

# HIGHLIGHTS

Wakako Higuchi

November 1, 1976

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS



## Resio Moses Appointed Ponape Distad

Trust Territory Acting High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman announced on October 15 over Broadcast Station WSZD in Ponape that he had nominated Congressman Resio Moses, of Ponape, to the post of District Administrator for Ponape District.

The announcement was made in an interview Coleman had with a news reporter from WSZD.

Coleman arrived in Ponape on October 14 to discuss the appointment with local leaders. He met, in executive sessions, with the members of the Ponape District Legislature, traditional chiefs, and municipal magistrates prior to making the announcement over the Ponape radio.

Congressman Moses, although a candidate for re-election, has accepted the appointment and, therefore, has withdrawn his candidacy from the congressional race. In announcing his withdrawal, Moses told his constituents over WSZD shortly after he was nominated by the Acting HiCom that accepting the nomination does not mean that he is no longer interested in serving his people. He assured them he would continue to serve them in the Executive Branch as a district administrator.

The nomination of Moses was submitted to the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Administrative Appointments for "advice and consent" on October 18. The Committee will conduct hearings on this appointment on Ponape from November 11-14.

The top executive post for Ponape District became vacant when former Ponape DistAd Leo A. Falcam was removed from the position in July of this year. Deputy District Administrator Bermin Weilbacher has been serving as Ponape Acting District Administrator.

Moses's departure from the congressional race has created a "vacancy" in Ponape for the upcoming November 2nd election of the Congress of Micronesia. According to word received on Saipan from Ponape, Director of the Community College of Micronesia Daro Weital has submitted his application to fill the vacancy. A former representative of the Congress from 1966-68, Weital is running against two opponents for a newly-reapportioned congressional seat for Uh and Madolenihmw.

Moses currently represents the people of Uh, Net, and Kolonia in the Congress of Micronesia. The 32-year-old Congressman received his BA degree from Akron University (Ohio) in 1970 as a John Hay Whitney fellow.



He worked for the Trust Territory Department of Education prior to his election to the Congress in 1972.

In 1974, Congressman Moses visited Australia as an official guest of its Department of Foreign Affairs. Last year, Moses was Vice-Chairman of the Micronesian Delegation at the United Nations Conference on Law of the Sea in Geneva, Switzerland. He presently serves as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for the House of Representatives.

Moses is married to former Susan Jean Rice of Eugene, Oregon. They presently reside on Ponape Island.

### Status Meeting

Concluding their third meeting, the Commission on Future Status and Transition met on Saipan for about nine days ending on October 20. During their deliberations, the group decided to request a meeting with Ambassador Philip Manhard, Acting Chief Negotiator for the United States, and Chairman Andon Amaraich and Bailey Olter, Chairman of the Status Committee. The meeting is being requested for Honolulu in early December and is to cover such problems as the differences between the proposed Constitution, and the Draft Compact, the differences in approach to the Law of the Sea matters and other areas which still need to be worked out between the U.S. and the Micronesian negotiators.

## HiCom's sub-offices Established

Trust Territory Acting High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman announced recently the establishment of two HiCom sub-offices, one to be located in Palau District and the other in Ponape District.

The two offices, according to Coleman, are designed "to bring the High Commissioner's office and the services of his staff closer to the districts and to be of close and practical assistance to the district administrations . . ."

The High Commissioner's Sub-Office for the Eastern Districts will be located in Kolonia, Ponape District, to provide services for Truk, the Marshall, and Ponape.

The other High Commissioner's Sub-Office for the Western Districts of Yap and Palau will be located in Koror, Palau's District Center.

The Acting High Commissioner said that beginning this month, he will be spending at least a week in each of the two sub-offices.

However, the sub offices will not be limited for use by the High Commissioner alone. Other governmental heads will also utilize the offices whenever they are assigned to the districts for a particular time or if a department is moved to a district as part of the decentralization program, Coleman said.

The new offices will not need additional staff, Coleman pointed out.

## Next Congress Session to be Held on Saipan

The leadership of the Congress of Micronesia met on Saipan last month to make decisions on a number of issues before the Seventh Congress convenes in January.

One of the issues discussed was the site of the first regular session of the Seventh Congress. The leadership of the Congress agreed to hold the session on Saipan.

Another issue discussed during the meeting was the Micronesia Law of the Sea Conference slated for Truk beginning November 15 for about 20 days. In view of the importance of the Truk Law of the Sea Conference, the districts have been asked to select their participants for the forthcoming meeting.

During the meeting, the leadership was briefed by the Congress staff regarding measures taken thus far and the drafting of necessary legislation to help implement portions of the Five-Year-Development Plan.

In another matter, the leadership had chosen Senators Bailey Olter of Ponape and Petrus Tun of Yap as members of the Capital Relocation Committee. The High Commissioner has appointed Director of Public Affairs Strik Yoma as Acting Chairman of the Committee and Director of Public Works Koichi Wong as member.

