

would be in many aspects controlled by Tokyo, since there is much less local autonomy in Japan than in the U.S. On the other hand, affiliation with the Philippines, while guaranteeing us certain political rights now enjoyed in that nation would probably lead to the economic disaster since the standard of living in the Philippines is much lower than that of Guam and again we would be subject to fairly direct control from Manila which has much more authority over the provinces than Washington has over the states. Australia or New Zealand represent other possible choices and these parliamentary democracies, where English is the common tongue and their courts and other institutions closely resemble those of the United States, would probably represent less of a change from our present way of life than affiliation with any other nation. To conclude, it is probable that rights of the people of Guam in the event of affiliation with another nation would depend entirely on the nation chosen, but a good deal of the local autonomy we now enjoy would be lost since America is one of the few nations that permits a high degree of home rule, most countries being much more centralized. Also, as a practical matter, while the U.S. might be jockeyed into granting Guam independence by virtue of our quasi-colonial status and its adherence to the U.N. Charter which would appear to guarantee us independence if that was our true desire, affiliation with another nation is no way a part of the pledge of the U.S. made in signing the U.N. Charter. There is probably no reason why the U.S. would be willing to give up its bases here and the forward position Guam gives it as a Pacific power so as to permit us to affiliate with another country, friendly or otherwise. The situation is not at all analogous to Okinawa where Japan had previously governed the place and where the U.S. recognized the residual sovereignty of Japan. No other country has such a claim on Guam and thus affiliation would definitely represent a threat to the interests of the U.S. without there being any corresponding reason for the U.S. to recognize our right to seek such a drastic change of status. It would be something like the Virgin Islands seeking affiliation with Cuba.

5. Commonwealth.

Depending upon the commonwealth statute worked out between Guam and the Congress, Guam could have as much political autonomy as it could handle. Thus, in the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the people elect their own governor and write their own local laws, paying no Federal taxes and being outside the operation of many Federal laws. They elect a Resident Commissioner who sits in Washington as a member of the House of Representatives, albeit nonvoting. The residents of Puerto Rico do not vote in national election but after a close examination by a committee of the U.N., it was determined by the U.N. that as a result of commonwealth status Puerto Rico could no

longer be considered as a non self-governing territory and therefore was no longer within the purview of the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations. There is no fixed pattern for commonwealth status, the Commonwealth of the Philippines being considerably different from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and thus a great deal of flexibility is available for working out arrangements between the U.S. and the new commonwealth. Economically, we could lose nothing by obtaining commonwealth status since we would not thereby subject ourselves to Federal taxation and we would have the advantage of being able to write our income tax laws. (Right now, although the territorial income tax is locally collected and spent, the rates, regulations and so on are fixed by Congress; thus we have a surcharge whether we want or need one or not). In addition, we could sit down with Congress and work out what Federal laws we wish to cover Guam and seek exclusion from those we found oppressive or burdensome. For example, we now are subject to the U.S. immigration and naturalization laws which means that aliens enter Guam on the same basis they enter any other place in the U.S. This greatly affects our economy and our way of life, since in the U.S. at large admitted aliens constitute a tiny fraction of the population, but in Guam they represent a very large segment of the population. Another Federal law that may be inappropriate for Guam is the Intercoastal Shipping Act which requires us to use U.S. vessels in transporting goods between Guam and the mainland. Commonwealth status would free us from the participation of the Department of Interior or similar agency, would eliminate the Federal Comptroller, would permit us to operate our own economy without the burden of Federal laws that do not fit in with the local pattern of development, would give us official representation in Washington, would give us international standing and make possible direct contacts with the U.S. and other international agencies, and yet would not be costly nor jeopardize the interests of the U.S. The principal disadvantages are that we would not be permitted to vote in national elections nor have voting representation in Congress.

Please think about these choices for Guam carefully. Which do you feel is best for Guam?

Schedule of Hearings for Political Status Committee:

Agat -- December 2	Mangilao -- December 18
Merizo -- December 4	Chalan Pago -- December 20
Asan -- December 9	Barrigada -- December 29
Yona -- December 10	Santa Rita - December 30
Mongmong -- December 11	Agana -- January 2
Sinajana -- December 16	Yona -- January 3
Piti -- December 17	Umatac -- January 6