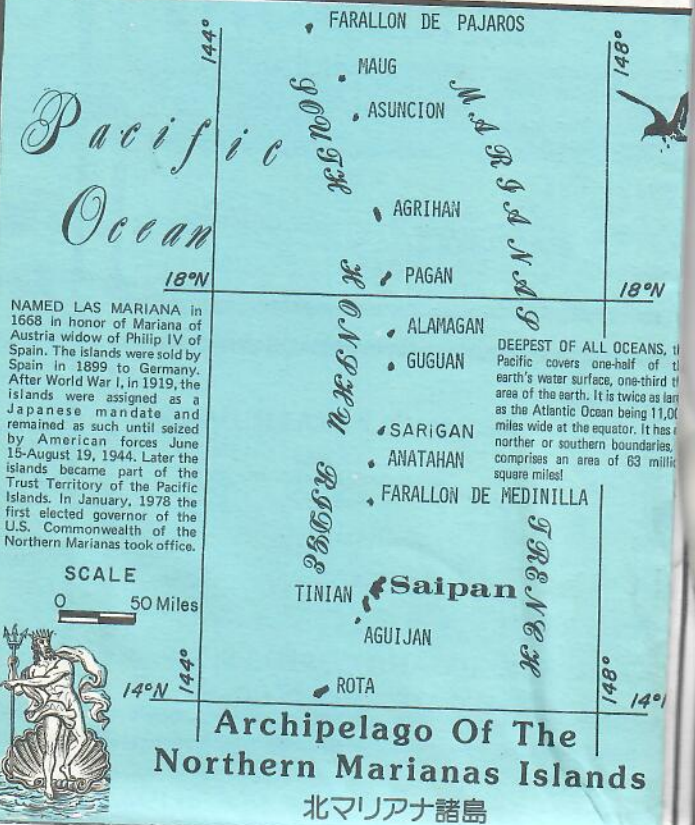
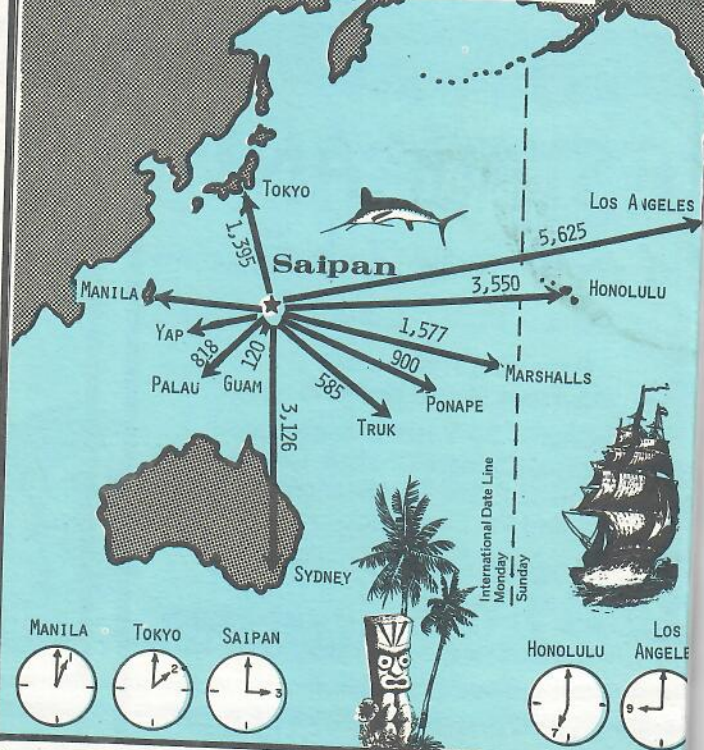
# Approx. Distances From Saipan

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NAMED LAS MARIANA in 1668 in honor of Mariana of Austria widow of Philip IV of Spain. The islands were sold by Spain in 1899 to Germany. After World War I, in 1919, the islands were assigned as a Japanese mandate and remained as such until seized by American forces June 15-August 19, 1944. Later the islands became part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In January, 1978 the first elected governor of the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas took office.

DEEPEST OF ALL OCEANS, the Pacific covers one-half of the earth's water surface, one-third the area of the earth. It is twice as large as the Atlantic Ocean being 11,000 miles wide at the equator. It has northern or southern boundaries, comprises an area of 63 million square miles!

## Archipelago Of The Northern Marianas Islands 北マリアナ諸島

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**NATURLISTS-MEDITATORS!**  
Here you will find caves for explorers, foaming seascapes for thinkers and artists, sand for sunbathers, coral heads and beautiful fish for skin-divers.

**STARGAZE** - The stars burn bright from horizon to horizon under the canopy of heaven. On any given evening about one half or 180 degrees of the total celestial sphere can be seen. Pularis lies just a little above the horizon.

**THE BEACH BLAZES** in the sun and the sea sparkles. There is the salty smell of the water and the sound of crashing waves, rolling, booming and then breaking into a fringe of foam. Listen to the sound of the wind and the rattling of palm fronds.

**Song Song**

Map of Rota  
ロタ島地図  
NO SCALE

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From this loading pit the first atomic bomb ever used in combat was loaded aboard a B-29 aircraft and dropped on Hiroshima Japan, August 6, 1945.

**SEA SHELLING** offers many beautiful finds for the collector. Find spiders, the glossy cowries and hundreds of others. Be careful of all cone shells...their stingers could be poisonous.

**WAVES** - Most are a result of the passage of winds over water. The water that composes a wave does not advance with it across the sea. Each particle describes a circular orbit, it then returns to its original position. If not broken a wave destroyed by breaking on a beach the great swells you see would go around the world.

**San Jose**

Map of Tinian  
テニアン島地図  
NO SCALE

GLASS BOTTOM BOAT TOURS and-deep sea fishing charters.



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# PHILIPPINE SEA

フィリピン海

SCENIC DRIVE under beautiful flame trees along the Philippine Sea—the best time is at sunset.



RIDE THE BUS from Continental Hotel to the Townhouse.

JAPANESE TANK AND BUNKER from World War II.



BOATING - Whether you prefer power or sail, boats for pleasure cruising, fishing, water skiing, skin diving or deep sea fishing, there are rental facilities available.

WORLD WAR II MONUMENT

HAFADAI INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE

## San Jose Oleai

サンノゼ・オレイ

FISHERMEN - In the warm water around Saipan, hundreds of different varieties of fish may be found in abundance.

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ビーチ道路

### Inset Of Beach Road



To Capitol Hill or Suicide Cliff

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日本病院の廃墟

MIDWAY MOTORS

RENT-A-CAR

砂糖きび列車記念碑

Sugar Train Monument

日本の砂糖王像

Statue of Japanese Sugar King

日本刑務所の廃墟

RUINS OF JAPANESE PRISON

HAMILTON'S RESTAURANT, BAR and Apartments



SLIPPERY WHEN WET

## Gualo Rai

グアロ・ライ

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL

SAIPAN BOWLING and Oleai Nightclub.

PROFESSIONAL BUILD.

MICROL CORPORATION

ゴルフ・コース

GOLF COURSE

To Saipan International Airport

サイパン国際空港へ

Police Station 警察

ITAIFEI RESTAURANT

NAURU OFFICE BUILDING

## Susupeススヘ

JOETEN SHOPPING CENTER - If you can't find what you want here it is probably not on the island. Joe Ten has everything.

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BANK OF AMERICA, MICRONESIA

TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

EAST WEST TRAVEL SERVICE.

CARMEN SAFEWAY

To White Sands Hotel (closed)

Scale Of Miles

1/2

1

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P.O. Box 861, Saipan, C.M. 96950 U.S.A.

**HISTORICAL and GEOGRAPHIC**

*Tourist Map*  
of  
**Fishing, Boating,  
Skin Diving**  
**ON**  
**SAIPAN**

COMMONWEALTH OF  
THE NORTHERN MARIANAS

サイパン島の旅行地図

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ついての記載付き。

**PACIFIC OCEAN**

**With Notes On The  
Ocean & World War II**



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In March, 1976 the United States added over 13,000 brand-new citizens and fourteen enchanting islands to its Western Pacific domain.

The U.S. Congress passed and President Ford signed a bill granting a unique commonwealth status to the Northern Mariana Islands, formerly a district in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Located 3,300 miles west of Hawaii, 1,300 miles from Japan, 1,200 miles from the Philippines, and just north of the U.S. Territory of Guam, the Northern Marianas are a glorious, untapped, but developing mini-state.

This dynamic volcanic archipelago borders the world's deepest canyon, the Mariana's Trench. It enjoys a semi-tropical climate, northerly trade winds, and occasional typhoons.

Lush, thick tangantangan forests, green and golden grasslands, white and black sand beaches, and blossoming orange flame trees contrast the blue Pacific which surrounds all.

Saipan, the seat of power, largest island (72 sq. miles), and commercial center contains 80% of the total population. To the south lie Tinian and Rota known for agricultural production. To the north lie 10 small semi-active volcanic islands. Only three of these have isolated communities of 35 to 70 people. Infrequent visits, primarily by ship, leave them virtually self-contained.

An ancient seafaring race from south-eastern Asia probably settled the Marianas including Guam. Anthropologists believe they left the Asiatic mainland and in the course of 400 years, travelled through Indonesia, Borneo, the Philippines, finally reaching the Marianas. Excellent and daring navigators, they travelled in large outrigger canoes. Carbon 14 dating performed on ancient village remains dates early settlements between 1550 and 1500 B.C. They farmed, fished and fought with shell, stone, and wooden devices. Slings with football-shaped rocks slingstones were the ancient Chamorro's primary weapon.

Spanish domination began with Magellan's exploration of the Mariana Islands in 1521 and lasted over 350 years. Spanish contact virtually destroyed the Chamorro culture and civilization.

War, hunger, and disease reduced an estimated population of 80,000 to 3,000 between 1660 and 1760. The colonial government imported Spaniards and Filipinos to rebuild the dying race. No pure Chamorros exist in the islands today.

Following the Spanish-American war of 1898, Germany purchased the Northern Marianas and the U.S. ceded Guam. Germany attempted commercial development, administered the islands for only 15 years, and failed to have a major impact.

Japan seized the Northern Mariana Islands during World War I and received a League of Nations mandate in 1920. The islands became a highly-developed colony for the Japanese homeland. Companies built large factories. They produced

# America's Newest Commonwealth: The Northern Mariana Islands

by Jeffrey White



Smiling Chamorro faces.

sugar, alcohol, tapioca starch, sake, coffee, copra, pineapple, and dried fish. They mined phosphate, manganese, sulphur and limestone for export.

The government urged families to settle in the Northern Marianas. In 1920, there were 1,750 Japanese residents. By 1940 there were 42,540 Japanese, Okinawan, and Korean immigrants, a ratio of 10 to 1 foreign to local residents. Land utilization and the tremendous production developed during Japanese pre-war years have never been equalled.

They constructed spacious sturdy buildings for public and private use. Hospitals, catchment tanks, a jail, and various buildings remain today. Local foods, and the Japanese language spoken among older residents are also subtle reminders of an era past.

World War II devastated Saipan and Tinian. Following a four-day bombing assault, American ground forces landed and completed occupation in one month of fierce and bloody fighting. Subsequently, Tinian and Saipan became the major air base for bombing raids including the atom bomb attack that crushed Japan.

Tangen-tangen seed spread throughout the two islands hid much of the destruction. The fast-growing jungle shrub grew profusely and today remains the islands' dominant plant.

In 1947 the United Nations awarded the United States a strategic trusteeship over the islands of Micronesia. Although the Northern Marianas fell into this category, the U.S. Navy governed the islands until 1962.

Local residents grew fonder and fonder of American rule. As far back as 1955, the people of Saipan voiced desires to closely ally themselves with the U.S.

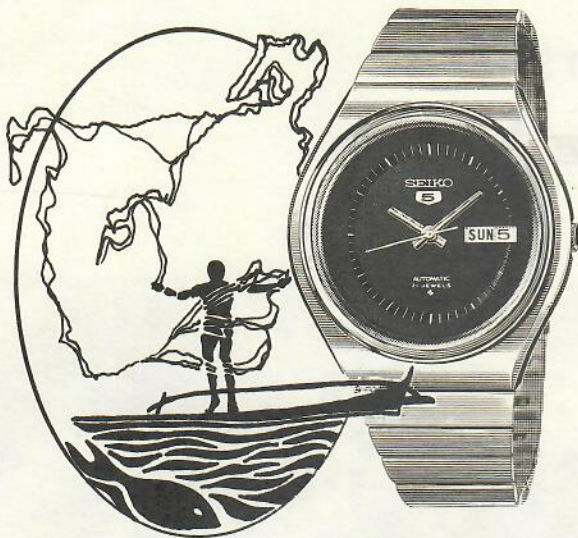
Civilian administrators moved Trust Territory Headquarters to Saipan in 1962. The Northern Marianas clearly became the "most favored district" among the six in the Trust Territory. Headquarters created a wealth of bureaucratic white-collar jobs. Money poured in. Businesses grew and profited from the expanded local economy.

With a solid foundation of Japanese-built roads and airstrips, the infrastructure steadily improved. Roads today traverse most of the scenic islands. 99% of the local population now has a protected water supply. The average for the other five districts is 21.6%. Concrete dwellings become more common and electricity powers most homes.

