

(a) The investigation of land ownership on Uliga Island, Majuro Atoll was continued during the month of January. In gathering information from different sources it was found that such pertinent facts as relationships, number of children, disposition by wills of property rights, and lines of inheritance were in dispute. Evaluating all information at hand the commission was, however, able to definitely establish the number and size of the various pieces of property on Uliga. They were also successful in establishing the chieftain rights and most of the workers rights to the various parcels of land. As is common throughout most of Micronesia, lines of demarcation between properties are fixed by certain trees of land irregularities. It is an extremely rare case when boundary lines are disputed any disagreements would be immediately resolved by the chief. Custom running back many years has well defined all pieces of land. It is not felt that surveys for establishing boundaries would accomplish any purpose, as any native familiar with the area could immediately point them out. Further the importance of coconut, breadruit, and pandanus trees as a source of food has a strong affect in keeping all hands aware of what trees belong to whom.

(b) The Military Government officer on the field trip of 30 January to Arno and Mille Atolls will start the preliminary information gathering of land titles on Arno Atoll and Mille Island of Mille Atoll with the cooperation of the Magistrate. It is planned to pick up this information on the next trip to these atolls. Further work will be continued on Majuro Atoll toward establishing land titles and preparing files of same. Work on Aur and Maloelap will be carried on at a later date.