Participants in the leadership meeting, besides Senate President Tosiwo Nakayama and House Speaker Bethwel Henry, were: House Vice-Speaker Ekpap Silk; House Floor Leader Luke Tman; Senate Vice-President Lazarus Sali; Senate Floor Leader Ambilos Iehsi; and, key Congress of Micronesia staff members.



*Neil K. Chase, TT (State) Historic Preservation Officer (left), presenting a check in the amount of \$18,020.00 to Tom Sheehan, Northern Marianas Government Planning Officer, at the top of Banzai Cliff on Saipan. The money will be used to continue the development of historic programs in the Northern Marianas.*

## Money Awarded to the Northern Marianas

A check in the amount of \$18,020.00 from the Federal Government was awarded to the Mariana Islands Historic Preservation Program by TT (State) Historic Preservation Officer Neil K. Chase in a special ceremony held recently at the top of Banzai Cliff on Saipan.

Receiving the money on behalf of the Northern Marianas Government was Tom Sheehan, Northern Marianas Government Planning Officer.

The presentation of the money was held at Banzai Cliff because it is one of the sites nominated this year by the Northern Marianas Historic Preservation Committee to be placed in the book, "The National Register of Historic Places".

According to TT Director of the Department of Resources and Development Eusebio Rechucher, the money will be used to continue the development of historic programs in the Northern Marianas.

This money is the Northern Marianas share of a recent federal grant awarded to the TT Government from the U.S. National Park Services as a reimbursement for all the work done to develop historic programs in the islands, Rechucher said.

Further information on the historic preservation programs in the Trust Territory and the Northern Marianas may be found in "Historic Preservation in Micronesia", a new publication recently put out by the TT Lands and Surveys Division.



## Palau Reapportionment

TT High Court Associate Justice Robert Hefner has ruled that the reapportionment of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia accomplished through an amendment of the Trust Territory Code is "unconstitutional" as it applies to Palau District because it violates the "one-man one-vote principle".

The United States Supreme Court has issued similar rulings in several cases in the U.S.

In handing down the ruling, Judge Hefner has set December 7, 1976, as the new date for the Palau election for members of the House of Representative seats. The Senate election in Palau will be held on the same date. The nomination for House candidates was reopened and will close on November 10. Palau DistAd Remengesau said that both House and Senate elections will be held on December 7 in order to reduce cost.

According to the ruling, election precincts for Palau will be the same as those that existed in 1974.

"We believed that the court will go ahead—by judicial decree—to proceed to implement a reapportionment which will satisfy the constitutional requirement and thereby enable the Palau District to have an election this year for the Congress of Micronesia," said Trust Territory Attorney General Daniel High.

The reapportionment bill was approved during the last Regular Session of the Congress of Micronesia in January.

At that time, former Attorney General Richard I. Miyamoto expressed reservation about the bill. He said the bill was "unconstitutional because it violated the one man one vote districting and the basis for the eligibility of voters conflicted with certain portions of the TT Code." The court, last month, agreed with the Attorney General.

The bill became law when the High Commissioner did not take action on it.

The class-action suit was by the Micronesia Legal Services Corporation on behalf of six Palau residents.

## Advisory Services

The Micronesia Development Bank has announced that beginning January 2, 1977, it will institute Management Advisory Services, according to J. Knox McConnell, President of the Bank.

This service will be under M.A. Cocchiola, a CPA from Pleasant Hills, Pennsylvania.

The Management Advisory Services will be in charge of all accounting functions for the Micronesia Development Bank as well as having the responsibility to monitor the accounting procedures for the Bank's customers. In addition, the Management Advisory Services will be responsible for the staffing of field offices in the districts.

Cocchiola has had 20 years experience in bank related accounting. He has a Masters Degree from the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Cocchiola praised McConnell as having the finest Credit mind in the lending profession, and that he is eager to work with the President and the Bank's Board of Directors.

## MCVC Organized in Ponape

MCVC means Micronesian Catholic Volunteer Corps, a group of Micronesian men and women who are willing to offer themselves to work in any project or organization that would help the people of Micronesia to develop. Members of this MCVC should be Catholics and also Micronesian citizens. The members promise to serve for a minimum of two years in the corps without salary.

They are assigned to work in areas where they have aptitude and training. Such work can be in the fields of adult education, teaching in elementary or secondary school, youth work, health services, maintenance of buildings, cooking, radio, newspaper work or any task which the Director, Fr. Richard J. Becker, S.J., who is the local sponsor, feels are most important. People who volunteer for the corps are motivated by a desire to follow the gospel message of love and services.

The first MCVC orientation program took place at Ponape Agriculture and Trade School (PATS) from August 2-23, 1976. Due to a lack of sponsors, only six candidates were selected from approximately twelve applicants. On August 22, the candidates made a public promise to serve for two years.