In 1972 as the Trust Territory negotiated with U.S. representatives to formulate a new semi-independent status, the Northern Marianas issued a request for separate negotiations. The United States accepted the request and proceeded with separate



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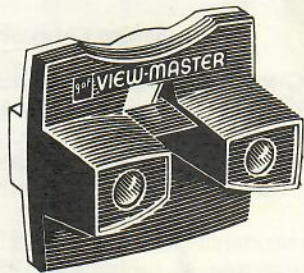


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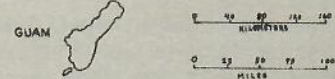
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**NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

- URACAS — (199)
- MAUG — (796)
- ASUNCION — (2925)
- AGRIHAN — (5166)
- PAGAN — (1870)
- ALAMAGAN — (244)
- GUSUAN — (977)
- SARIGAN — (1801)
- ANATAHAN — (2585)
- FARALLON DE MEDINILLA — (266)



- SAIPAN — (1526)
- TINIAN — (564)
- RDTA — (100)



talks. By February, 1975 the parties completed and approved the Covenant for the "Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

There are many reasons why the Northern Marianas sought a closer permanent relationship with the U.S. Seemingly all stem from the desire to achieve a higher western standard of living.

The islands can boast one car for every three people. Five radio stations will serve inhabitants by the year's end. The other districts at most have two. A local television station and cable TV serve the swelling number of television sets.

Four large supermarkets, bowling alley, golf course, 10 laundromats, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and a variety of small stores are indicators of growing prosperity with a cash-based economy. Old and young alike seem quite satisfied with their gradually-changing lifestyle.

In addition to developing as the administration's favorite district, the islands have the greatest number of tourists. 74% of all Trust Territory tourists visited the Northern Marianas. Japanese vacationers enjoy the climate, beaches, and historical reminders of their civilization. Visitors from Guam continually arrive to appreciate a quiet weekend away from home. Presently, there are 11 hotels and 3 in the planning stages. Tourism is the islands' number one industry.

While local motives for commonwealth are basically income-oriented, the U.S. clearly has a military objective.

According to the covenant, the U.S. will lease two-thirds of Tinian (17,800 acres) to serve as a joint navy-air facility; 177 acres at Tanapag Harbor, Saipan; and the entire island of Farallon de Medinilla (206 acres). The United States retains the right of emi-

nent domain and accessibility to various civilian facilities if the need arises.

The military motive for such acquisitions lies in maintaining a forward defense position close to mainland Asia. In the last five years the U.S. lost bases in Vietnam, Thailand, and Okinawa. It still maintains extensive facilities in Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines.

Political instability in many Asian nations apparently dictates the need for a "domestic" military facility. Guam alone is not sufficient. The Northern Marianas western Pacific location is ideal. With present facilities on Guam a large secure network of installations can be maintained.

Representatives negotiating for the islands utilized the mistakes of Guam and Puerto Rico and formulated a unique commonwealth status. They have full control over domestic affairs, a local governor, and constitution. The U.S. makes all foreign policy decisions.

The covenant guarantees the Northern Mariana Islands annual payments of at least \$14 million earmarked for government operations and capital improvements. It promises \$3 million in federal programs. In addition, the islands receive \$19.5 million for the 100 year U.S. land lease.

A plebiscite held in June 1975 measured local opinion on the proposed covenant. Over 78% voted in favor.

Today the islands enjoy a fine harmonic combination of modern material wealth and undeveloped natural beauty. The various islands totalling 185 square miles, 1/4 the size of Rhode Island, easily support the population of 15,100.

Many beaches, forests, and mountains remain virtually untouched. Seven northern islands are uninhabited wildlife refuges. Steep cliffs rise from the ocean and provide spectacular vistas. Japanese and World War II relics blend aesthetically with rich jungle vegetation. Mysterious cave systems penetrate within Saipan's mountains.

The modern spacious new Saipan International Airport is now open. Leaders expect a steady stream of foreign visitors. Planned and approved, a 200-room hotel awaits construction on the beach near downtown Saipan. An eight-story office building with revolving restaurant atop, financed by the wealthy nation of Nauru rises day by day. Hotels for Pagan, an isolated northern island, and Rota are in the planning stages.

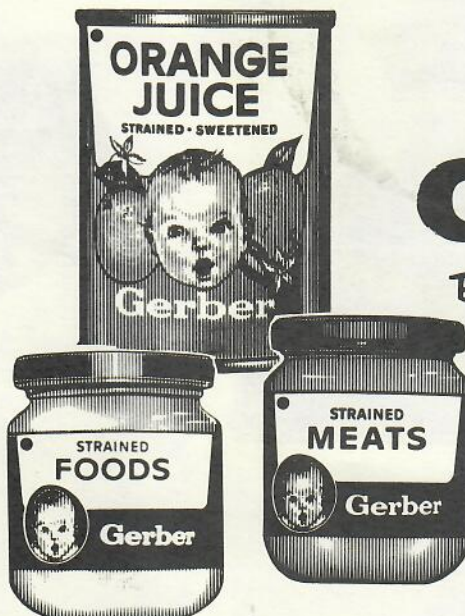
Island inhabitants enjoy increased material wealth but also appreciate the islands' natural splendor. As foreign and local investment increase, residents foresee great changes to come with mixed emotions.

The commonwealth status officially begins in 1980-81 with the termination of the U.N. Trusteeship. Seemingly, it has begun.

This is a dynamic period for the Northern Mariana Islands. Planning and foresight are necessary if America's newest commonwealth hopes to retain what it has now, the best of both worlds.

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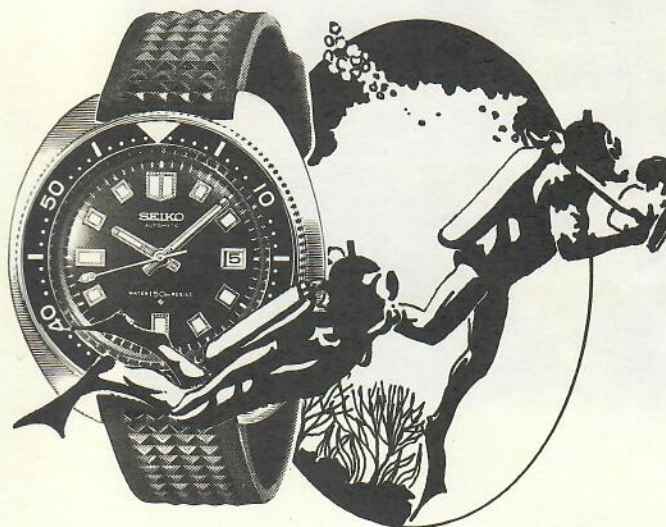
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## Artists of the Pacific

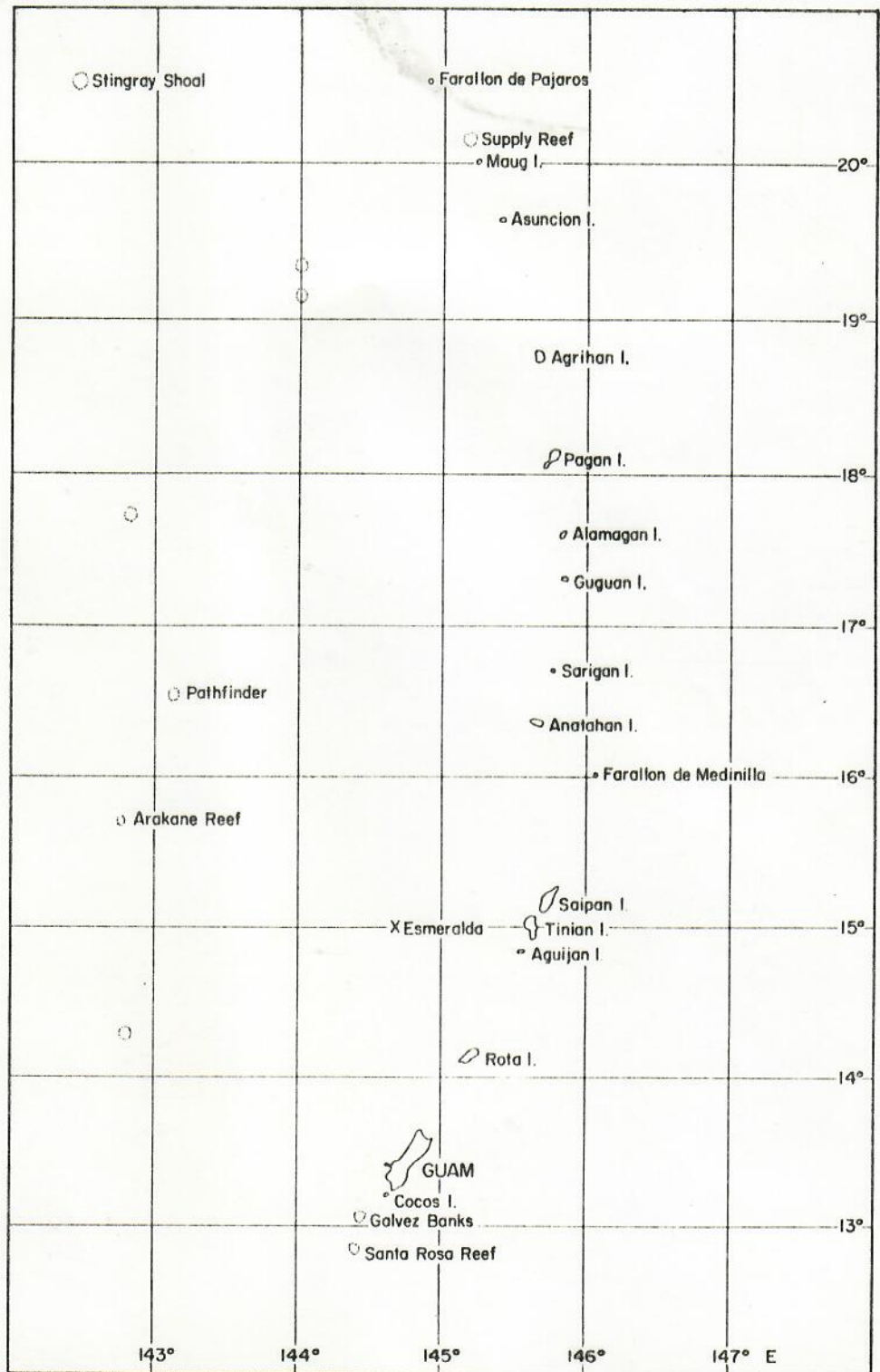


Hawaii sculptor Gregory Clurman, at 27, has gained international recognition for his powerful neo-primitive stone works.

Last year, the Central Bank of the Philippines purchased his massive 1,200-pound sculpture in Roman travertine called "Stability." This is the second Clurman work to be purchased for display in Manila by the official government bank of the Philippines. The first, called "The Struggle," was acquired in 1973.

Other Clurman works are in Tokyo, San Francisco, and Honolulu. Exhibitions are scheduled in Madrid and Paris. Several Clurman sculptures are on display in Davies Pacific Center in downtown Honolulu. Two of his stone sculptures, purchased by the State of Hawaii, are now in place on the Manoa campus of the University of Hawaii. They are titled, "The Mother of the Universe" and "Sumotori." The Honolulu Zoo has Clurman's sculpture of three Hawaiian wild boars, carved in local blue lava rock. Another of his works, "Rest," is in the garden of the Kahala Hilton Hotel.

Clurman is currently artist in residence, under contract with the Hawaii State Foundation for Culture and the Arts. He will be



## Blown to Smithereens

*Pacific Daily News, Guam*

In the event of a direct nuclear hit, Guam is not what the military would call a "survivable location," an Air Force officer said in July.

"I would say, personally, a small land mass like this, if it took a direct hit, it would not survive," Col. Jose E. Stuntz, commander of the 43rd Strategic Wing stationed on Guam said.

And the chances of the island being close to a nuclear explosion are quite good. "Any SAC base is a prime target," he said. "Consider this the westernmost cutting edge—this is prime target."

## Won't Demote Tala

*Samoa Times, Apia*

The Minister of Finance, Hon. Tofilau Eti, says the government does not believe devaluation of the *tala* will be good for the country (despite reports that the International Monetary fund is urging it). Tofilau said devaluation might be alright if Western Samoa was exporting a lot of manufactured products, but that was not the case and the country's main exports continued to be agricultural.

## Palau: Tax-Free Port

*OEK press release, Palau*

The Republic of Palau will become a tax-free port similar to Hong Kong if a bill introduced in the House of Delegates becomes law. The bill would allow entry of foreign merchandise, raw materials, and components into Palau without the assessment of import taxes so long as the goods are exported.

"Foreign traders and manufacturers could warehouse, assemble, process, label, or package goods in Palau, thereby creating jobs," sponsor Mengirarou Ngriratechekii said.

## Potential Danger

*Te Uekeraa, Kiribati*

[From a letter to the editor.]

One has only to walk into any store in Tarawa to be confronted with a battery of potentially dangerous chemical products on general unrestricted sale to the public. Many of these products are of interest mainly to the expatriate, but as greater numbers of local people are forced to live a semi-European life, we can expect more of these products to be bought by local people.

[The writer cited examples from:

medicines; detergents and shampoos; bleach; disinfectants; insecticides; aerosol sprays; and kerosene, petrol, and white spirit.]

