Back To Gambling - Legislature

SAIPAN -- The first Commonwealth Legislature last week revived the efforts of past Legislatures to legalize gambling in the Northern Marianas.

During last week's lower House business, Minority Leader Joaquin P. Villanueva introduced a newly-compiled version of former laws based on the Las Vegas code.

The Senate, simultaneously, introduced a joint resolution establishing a select committee to study the economic and social impacts of casino gambling.

Under its present draft provisions, the bill would pave the way for international operators and local hoteliers to operate casinos under an annual license fee of $1,000 per establishment. The law would require the operators to place on deposit with the government $100,000 to cover winners pay-offs.

Although not restricting the number and kinds of games permitted by law, gambling would be limited to tourists over the age of 18 through the provision of a $1,000 annual fee per entrant, making regular gambling prohibitive for the majority of local residents. Tourists registered at local hotels would be exempt from the fee.

The selection of games permitted under the bill include faro, monte, roulette, keno, fan-fan-tan, twenty-one, blackjack, craps, stud poker, and slot machines.

A jointly-appointed Gaming Commission provided under the bill would be allocated the authority to supervise and inspect gaming establishments, and make recommendations for changes to the law. Its three members would be drawn from the Marianas Visitors Bureau, the Legislature, and the private sector.

The Gaming Commission would also make a public report after three years of operation containing its findings on the effects of casino gambling on the people of the Northern Marianas.

According to House Speaker Oscar Rasa, the Commission would extend its study to the presently legal forms of gambling in the Marianas: bingo, batu and cock fighting.

Villanueva, following the bill's introduction, declined all comment on its merits, saying that any discussion at this point would be "premature." He added he doubted that the bill would reach first reading during the Legislature's current session but would reach the floor of the House during the 45-day session scheduled for July.

Nevertheless, members of the House committee on Resources and Development are, it is understood, planning to visit a number of Asian capitol cities to study at close hand the business methods of various international casino operations.

According to some sources, stops are planned in Macao, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Manila, and Bangkok.

Marianas Variety
News & Views

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Electric Shock- Sabo Gone

By Eve Lowe
Staff Writer

SAIPAN -- Sabo Ulechong, the Congress of Micronesia's liaison officer on Saipan, was electrocuted here Thursday when he attempted to dislodge a kite entangled in high-tension power lines. Ulechong, 32, died shortly after the incident.

The kite, one of hundreds handed out all over the Trust Territory by Air Micronesia as a part of the airline's 10th anniversary celebration, was being flown by Ulechong's 6-year old son when it became entangled in power lines outside the family's Capitol Hill home.

Attached to the colorful plastic and wood kite was a length of fancy crochet thread, intertwined with thin, highly-conductive metal foil.

Upon contact with the high tension lines, a massive electric shock travelled through the thread, killing Ulechong within minutes.

A Public Works spokesman said that the primary lines, the main means of distribution for Saipan's power supply, carry 13,800 volts. The lines are not insulated, the spokesman said.

Air Micronesia officials, who visited the hospital shortly after Ulechong's transferral there, said the decorative thread did not come with the kites when they were distributed, and that the kites themselves were totally safe.

David Miho, the airline's second in command expressed deep regret over Ulechong's death, saying it was "a most regrettable thing."

Messages of condolence to Ulechong's widow, Rita, and his three infant sons, were cabled from New York via Peacesat satellite from High Commissioner Adrian Winkel and acting Administrative Services director, Neiman Craley, on behalf of the TT Government.

SABO ULECHONG

Winkel said, ". . .I extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Sabo Ulechong. We were deeply saddened to learn of his untimely passing away. We knew him as a friend and a colleague and he will be missed by all of us. Please accept our sincere condolences and know that our prayers are with you in this difficult time."

Craley noted his "respect and deep personal feeling for Sabo" which would remain forever in his memory. "While he was a gentleman, a scholar, and a dedicated servant of his people, he was also a recognized leader and a most valued friend. I will greatly miss his wisdom and guidance, and more importantly, his friendship," Craley said.

Ulechong began his employment with the Congress of Micronesia in the fall of 1970 when he was appointed Acting Senate Clerk.

He became Chief Senate Clerk in 1971, a position he held until September 1977, when he accepted the newly-created position of Congress of Micronesia Liaison Officer on Saipan.

During his work with the COM, he served with "great distinction and devotion," a COM spokesman said on Ponape upon learning of his death.

"His valued advice and humor will be greatly missed by those who knew him," the spokesman said. The spokesman added that members of the Congress and staff were "shocked" when they heard of Ulechong's death.

A deputation of family members and Congress of Micronesia staff is due to arrive on Saipan Friday. Ulechong's body will be returned Saturday to his native Palau for burial.

Opium Smuggler Gets Fine

SAIPAN -- A twenty-seven year old Guam woman was fined $500 Monday (May 15) for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Oksana Civra, listed in court documents as an unmarried U.S. citizen, was detained by airport customs officers a week ago when she arrived on a Continental Airlines flight from Guam.

A routine baggage inspection revealed a number of scattered pills and a quantity of white powdery substance wrapped in brown paper.

Customs officers said that a Reagent No. 2 test for opium showed a positive result and that the woman was detained for questioning. Customs officer Juan Evangalista said Civra demonstrated suspicious behaviour and appeared to be extremely nervous. Evangalista said he observed what appeared to be needle marks on the inner sides of her arms.

She was later taken into police custody for questioning and a sample of the substance sent to the federal laboratory on Guam for further analysis.

Acting in her own defense, Civra appeared in District Court Monday (May 15), requesting postponement of her arraignment until she could find an attorney. District Court Judge Felipe Salas fixed Civra's bail at $500 cash and requested her to surrender her passport.

Later reappearing before Salas and represented by local attorney Benjamin M. Abrams, Civra entered a plea of not guilty.

On later consultation with the Assistant Attorney General and Abrams, Civra re-entered a guilty plea to all charges, subject to the approval of the court.

Salas imposed a sentence of one year's suspended prison sentence upon obeyance of strict probationary conditions, and the payment of a $500 fine.

Civra has no previous record of conviction for drug offenses and according to Assistant Attorney General, Lee Conover, there was no evidence that she intended to deliver or sell the substance locally.

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Charges Against Cotting Dismissed

SAIPAN – Contempt proceedings against Marshalls District government official, Roger Cotting, were dismissed last week when Cotting agreed to file an affadavit attesting to his entire involvement in secluding 5-year old Alaskan real estate heir Neil "Scotty" Mackay.

The affadavit, according to court-appointed special prosecutor, Minor Pounds, was submitted to Chief Justice Harold Burnett late Saturday (May 13).

Cotting, the Marshalls program and budget officer, found the contempt charge levelled against him for retaining the young heir to his murdered mother's fortune, contrary to papers filed in the Trust Territory High Court which ordered the boy's return to Alaska.

Majuro attorney George Allen, representing Cotting, secured court orders from Marshalls District Court Judge Kabua Kabua and deceased TT Associate Justice Arvin Brown which conflicted with the High Court ex parte order, and placed his client in contempt of court.

Asked whether in spite of the Cotting case dismissal, Allen might face disciplinary charges for his involvement, Pounds refused all comment.

Preceeding Saturday's contempt hearing, Cotting's new attorney, Russ Walker, a former Marshalls DA, filed a motion on May 8 requesting Associate Justice Robert Hefner to dismiss himself from the case. Walker made the request on grounds that Hefner could be called as a witness.

Hefner, on March 16, had issued the violated ex parte order granting Scotty's temporary custody to Honolulu private investigator, Steve Goodenow, for the boy's return home.

Pounds said on Saipan this week that Judge Hefner found no difficulty in agreeing with the dismissal motion, and immediately notified Chief Justice Harold Burnett of his decision. Burnett travelled to Majuro on Thursday last week to preside over the hearing.

None of the 20 subpoenaed witnesses was called at the Saturday court hearing, however, and Burnett dismissed the case the same day.

Statements and affadavits were submitted by Judge Kabua Kabua, Marshalls DA James Winn, and Ramon Villagomez, a Saipan attorney directly involved in locating the boy on an outer-island hideaway and returning him to Alaska.

Burnett is also understood to be presently considering a further motion by Walker to seal Cotting's affadavit in the event its insertion into the public record might jeopardize a legal battle between two sides of the Mackay family for Scotty's custody.

Scotty, who spent his fifth birthday in Majuro, left Alaska with his father, Neil S. Mackay Sr, in December last year. According to articles from Alaskan newspapers, the pair stayed at Mackay Sr.'s Waikiki condominium for several weeks before traveling to Majuro under assumed names.

