

C (Self-Government)  
1 (Civil Government)

30 June 47

Ponape District

(a) Local:

(1) No changes to report.

(2) During this report period, USNMGU continued to pay district officials as previously reported. The provisions of recent directives on municipal government and local taxes are being discussed, and budgets are in the planning stage.

(3) Monthly meetings of all officials at USNMG headquarters continue to be held. Meetings of district and island secretaries, formerly held every week, are now held only twice monthly to lessen the time lost by these officials each month in traveling to and from Colonia and to allow also for more frequent field trips to the districts and closer work with the officials in their own areas. Field trips to Jokaj District have been an easy matter since travel is by jeep over fair roads. Meetings with Nett District officials and residents have had to be held several times at a place within easy traveling distance rather than at the more centrally located district government headquarters due to the poor condition of the Tawenjokola bridge mentioned in Section A, paragraph 5 above. Field trips to Metalanim, Kitti, and U districts, dependent on inadequate and unreliable water transportation facilities, are made at least once each month if possible, but present plans are to make these trips at least twice monthly between meetings of officials in Colonia if transportation facilities permit.

(4) Finances: USNMG continues to receive district funds for

0832

safekeeping and accounting. In connection with budget-planning, it is believed advisable to retain for the present the community work tax system now in effect since this system was inaugurated by request of all district officials and representatives, and since it appears impossible that any district or island could now finance road and bridge maintenance under any of the usual tax systems. Unless otherwise directed, the community work tax plan will continue in effect in addition to new tax measures proposed in recent directives.

(b) Regional: There are no regional administrative organization in islands under this command.

(c) Development and Expansion Program: Native affairs work of the past has been planned and directed toward establishing self-supporting district or municipal government, but among people who have long been accustomed to accepting rather than making laws, regulations, and plans for their government, there is still more groundwork, to be laid and a great deal of education and training to be accomplished. Meetings of officials are held for the purpose of disseminating information and orders, to answer questions and solve current problems, and to give additional instruction and advice on various phases of administration and organization. Existing district and island government conform to the type outlined in recent directives. Present indications are that the people themselves will separate to a greater extent the hereditary royal positions and the administrative offices necessary in their government. Their reason for this separation is that recognized offi-

C (Self-Government)  
1 (Civil Government)-3

30 June 47

Ponape District

cials in hereditary positions cannot be deposed or deprived of their titles even though mentally incapable of administering or incapacitated because of age and health. The majority of the people, however, do not yet understand the principles of democratic election, and it is believed unwise to proceed too quickly along these lines. It is planned to inaugurate an elective system first for some of the positions which are now appointive and to draw in the higher positions after the basic ideas have been established and understood.