As none of the products have any Gilbertese instructions or warnings written on them, something must be done, while there is still time to prevent poisonous accidents.

## Never on Sunday

*Cook Islands News, Rarotonga*

"Why pick on us?" That is the reaction from small shop owners in response to expressions of concern from church leaders over stores trading on Sundays outside the legal hours.

One store owner saw no reason why church leaders should single out the stores, saying: "Why the small shop owners? Why not the hotels? They serve beer on Sunday."

"What about the people who go out fishing or play golf on Sunday?" the store owner asked. "Why pick on the shops?"

## Don't Blast Fish

*Marianas Variety, Saipan*

[From an open letter to the director of Natural Resources.]

It is becoming evident that the use of dynamite to fish in our water is causing tremendous damage to our environment. It is not only killing countless numbers of fish, but it is ruining the reef as well!

I ask that you see that this dangerous, illegal means of fishing is controlled. The economy of our island is very slim, and we must act now to protect the future.

## 'Pacific Way' Astray

*Fiji Times, Suva*

The Pacific Way is being eroded by foreign influences and must be reexamined and retaught anew, the new secretary-general of the South Pacific Commission, Francis Bugotu, told a University of the South Pacific audience on August 2.

"The much-talked-about ideal of the Pacific Way was once attainable, when life was for living, but is now unattainable because we all want to become big names. We who call ourselves leaders have been bought over by politics and money," Bugotu said.

*News Briefs items are drawn from the region's news media. Because of space limitations, material might be edited slightly from the original sources cited.*

## No Water

*The Times, PNG*

Drought in the Central Province is worsening as more rivers and wells in Bereina, Port Moresby, and Rigo areas are drying up.

The Central Provincial government has spent K15,000 (US\$22,500) aiding the victims since June.

The provincial secretary, Mr. Iduu Tau, says the money was spent in transporting water, mainly to schools experiencing water shortages. Tau said although water was the immediate problem, destroyed food gardens could soon cause food shortages, too.

## Now You Know

*Marshall Islands Journal, Majuro*

If you didn't know, you should know. It is illegal to drink alcohol in the outer islands of the Marshalls.

Two young men, both from Utirik Atoll, were recently flown in from Utirik guilty of drinking and disturbing the peace of peaceful Utirik Atoll. For that they will be locked up in the Majuro jail—not for the rest of their lives, but just two months. Long enough, though, to form some kind of opinion about staying in jails.

## Status Talks Progress

*Marianas Variety, Saipan*

Negotiations between the Republic of Palau and the United States on free association have reached a critical point and were expected to produce an "agreement on all remaining issues" by the end of August, according to official documents.

Ambassador Lazarus E. Salii, Palau's negotiator, was in Washington for what was expected to be a final round of negotiations with Ambassador Fred Zeder, U.S. chief negotiator.

*National Union, Ponape*

FSM-U.S. negotiations on subsidiary agreements to the Compact of Free Association, suspended since October 1981, are expected to be resumed in September. Subsidiary agreements are pending on: (1) status of forces; (2) military use and operating rights; (3) federal programs, including postal and weather services, and the Federal Aviation Administration and Civil Aviation; (4) extradition and law enforcement; (5) transfer of property; (6) telecommunications; (7) disaster control; and (8) mutual security.

# Food for All in Micronesia



NANCY RODY

by Nancy Rody

**A** number of feeding programs have been instituted in both urban and rural areas of Micronesia in recent years. These United States Department of Agriculture programs were begun as part of expanded U.S. federal aid in the islands during the past decade.

The expansion of food programs in the area has been nothing short of spectacular. Over five million pounds of rice alone were shipped to one island district in a single year, an average *daily* ration of one half pound of uncooked rice for every man, woman, and child in the area. This was accompanied by an array of 16 other food items, surplus commodities purchased by the U.S. government in its price support program for American farming interests.

No needs assessment was performed prior to the start of these programs, and to date the effects of these massive food distribution programs have not been systematically evaluated. Measures of success have been based on the numbers of individuals reached, the effectiveness of the distribution system, and program costs, rather than on the effects of

**Have free food programs in Micronesia been nutritionally motivated, or has the U.S. found that the way to Micronesia's political heart is through its stomach?**

these programs on the nutritional status of the population.

The development of food dependency as a result has been attracting an increasing amount of attention as the Micronesian island entities have begun to formulate development policies for the newly-emerging governments. Controversy has surrounded the USDA programs, with particular concern focused upon their effects upon the economy of the islands. While many are of the opinion that the programs have a negative effect on local initiative and economic development, others feel

**Micronesia children eating USDA-donated food in a free school lunch program.**

that the programs serve a valid health need.

Over the centuries, the people of Micronesia lived in nutritional equilibrium with the traditional foods that were available in the region. One of the first roving Spanish missionaries in Micronesia wrote, "I have not come across any islanders as well adjusted to their environment as these." But with increasing contact with the outside world, rural-urban migration, rapid economic growth and greater mobility, significant changes have occurred in both urban and rural areas of Micronesia.

Thirty-two percent of the population now lives in crowded towns. For Micronesians who have migrated to these towns, food supply and family budgets cause many problems which have a direct effect on the nutritional state of the people and consequently on their general health.

The landless urban migrants have had to face a very sudden change in their life-style. Apart from being almost cut off from their extended families, they have had to adopt a life

in which almost everything costs money: housing, transportation, clothing, entertainment, and, of course, food. This is in sharp contrast to the cashless, subsistence-type life-style of their home islands.

In the urbanizing areas, fishing is limited by population concentration and the consequent overexploitation of local marine resources, and by pollution of lagoons because of the lack of sewage systems. Few can afford the boats and equipment needed to fish the outlying areas. Land for home gardens is no longer available when families move from their ancestral lands, with the consequence that everything has to be bought at the store.

In this new cultural setting, where average family income is less than \$2,000 a year, families rely on low-cost, low-nutrient-density imported foods such as rice, bread, noodles, and the like. Micronesians are trading their erstwhile self-sufficiency and healthy life-style for one that is both physically and financially costly.

The role of women is rapidly changing. They are no longer solely engaged in farming, food gathering, and food preparation. Because of the low salaries and the high prices of food, they are obliged to join the work force. As a consequence, child-rearing is becoming a problem and dietary habits are changing very swiftly. Breastfeeding is fast declining in favor of bottlefeeding.

Fresh local foods are not readily available, and when they are, they have prohibitive prices and require long preparation; hence the preference for packaged imported foods which are nutritionally inferior, but are less expensive and involve less labor in preparation. Today people depend heavily on foods high in poor quality carbohydrates. Fish meat, fruits, and vegetables are beyond the reach of most budgets.

In the outer islands the picture varies a little. Families still go fishing and have their gardens; they do not have to pay for many of life's necessities. However, with improved health care, populations are increasing rapidly. The cash economy is beginning to have its influence, and nutrition very rarely improves as a result. Some outer islanders are abandoning the cultivation of traditional food crops for cash crops such as copra. If food is purchased, the price is much higher than in urban areas because of high transportation costs. Addi-

tionally, it is usually of low nutritional quality and provides the family with a monotonous diet of rice, corned beef, and canned fish.

Increasing concern has been expressed recently over the development of nutritionally related diseases and of possible malnutrition in Micronesia, which in turn may be related to these changes in life-style and the adoption of western dietary and activity patterns.

In 1973, immediately prior to the proliferation of federal feeding programs in Micronesia, a territory-wide nutrition survey was made by the Trust Territory Health Department. The survey attempted to cover both the district centers and the outer, of more subsistence-level, areas. None of the individuals included in the study were participating in any type of federal feeding program.

The researchers concluded that a nutritionally adequate diet was available in every district, except possibly the Marshall Islands because of their severely limited agricultural potential. However, a nutritionally adequate diet was not being consumed on many islands because of unwise food choices and decreased local food production. The survey did not indicate that the families studied were in any need of food assistance, and no recommendation was made for feeding programs. The investigators did recommend measures to increase local food production and provide nutrition education, but none of these measures were implemented.

At the time of the survey, the only feeding programs in existence in Micronesia were short-term disaster relief food distributions after emergency situations such as typhoons, and small-scale lunch programs in some schools. These schools served some USDA-donated commodity foods and local foods donated by parents. Children paid a small fee for their lunch to partially cover operating expenses.

The Trust Territory became eligible for the USDA National School Lunch Program almost immediately thereafter, and because virtually every family in the Trust Territory fell below U.S. federal minimum poverty guidelines, all of the new school lunches were served free of charge and local food donations ceased. This program was rapidly expanded and was quickly followed by the School Breakfast Program, the Child Care Food Program, Hospital Foods distribution,

a widespread expansion of emergency food relief which escalated into long-term Needy Family Food Programs, and a feeding program for the elderly. It is estimated that 50% of all Micronesians now participate in some type of government feeding program, although this figure may be artificially high since some participate in more than one program.

There is no doubt that food assistance programs have brought temporary relief to hungry people. Population pressures and the rapidly rising costs of food have convinced many that food assistance programs



are necessary. Proponents cite increasing evidence of nutritional diseases and malnutrition in Micronesia, and feel that these problems have a legitimate claim on public expenditures.

Advocates cite the fact that malnutrition is an impediment to national growth because it reduces work output and life expectancy; it is one of the causes of high infant mortality; it impairs mental development and therefore reduces the effectiveness of investments in education. They contend that school attendance improves, and students are more

attentive and receptive to learning, when given the benefit of school food programs.

Some fairly objective observers such as anthropologists who have spent time in outer island areas have reported that some islands have a definite need for food assistance. According to them, islands which were devastated by typhoons several years ago are still not producing enough food to support the increasing populations. In some cases, breadfruit and coconut trees were completely destroyed, and as much as five years must pass before new trees

who are resettling recently decontaminated home islands which were nearly destroyed by U.S. nuclear weapons testing programs are in need of food assistance until food crops can safely be reestablished.

Feeding the hungry in the wake of disaster, in which the use of donated foods may be the only means of survival, is hardly open to criticism. It may be quite another matter, some Micronesian leaders feel, to apply the same rationale to much broader programs under quite different circumstances. Whereas disaster conditions permit little choice, one might legitimately ask whether similar programs are the most effective way of being helpful in more normal times. To quote Congressman Julio M. Akapito of Truk:

It is dubious that there are many people... who are in need of food supply by the government. I would like to examine the need before implementing such a program. The situation deserves closer scrutiny. I do not believe that just because many people want such a program makes it a real need. I know for a fact that there is no need for such a feeding program, at least in most of the islands. There may be poor nutrition, but not because of lack of food but lack of nutrition education.

A petition from Ponape submitted to a USDA office stated: "While the decision to bring USDA food here attempts to address a problem of nutrition and economics, we do not feel that the answer lies in a crippling addiction to free food."

Thus, many have expressed reservations about the effects these aid programs have on the emerging island nations. Critics claim that when the USDA started distributing food, food production in Micronesia fell in 10 years from 33 million pounds a year to one million pounds. In their opinion, food dependency has reached a critical state, given the islands' very narrow economic base and susceptibility to the increasing costs of shipping, and the inflation-prone nature of imported foods. They cite increasing food dependence as manifested in the decreasing ability of islanders to depend on local food resources and "self-help." One group of islanders who had their total food needs supplied for three years was unsuccessful when they tried once again to become self-sufficient. "We have lost our will," commented one of the islanders.

and skill

Some have concluded that dependency on food assistance is potentially the most dangerous form of dependency, a dependency that could destroy island cultures. A few have accused the U.S. government of deliberately fostering such dependency in order to ensure Micronesia's close future association with the United States for strategic military purposes. Tony de Brum, secretary of foreign affairs of the Marshall Islands, publicly stated in reference to such programs, "There is a definite policy of fostering dependency. There must be."

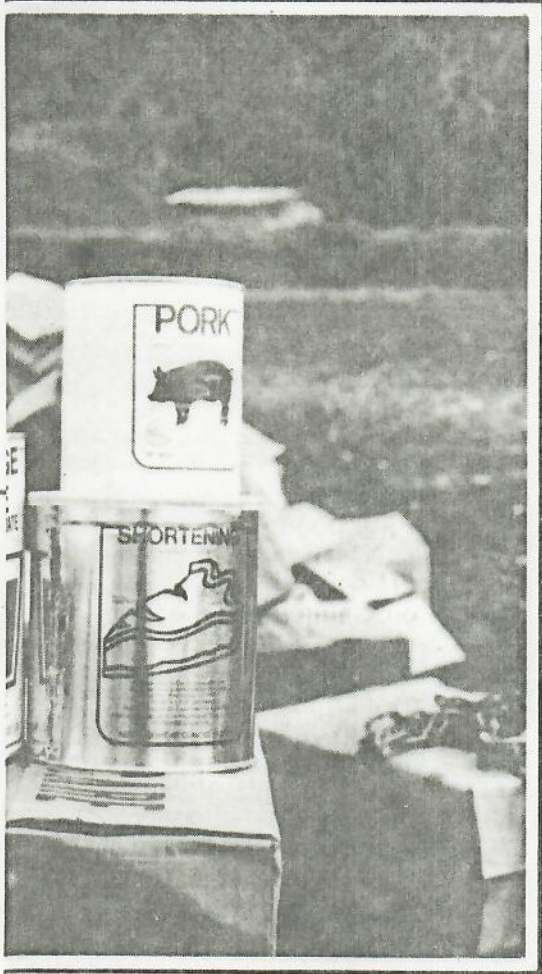
Some fear that becoming dependent on a foreign power for their very basis of life will put them in an extremely vulnerable position and make them more susceptible to manipulation by their supplier. They are wary of U.S. intentions as expressed in statements such as Hubert Humphrey's oft-quoted pronouncement:

I have heard that people may become dependent on us for food. I know this is not supposed to be good news. To me that was good news, because before people can do anything, they have got to eat. And if you were looking for a way to get people to lean on you and become dependent on you, it seems to me that food dependence would be terrific.