Mackay is understood to have met Cotting through a mutual friend, Jean Sullivan, a based travel agent.

Mackay handed over authority to Cotting for the boy's safe-keeping shortly after their initial introduction.

When they arrived on Majuro on March 17 to claim custody of the boy and return him to his court-appointed guardians, an uncle and aunt, Villagomez and private investigator Goodenow said they were harrassed by Cotting, who "snatched" the court order out of Goodenow's hand.

Goodenow also said that Cotting, who acts as the District's Official U.S. Consul representative, ordered a through search of their belongings.

At March 18 hearing in the Majuro District Court, Judge Kabua Kabua ruled in favor of Villagomez and Goodenow, thus upholding the High Court order of which he was previously unaware, and efforts proceeded to locate the boy.

But while the hearing was taking place, Villagomez said they later discovered that Scotty had been spirited off Majuro by the amphibious airplane, the Gruman Goose. He was eventually located on Likiep Atoll in the Northern Marshalls.

Gibler Surrenders Himself

By Beverley Lund
Staff Writer

SAIPAN – James D. Gibler, charged on Saipan with 4 counts of involuntary manslaughter, has surrendered himself to authorities on Guam pursuant to an extradition warrant.

According to Lee Conover of the Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Coast Guardsman appeared in court before Judge Paul Abbate for a hearing and elected not to waive extradition proceedings.

Gibler is currently in the custody of the Coast Guard on Guam, awaiting the extradition hearing set for May 25, Conover said.

Criminal charges being brought against Gibler involve the February 27 deaths of Agnes San Nicolas Camacho of Saipan, and her three children.

The 25-year old mother and her three infants were killed instantly when a car driven by Gibler traveled out of its lane, crashing head-on into the Camacho vehicle.

Marijuana Plants Confiscated

SAIPAN – NMI Police confiscated 11 marijuana plants in a raid on the property of Manuel Aldan in Iligan District, according to Detective Jose Castro.

Jesus Akiyama Aldan, 22, admitted growing the plants on land belonging to his father, and was arrested May 17, Castro stated. The plants are being kept for evidence, he added, and Aldan has been released pending further Police investigation.

Marianas police officer holds Marijuana plants confiscated

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Tmetuchl Opposes Superport For Palau

UN - New York, (MNS) – Roman Tmetuchl, Chairman of the Palau Political Status Commission (PPSC) told the UN Trusteeship Council in New York last Thursday that he opposes the proposed superport for Palau.

"It has been made eminently clear to me that some members of this Council and some representatives of the administering authority believe that the motivation for Palau's desire to negotiate separate status is greed. These accusations have been predicated upon the assumption that Palau wishes to construct a giant oil transshipment facility and to keep all of the benefits of such a facility for itself. I have always told you that these assumptions were false. But I now recognize that the only way to dispell them is to commit myself on the public record to the following position. I oppose the superport," Tmetuchl said.

The Chairman of the Palau Political Status Commission said that his present opposition on the superport is based on his understanding that a reasonable economic arrangement with the United States is forthcoming.

Tmetuchl said that reasonable economic assistance from the United States would make it possible for Palau to survive and to move toward self-reliance without a superport or any super projects. He said the only reason that Palauans were very interested in a superport was their desire not to remain dependent on the United States welfare. He said he hopes the issue has now been settled forever.

Tmetuchl informed the Council that the Referendum held in Palau on September 24, 1976 gave a clear mandate to the Palau Political Status Commission to negotiate for a separate status from the rest of Micronesia. He stated that this mandate was reiterated recently by an overwhelming vote by both the House of Chiefs and the House of Elected members of the Palau Legislature.

The Palauan leader detailed for the Trusteeship Council reasons for immediate action to improve the economic and social conditions in Palau. He said that it has become very clear to the administering authority and to the Palauans as well that continued dependency on United States subsidies is undesirable and that the long cycle of dependency can only be broken by a long overdue development of Palau's private sector.

"We are hopeful that Palau will become freely associated with the United States and that this association will endure. But unless the period of Free Association is accompanied by sufficient resources to accomplish our goal of self-sufficiency, Palau will be a perpetual welfare state," Tmetuchl said.

Tmetuchl also said that since the administering authority was responsible for the present condition in Palau, the Palauans consider it the responsibility of the administering authority to provide them with the means to ease the transition from dependency to self-sufficiency.

He said the Trusteeship Council is aware of the fact that every decolonization has been expensive, sometimes in money, and sometimes in blood.

"The decolonization of Palau will be all the more expensive because it has been so unjustly delayed. But we are peaceful people and it will be a peaceful decolonization. We should not be penalized because of this peacefulness. And we should not be thought to be less desirous of our liberty than those who have proceeded more violently to nationhood," Tmetuchl said.

Another Palauan leader also addressed the Trusteeship Council on today's session. Sadang Silmai, Speaker of the Palau Legislature, reported on the many frustrations that the Micronesians have had to bear with regards to war claims issue. He expressed disappointment that the United States and the Government of Japan have not moved fast enough to resolve

TMETUCHL

once and for all this issue which is of great importance to the Micronesian people.

Speaking particularly on the Palau situation Speaker Silmai said: "Perhaps the most demanding aspect of the long fight for war claims is its affront to the dignity of the few but proud Palauans. I suggest to you that for Palau be a full member of the international community instead of a ward, the war claims issue should have been resolved long ago."

Guerrero Address UN Council

UN - New York, (MNS) — In his statement before the Trusteeship Council Wednesday (May 17, TT Time), Senator Lorenzo I. Guerrero, President of the Senate of the Northern Marianas Legislature gave a detailed report on the progress and efforts that have been made on self-government in the Northern Marianas.

Senator Guerrero assured the Trusteeship Council that the political relationship which has been achieved between the Northern Marianas and the United States was the result of the historical expressions by the Marianas people to become part of the United States.

"Our people look forward to the day when full United States citizenship is conferred upon them," Guerrero said. He acknowledged the necessity to wait for the Security Council's actions to terminate United Nations Trusteeship Agreement with the United States.

In this connection, he said reasons for terminating the Trusteeship Agreement should be based on the principles of self-determination and not upon selfish international interests which do not concern the people of the Trust Territory.

President Guerrero also spoke on the war claims issue and stated that the main obstacle to opening up future negotiations for claims settlement is the reluctance of the Government of Japan to recognize Micronesian claims. He told the Council that the United States by Public Law 95-134, known as the Omnibus Territories Act authorized an appropriation of funds for the balance of Title One claims but placed restrictions on the release of these funds until such time as the Government of Japan contributes its share of the cost.

"We are satisfied with the U.S. stipulations and we wish to urge this Council to remind the Government of Japan to be receptive and willing to recognize our request to open negotiations toward full and prior settlement of its moral obligations to the peoples of the Trust Territory," Guerrero said.

He said final determination on the method of payment can be decided upon once negotiations are officially opened. Senator Guerrero also requested the assistance of the Trusteeship Council in seeking assistance from the United Nations to the Northern Mariana Islands.

He said aids from the United Nations in the form of economic assistance, technical expertise, and opportunities to participate in various UN-sponsored programs would be particularly appreciated by the people of the Northern Marianas.

Governor's Report From New York

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK — Governor Carlos Camacho and Special Advisor Vicente Santos arrived in New York after over 18 hours of flying time from Guam, Honolulu, San Francisco, and Washington D.C.

At Washington D.C. Dulles Airport they were met by Northern Marianas Washington Representative Edward Dlg. Pangelinan.

Before flying to New York for the United Nations meeting, Camacho spent several hours in Washington interviewing people for employment in the Northern Marianas Government.

According to Camacho, it rained heavily in New York. The weather was cold with temperatures in the 50's. Monday, May 15, was the first day of the United Nations Trusteeship Council meeting in New York.

According to Camacho, he Washington representative Pangelinan, and Special Advisor Santos are appearing together with Trust Territory High Commissioner Adrian Winkel and Deputy High Commissioner Juan A. Sablan as part of the United States Delegation.

Governor Camacho outlined Monday's agenda starting with a delegation session at the U.S. Mission building and at 10:30 a.m. the official opening of the United Nations Trusteeship Council meeting at the United Nations building.

According to Camacho, the morning session was devoted to organizational matters including the election of President and Vice-President of the Council, with opening statements by the U.S. spokesman Tony Cooks followed by statements from High Commissioner Winkel and Governor Carlos Camacho. All three opening statements were accomodated in the morning.

