

~~10 Feb~~ 1948
Jan.

Saipan Dist.

True rehabilitation can only come when a sound basic economy is established. Much of the privately owned land on Saipan is occupied by Military installations, without reimbursement to the native owners, therefore, one of the principal prewar revenue sources is shut off. Efforts to establish a fairly large group to collect copra on the northern islands of Sarigan, Agrihan and Alamagan have not succeeded for lack of an adequate station ship of the AG class or equivalent. Interest amongst the natives in this project was very high when first proposed. A stock issue of \$35,000.00 was immediately subscribed, but after repeated disappointments and deferrals of departure dates, this figure has dwindled to \$5,000.00. Through the assistance of the American Graves Registration Service, who have offered to transport the initial group of people, approximately 65, and their equipment on an Army LST, we hope the project will finally get underway on 12 January. If this should fall through, it also was delayed from 2 January, we might as well cross this project off the books. The PC 1546 recently assigned as a station ship is wholly incapable of servicing an effort of this kind. It does not have an operating boom or davit able to handle anything heavier than a 350 pound wherry.

The situation noted in the beginning of this summary is at least one step nearer solution. A Joint Real Estate Board, consisting of two representatives from each of the services, appointed by Commander Marianas, Commanding General Marianas Bonins Command, and the Commanding

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Jan.

General 20th Air Force has held its first meeting. The Governor, Northern Marianas Islands, and the Civil Administrator, Saipan District, have been designated as the Navy representatives. The precept calls for a determination of areas required by the military services, together with the present ownership and value of private lands included in such areas. As the solution of this problem is vital to final settlement of land problems it is the opinion of the Civil Administrator that a reasonable portion of the costs should be borne by the Island Governments appropriation.