In 1976, the Northern Marianas voted favorably on a covenant to become a permanent possession of the U.S. A major issue of the plebiscite was the expansion of U.S. food aid into a Food Stamp Program if the vote was affirmative. The Northern Marianas Senate Vice President Benjamin T. Manglona noted that the Food Stamp Program was "one of the most discussed and debated issues during negotiations for the Covenant." Said he: "It was a major factor of persuasion and influence when the people voted for the covenant during the plebiscite." (See story, page 31.)

Some Micronesian leaders have publicly opposed free food distribution programs, and have suffered the loss of political office for their stand. A leader who opposes food programs may be committing political suicide because these programs affect many people, are highly visible, and are generally well received.

Even in areas where USDA foods are being distributed, nutritionally-related health problems are on the increase, especially among young



PETER VAN NAME ESSER

could begin to bear fruit, although critics claim that islanders have not bothered to replant their food crops and continue to rely on shipments of USDA foods.

It has been demonstrated that the soil of taro patches inundated by salt water during typhoons still has retained such a high salinity content that plants do not grow well and are often diseased. In some areas the coral reefs were almost completely destroyed by battering seas and have not yet recovered, reducing the supply of fish and other seafoods. And no one can deny that islanders





These programs should be short-term interventions which directly address the problems of specific groups and individuals who do not have adequate diets for economic or other reasons. Such programs would be less likely to foster the development of dependence. Nutrition education and information should be basic to these projects to insure that limited buying power is wisely used. The community should be made aware of the options available, and should be provided with the knowledge to make reasoned and intelligent choices.

Compared with nutrition education, food aid is an obviously more tangible asset. Available supplies can be measured, costs can be estimated, and plans formulated. Nutrition education on the other hand is a much vaguer term meaning little to governmental planners who want measurable assets. But problems can be defined, nutrition goals and objectives can be set, and comprehensive evaluations can be performed to ascertain the effects of such interventions. Development depends on a healthy population, and adequate nutrition is essential for physical and mental well-being. Health is the end; good nutrition is the means.

In the final analysis, it would be better if both sides of the controversy relied less on emotion and more on hard facts. Some of the USDA programs could probably have been more effective if they had been conducted differently, and some of the resources they consumed might have been better used in the development of local agriculture and fishery production. But in certain instances they have served a good purpose, and may have been the only way of providing needed assistance.

The pros and cons of food aid programs need to be closely examined if costs and benefits, both financial and social, are to determine whether or not such programs are desirable in the future for Micronesia. Gifts of food should be handled like medicine; a life-saver at times, but, like all drugs, potentially dangerous, especially when there is danger of addiction.

*Health and nutrition specialist Nancy Rody worked several years in Micronesia, including two years with USDA on Saipan. She's now developing health education curriculum materials for Hawaii, the Trust Territory, and the SPC.*

children. In a single week last year, three small children died of malnutrition in the Marshall Islands hospital. Their families were recipients of USDA foods.

Some feel that the increasing malnutrition reported in Micronesia is due to the increasing consumption of imported foods. People seem to have been better off with their traditional diets because the nutritional values of most of the imported foods which are distributed in the feeding programs, (polished rice, bleached flour, macaroni, dehydrated potatoes, and the like) are nutritionally inferior to fresh local foods. Observations of many of the group feeding programs have indicated that often the meals served are of low quality, nutritionally. In a typical situation, 125 pounds of USDA-donated white rice and 14 pounds of canned corned beef were used to prepare lunch for 450 children. No milk, fruits, or vegetables were served.

Quite sincere and well-intentioned measures have been undertaken by food program managers to stimulate the Micronesian economy by purchasing locally-produced agricultural and fishery products in an effort to provide food to program participants

without the necessity of utilizing large amounts of imports. Such efforts have been largely unsuccessful, since shipping, refrigeration, and storage capacity in Micronesia remains far below the requirements of these programs. No food processing facilities exist in Micronesia. Locally produced foods purchased for distribution often spoil in the humid climate; processed imported foods do not.

To meet such infrastructure needs would require the expenditure of large amounts of capital, far beyond the budgets of the island governments. More than one commercial fishing or farming venture has failed because of the lack of storage facilities and transportation for such products. Many families still fish and grow food for their own use, but there is little surplus for sale in Micronesia. Thus, program managers encounter nearly insurmountable difficulties in the purchase, transportation, and storage of fresh local foods.

As an alternative effort, these broad sweeping food aid programs could be replaced by more selective target nutrition programs planned and developed at the community level on the basis of demonstrated needs.

# Food Stamps for Saipan Shoppers

by Jane L. Dickhudt

July 1 marked the beginning of the long-awaited Nutrition Assistance Program, better known as food stamps, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

First proposed in 1977 and credited as being the impetus to the signing of the Commonwealth's Covenant of Political Union with the United States, the food stamp program became tangled in federal bureaucracy, with some delays charged by Commonwealth officials as intentional. Only when the Commonwealth began to press a lawsuit against the U.S. government in late 1981 were steps taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to implement the program.

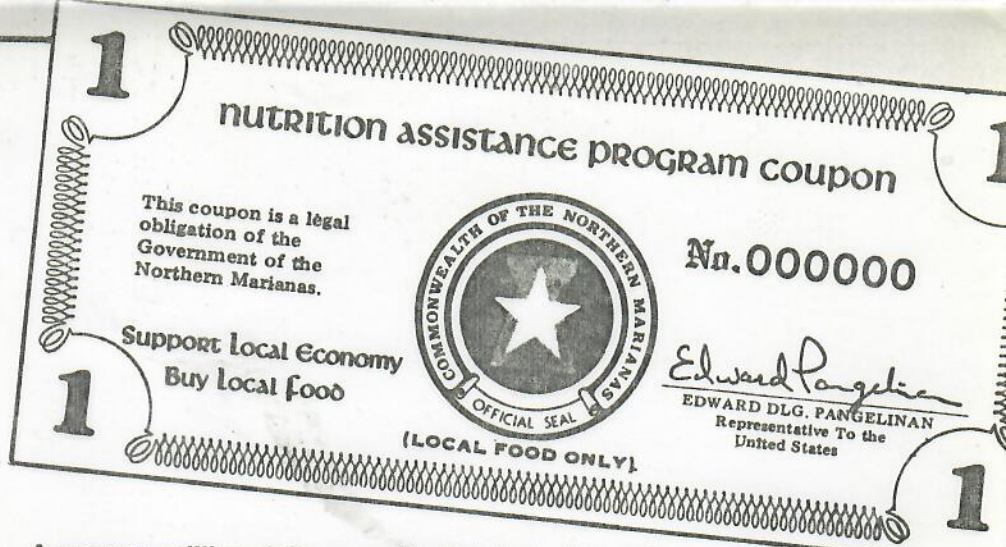
The \$3.7 million federal program is tailor-made to the islands' cultural, social and economic needs:

- Twenty-five percent of all coupons must be spent to purchase locally-produced foodstuffs, which at present include local fruits and vegetables, fish, eggs, bakery products, and Tinian milk and meat. (The Jones and Guerrero ranch on Tinian has the only USDA-approved slaughterhouse in the Commonwealth.) Coupons are distinguished by color—green and blue—with green coupons to be spent only for local foods.

- Unemployed applicants must register with the Department of Commerce and Labor and accept suitable employment if it is available. Food stamp program administrator Joaquin "Jack" S. Torres noted: "There is a misconception about the program being purely welfare. It's not a pure and simple government handout; you have to work if you can, and help yourself."

Two weeks after the program had begun, 819 households, or 4,616 persons, were certified to participate on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Average family size ranged between five and six individuals, with a high of 19 in one family. This represented 28% of Commonwealth citizens. Earlier estimates had suggested as many as 60% would qualify.

The total allotment for July was



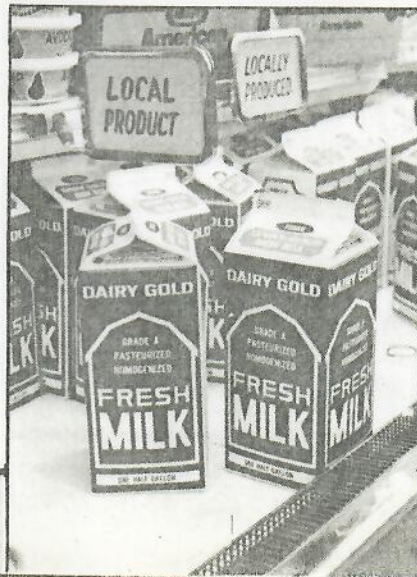
## A quarter-million dollars worth distributed in July.

\$247,723, with an average allotment of \$302 per family for the month. Thirty-six stores on Saipan, four on Tinian, and six on Rota had been authorized to accept food stamps as of July 19. A means of including the sparsely populated, store-less northern islands in the program is under discussion.

The value of food stamps awarded to each family varies according to income and family size. As a yardstick, consider a family of four: if they have no income, they can receive \$300 per month, the cost of an adequate diet as calculated locally by a nutritionist. A family of four earning over \$459 per month does not qualify for aid.

The food stamp program replaces a food commodity program which had begun some years ago as typhoon assistance. Reports of abuse of the commodity program were widespread. Leftover USDA commodities were given to the local hospital, jail, and school

## Local products must make up 25% of food coupon purchases.



JANE L. DICKHUOT

breakfast and lunch program.

The food coupons, printed locally, are issued to recipients from an office next to one of Saipan's largest supermarkets. J&G Payless Supermarket offered the lowest bid—\$0—to win the job as issuing agent. Business at their store, as well as others around the island, was booming the first week of July as participants were eager to cash in the paper chits.

Food store managers noted that meat products, in these islands where meat and rice provide the staples of the diet, were the most popular items purchased. One store which had a special on canned tuna and Spam ran low on those items.

Any foodstuff can be purchased with the coupons as long as 25% is spent on local products. Tobacco products and alcohol, as well as non-food items, are not allowed.

Some merchants have questioned whether enough local foodstuffs are produced to fulfill the 25% requirement. There is a fear that the rule may backfire and instead of promoting local production, curtail it by raising prices on those items. The manager of the farmers' cooperative noted that farmers were already asking for higher prices for their produce the first week of the program.

One side effect of food stamps, noted a local judge, is that many people are legally adopting children who live with their families. That way they'll be able to count them in when applying for aid.

Jane L. Dickhudt is editor of the Marianas Variety, Saipan.

For your info - Jeff

Bolags  
RNU  
404  
Bo  
Buzzy Agard

AKULE SURVEY OF GUAM AND NORTHERN MARIANAS

by

On August 24, 1982 two aircraft flights were made to search for seasonal akule concentrations. Three individuals were aboard a floatplane for the flights. Pilot "Chuck" McManus, Bob Moffitt and Louis Agard.

\* The first flight started at 08:00 engine Hobbsmeter at takeoff 110.85. Taking off from Guam airport no fish or turtles were seen. At 08:20 departed Guams Retidian Pt. for Rota overflying strong eddies at the point. Here at least eight turtles were seen in the clear and calm seas. Observations are carried out at 1,000 feet elevation or altitude and we are flying at about 100 miles per hour. The new aircraft is fitted with large floats that reduce the planes airspeed to 100 mph. The high wing aircraft makes for excellent viewing. On takeoff the plane turned east to overfly Pago Bay in search of fish concentrations on Guam's east side - none were sighted.

\* Enroute to Rota strong eddies were seen in the channel and possibly a Coast Guard tender. Several birds skimming over the water could be seen. Arrived at Rota about 40 minutes from Retidian Pt. Rota has a good harbor but strong swells from the south east cause unclear water for searching. A barge is seen enroute north past Rota. More turtles are seen flying north along the eastern side of Rota. A few birds are also seen prior to departing Rota at 08:48 for Tinian. No fish concentrations were seen on the East side of Rota in relatively clear waters. The seas have been nearly calm. There was a possible light concentration of unknown species of fish. No second pass over the area was made but on the return flight the probable area turned out to be a reef shadow. A flock of migratory birds was seen in formation and several sea birds over the waters in search of fish food.

\* Arrive at Aguijan island (Goat isle) still at 1,000 feet altitude and fly along the east sides. No fish concentrations are seen here and depart for Tinian Island. At Tinian island there are many birds seen on the east side which appears too deep in many places for fish concentrations. The waters are quite clear and calm. At Tinian island a floating line is seen close to shore and tangled on the surface. It is large line and yellow in color. More turtles are seen here on the surface basking. No fish concentrations are seen at Tinian and departure is made for Saipan.