Gov. Camacho indicated that all present, including Trusteeship Council members regarded the session as an historic event.

As the first elected Governor for the newly inaugurated Commonwealth Government of the Northern Marianas, Camacho's appearance is an indication of the importance of the Trusteeship Council's meeting.

The Northern Marianas Governor indicated that he was pleased and honored to be in New York and to be able to be given the opportunity to appear and speak on behalf of the people of the Northern Marianas.

Camacho plans to stay in New York until May 20 when he will leave for Papeete, Tahiti, to address the Pacific Islands Tourism Development Council conference.

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Tanapag Residents Oppose Land Lease

By Eve Lowe
Staff Writer

SAIPAN – Tanapag villagers gathered at the Legislature building last Friday for a public hearing to express their strong opposition to a lease of village land to Far East Broadcasting, a non-profit, Christian organization.

A village delegation led by former Village Commissioner, Jesus Pua, told the House Resources and Development Committee, FEBC company, and government officials that they were against FEBC's use of the newly-leased 5 hectares of land because the area had been requested for future village expansion.

swampland between a proposed industrial zone and the village's western boundary, was an extensive rice-growing region under the Japanese administration.

FEBC was offered the Tanapag site by the transitional government last year when the 5th Northern Marianas Legislature blocked a formal agreement for the company to lease 26 acres in Marpi.

FEBC's plans to erect a 240-foot antenna and radio transmitter on the Tanapag land under a lease signed between company officials and former Resident Commissioner Erwin Canham will now be held up pending the R&D Committee's recommendation to Governor Camacho, backing the villager's disapproval of the deal.

R&D Committee vice-chairman Jose Lifoifoi (Terr.) who conducted Friday's hearing, said that Tanapag Village was not senatorially represented in the last Legislature and that the people had not been duly informed of the government's decision to lease the land.

Villagers themselves questioned executive branch representatives why their desires had not been considered in the government's master plan for island development, saying that the lease had been hurried through with no public hearing on the issue.

"The government failed to inform the public of its decision to lease the Tanapag lands," charged Pedro Igitol, a Tanapag resident. "Many young couples are living with their parents and are unable to grow culturally, economically, or socially. Those people earning high salaries in government are alright," Igitol said, "but those who must rely on home-grown produce to supplement their meagre incomes are suffering."

Another resident accused the government of letting businessmen establish themselves in the best parts of the island, and that like Hawaii, beachfront properties were "infested with foreigners while the people are left to make the best of it out in the boonies."

Economic Development Office representative Jose Ayuyu stated in rebuttal that "the process of development requires sacrifice," and that although he was concerned for the people's welfare, the prior commitment by the last Legislature to lease the land was one "the executive should live up to. We should not penalize Far East Broadcasting at this point," Ayuyu said, adding that outside investors would see the Marianas as blessed with an unstable government when they observe developers' lease agreements being loosely regarded. "It will discourage potential investors," he said.

Releasing the present government from some of the responsibility, Land Management Officer Ponciano Rasa said the decision to lease the land to FEBC was not the Commonwealth Government's. The last Legislature had taken the initiative "for the good of the people," but the original land designations were made by the Trust Territory administration during the time the Marianas was still a district.

Although the government lost substantial revenue on the blocked Marpi lease, FEBC company officials were not unhappy with the exchange deal. FEBC's Project Manager, Norman Blake, said the swampland would permit them to achieve clearer ground signals for radio transmission.

Tanapag villagers, however, would like to see the company look for lands in the private sector, charging that the buffer zone between the village's housing area and the proposed industrial park is already at a minimum.

FEBC is still negotiating for land on which to erect a short-wave radio station from which they will beam locally-produced programs to Asia, Japan, Russia, and S.E. Asia.

The company has been negotiating extensively for property on Capitol Hill owned by the Milne family, but the final asking price has not yet been determined.

Rota Police Officer May Be Dismissed

By Beverley Lund
Staff Writer

SAIPAN -- A Rota Police officer has recently been served with an official administrative action proposal that he be dismissed from his position, according to a highly reliable source who asked that his name not be mentioned.

Capt. Francisco Calvo, Rota Police Supervisor, requested in a letter May 1 addressed to Chief Sablan that he take disciplinary action against Ricardo S. Taimanao for "gross violations of the conduct of a police officer." Allegations stated in the letter referred to Taimanao's "reckless and negligent driving" of the police sedan, and two incidents of causing damage to the recently-acquired police vehicle.

Rota Mayor Prudencio Manglona supported the allegations in a letter of the same date, also addressed to Chief Sablan, adding that Taimanao was "irresponsible and a danger and threat to the community."

Chief of Police Jose Sablan has refused to release the nature of the charges, or disciplinary action proposed. Taimanao has 10 days in which to refute the charges, as provided by personnel rules.

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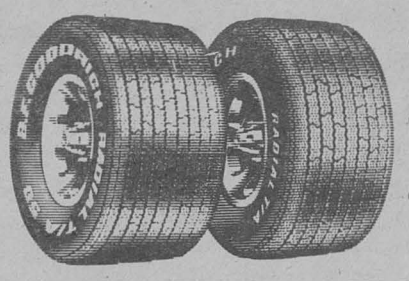

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Tourism Entry To Saipan High

By Eve Lowe
Staff Writer

SAIPAN -- The Marianas Visitors Bureau has issued up-to-date tourism statistics following the introduction of direct flights to Tokyo, indicating a steadily increasing growth for the industry.

MVB general manager, JM Guerrero, points to an increase of 53% over the year leading up to the October 1 inauguration of the flights, which have greatly assisted in accelerating tourism in the Northern Marianas.

Between October 1976 and April 1977, a total of 31,041 visitors passed through the turnstiles of Saipan's International Airport. For the comparable 1977-78 period, the number increased to 47,396, with some 32,000 Japanese spending an estimated $100 each during an average 3-day stay.

As in previous periods when statistics have been maintained, the number of U.S. citizens visiting the Northern Marianas remains lower with 13,225 visitor entries logged by MVB.

Total revenues from the industry are estimated at $14,218 million for the period, Guerrero says, and the number of locally-employed people within the industry is now estimated at 779, spread between airlines, car rental companies, hotels, and tour operators.

Guerrero said this week he attributes the steady growth of the industry to a carefully aimed and compiled advertising program, and the publication of a travel brochure by Glimpses Magazine of Guam, depicting some highly professional photographic portrayal of island scenes.

Out of the MVB's operating budget, generated from a 7% hotel room tax and a 1 cent per container beer tax, MVB recently paid for a $1,500 full-page advertisement in Glimpses newest publication - a color brochure of Micronesian and Northern Marianas beauty spots. The brochure will be tucked, free of charge, into the seat pockets of every Continental Airlines flight, Guerrero said.

Trade advertisements in the Pacific Travel News and Travel Journal trade publications have brought some 75 enquiries from well-placed Japanese and U.S. travel agencies, and MVB has plans for several other full-page advertisements to run in Japanese women's magazines. The high circulation journals have been carefully selected to increase awareness of the Islands' vacation potential.

Guerrero also said that a batch of reporters from the Pacific Island Tourist Development Council's house magazine, Travel Scene, will feature a full-length article and related pictures in its July issue, adding to the total publicity the Islands are presently receiving.

Guerrero praised the Northern Marianas' representation at the Osaka Trade Fair last month where a booth financed by the newly-formed Japan-Northern Marianas Association, was visited by over 10,000 people.

Guerrero said that he and Miss Northern Marianas, Julia Concepcion, were interviewed by five local TV and radio networks.

A further major event scheduled for this year will mean added representation and coverage for the Northern Marianas when Guerrero visits the Pacific Area Travel Association's Travel Mart to be held in Manila, PR, next month.

PATA's Travel Mart will give a unique opportunity for individual meetings with travel wholesalers to discuss the formation of suitable package offers which the wholesalers will in turn "sell" to agents throughout the Pacific area and Japan, MVB indicated.

PATA has selected twelve Pacific nations to represent supplier destinations which include Micronesia, New Zealand, Guam, the Republic of China, Thailand, Indonesia, and other Asian countries.

Added improvements to enhance the tourist's stay in the Islands are presently under consideration, Guerrero said, saying that local tour guides are now in the process of being "certified" by MVB, and taught the latest techniques in how to "offer hospitality."

MVB is conducting a seminar on ancient Chamorro history, and with the help of films and other visual aids, will take the tour guides through a condensed history of the Northern Marianas under Spanish, German, and Japanese occupations.