\* Arriving at Saipan many more birds are seen. At Bahia Laulau on the east side are turtles in the bay and some birds. There has been heavy rains lately and much mud washed down in places like river mouths makes the waters murky for viewing. Flying around the northern tip of Saipan there are large swells crashing on the shore from westerly to foam and cloud the water. Two sharks are seen offshore of Saipan on the west side. At Saipan harbor make two circles in passes over the harbor to search the area for past known akule activity without results. Continue south along the west side of Saipan for Tinian. No fish concentrations have been seen.

Proceed south along the west side of Tinian and overfly both boat landing sites for a second time without locating fish concentrations.

Arrive at Rota's west side at 10:30 to much foamy water from the swells. There are porpoises offshore and more porpoises in the shallows at Rota. No searching or feeding birds are seen at Rota.

Fifteen miles north of Guam find birds feeding. A large log is here and bird and fish activity is present. Fly the west side of Guam without results until reaching the region of Piti. There is a possible concentration of loose fish here in a sink hole area. Overfly the Agana boat basin and do not locate anything on this flight.

Have been aloft for just over three hours as planned. Actual flight time has been 3 hours and three tenths by the aircrafts Hobbsmeter. Weather was good and mostly clear. The moon was in a quarter phase and the tide was low and rising.

\* The next day August 25, 1982 departed at 08:00 on a second flight again over Guam on the west side. Overfly Agana Basin to see a possible concentration. Overfly Piti and Apra Harbor to find a possible concentration in the sink holes of Piti area. Piti has been reported in the past to be an area where akule concentrations have come into the sink holes recently to be caught. Apra Harbor has been overflown inside the breakwater and outside without any sightings. The surf is high and pounding the shoreline making the waters murky. A turtle is sighted at Coco's isle at 08:35. Overfly the entire Coco's isle area with no sightings. The seas here are generally flat and there are many streaks of debris on the surface.

In this low positive sighting of akule, approximately 1,500 lbs. of loosely gathered fish was observed for several minutes.

Depart Coco's isle area for Galvez Banks on a heading of 210 degrees. In ten minutes apparently pick up Galvez. The bottom can be seen and varying discoration of coral and sand. There are some birds here and there appears to be a strong current from east to west sweeping over the area. Akule has been reported here in the past and we are looking for the signs and fringe area where they were supposed to have occurred. There are no signs of fish but the current sweeping over the shallows and dropping off into the deep facilitates finding the reef area because of the eddies. Proceeding 180 degrees we flyby Santa Rosa and locate the unnamed reef (White Tuna Banks) at 09:07 by the discoloration of the shallows. There are birds here and also one shark. The sky is now overcast and the oceans surface is reflecting to make viewing poor. Overfly both areas for several minutes around the perimeter and across the wider portions. There are no fish concentrations sighted but the debris and streaks on the surface are clearly visible to make locating easy.

On the return flight to Coco's find the Santa Rosa shallows at 09:25. The shallows are very clear as a pattern is flown over the area to check carefully for signs of fish. There are none and the flight is continued to Coco's isle. For future reference the heading from Santa Rosa is 30 degrees and from the Guam, Agana VOR radial it is 203 degrees.

At 09:50 arrive at Coco's isle again and fly over the east shore up to up to Inarajan bay with no results. Overfly Telefofo which is calm and no fish is sighted. Telefofo has a history of large akule concentrations coming into in the past and is usually the rougher windward side of the island.

The flight is continued up northerly and across the island of Guam to Tumon Bay and over Agana Basin. There is a small concentration of akule in the basin and it is pointed out and watched for several minutes by circling overhead. Several snapshots are taken of the fish activity and the flight finally completed on this occasion in 2 and four tenths hours or within a planned time schedule. Total hours were 5.7 and verified by the aircraft Hobbsmeter.

While the timing seemed ideal to find akule concentrations only one could be identified. Whether it was too early or too late is not known. A seasonal variability could have contributed to the poor sighting. In the past the months of August and September have been productive akule months in Guam by previous experience.

In this lone positive sighting of akule, approximately 1,500 lbs. of loosely gathered fish was observed for several minutes.



*Richard-  
Comments, if  
any, directly to  
Ms Packard,  
etc to me.  
Thanks  
B3*

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JK  
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MARINE SANCTUARY SITE EVALUATION LIST

WEST PACIFIC

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

30 Day Comment Deadline: January 10, 1983

Four months ago you received a package of seven (7) descriptions of potential candidates for inclusion on the National Marine Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL). The deadline for public comment on those sites was September 3, 1982, and 16 comments were received. In addition to the seven sites proposed by the Site Evaluation Team, five additional sites were nominated by the public prior to the October 18 nomination deadline. Those sites were:

1. Luminao Barrier Reef, Guam
2. Inner Apra Harbor, Guam
3. Double Reef, Guam
4. Guam Coastline from Facpi Point to Fort Santo Angel
5. Expanded Northern Marianas Islands

At its second meeting on October 12, the Site Evaluation Team concluded that certain of these nominations met the Marine Sanctuary criteria. We are now soliciting public comment on these sites, after the receipt of which the Team will make its final recommendations to NOAA.

ACTION NEEDED

The Site Evaluation Team has met twice to consider West Pacific sites, and is reserving judgment on any site until they receive comments on the enclosed proposals. The eight West Pacific sites now under consideration are:

- WP-1 Northern Mariana Islands (expanded)
- WP-2 Southern Mariana Islands
- WP-3 Tumon Bay, Guam
- WP-4 Cocos Lagoon, Guam
- WP-5 Goat Island Point - Utulei Reef, American Samoa
- WP-6 Pala Lagoon, American Samoa
- WP-7 Papaloloa Point, Ofu Island, American Samoa
- WP-8 Facpi Point to Fort Santo Angel, Guam

*Not all of these are here*

Please send your comments on the enclosed proposals to:

Jean Packard  
Chelsea International Corporation  
1724 H St., NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20006

For your information, the names and addresses of the West Pacific Site Evaluation Team are listed below:

Dr. Roy Tsuda, Leader  
Dean of Graduate Research  
University of Guam  
Mangilao, Guam

Dr. E. Alison Kay  
Department of Zoology  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dr. Richard C. Wass  
Office of Marine Resources  
Pago Pago, American Samoa

We look forward to receiving your comments. Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Jean R. Packard  
Public Participation Coordinator

Enclosures



### THE SITE EVALUATION LIST PROCESS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has contracted with Chelsea International Corporation to provide eight regional teams of local scientists to identify high resource value coastal and offshore areas that would qualify - from a scientific standpoint - as National Marine Sanctuaries.

Each Regional Evaluation Team is charged with identifying those sites within their region which best meet the criteria for National Marine Sanctuary status. Identification of a site by the Team, and placement on the Site Evaluation List does not necessarily mean that an area will ever be designated as a sanctuary. Placement on the SEL simply identifies the site as containing valuable resources which meet sanctuary selection criteria. To achieve sanctuary status, the site must first be identified by NOAA as an Active Candidate, and then go through a rigorous designation process, including approval by the President of the United States and, where State waters are involved, approval by the Governor of the State.

The mission of the Marine Sanctuary Program is the establishment of a system of National Marine Sanctuaries based upon identification, designation and comprehensive management of special marine areas for the long-term benefit and enjoyment of the public. Designation as a Marine Sanctuary does not prevent compatible public or private uses of marine waters, but rather provides a mechanism to ensure proper long-term maintenance and management of special high-value marine environments. Sanctuaries encourage, to the maximum extent possible, multiple uses of the site, so long as the basic integrity of the resources is not threatened. The goals of the Program are to:

- Enhance resource protection through implementation of comprehensive, long-term management plans tailored to the specific resource;
- Provide the optimum compatible public and private use of these special marine areas;
- Enhance public awareness, understanding and wise use of the marine environment through interpretive and recreational programs; and
- Promote and coordinate research to expand scientific knowledge of significant marine resources, and improve management decision-making.



PRELIMINARY CANDIDATE  
MARINE SANCTUARY SITE EVALUATION (WP-1)

I. SITE LOCATION AND NAME:

A. SITE NAME: Northern Mariana Islands Sanctuary

B. LOCATION:

1. LATITUDE/LONGITUDE: Uracas (Farallon de Pajaros): 20°35' N, 144°54' E  
Maug: 20°01' N, 145°13' E  
Asuncion: 19°40' N, 145°24' E  
Pagan: 18°07' N, 145°46' E  
Guguan: 17°15' N, 145°51' E  
Sarigan: 16°42' N, 145°47' E

2. DESCRIPTION: The proposed site includes the waters out to 12 miles (20 km) adjacent to six of the ten northern Mariana islands (see map). All of these islands are high islands of volcanic origin. Pagan was the only populated island until the volcano erupted in May 1981. At present, all islands are unpopulated. The total area is approximately 700 mi<sup>2</sup> (2000 km<sup>2</sup>).

II. RATIONALE FOR CONSIDERATION AS A SANCTUARY

A. DOMINANT CONSIDERATIONS

1. The six islands represent biological communities varying in structure along a north-south orientation and in the presence of an active volcano (Pagan).
2. Human use value lies mainly in the beauty of these islands and surrounding waters since they are all presently unpopulated.
3. Development of the islands as oil storage sites (proposed for Maug in 1976) may have the potential for modifying the natural resources.
4. The distance of these islands from Saipan presents difficulty in monitoring the proposed areas.

B. SITE EVALUATION NARRATIVE

1. NATURAL RESOURCES

The primary reason for designating these islands as a potential marine sanctuary is for research, preservation, and fisheries management. These islands, with their north-south orientation, are unique and present a natural setting for biogeographical studies of marine organisms along a temperature gradient [mean sea surface temperatures on Guam and Maug are

81.5° F (27.5° C) and 80.4° F (26.9° C), respectively]. They are part of the Northeast Trade Wind Zone and are located within the Indo West Pacific Marine area which is described as the world's largest and most diverse marine zoogeographic zone, in which relative richness of island ecosystems is found to the west and decreased richness is found to the east. Each island of the northern area of the Marianas Archipelago and the six which are part of the newer northern arc represent different geological ages. The northernmost island of Uracas is the youngest with each island to the south progressively older. A rich diversity of marine species and habitat are associated with these islands, ranging from pristine to volcanically devastated.

A great variety of marine life (over 300 recorded species) and associated coastal resources including federally listed threatened and endangered species live in and around the waters of these six islands. These include sea turtles (green, hawksbill, and ridley); porpoises and whales (11 species reported including humpback and sperm); 16 species of birds (11 seabird, 2 shorebird, and 3 land bird); 113 species of reef fish; schools of pelagic fishes; deepwater shrimp; spiny lobster; 291 species of molluscs; and at least 81 species of coral. Also noteworthy are: 2 species of gastropod (abalone *Haliotis*) unknown south of Anatahan (roughly 16° N); bioluminescence; the closer similarity of Maug marine flora to Hawaiian species than with that of southern Mariana Islands; high quality precious corals (with the apparent southern limit at 18° N between Pagan and Sarigan); flying fish; and 3 species of rare algae.

Broad fringing reefs are not found within the proposed site; instead, there are apron reefs, cliffs, rocky shorelines, wave-washed beaches, black volcanic beaches, and some coral-line beaches. Apron reefs are thin, incipient fringing reefs lacking any significant reef flat. Steep slopes to the sea floor from volcanic activity and/or tectonic instability inhibit reef growth and vigor. The foreslopes of apron reefs may be capped by algal ridges.

## 2. HUMAN USES

In the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Maug and Sarigan are listed to be "maintained as uninhabited places and used only for the preservation of bird, fish, wildlife, and plant species." Maug, Guguan, and Uracas were also some of the islands designated as "islands for science" during the Technical Meeting on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) held on Guam and Palau in November 1968. The Commonwealth Department of Natural Resources has promulgated stringent regulations governing hunting, fishing, and trapping on these islands.

Pagan, which was the only populated island (39 people in 1975) until May 1981, has been considered as an ideal site for a

marine station. In the past, there have been proposals to develop the island as a tourist attraction because of its beautiful landscape and natural hot springs.

The research potential of the site is very high, perhaps to study, for example, medicinal values of rare algae and other biota, occurrences and causes of ciguatera fish poisoning, Acanthaster planci (crown-of-thorns starfish), tuna migration, fish catch statistics, life histories of Indo-West-Pacific fishes, coral reefs, marine communities, marine mammals, birds, successional theory, shoreline development, plate tectonics, submarine volcanism and energy (geothermal, ocean thermal, wave, and solar). Results of such research may have important economic impacts resulting in investments, employment, and world recognition. At minimum, the information will be extremely important for resource planning and management throughout the Northern Marianas and elsewhere in Micronesia.

Increased travel to the Northern Islands would be an important benefit to people who live on the islands along the route to the proposed marine sanctuary. At present, they are dependent on quarterly field trip vessels which bring mail, food, and supplies. No air service is available and radio is the only form of instant communication. Establishment of a marine sanctuary would mean more ships visiting the area, better communication facilities, and perhaps even the establishment of administrative facilities on one of the inhabited Northern Islands. Visitors to the sanctuary, whether scientists, manager, or tourists, would offer the local people a small but dependable market for foods, crafts, guide service, information, and transportation. This might help to reverse or slow the trend of migration to the main island of Saipan.

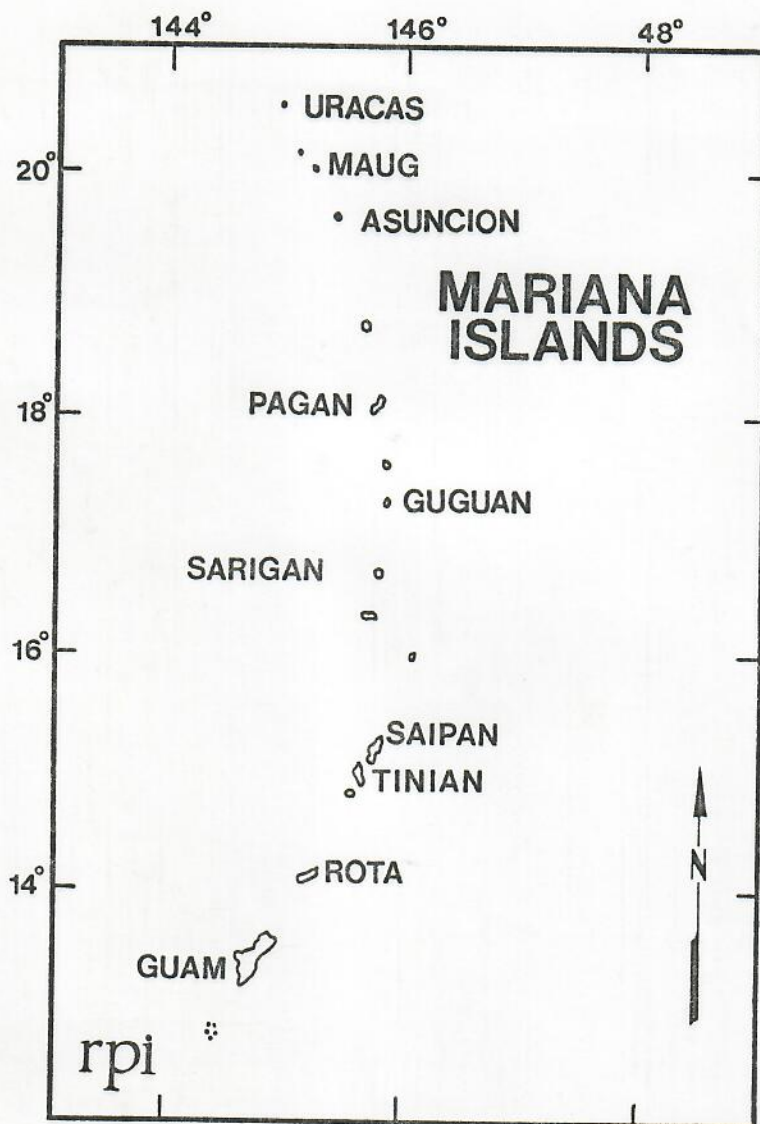
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LOCATION MAP

PRELIMINARY CANDIDATE  
MARINE SANCTUARY SITE EVALUATION (WP-8)

I. SITE LOCATION AND NAME:

A. SITE NAME: Facpi Point to Fort Santo Angel, Guam

B. LOCATION:

1. LATITUDE/LONGITUDE: 130°17' N to 13°21' N, 144°39' E
2. DESCRIPTION: The proposed area includes the offshore waters to depths of 60 ft (18.3 m) from Facpi Point to Fort Santo Angel on the northern side of Umatac Bay. The shoreline consists of rocky volcanic headlands with steep volcanic shorelines and beaches at the heads of three bays: Sella Bay, Cetti Bay, and Fouha Bay. Low-lying narrow terraces of limestone border much of the shoreline. The bordering reef flat is narrow intertidal reef. The total area of the site is approximately 2 mi<sup>2</sup> (5 km<sup>2</sup>).

II. RATIONALE FOR CONSIDERATION AS A SANCTUARY

A. DOMINANT CONSIDERATIONS

1. The natural resources of this coastline include habitat and species diversity unique to Guam.
2. The entire coastline and adjacent waters are a significant recreational site for local residents and tourists. Recreational activities include fishing, diving, swimming, boating, and hiking.
3. Although the area is presently included in a territorial sea-shore park, some development pressure exists.

B. SITE EVALUATION NARRATIVE

1. NATURAL RESOURCES

A wide variety of coral and fish are found in the area, despite the influx of fresh water from numerous small streams. The coastal strand vegetation provides a fine example of this ecological community. Both the green and hawksbill turtles utilize the area. The coastline also contains seven prehistoric archaeological sites and five historic sites from the Spanish occupation.

2. HUMAN USES

The coastline area is extensively used for recreation with visitors arriving by boat and on foot--no other means of access is available. Activities include fishing, shelling, swimming,

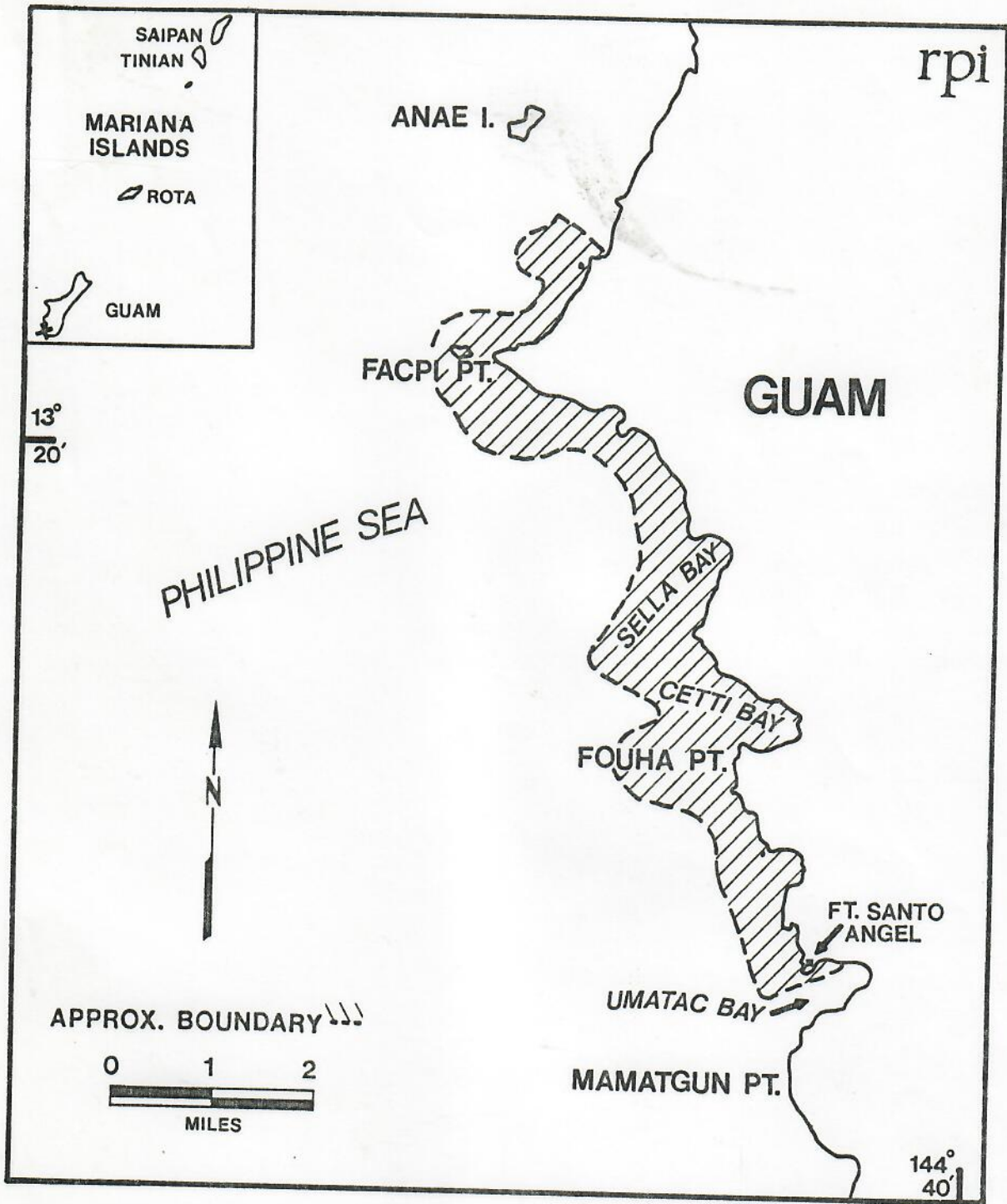
diving, and hiking. A semipermanent shelter exists at the head of Cetti Bay. Tourists enjoy the area via charter boat service and from a scenic overlook on the main highway.

### 3. MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The coastline area is a major resource in the Guam Territorial Seashore Park. However, the park has not received formal authorization from the Guam Legislature. Most of the land behind the coastline is privately owned, and development pressure is inevitable. Sella Bay was an active candidate for the proposed new ammunition wharf by the U.S. Navy in the late 1960s, but intense pressure from environmental groups and a law suit from a private landowner has ceased further consideration of the site.

## III. PRINCIPAL REFERENCE MATERIAL

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LOCATION MAP

# Division's data collection is vital

The Division of Fish and Wildlife was established under Public Law 2-51 with the objectives to protect, conserve, manage and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI). The Division is faced with the task of bringing about policies and regulations which will ensure attainment of these objectives. To accomplish its objectives, the Division needs the establishment of good statistical data information. With assistance from the National Marine Fisheries Service, a system to gather fisheries information for the purpose of establishing these policies was devised.



industry and fishery resources. Several collection methods are being utilized to address different fishery data parameters.

Thus far, major emphasis of the data collection program has been on the commercial fishery for the simple reason that this sector of our fisheries is the most obvious in terms of quantity of catch and fishing activities. To adequately promote and service the needs of our

A fishery collection program was initiated at the beginning of fiscal year 1983. This program will give the Division clearer indications on the characteristics of our fishing

## 6,000 cars registered

"Six thousand cars have been registered so far and quite a few have not," Chief of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles John Babauta confirmed this week. Babauta added that

about 85% of the vehicles have been registered, and 15% have not. Babauta

said the situation is due to the passage of the new traffic law.

## Legislature wants higher

fisheries, information is needed for the formulation of plans for support facilities, projection of price information for the fisherman, and prediction of season trends of different fish groups.

Other areas where information is needed are in the subsistence and recreational fisheries sector. Data gathered in these two sectors would provide a clearer indication of the estimated total fishing activities in the CNMI.

The division would be conducting a creel census to generate this information. Biological surveys (transsects) would also be con-

ducted to determine fish population within the inshore of reef areas of the CNMI.

All these data gathering efforts are essential towards sound management decisions and attainment of the Division objectives. Thus far, fishermen and major buyers of fishery products in the CNMI have been cooperative in providing needed data. We hope that this will continue to be the case in the future.

Prepared by: Arnold Palacios, Fisheries Data Program Manager.

Next week: Fish handling

# Micronesian summit meeting planned?

The first meeting among the heads of state of the

meet at the beginning of the year, but it had not



# Bat in a Stew

The people of the Mariana Islands consider their native bat a culinary delicacy; they love it so much they've hunted it to near-extinction



BY GEORGE H. HARRISON

**H**ALF SCRAMBLING, HALF FALLING, we made our way down the cliff. We were hot and dirty but we didn't mind, for we were searching out one of the few remaining colonies of Marianas fruit bats. My wife, Kit, and I were spending a month on Guam, writing about and photographing the wildlife of this tiny western-Pacific island.

As I descended another hundred yards, I spotted an airplane tail strut and wing jutting out of the dense vegetation. The rusting carcass was mute testimony to the role of this former paradise as a United States military stronghold since the 1940s. Many of the B-52 bombing raids on North and South Vietnam and Laos during the Vietnam War originated from Andersen Air Force Base, at the top of that very cliff.

Largest and southernmost of the Mariana Islands, Guam was discovered in 1521 by Ferdinand Magellan. It remained a possession of Spain until 1898, when it was ceded to the United States after the Spanish-American War. Now an unincorporated territory, Guam is inhabited by about 35,000 Chamorros—people of Indonesian, Spanish, and Filipino ancestry—and 70,000 American military personnel. The southern part of the 209-square-mile island is mountainous; the interior, jungle shrub. Many of the islanders practice subsistence farming but most of the land has been taken up with naval and air installations, the major economic mainstays.

Guam does have wildlife. But as in Hawaii, introductions from other parts of the world are the rule. Giant toads, from Central and South America, literally cover some highways on rainy nights. Huge African snails crawl across lawns like slow-moving chariots, sometimes in tandem. And as you walk through the coastal forests, Philippine turtle doves flush out of the trees. Other exotics include an Asian species of deer; the carabao, or Asian water buffalo, which is used as a beast of burden; rats and mice; and the Australian scrub-fowl and a few other large birds.

We noticed an eerie dearth of songbirds. Biologists speculate that intense spraying of DDT by the military has been overly effective.

Indeed, the Marianas fruit bat symbolizes the struggle all wildlife has fought and nearly lost on Guam. Flocks of *fanihi* (the Chamorro name for the bat) once filled the evening skies. Now a few hundred animals tenaciously hold on in remote regions and restricted areas near the bases.

**K**IT AND I stumbled down a few hundred feet more to an overlook. Our guide, wildlife biologist Michael Wheeler, stopped and whispered loudly, "Look down there. See them hanging in that big fig tree?"

Peering through a tunnel of bright-green leaves, I finally saw the bats—tiny dark-brown globes—hanging upside down. Through binoculars I could distinguish their buff mantles. Many were grooming themselves, licking the fur on their abdomens and chests and attending to their membranous wings. As the temperature rose, the bats stretched their wings, which span three feet, to let cool fresh air pass over their bodies.