A project to construct surfaced bike paths along sections of Beach Road is also under discussion, but funding for the estimated 6-7 miles of hard surface has yet to be identified, Guerrero said.

Although the needed bike paths may have to be shelved for several months, work will begin this coming weekend to clear the ground for a U.S.-Marianas Memorial Park in Puntan Muchot, a planned 54-acre peace memorial to contain a botannical garden, baseball field, an amphitheatre, and bike trails, in honor of American and Marianas war dead.

The clearing will commence as a summer project through the joint efforts of the Young Adult Conservation Corps, the Marianas Visitors Bureau, and the Department of Public Works.

Maug Superport Proposal For Reconsideration

By Eve Lowe
Staff Writer

SAIPAN -- The Commonwealth Legislature is actively reconsidering a once-shelved project to turn the northern island of Maug into a massive oil storage terminal.

The proposal, submitted by Guam-based consultant-financiers, IDC International, to the Northern Marianas government almost one year ago, was rejected by former Resident Commissioner Erwin Canham.

Proposed under the scheme was a transshipment terminal of 35 oil storage tanks, each with a capacity of 3 million barrels of oil, to be shipped from the Middle East by super-tankers.

IDC's concept paper proposed oil transshipments to Japan and other areas in the Pacific at a rate of 3 billion barrels per annum, with 5 cents per barrel royalties accruing to the Island government. IDC suggested that revenues in the region of $15 million per annum could be realized from the development.

Canham, however, vetoed IDC's suggested proposal due to the group's haste in attempting to grandfather in a needed constitutional amendment to permit the tiny island to be released from its designation as a wildlife sanctury.

Canham also found IDC reluctant to reveal sources of financial competence to carry out the proposal.

The latter hindrance to the former government's approval of the project still exists, according to House Speaker Oscar Rasa, but nevertheless, the Legislature is presently taking an active interest in reviving IDC's plans.

Rasa said he and other members of the Legislature met with IDC's president, A.W. Ralston, and company directors, Bob Funesti and Bill Garrison on Guam last week for talks on the project. Governor Carlos Camacho, Rasa said, also met with Funesti while en route to New York last week, although the outcome of those talks is not yet known.

But IDC board members remain reluctant to name their financial backers, Rasa said, and until the company identifies its financial sources, nothing can be transacted.

Rasa said the Legislature was presently laying plans to invite the board of IDC, and Professor Lou Eldredge, head of the Marine Biology Department of Guam University, to visit Saipan for further discussions.

Eldredge last year performed an environmental impact study on Maug, which lies 300 miles north of Saipan, and is the next to last island in the Marianas chain.

Rasa said that the UOG study was somewhat "circumspect" and that further studies, notably an engineering study, would be required before the Legislature could take any affirmative action on the proposed revenue-generating plan.

Maug's protection under the Constitution is a further matter which will require extensive public hearings and an eventual referendum to amend the Constitution before any positive action is taken, Rasa said. This would be dependent upon the feasibility of the engineering study and the plan's eventual desirability, he added.

Rasa also mentioned negative aspects which could prohibit the project's further advancement - that tanker routes would be operating in a typhoon belt, and the possibility of major oil spills in Micronesian waters.

Three major sources of possible revenues for the Northern Marianas being carefully studied by the lawmakers include the Maug study, legalized gambling, and increases in real estate taxes. As far as the Maug study is concerned, "we want to protect all endangered species and we want to satisfy the people," Rasa said. "What we have to do is decide what is more important."

Rasa did not say who would pay for the engineering study, although he noted that executive approval would be required before such a study is performed.

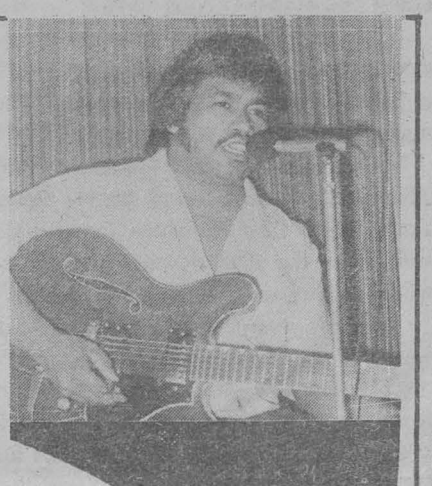
IDC is understood to have met the cost of the UOG team's environmental impact assessment.

However, Rasa said, "If the project is a feasible one, and if its desirability outweighs all the environmental issues, the Legislature will solicit similar plans from other companies. We shall not restrict our future dealings to IDC International," he said.

Although an artist's aerial sketch of the proposed super oil storage terminal presently hangs in Rasa's office, he said he thought it doubtful that any further studies could be completed before the end of this year.

A decision on whether to give the Maug proposal the legislative green light would consequently arise in an election year.

Keep Saipan Clean



Variety Views

During Thursday's noontime break for lunch, Sabo Ulechong travelled the few hundred yards from his office at the old Congress building to his Capitol Hill home to watch his 6-year old son flying a kite.

The kite became entangled in high tension power lines close to his home, and in the attempt to free it from its lethal trap, Ulechong was electrocuted. He did not know that the line attached to the kite contained a highly-conductible thread of metal foil.

Sabo's death is a reminder to us all of the fragility and transience of life. Its simplicity and suddenness has shocked all who knew him. Those of us on the staff of the Variety personally join with all other mourners throughout Micronesia, the United States, and the rest of the world where he made friends, who regret his loss.

Sabo stood as a pillar of perception in the affairs of his own country. He displayed an insight and intuitiveness in political trends far outstretching the leaders of his own native Palau, and would have become an influential figure had he lived. His death is untimely, premature, and cruel.

Sabo was a good father and husband. He loved his wife and his children. It was his love for his oldest child that brought about his death, but in the knowledge of that fatherly love, his son will grow to take his place.

On Thursday evening, as Sabo's body lay in a hospital room and the sun began gradually setting into the Philippine Sea, silhouettes of children could be seen on the hill, flying their kites.

The Way it Goes...

by: John Del Rosario Jr.

Last weekend, my brothers and I visited our farm at Mount Tapochau to check the taros we planted some months back and the weather permitting, we would venture planting some more in hopes that within six months time we could harvest them for personal consumption.

Unfortunately, we found that the taros we planted were uprooted and stolen, including bananas and coconuts. There's but unattended coffee trees standing in abundance perhaps ready to tell us who the thieves are who claimed what's not theirs.

Frustrated, we sat down and joked about why Ferdinand Magellan named these islands "Islas De Las Ladrones" -- Islands of the Thieves. Perhaps those people who make it a habit robbing their neighbors of something their fellow man has worked hard for are descendants of the Moros who emptied Magellan's ship of important tools and weapons. We have an idea of who are some of the suspects might be. Certainly, they are all living and someday soon they'll be eating or selling the taros they have stolen from our farm land up on the hill.

We planted what small taro plants we found growing wild. We did it so that the man who robbed us earlier could again find his bounty the next time he comes around "shopping" for more taro plants. I hope the stealer doesn't meet us going in as he prepares to leave the area. We'll give him a lesson he will learn - - - Thou shall not steal!! Gee, one gets to wonder when would our people learn to respect the property of others. Perhaps they'll learn someday soon. Perhaps NEVER!!

* * * * * * * * * * *

I saw a group of youngsters net fishing last weekend to assist in the San Isidro Fiesta. I was proud of those boys for although Western influence and acculturation has brought trouble and confusion to many youngsters here, they still carry on the tradition that was once the mainstream of survival for many of our ancestors.

Reef fish is certainly a delicacy in almost any local party. A friend of mine and a good neighbor have discussed well into the wee hours of the morning how to encourage more youngsters to learn reef fishing or net fishing for that matter for purposes of income, etc. People here are hungry for good reef fish. They'll buy them ahead of time if they know that you usually come in with lots of them. Some have even gone as far as ordering their fish in advance. It speaks for itself that there's a market for reef fish and those who choose to improve their fishing skills so to explore the richness of the ocean are on their way to making money like it's going out of style.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

This is to register my disagreement with the Governor's act in condemning the legislature for not passing the "Commonwealth Government Act of 1978" and other legislation that was submitted to the legislature for its consideration. The majority of the Bills submitted were assigned to the Committee for which I am assigned to work, and this makes me even feel better to stand qualified to discuss the issues for public clarification. After reading his public statement in the PDN and listening to his report to the people of Saipan, via television, I can only conclude that there was not much truth in his statements, which may better be worded as "politics and plain verbosity." The Governor for instance claimed that the absence of this "Government Act" would curtail him from making appointments for the administration's key positions. I think this statement is truely misleading our people and it serves no good purpose other than to create confusion and causing people to distrust him. I say this because long prior to the submission of this "Government Act" he had officially appointed individuals to three key positions to serve at his pleasure in the administration. Furthermore, the Constitution does not prevent him from appointing his directorships, subject to the advise and consent of the Senate.