"That's the largest colony I've ever seen!" Wheeler exclaimed. "And I've been studying the critters for nearly two years." He added that these 200 animals probably made up the biggest colony of Marianas fruit bats in the world.

Six species of fruit bats (genus *Pteropus*) inhabit Micronesia. All belong to a large family of bats known as flying foxes. No one seems to know how the Marianas bats reached Guam. The nearest possible point of origin is more than 400 miles away, and, despite their wingspan, these creatures cannot fly that far in one stretch. It must have taken hundreds of thousands of years for the perfect conditions to occur—for migrating bats to happen upon pieces of flotsam at just the right places and to continue in exactly the right direction, somehow finding food and water along the way.

Marianas fruit bats weigh about a pound, are active during the day, and hang in conspicuous colonies among the treetops. They have few enemies save man, which is probably why they have not evolved protective coloration.

What little variation there is in body color is more likely related to age and sex than to protection.

Living in the tropics eliminated the need to hibernate or migrate in winter. Instead these bats maintain body temperature by continual activity, which includes shivering.

As with other bats, *P. mariannus* produces one baby per year. The youngster clings to its mother and nurses until it is old enough to find food on its own. The bats become sexually mature at two to three years of age.

**M**OVING CLOSER TO THE EDGE of the overlook, I set up my tripod and camera, focused the 400-mm lens, and clicked off nearly an entire roll of film, taking far too many identical photos. Unfortunately, that was the only



Flocks of fruit bats once filled the skies over the Mariana Islands; now about 600 survive on Guam.

vantage from which to see the colony.

As I was packing up my equipment, I stepped on something hard—several spent shotgun shells. Locals had also discovered the colony. Suddenly I was glad the overlook wasn't any closer to the bats. Judging from the range, the hunters probably had not been able to kill any of the animals hanging in the tree. But undoubtedly they had dropped some in flight overhead.

Hunting is the primary reason for the bats' demise. The people of the Marianas consider the bats culinary prizes, so on Guam a kill is worth the effort: A single animal brings as much as \$20 in the marketplace.

A cookbook from the South Seas explains: "To the newcomer to this part of the Pacific it comes as a shock that this intriguing animal . . . makes a tasty dish, which, properly prepared, measures to gourmet standards of excellence. Be not prejudiced by the cunning appearance of the bat; if fortunate enough to have acquired a bat, try boiling it, or better still, prepare the bat soup."

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*On Guam, shooting fruit bats is very profitable; the animals sell for \$20 apiece.*

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While on Guam, Kit and I were asked (in jest we thought) by a wealthy Chamorro if we had ever eaten fruit bats. In due time we found ourselves his dinner guests—with fruit bats on the menu.

Kit and I exchanged glances. Should we insult our host by refusing to eat them or should we gracefully taste them but consume as little as possible? We did the latter.

The Chamorros cook their bats in coconut milk, whole, with the fur still on. Imagine looking down at a dead bat floating on its back in a dish of milk.

How did it taste? Well, as with all strange foods, it was a case of mind over matter. The bat had a distinct musky odor, but its dark meat was surprisingly bland. If you consider the animal's diet of wild figs (its favorite), guavas, custard apples, bananas, pandanas fruits, breadfruits, banyan fruits, papayas, and a few blossoms, there is no reason it should taste bad.

Chamorro demand for this delicacy is so great that frozen bats must be imported. This pressure, combined with the destruction of natural forests by military and private interests plus the occasional typhoon, has decimated the Marianas bats.

Imports began rolling into Guam in the 1970s, after the island's populations had been depleted and hunting the bats declared illegal. Consumers and entrepreneurs turned to islands with direct air traffic to Guam. Rota, Tinian, and Saipan (northern Mariana islands) became popular sources, then the Palau and Yap groups. And travelers from as far away as the Truk Islands, Ponape, and American Samoa brought other varieties of fruit bats to friends on Guam.

Between 1974 and 1979, fruit bat imports reached a peak of more than 40,000 annually but have since declined because of overharvesting. In 1978, according to figures

supplied by the government of Guam, permits to bring in more than 76,000 fruit bats were requested by Guamanians. But importers could find only half that number.

Concern for the Marianas species increased as its numbers dwindled. Working with Guam's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources from 1979 to 1980, Michael Wheeler documented the species' status on Guam and nearby islands and recommended steps to protect it. He also tried to have the federal government classify the species as endangered. Because of the bat's role in the Chamorro diet and the political relationship between the U.S. and Guam, Wheeler was able only to complete a census, study a little of the bats' behavior, and document the bat trade. His 12-month survey revealed no bats on Saipan, only seven on Tinian, 50 on Rota, and 200 on Guam. Wheeler estimated that the total population was less than 400.

**D**URING HIS STUDY, Wheeler discovered that Marianas fruit bats are talkative creatures. They have at least three distinct vocalizations: threats, courtship and mating calls, and warning or alarm signals.

He also observed that the animals did most of their flying and calling in early morning. He watched them fight for positions on trees, pursue sexual activities, engage in both mutual and self-grooming, hang in alert and resting positions, and regulate their body temperatures by flapping and spreading their wings.

Wheeler left Guam and his study in 1980. He is now an ecologist with Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation in Anchorage. I contacted him recently and asked him about the Marianas fruit bat.

"Bats aren't the kind of critters that evoke public sentiment, though people do get excited about whales, which aren't particularly pretty. And of all the bats, fruit bats seem to have the most character," he said with admitted prejudice. Besides, the bats play a major ecological role. As they forage for food, they cross-pollinate many plants.

Wheeler pointed out that though it must have taken centuries for fruit bat populations to build up, their numbers have been decimated in only 10 years to satiate the appetites of a few people. Before the onslaught of the hunters, he said, "fruit bats retained their population sizes through individual longevity coupled with low reproductive rates and a great deal of parental investment."

In 1983 Wheeler learned that the colony we had seen had swelled to 600 bats. He speculates that, because reproduction could not have accounted for such a rapid rise in numbers, the bats must have come from nearby areas of Guam and from other islands. The colony may now incorporate nearly all of the existing Marianas fruit bats.

Wheeler also heard that the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas had started a wildlife conservation program and recruited a biologist to study the islands' fruit bats. Whether he will find any other Marianas bat colonies remains to be seen. Guam may be their last stronghold. □

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*George Harrison is field editor of National Wildlife and International Wildlife. He and his wife, Kit, have written a book, America's Favorite Backyard Wildlife, to be published this summer by Simon and Shuster.*

GENE

GEORGE BALAZS MAY BE INTERESTED  
ALSO IF YOU FEEL IT NECESSARY A COPY  
COULD GO TO BARTEE

CONGRESSMAN BEN N. SABLON  
SAIPAN CNMI

PH. 7724 OR 6284  
6195 OR 6618



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 9, 1985

TO GEORGE MARSHALL

SAC TERMINAL ISLAND

FM ED ECKHOFF

SA GUAM

SUBJ. SEA TURTLE REGULATION - SUBSISTENCE CNMI

TODAY AT ABOUT 1430 I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM CONGRESSMAN BEN N. SABLAN, SAIPAN, CNMI. MR SABLAN'S PURPOSE IN CALLING WAS TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS DEALING WITH THE SUBSISTENCE TAKE OF GREEN SEA TURTLES AND THE PLIGHT OF BOTH GREEN AND HAWK'S BILL TURTLES IN THE CNMI. MR SABLAN EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE STOCKS OF THESE TURTLES IN THE CNMI AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT COULD BE DONE TO INITIATE A STOCK ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AND THE POSSIBLE REPEAL OF THE SUBSISTANCE REGULATIONS. HIS CONCERN IS BASED ON PERSONAL OBSERVATION AND CONTACT BY LOCAL FISHERMEN. HE SAYS THE STOCKS ARE NOTICEABLY DEPLETED AND FEELS SOME ACTION IS CALLED FOR. HE ASKED IF I COULD COME TO SAIPAN TO MEET WITH HIM AND DISCUSS THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS. I TOLD CONGRESSMAN SABLAN THAT BECAUSE



OF A LACK OF TRAVEL FUNDS I HAD BEEN UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO SAIPAN SINCE MARCH AND THAT MY TRAVEL IN THE NEAR FUTURE WAS UNLIKELY. I TOLD HIM THAT I WOULD FORWARD HIS REQUEST AND COMMENTS TO THE SW REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND WPMO. I SUGGESTED THAT HE WRITE TO BOTH FWS AND NMFS REQUESTING SOME ASSISTANCE. WE DISCUSSED THE SEA TURTLE SITUATION AT SOME LENGTH AND I ASSURED HIM THAT I WOULD GIVE WHAT ASSISTANCE I COULD. I TOLD HIM THAT I ANTICIPATED MAKING A PERSONAL TRIP TO SAIPAN IN LATE OCTOBER AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONTACT HIM THEN.

MY OPINION OF THE STATUS OF GREEN AND HAWKS BELL TURTLES IS THAT THE STOCKS ARE SERIOUSLY DEPLETED. THE TAKE OF SEA TURTLES GOES UNCHECKED. THE DIRECTOR OF GUAM'S AQUATICS AND WILDLIFE HAS TOLD ME MANY TIMES THAT HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN ENFORCING SEA TURTLE REGULATIONS. GUAM'S LAW PROHIBITS THE IMPORT OF ANY ES, PARTS OR PRODUCTS YET THE AQUATICS AND WILDLIFE HAVE TOLD CUSTOMS AND GUARANTINE THEY WILL NOT ACCEPT SEA TURTLE PRODUCTS INTERCEPTED AT THE VARIOUS ENTRY PORTS. I HAVE MADE OVER 50 CASES (FED AND GOV GUAM) INVOLVING EVERYTHING FROM TURTLE EGGS TO JEWELRY SOME OF THE MEAT INTERCEPTED WAS TRAVELING GUAM FROM PALAU TO SAIPAN. EVERY GIFT SHOP ON PALAU SELL HAWKS BELL JEWELRY AND MEAT SELL

HAWKS BILL AND GREEN SEA TURTLE CARAPACES.  
THE DUTY FREE SHOP AT THE PALAU, PACIFIC ISLANDS  
RESORT HAS A LARGE HAWKS BILL CARAPACE PRICED  
AT \$90<sup>00</sup>. PALAU RUNS A MARICULTURE PROGRAM  
DIRECTED AT HAWKS BILL PROPAGATION. THIS  
PROJECT IS A JOINT VENTURE WITH JAPAN WHO  
PROVIDED \$150K THIS YEAR ALONE. THE PROJECT  
MANAGER TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR MORE  
THAN THREE MONTHS AND WAS UNABLE TO FIND A NEST  
TO SUPPLY EGGS FOR THE HATCHERY. HE SAID THIS WAS  
DUE TO THE HIGH INCIDENCE OF POACHING. THERE WAS  
A RECENT INCIDENT IN JAPAN WHERE A CONTRACTOR  
REMOVED MANY YARDS OF SAND FROM A TURTLE  
NESTING BEACH. I INITIATED AN INVESTIGATION AND  
FORWARDED IT TO FWS. ITS STATUS IS UNKNOWN.

SEA TURTLES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF ISLAND  
CULTURE. THEY ARE USED FOR EVERYTHING FROM FOOD  
TO MONEY AND JEWELRY. THIS CERTAINLY MAKES  
ENFORCEMENT DIFFICULT BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE.  
I AGREE WITH CONGRESSMAN SUBLAN. THE STATUS OF  
THE SEA TURTLE IN GUAM AND THE CNMI MAY WELL  
NEED TO BE EVALUATED.

(P  
E)

George, F.I.I.  
Lew

# KOSRAE

cine, Ben education, bio-med, law, Harry computer and Tulen-ering, and in pre-

Education, George re-eded the ap-Hanson ogram Dev-list for the Education-be held in ii.

from the ding the e Regions ogram ex-eas on new teachings others in prove the andard in

er meetings, the Pacific were greatly

1 represent-of Kosrae, ected based ional back-his experi- PREP pro-

begin his rogram in 3 October 1, on leave.

\*

A new policy has come into effect for students at the University of Guam.

This new policy requires students with outstanding account to clear their accounts in tuition and dorm rental before they can register.

Students with outstand- ing accounts during regis- tration will not be able to register.

There will be no emer- gency loan offer to stu- dents not having enough money during registration.

\*\*\*

All the elementary schools in Kosrae began their classes on August 22, and on the 26th of the same month, Kosrae High School begin its classes.

Following are the en- rollment for the 1985-86 school year.

Names of School	No. of Students	No. of Teachers
Lelu Elem. School	561	32
Tafunsak Elem. Sch.	326	24
Malem El. School	317	24
Utwe Elem. School	267	21
Walung Elem. School	54	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>106</b>

Kosrae High School has 477 students with 32 teaching staff.

# Turtles need help

Between 1960 and 1970, Green Sea Turtles and Hawksbill Turtles in the lagoons and reefs of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands became increasingly more vulnerable to modern and sophisticated fishing methods.

Fishermen were landing three to five turtles in a single fishing day. By the mid 70's turtle stocks were so badly depleted that fishermen were scuba diving at Naftan Point, Forbidden Island, and the Grotto to capture turtles. The most damaging of all methods of harvesting turtles was the flipping of nesting turtles on their backs during their nesting season (March-July).

Since 1981, a total of 46 nests were reported to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Of the 46, only 2 nests were recorded to have hatched and only 52 young were recovered and released. The remaining 44 nests were robbed by poachers.

Another factor which contributes to the plight of the CNMI sea turtles includes the shortage of nesting beaches. Saipan has several miles of sand beaches on the west coast, but this area is rather extensively developed with hotels and other facilities. Previously, hawksbill turtles nested on Managaha Island, but with all the

recent development, this endangered species no longer nests there.

The people of the Commonwealth have shown little interest regarding the welfare and conservation of turtles. A public hearing to review regulations regarding green turtles was held at the Grand Hotel on June 7, 1983. Only three people showed up for the hearing. Yet, many of the Commonwealth people desire turtle meat on their dining tables.

Almost everyone agrees that the resources of the CNMI must be protected, conserved and enhanced for future generations. Very few, however, are willing to help in this endeavor. If our turtle resources are to survive, we must all help to ensure the well-being of these important animals.

The season for taking Green Turtles is from September 1, 1985 until November 30, 1985. The number of turtles a fisherman can harvest is one (1). Commonwealth residents desiring to hunt for green turtles must obtain a license at the office of Fish and Wildlife. For more information please call the office at telephone 9729.

Prepared by: Ben M. Sablan, Former Fishery Specialist III. Next week: Introduced Animals?

## ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

The Registration for the program under the Adult

AN IS PLEASED





# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD  
P. O. BOX 50167  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96850

IN REPLY REFER TO:

OCT 23 1985

Ms. Tami Grove  
Acting Administrator  
Coastal Resources Management  
Office of the Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

Dear Ms. Grove:

This responds to your October 4, 1985 letter concerning the possible impacts of the construction and operation of the Suwaso Golf Course and Cottage Project on sea turtles. The project is scheduled to be built on approximately 245 acres located on Saipan's southwestern coast, between Puntan Agingan and Puntan Opyan, and will extend from the shoreline inward to Laderan Opyan to about the 60-70 foot contour. Construction will be adjacent to a beach front area at Unai Denikuio Agingan.

It is our understanding that no Federal funding is to be used in the project and that no Federal license or permit is required. If such funding or authorization is required, please let us know.

Although the cover letter for the Environmental Assessment (EA) produced by the developer's consultant, the Northern Islands Company, states, "Appropriate shoreline setback is anticipated with retention of important vegetation to the extent practical in conservation areas and throughout the project site", it remains that construction and operation will probably directly affect the beach itself. As you reported, sea turtles do nest on this beach, and nesting areas must be protected to maximize chances for the recovery of the species. The types of impacts which would be expected and our comments on possible ways to reduce their negative impact on sea turtles are:

1. Increasing the area's accessibility to humans and encouraging beach use may result in the direct harassment of both adult turtles attempting to come ashore to nest and newly hatched turtles crossing to the sea. Additionally, if vehicles are allowed on the beach, both direct harassment of turtles as well as sand compaction and possible nest destruction by crushing may occur. As suggested in the EA (page 22, number 10), the exclusion of vehicles is warranted. Such restrictions should apply to the construction phase as well as to the operational use of the facilities.



Save Energy and You Serve America!

2. Floodlights near or on the beach could disorient newly hatched turtles, decreasing their chances for reaching the water. Care should be taken in the placement and shading of lights to decrease the impact of this factor.

3. Predation of turtles, their eggs, and young continues to be a major factor limiting their numbers and distribution. Predators associated with the residents of the facility, such as dogs, should be discouraged from the beach during nesting periods. We recognize this may be a difficult task and that feral dogs are very prevalent on Saipan. If turtle nests are discovered, fencing around each nest to exclude predators may be indicated. Care must be taken, however, to insure that such fencing will not impede hatchlings from passing to the water. Commonwealth Fish and Wildlife Division personnel should be contacted prior to any such action.

4. The mining of sand or other beach materials used in the construction and/or operation of the facility should be discouraged. This could directly harm or kill eggs, and may so alter the habitat as to make it no longer suitable for nesting. Likewise, restrictions on the dumping or storage (either temporary or permanent) of fill or other materials on the beach should be imposed. Care should be taken to limit, to as great an extent as possible, the use of chemicals or the dumping of liquid wastes in such a way that would allow for their leaching or flowing into turtle nesting areas.

These recommendations are provided as suggestions on ways to limit negative impacts on turtles which might be caused by the project. Although we would like to see these adopted into the project's overall plan, we recognize we have no authority to require them.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on this project. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,



Ernest Kosaka  
Project Leader  
Office of Environmental Services

cc: Chief, Fish and Wildlife Division, DNR, CNMI, Saipan  
→ G. Balazs, NMFS, Honolulu, HI



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Governor

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

FOR OFFICIAL USE  
CABLE ADDRESS  
GOV. NMI SAIPAN  
REPLY TO:

DEPT. or ACTIVITY

June 18, 1987

1 - Gates  
2 - Naughton

Gene Nitta  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
2570 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Gene:

Since you have recently requested for turtle nesting information at Wing Beach, I felt you might be interested with this information.

On 12 June, our Division discovered a Chelonia mydas nest at Wing Beach. Investigation of the nest reviewed a total of 100 eggs. The eggs were believed to be laid on either the night of June 11 or early morning of the 12th. This nest was the first green turtle nest recorded at Wing Beach this year.

I hope this information could be of use in your hotel Nikko project review.

Sincerely,

*Calisto M. Fajal*  
Calisto M. Fajal  
Fishery Biologist II

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE, 32611



DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY  
223 BARTRAM HALL  
904-392-1107

10 Feb 90

Dear George-

As "Member in Charge of Pacific" (how do you like that title?), can you assess this & act as you deem appropriate?

Chuck Carr (the AC III of the blue note) just sent this to me.

Looking forward to seeing you in S. C.

Best  
Karen

Box 410 CHRB  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Nov. 22, 1989

Dr. Archie Carr III  
Wildlife Conservation International  
3713 NW 40th St  
Gainesville, FL 32606

Dear Chuck

Recently the legislators of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands passed a resolution to "render inapplicable . . . the listing of the Green Turtle as a threatened species." The purpose of this resolution is to allow island people to hunt and eat green sea turtle.


I am enclosing a copy of this resolution in the hopes that you will write to our incoming governor, Larry Guerro, and to Secretary Manuel Lujan about the short sightedness of this resolution. There have been no studies of sea turtles out here and thus there is only anecdotal information as to how the sea turtle populations are faring (apparently not well). There is, however, a great deal of development here, including the building of very large beach resorts. There is also a rapidly growing human population and escalating fishing, scuba diving and jetskiing, all of which may be impacting sea turtle nesting and rearing.

Many of the laws out here are passed without comment, so a letter from you would be significant. With urging from you, perhaps the CNMI will initiate a sea turtle study before pursuing an open turtle season. At the very least, islanders here need to know the status of green sea turtles here BEFORE they eat the last of them.

Please write Governor Larry Guerro, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, and Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Interior Bldg, C Street, Washington D.C. 20240

I very much appreciate your help.

Sincerely,



Ellen K. Rice  
Housewife, Mom and Sea Turtle fan

P.S. Any information you can share about sea turtles would be much appreciated. I have very little information available here.

## BACKGROUND ON THE CNMI & ITS SEA TURTLES

1. The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands is a U.S. Commonwealth consisting of 14 islands in the west Pacific (located north of Guam). Saipan, Rota and Tinian are the three major inhabited islands.
2. The islands have a number of beaches, some of which are used by turtles. Green sea turtles and hawksbill turtles live here and leatherback turtles have been sighted. Turtle nesting occurs between May and August. The green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) is listed as "threatened" on the U.S. endangered species list. Hawksbill turtles (Eretmochelys imbricata) and leatherback turtles (Dermochelys coriacea) are listed as "endangered." All sea turtles are listed under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
3. Sea turtles are a historic, traditional food of Chamorros and Carolinians. Sea turtle is particularly desired for local fiestas, which occur throughout the year. Most fishing is done with modern boats and equipment, although there are some traditional sailing/fishing canoes still in existence. Currently sea turtle cannot legally be fished or served at fiestas.
4. There is a CNMI Fish & Wildlife agency with a small staff. No one is currently studying or monitoring sea turtles. The staff reports that there has never been a sea turtle study in the commonwealth.
5. The 40,000 inhabitants (approx.) include native islanders (Chamorro & Carolinian), U.S. contract workers, Filipinos (who provide much of the construction and domestic help), Koreans, Thai and Chinese. Thus there are many cultural preferences and some prejudices surfacing here and conservation ethics vary widely. Saipan is also a popular tourist spot and hosts some 200,000 visitors annually, primarily from Japan. Hotels are built on or are scheduled for the majority of Saipan's beaches. Beach resorts are also scheduled for Rota.
6. The U.S. provides millions of dollars of aid and programs to the Marianas, partly because of the islands' strategic location. The Marianas are seen as a potential back up base if U.S. forces must leave the Phillipines. Currently the U.S. Dept. of Defense has leased 2/3 of Tinian and has other projects developing. There are mixed feelings about "Uncle Sam" in the region. Some are pleased with the aid dollars, but others see the U.S. as a "bully" that needlessly & imperially imposes on this small commonwealth. CNMI residents carry American passports but cannot vote in the U.S. presidential elections. There is a representative to Congress from the CNMI, but he is a nonvoting rep.

7. The CNMI elects a governor, lt. governor and a legislature of 9 senators and 14 representatives to make local law. The bulk of U.S. Federal laws apply to the CNMI. There are some exceptions. These exceptions are mutually agreed upon by the CNMI & the U.S. under "Section 902", a portion of the CNMI Commonwealth Covenant. "902 talks" refer to the ongoing dialogue between the U.S. & the CNMI about jurisdictions & policies. In the past legal cases were appealed to the Ninth District Court in the U.S. Recently, however, a CNMI supreme court has been formed and it's exact jurisdiction is now being shaped. Many legislators feel this is an important step in being more independent of the U.S.

#### SUMMARY

Sea turtles occur in CNMI waters and are a historic food for the local people. The legal protection that sea turtles have under U.S. laws is in jeopardy. Rapid development probably has impacted turtle populations. The future for sea turtles thus looks grim as hunted turtles look for rarer and rarer places to reproduce and live.

OCL 5 774

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SIXTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 1988

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6-40

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A HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE 902 CONSULTATIONS REPRESENTATIVES TO ENDEAVOR TO RENDER INAPPLICABLE TO THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, THE LISTING OF THE GREEN TURTLE AS A THREATENED SPECIES UNDER THE JOINT REGULATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERES ADMINISTRATION AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

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Offered by Representatives: William C. Ada, Gabriel B. Babauta,  
Mariano R. Bermudes, Franklin T. Cabrera, Antonio M. Camacho,  
Moses T. Fejeran, Antonio O. Quitugua, Juan S. Reyes,  
Gregorio B. Sablan, Manuel C. Sablan

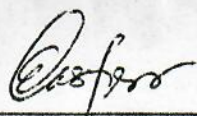
Date: December 28, 1988

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**HOUSE ACTION**

Adopted: December 28, 1988

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\_\_\_\_\_  
EVELYN T. CASTRO  
House Clerk

OCT 2 REC'D

1 determined that the federal regulations do not apply to  
2 Commonwealth; and

3 MINDFUL, that the federal exemption process is rather  
4 technically involved, requiring supporting scientific data;  
5 and

6 AWARE, that requesting an exemption from federal  
7 regulations might be viewed as a concession regarding  
8 Commonwealth sovereignty over its waters; and

9 SENSITIVE, to the fact that if the Commonwealth were to  
10 unilaterally remove the Green Turtle from its list of  
11 threatened species, the federal assistance of more than one  
12 million dollars to the Commonwealth Department of Natural  
13 Resources might be placed in jeopardy, it appears that an  
14 alternative solution is needed; now, therefore,

15           BE IT RESOLVED, that the issue of the listing of the  
16 Green Turtle as a "threatened species" applicable to the  
17 Northern Mariana Islands is an appropriate issue for Covenant  
18 Section 902 consultations and the House of Representatives  
19 hereby requests that the Green Turtle Issue be placed on the  
20 902 consultation agenda as a subject for substantive  
21 discussion and resolution; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be  
23 certified by the Speaker of the House and attested to by the  
24 House Clerk and the copies of the resolution be sent to the  
25 Secretary of the Interior; Field Representative of the

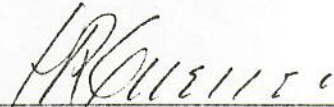
House Res. No. 6-40

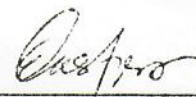
1 Department of Interior, Jeffrey Schorr; Director of the  
2 Department of Natural Resources, Nicolas M. DL Guerrero;  
3 Governor Pedro P. Tenorio; Lieutenant Governor Pedro A.  
4 Tenorio; Directors of the United States Fish and Wildlife  
5 Service; and the Director of the National Marine Fisheries  
6 Service; and all of the other representatives of the 902  
7 consultations.

8 Adopted: December 28, 1989

Attested by:

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11

  
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PEDRO R. GUERRERO  
Speaker of the House

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
EVELYN T. CASTRO  
House Clerk