The Administration's version which was submitted to the legislature for its consideration, in my opinion, would have been a total "disaster" had the legislature passed it in its entirety. A first glance of the Bill surely made one believe that it needed a major overhaul.

For example, the Bill submitted by the Administration did not require the Senate advice and consent on all deputy department and assistant deputy heads. It was the Committee's view that since these people will be making major policy decisions, which will affect the general well-being of our people, their appointment must fall under advice and consent. Article III, Section 14, empowers the legislature with such rights.

It hasn't been that long since the Governor vetoed the Legislature's budget which was then overriden successfully. One of the funniest things that I ever experienced in my life was how the Governor treated the Legislature's Bill. What he actually did was to delete a certain part of the bill and to insert his own amendment, even though he knew well that he could not do such a thing, at least as his experience from the Congress of Micronesia should have told him. In all my years of experience in the legislature, both as a Congressman and a Senator, this has never happened. I have never heard in all my studies in the field of politics that the Governor could amend the legislature's bill submitted for his approval. Either he may approve or disapprove, period. It may be true in the British Government that such an act can be practiced, and be exercised, but not within the American concept of government. Whosoever was involved in advising the Governor that such can be practiced was truely an ill-advised person himself, and a shame to the people of the Northern Marianas.

The Governor talks about the legislature being too extravagant, traveling too much, etc. You know, I have not known of any Governor either in the mainland or on our neighborhood island of Guam including Governor Bordallo, who has ever been escorted by his security guard on his travels. I have never heard of Guam's Governor Bordallo taking his security guard to testify in D.C.

Now the Governor expects the legislature to act on his budget again. But the submission of the Governor's budget to the legislature requires a lot of observation and careful analysis. For example the Public Health budget that has been submitted to the legislature for its consideration still reflects the Governor's name in the budget worksheet as Medical Officer II.

The Trial Court Bill that the Governor submitted for the legislature's consideration came into a heated debate in the Senate, from that part the Committee adopted of what was submitted. Section 1.9 of the said Bill surely got the Senate into a turmoil. This is the Section where it prescribed the word "referees" for the judges.

Should this Bill become a law, the present judges serving at the Commonwealth Court would no longer be called "JUDGES" but instead "REFEREES". It is then the view by some Senators that this is truely degrading to the incumbent judges, as some view the word "Referee" as an umpire to a baseball or a person who "referees" a boxing match.

STAY TUNED, MORE TO COME!!!

Felipe Q. Atalig
P.O. Box 129
Saipan, M.I.

Dear Editor:

After having read your article on the preliminary approval of the measure which would establish the organization of the executive branch, I would like to make the following comments. These comments are not meant to criticize our wonderful and dedicated legislators, because I believe that what they do is unquestionably in their own way for the protection of the people's common interests. My comments should thus merely be construed as suggestions.

The idea of having assistants to the Governor be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate is contrary to the nature of their functions. The function of a Governor's assistant would be chiefly to assist and advise the Governor in a more personal way. I would be surprised if he had any power to make a policy at all, unlike a department head. The functions of executive assistants are so distinctly recognized as solely within the personal aspect of an executive's power that in many democratic governments, such an assistant's appointment is never subject to the advice and consent of the law-making body or a subdivision thereof.

Whom must a Governor's assistant be loyal to? If such an assistant must be loyal to the legislature, then by all means he should be hired by the legislature. If he must be loyal and directly responsible to the people, then he should be elected by the people. But if he must be loyal to the Governor such that whatever he does in terms of assists and advice will reflect upon the competence of the Governor, then he must be hired by the governor without censure from the other branches of the government.

The practice of appointing Governor's assistants without the consent and advice of the senate will work both ways. Now, a Democrat governor. Later perhaps, when a Territorial governor is elected into office, he will not find difficulties in selecting his own assistants. We can surely find wisdom in the saying that "what is good and convenient for you now will be good for me later when I step in your shoes."

A great and intelligent legislator once told me that "he has learned a lot from his enemies." Although I am not an enemy, I hope that my comments may play a significant part in the finalization of that government organization bill.

Very truly yours,
Reynaldo O. Yana

Dear Editor:

This is AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PERSON (S) WHO STOLE THE MONEY FROM MY APARTMENT.

My dear friend(s).

Whoever you are, had you but told me of your need for cash the money would have been given to you.

Because you took it without permission you now have an even greater debt to pay. It is a personal one to yourself, a debt of honesty. I hope you will not spend the rest of your life in moral bankruptcy.

May God be with you,
Sincerely,
CeCilia R. Cooper

Children Physical Abuse Bill Signed

SAIPAN, (MNS) — High Commissioner Adrian P. Winkel last week signed a measure to provide for the "mandatory reporting" of physical abuse of children, (HB 7-14).

The new law will require physicians, dentists, health assistants, nurses, school teachers, day care workers or law enforcement officials to report injuries to the Chief of Police which he or she believes the child suffered as a result of abuse.

Saying that child abuse is not just a Micronesian but a "world-wide problem", the Congress of Micronesia Senate Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs reported that "Public officials must recognize their duty to determine when the line between family discipline and criminal brutality has been crossed."

The report explained that the bill makes it a "legal duty" for persons in health, school and law enforcement to determine between family discipline and criminal brutality.

"Those persons designated," the Committee explained, "are in the best position, to discover and judge the nature of injuries which might otherwise go unnoticed by all..."

The bill also provides immunity for anyone "participating in good faith in the making of a report" from any liability, civil or criminal that might otherwise be imposed.

The bill provides as penalties for any person who "knowingly and willfully" violates this law that he or she shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined not more than $500, imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

Five other bills the High Commissioner signed will:

—Appropriate $378,200 for public projects in the Marshalls District, (HB 7-394);

—Permit the Micronesian Maritime Authority to set the qualifications for its director, (HB 7-498);

—Prohibit the desecration of the flag of Micronesia, (HB (HB 7-503);

—Earmark $45,000 to construct a wharf for the Micronesian Industrial Corporation at Malakal Harbor, in Palau District, (HB 7-440); and,

—Make certain amendments under a Public Law which established a College of Micronesia under a Board of Regents to clarify the scope of the Regents' powers and duties and the college's internal line of authority and procedure, (HB 7-330).

With the signing of these bills, the High Commissioner has completed action on nearly all of the 107 bills that passed the recent regular session of the Congress of Micronesia with the exception of four private bills.

Palauan Chiefs Support Micro Unity

UN - COM RELEASE — The two paramount chiefs of Palau District Friday told the United Nations Trusteeship Council that they support Micronesian unity and the Micronesian Constitution and that they "reject separation" and "the politics of rejection" of those who would fragment their islands from Micronesia.

High Chief Ibedul Yutaka Gibbons and Acting High Chief Reklai Eusebio Termeteet, made the statement appearing as petitioners before the Council.

Their joint statement was read on their behalf by Palau District Legislator John O. Ngiraked.

"Our goals are positive because only through positive goals will the best interests of the people of Palau and Micronesia be served. Only by positive goals can we guarantee the well-being of our children and our unborn generations, they said.

The two chiefs explained that the slowness of economic development and rebuilding Micronesia's infrastructure had caused frustrations in Micronesia. They noted that while the U.S. has good intentions, it was clear that "by no stretch of imagination" had the U.S. "come close to achieving some of the principal goals" of the Trusteeship.

They indicated that political awareness had "outstripped" economic development despite the creations of the Congress of Micronesia which some Micronesians hoped could resolve their problems.

However, they said that because the Congress had limited powers including no control over the TT Budget, it was unable to guide Micronesia during what were "turbulent times."

They also noted that while some people had criticized the Congress for its control of local Micronesian revenues, the amount was just a "small drop in a rather enormous bucket" referring to the hundreds of millions of dollars the U.S. has appropriated for the strategic Trusteeship.

It was pointed out that because of their frustrations Micronesians began blaming each other for their problems, but that "the truth of the matter was and still is, that the problems and constraints we face were caused by policies and events beyond our control for the most part generated outside of Micronesia."

Regarding the political status situation in Palau, they recalled that four years ago, Palauans were "exhorted" by their leaders to adopt free association, then independence, then a commonwealth type arrangement, and now, after the Hilo talks, free association again.

They pointed out that the U.S. agreeing to separate talks with the Marianas in 1972, has sparked similar movements in Micronesia by those who "espoused the belief that perhaps the salvation of their people lay in forseeing a separate political status."

It was related that despite the confusing situation on status, Palauan delegates to a 1975 Micronesian Constitutional Convention played a key role in forcing compromises from the other districts in a draft constitution for a unified Micronesia which will be voted on this July 12.

Despite this, they noted that Palauans have been told that the other districts "were dominating" their status desires and therefore "separation of Palau District suddenly became linked with a separate status goal."

"It is now clear to many of us in Palau because of the Hilo Agreement that what we have agreed to seek in a common political status was the very district we were urged to separate from. It is anticipated that Palauans will sign off on a document in the future which is uniform in every respect for all the districts with the possible exception of financial provisions and special military land use provision."

They noted that separation would mean a separation of their 200-mile fishery zone which would have left bargaining advantage with other nations than a larger Micronesian zone.

"What then is to be gained by separation? That is the real question. Would Palauans gain a special advantage in a special relationship with the United States? The answer to that is no," they said.

On the other hand, they pointed out that those Palauans for separation have not yet presented an alternative to the Micronesian Constitution which has obvious advantages including protection of traditions, local economy, international recognition of sovereignty, and a definition for the first time in their history, of "our national character, integrity and identity."

The two chiefs then concluded by saying they support Micronesian unity and the Constitution and Free Association agreement with the United States.

Candidates For 1978 Saipan Liberation Day - July 4

STANDING (L - R)

Miss: Julie S.N. Camacho
Cost Guard
Age-16
Miss: Daisy V. Kaipat
Western Auto
Age-16
Miss: Jovie P. Cruz
Bank of America
Age-19
Miss: Vicky S. Cabrera
Town House
Age-21
Miss: Elisa M. San Nicolas
Torres Mini Mart
Age-16

SITTING (L - R)

Miss: Ana F. Torres
Ted Oxborrow Association
Age-18
Miss: Rebecca R. Flores
Civic Center
Commonwealth of the N.M.I.
Age-16
Miss: Tina P. Muna
Philipino Association
Age-16
Miss: Sophia S. Cabrera
Carmen Safeway
Age-17
Miss: Francis S. Camacho
Bank of Hawaii
Age-16

Truk Legislators Commend Negotiators

MOEN, (MNS) – The Truk District Legislature last week went on record declaring its support and commendation of the Micronesian Commission on Future Political Status and Transition (CFPST) for achieving a "major victory" at the recently concluded Hilo Talks.

According to Truk Legislative Liaison Officer Suda Rayel, the resolution was unanimously adopted. The legislature recently concluded its special session.

Introduced by Legislator Kisande Sos of Moen island, the resolution also praised former Palau Senator Lazarus E. Salii, the head of the Congress of Micronesia Joint Committee on Future Status, the predecessor of the CFPST.

"...The Commission," the resolution reads, "has faithfully represented Micronesian interests since its inception in 1976," and despite unwarranted criticism," the CFPST "has achieved a major victory in the agreement upon the eight principles of Free Association."

"...The Agreement of eight principles of Free Association is also due to the contribution of the former Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress of Micronesia chaired by former Senator Lazarus E. Salii," concluded the resolution.

Salii is now the Director of the Office of Planning and Statistics in the Executive Branch of the Trust Territory Government.

Military Exercises On Tinian

SAIPAN -- Two separate military exercises will shortly be conducted on Tinian with three ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet and elements of the Fleet Marine Forces.

On Monday (May 22) an exercise in helicopter-born infantry assault tactics will take place at the North Field area on Tinian.

According to Lt. Commander Pat Roth, CINPACREP for Guam and the Northern Marianas, marines will be airlifted from the deck of the USS Tripoli, a helicopter assault ship, and the USS Point Defiance, a landing ship dock, on to the northern runway of Tinian's abandoned B-29 base.

Roth said that the marines will then participate in training exercises providing practice in air assault and ground infantry tactics for units of the Fleet Marine Forces.

A small unit amphibious exercise from the USS Peoria on Wednesday will involve some 225 marines in turnaway amphibious assault and eventual administrative landing techniques.

The exercise, called Quick Jab XIII, is designed to afford the Peoria and her embarked marines with experience in small unit operations.

Sailors and marines participating in both exercises will also conduct various civic action projects benefiting the people of Tinian.

These projects, which have been coordinated with the Mayor of Tinian and other officials, include road improvements, assistance in electrical work, construction of playground equipment, removal of debris, repairs and painting at the school.

Upon completion of the Tinian exercises, the USS Peoria will visit Saipan, arriving Sunday, May 28. She will be open for public visits during the afternoon of Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

Earlier in the day, her marines and sailors will participate in memorial services scheduled at 9:30 a.m. at the U.S. and Saipan war memorials located on Beach and Middle Roads.

The Peoria will also be bringing on board desks and paint for Saipan's schools, donated under the Navy's Handclasp program, Roth said.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Public Law 93-203, the Office of the High Commissioner wishes to inform the general public that the Trust Territory has applied to the U.S. Department of Labor for Fiscal Year 1978 SPEDY summer program of $93,791 under CETA Title III, Part A.

Summer Program Title III, Part A

Geographic distributions of funds as follows:

District	Allocation
Palau	$12,193.00
Yap	$ 9,379.00
Marianas	$12,193.00
Ponape	$11,255.00
Truk	$16,882.00
Marshalls	$14,069.00
Kosrae	$ 5,627.00
PATS	$12,193.00
Total	$93,791.00

Residents of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands wishing to review and comment on the application may do so at the Headquarters Training and Employee Development Division, Bureau of Personnel, Saipan, or at each District CETA Office.

Comments within 30 days of this announcement may be submitted to:

Honorable Adrian P. Winkel
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
or
Mr. William J. Haltigan
Assistant Regional Director for Employment & Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

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Public Notice

In accordance with Public Law 93-203, the Office of the High Commissioner wishes to inform the general public that the Trust Territory Government has applied to the U.S. Department of Labor for YCCIP program of $104,000 under Title III part C, subpart 2 of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) as amended. Breakdown of YCCIP Allocations:

a. PATS	$ 14,502
b. Upper and Lower Mortlocks Multiskill Project	89,498
Total	104,000

Residents of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands wishing to review and comment on the application may do so at Headquarters Training and Employee Development Division, Bureau of Personnel. Comments from this announcement may be submitted to:

Honorable Adrian P. Winkel
High Commissioner
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Saipan, Marianas Islands 96950
or
Mr. William J. Haltigan
Assistant Regional Director
for Employment & Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

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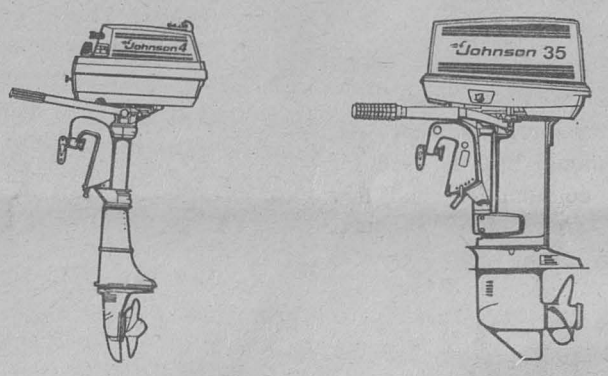

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HiCom Proposes Basic Development For T.T.

SAIPAN, (MNS) – Two proposals have been developed by Trust Territory High Commissioner Adrian P. Winkel to provide basic facilities to be constructed on the outer islands of Micronesia and to provide more frequent cargo and passenger service to those islands, according to Lazarus Salii, Director of the Office of Planning and Statistics.

The proposals have been submitted to the districts and the Congress of Micronesia for review and to see whether the projects outlined in the proposals reflect the needs of the districts.

A territory-wide meeting on the proposals, Salii said, will be held on Saipan either later this month or early in June to finalize the proposals.

The proposals will be completed in July and will be submitted to the Interior Department in August. If they are accepted by the Interior Department and the Office of Management and Budget, Salii said, a request will be made to the United States Congress for the necessary funding.

One of the proposals, called "Second Level Capital Improvement Program", calls for public facilities to be constructed on the "outer islands of Micronesia" by the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

These facilities include amenities such as drinking water, pit toilets, radio communication, elementary classrooms, dispensaries, and seawalls. Other necessary facilities called for under the proposal include docks, boats, copra warehouses, power facilities, freezers, roads, airports, tractors, and other projects which will promote economic development.

The Trust Territory Government, Salii said, is now putting emphasis on the outer islands because these islands "have remained substantially undeveloped." Most of the development that has taken place in the Trust Territory has been confined to the district centers, with the outer islands receiving only marginal benefits up to this time.

The people of the outer islands of Micronesia constitute about fifty-eight percent of the total population of the Trust Territory. "These people must have the facilities to become participants in the economic, social, and cultural life of the area," Salii said.

These facilities, explained Salii, are not duplicates of the projects already included under the on-going five-year Capital Improvement Program nor do they include projects already covered by existing federal programs in the Trust Territory.

The other proposal, called "Multi-Modal Transportation Program," outlines the means of providing cargo and passenger services to all outer islands which have sufficient population or productive capacity to warrant such service while decreasing governmental involvement in providing that service.

"The intent of the proposal," Salii said, "is to incorporate the existing field trip ship service and existing commercial air service with supplementary levels of service by smaller vessels and aircraft."

Infrastructures necessary to encourage the assumption of intra-district travel and inter-district travel by the private sector are also provided in the proposal.

According to the Office of Planning and Statistics, this proposal would result in a net saving in governmental operations and capital investments, while stimulating the private sector.

The primary function of the field trip ships would be the movement of cargo on a regular schedule while the smaller vessels and aircraft would provide more frequent transportation on a commercial basis.

US Senate Approves $15 Million For Bikini Clean Up

SAIPAN (MNS) -- The U.S. Senate has authorized $15 million in an effort to make it possible for the people of Bikini Atoll in the Marshalls District to return to their homeland from which they were driven in 1948 by U.S. atomic bomb tests, according to a United Press International (UPI) report datelined Washington.

But there is no hope at the present time that the hundreds who want to return can come back to Bikini Island, because of the lingering effects of radiation.

According to UPI, the legislation was approved last week by voice vote without dissent, and sent to the House of Representatives.

Bikini Atoll was severely damaged and much of it rendered uninhabitable by atomic testing between 1948 to 1958.

In 1968, President Johnson announced that the island would be returned to the people of Bikini following cleanup and rehabilitation.

Despite earlier optimism, a radiological survey in 1975 revealed that Bikini Island would not be safe.

James A. Joseph, Interior Department undersecretary, wrote the Senate Energy Committee that Bikini Island "should not be used for residential purposes, that well water should not be used for human consumption, and that locally grown food products must be placed on a restricted basis. . ."

"The restriction on the use of coconut products produced on Bikini Island for food and export additionally makes the island of Bikini unrealistic as a permanent place of settlement and for agricultural use."

Joseph said a number of alternate plans are under consideration and added that the most feasible appears to resettle most of those who want to return on Eneu Island, twelve miles south of Bikini, which did not receive significant amounts of radiation fallout.

Interior Department estimated that it would cost about $13 million to rehabilitate Eneu and develop suitable residential facilities there. Some 21,000 coconut trees have been planted, are bearing and can be used for food and possible export.

Even if Eneu could accomodate all those who want to return, Interior said it anticipates a small group of Bikinians will elect to remain on Kili island. The cost of rehabilitating the Kili community is estimated at $2 million, reported UPI.

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Communication-Health In The T.T.

By Beverley Lund
Staff Writer

SAIPAN – A report on Communication and Health in Micronesia has recently been completed and submitted to Dr. CeCilia Cooper of the Trust Territory Division of Mental Health.

Two consultants from the Department of Communications at Stanford University in California visited Micronesia in March and conducted a study to determine whether or not health problems exist, and if so, how more effective health education and communication could contribute to a solution of the problems.

According to Dr. Cooper, the consultants were chosen for their competency in the field of mass media and health communication, having done some studies in Fiji, American Samoa, and the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii. A para-professional training grant of $10,000 from the National Institute of Mental Health financed the study. Although sponsored by NIMH, the project falls under the more general scope of Health Education, Cooper said.

The consultants conducted some 70 interviews with community leaders and concluded that there are indeed health problems--including mental health--in the various Districts. Among the people interviewed were district administrators, medical officers, public health officers, school officials, clergymen, heads of youth groups, youth leaders, journalists and broadcasters, and civic officials.

As stated in the report, the problem is "real, . . . significant, and . . . goes to the roots of the various societies and their future well-being."

The problems vary from district to district, different leaders reported, and include malnutrition, an accelerating trend toward alcoholism, alienation of youth and parent, lack of community cohesiveness, and a high rate of youth suicide. The consultants viewed the problems as being caused by the "changing nature of societies caught between their old traditions and values and the impact of modern technologies, particularly with youth.

Having established that problems do indeed exist, the consultants analyzed present methods of health communication and made suggestions in their report on how to improve communication and over-all health education.

One of their recommendations is to appoint health educators in the various districts and train them in effective communication and mass media, so that they can relate meaningful health communications to the population. The educators are now being selected by the Division of Mental Health, and will be trained at Stanford this summer.

The Division of Mental Health is currently developing effective health communications and is implementing a course in basic communications to be taught here in June, with a possibility of a second session in August.

Based on the "Rational Man Axiom," which assumes that man behaves in the way he perceives is best for himself, the consultants stated in their report that effective communication through mass media can help people make decisions in their own best interests, and hopefully alleviate some of the existing problems.

PEACESAT Active Five Years

SAIPAN, (MNS) — Four weeks ago, on April 16, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands quietly observed its fifth anniversary as a participant in the PEACESAT (satellite communication) experiment initiated in 1971 by the University of Hawaii.

PEACESAT normally is not a headline making excercise, its purpose being to demonstrate the potential of small satellite ground terminal - now numbering 16 scattered about the Pacific Basin - when used in support of health, education, and community services.

This week, however, the Trust Territory's PEACESAT terminal on Saipan is providing headlines as, for the fifth year, it brings reports of the United Nations Trusteeship Council meeting from New York by satellite. Chief of the Bureau of Public Affairs' Public Information Division, Bonifacio Basilius, files his reports in New York at 10 p.m. They reach the TT a split second later after travelling first by telephone to the Manoa campus of the University of Hawaii in Honolulu - a phone patch of significant, if not record-breaking length. From there, the message travels almost instantly to the satellite, located 25,000 miles above the equator near Tahiti, and back down again to Saipan, where it is made available to the Micronesian News Service and to Broadcasting Division for use of the district radio stations.

While the UN Trusteeship Council reports may constitute PEACESAT's most widely known use in the Trust Territory, day-to-day exchanges have seen wide participation, according to terminal manager, George T. Callison, Acting Director, Bureau of Public Affairs. He estimates that over the five years since the Saipan terminal was established there has been local participation in well over 1,000 exchanges.

The Bureau of Education is the system's major user, Callison said, with Health Services and Natural Resources the second and third heaviest in participation.

Some exchanges are formally structured, like the current series on "The Impact of Tourism Development in the Pacific," originated by the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, in which all 16 terminals are taking part. Others, set up to answer specific, urgent problems, are often point-to-point exchanges. In this category Callison noted that PEACESAT has undeniably been the means for saving many lives through its capability to provide pinpoint tracking of dangerous or potentially dangerous epidemics in the Pacific region. The most recent example, he said, occurred last fall with an outbreak of cholera in the Gilbert Islands. Through the PEACESAT terminal on Tarawa, communicable disease specialists, including the Trust Territory's Dr. Cameron McIntyre, were able to make daily reports to health officials at both the South Pacific Commission in Noumea and in Fiji.

The current UN Trusteeship Council meeting, falling, as it does, less than two months before the July 12th Constitutional Referendum, holds greater than usual interest for the people of Micronesia.

"Thanks to PEACESAT," Callison commented, "that interest can be well-served by providing up-to-the minute reports of the daily proceedings in New York."

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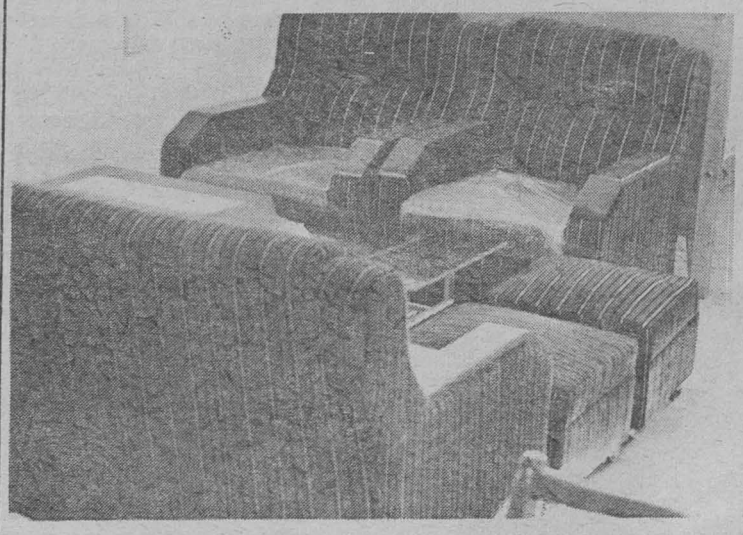

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Children Summer Fun Program Proposed

The Northern Marianas Community Action Agency and the Community Development Office, with the cooperation of other local and federal agencies, are sponsoring a Summer Fun Program to start June 19 and go through July 14, a period of 4 weeks.

The program is to be held at two sites. The Garapan Headstart complex will be used to serve children living north of San Jose Village. A site in San Antonio Village will be used to serve children living in and to the south of San Jose Village. Arrangements are being made with the Department of Education to provide bus transportation to children living too far from the program sites.

The program will operate from 7:30 in the morning till noon. Breakfast and lunch will be provided to all participants through the Summer Feeding Program. Activities will include sports, games, singing, arts and crafts, cultural activities, story telling, visits to historic places, and hikes. Parents of children in the program will be encouraged to volunteer their time in helping with program activities.

Boys and girls age 9 through 13 are eligible to participate in the program. Enrollment will be limited to 150 children and will be done on a first come, first serve basis.

Registration for the program will begin May 22 and continue through June 9. Parents may register their children for the program at the CAA office in Chalan Kanoa (above the Bank of Hawaii) and the CAA substation in San Jose' during regular office hours. Registration will be held at the Susupe and San Antonio Village Centers and the San Vicente Round House between 2 and 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Registration will be at the same times on Wednesdays and Fridays at the village centers of Tanapag and San Roque and at Garapan Headstart. A registration fee of $1 per child will be charged to help cover insurance costs. Further information about the program can be obtained by calling Manny Aguon at the CAA office, phone 6263.

Students Plant Shade Trees

Planning ahead for a shaded campus, seven members of the Mt. Carmel senior class spent last Saturday planting young Monkeypod trees around the school campus. The trees were donated by the Agriculture station which has a large stand of Monkeypods now over 40 feet tall. Each tree must be uprooted by a power winch and quickly moved to the site for replanting in an already prepared hole. The Monkeypods are about eight years old and when full grown will form a huge umbrella-like cover over areas as large as eighty feet in diameter. At night the leaves contract to allow rain through to nurture a soft grass underneath.

Some call it Raintree because of this. Mt. Carmel now has seven.

Seven Mt. Carmel seniors plant one of seven Monkeypods and each will nurse one of the trees until the trauma of transplanting has been overcome. Left to right: Jose Cruz, Rex Moses, Moses Quitugua, Ramon Muna, Tom Camacho, Roman Reyes, Ben Seman.

Kusina Talk

By Nancy Rody
Nutritionist

Dear Friends,

Local cucumbers are in plentiful supply during the months of May and June, according to the Extension Service at the N.M.I. Division of Agriculture, and can be a welcome addition to any meal. Cucumbers have small amounts of many nutrients and are very low in calories.

Almost all local cucumbers are of the thin-skinned "burpless" type. For added nutrition eat them without peeling off the skin. That's where most of the vitamins are! Keep cucumbers fresh for a longer time by wrapping each cucumber in stretchable plastic wrap and storing them in the vegetable keeper of your refrigerator.

A popular dish locally is Cucumber Finadene, which can be made quickly and easily.

Cucumber Finadene

One part soy sauce
One part vinegar or lemon juice
Chopped green onion
1 teaspoon Aji-no-moto
Hot pepper to taste
Black pepper if desired

Cut the ends off the cucumbers and score the skin by running the points of a fork down the sides. Cut into thin slices. Sprinkle with salt, mix, then rinse with water. Mix sauce ingredients, pour over the cucumber slices and soak 5-10 minutes. This is very pretty garnished with some sliced shoga (pickled red ginger).

Hafa Adai, Nancy

SPORTS

Softball League

Monday: May 8, 1978
Champion - Sluggers sponsor by Town House
Runner up - Education sponsor by NM, Dept. of Education.
Sportsmanship - San Vicente sponsor by Dairy Farm.
M. V. P. - Luis Babauta from the Sluggers.

FINAL TEAM STANDING

TEAM	W	L	SPONSOR
Sluggers	12	0	Town House
Education	9	3	NM. Dept. of Education
Duty Free	8	5	Duty Free Ltd.
Tanapag	7	5	Tanapag Community
San Vicente	6	7	Dairy Farm
Rookies	3	10	Payless
Saicon	1	10	Saipan Continental Hotel

VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

TEAM	W	L	SPONSOR
Northern Is.	7	1	Grand Hotel
Toyota	6	2	Microl
78 - ers	4	4	C. A. A.
Continental	2	6	Saipan Continental Hotel
Health	1	7	Hqt. Dept. Health

1978 Champion - Northern Island
1978 Runner up - Microl Toyota

BASKETBALL THREE BOYS LEAGUE

TEAM	W	L	SPONSOR
Hopwood	6	0	Hopwood Year Book Club
Dist. One	4	2	Ray Aldan
San Antonio	3	3	San Antonio Community
Gualo Rai	2	4	Juan Reyes
Garapan	2	4	Frank Wabol
San Jose	0	6	Joe A. Lizama

SAN JOSE FIESTA TINIAN ISLAND
May 5, 6, and 7, 1978
GOOD WILL GAMES

Friday: May 5, 1978
Softball (men)
Rota - 20 and Tinian - 9
Basketball (men)
Rota - 32 and Tinian - 22
Saturday: May 6, 1978
Softball (men)
Saipan - 13 and Rota - 9
Saipan - 17 and Tinian - 9
Volleyball (girls)
Rota - 49 and Tinian - 42
Sunday: May 7, 1978
Baseball (men)
Tinian - 13 and Saipan - 12

Little League Baseball

Sunday, May 14, 1978

	Runs	Hits	Error	Left on Base
1st Game				
Tanapag	11	11	0	10
Garapan	2	5	4	9

Sinning Pitcher - Falig Ben
Losing Pitcher Concepcion Ricardo

	Runs	Hits	Error	Left on Base
2nd Game				
San Vicente	12	6	0	6
Toyota Wheel	0	2	3	3

The 1978 Women Island Wide Slow Pitch and the Island Wide Basketball League will be open this June.

All interested Sponsors and Coaches may submit their teams roster into the Community Development Office (CDO).

For more information, please call Joe Sanchez or Joe Lizama at 6378 or 6404 during working hours.

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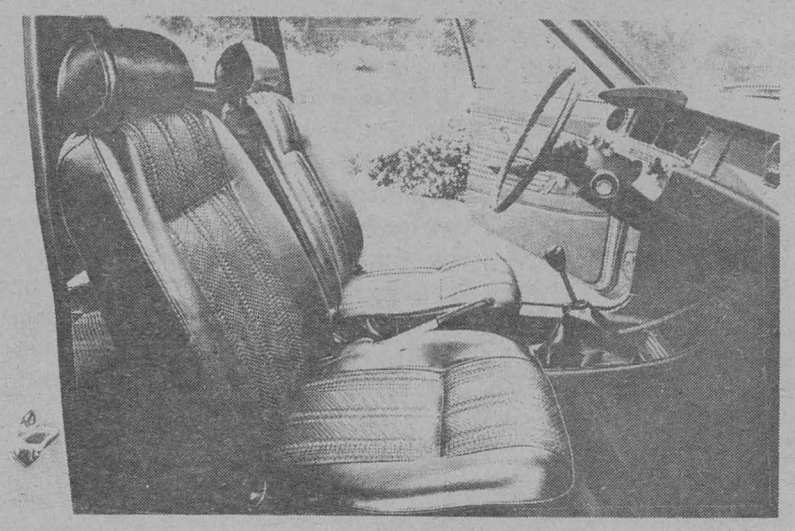

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