They are now working in Yap, Truk and Ponape, doing various kinds of work. Thomas Guod (Tomil, Yap) is teaching at St. Mary's school in Yap. Michael Hamelai (Eauripik, Yap) is a maintenance mechanic at Xavier High School in Truk. Joe Jie (Marshalls) is doing community development work on Ponape. Adelino Mauricio (Wone, Ponape) is working as an extension agent on Ponape. Klotilde Saimon (Seinwar, Ponape) is doing secretarial work for community service projects at PATS. Wendolin Sue (Ngatik, Ponape) is director of the Office of Human Development in Kolonia, Ponape.

Further information about this new program may be obtained from:

MCVC

P.O. Box 39

Ponape, Caroline Islands 96941

*These are members of the newly organized Micronesian Catholic Volunteer Corps. They are (l-r) Thomas Guod, Joe Jie, Klotilde Saimon, Adelino Mauricio, and Wendolin Sue. Not pictured: Michael Hamelai.*



# Air Mike Pilots Stay On

Continental Air Micronesia pilots were authorized by their striking union to continue flights in Micronesia on a voluntary basis, an airline pilot spokesman said.

According to a spokesman on Guam, the Continental's Mainland to Hawaii flights have been cancelled by the strike but Air Micronesia pilots, who belong to the Airline Pilots Association, could continue to work as volunteers.

"The pilots have taken this position for humanitarian reasons," the spokesman added. "This will allow us to fly approximately 70 percent of Air Mike's normal schedule."

Mike Lewis, Manager of Governmental and Public Affairs for Air Micronesia, said that the new schedule for Air Micronesia calls for the service to the eastern and western districts on a twice a week basis.

For the Eastern Districts of Truk, Ponape and the Marshalls, there will be a twice a week service out of Saipan to Honolulu on Thursdays and Saturdays, returning on Mondays and Fridays.

For the Western Districts of Yap and Palau, services there will be on Wednesday and Friday roundtrips to Saipan.

There will be 14 flights a week to Saipan, Lewis said, with a stop over on Tinian on Tuesdays and three times to Rota, which will be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

One thousand eighty-six (1,086) pilots have been on strike against Continental since October 23 to back demands for higher pay and shorter working hours. It's not known when the strike will end.

Continental officials said that they will not allow a strike by the pilots to affect Air Micronesia.

"One way or another we'll continue service," Continental spokesman Bruce Plowman said in Los Angeles. "We have a moral obligation to the people who live out there."

Plowman said Air Micronesia, the only carrier that flies regularly between the islands, would continue its regular schedule.

If the regular pilots represented by the pilots association refuse to make the flights for Air Micronesia, supervisory pilots will be called on, Plowman said.

*This Continental Airlines Boeing 727C Golden Fan Jet flies for Air Micronesia. Pilots for Air Micronesia have been authorized by the Airline Pilots Association to continue flights in Micronesia on a voluntary basis. Continental's 1,086 pilots have been on strike since Oct. 23. This is the first strike in the airline's 40 years of operation.*





# Pialug Called a Hero

Mau Pialug, a navigator from Satawal Atoll in Yap District, has been called a "hero" in an article in the October issue of the **National Geographic Magazine** about the Hawaiian sailing canoe Hokule'a.

The canoe left Hawaii on May 1 and arrived in Tahiti on June 4, navigating by only the sun, moon, stars, winds, ocean currents and swells.

One of the 17 crew members on the canoe was Mau Pialug, who served as navigator. He was lauded by every crew member for sailing the canoe without using any modern navigational methods.

Dr. David Lewis, the author of the article, stated that the clear "hero" of the trip was Pialug.

The **Honolulu Star Bulletin** last month concurred with Lewis's observation in an editorial. "The clear hero of Lewis's tale is Mau Pialug . . . who served as navigator and steered Hokule'a over 3,000 miles of ocean to its target, using no instruments and only the navigational know-how of the ancient Polynesians."

When the canoe reached Tahiti, Pialug decided not to sail with the crew back to Hawaii and flew back to Yap. He was critical of the crew because they "were unable in some ways to work together."

The Hokule'a was forced to make the return trip to Hawaii using two navigational systems, one modern and the other ancient. "No one was as qualified as the Micronesian to use the ancient system of sun, stars, moon, winds and seas," observed the magazine **Pacific Islands Monthly**.

## Palau Ship Copra Oil to U.S. West Coast

The Micronesian Industrial Corporation (MIC) in Palau shipped last month 3,000 tons of copra oil to the U.S. West Coast.

Guy Lutrell, MIC President, said in a telephone interview with the Public Information Division that the Japanese oil tanker Fuzi Hoshi Maru was chartered by his company. The tanker arrived in Palau on October 21 and loaded the locally processed copra oil for shipment to several companies in California. Procter and Gamble, a large soap manufacturing firm in the West Coast, was among the U.S. companies that received the copra oil from Palau, Lutrell said.

"The copra oil processed in Palau is of very high quality because Micronesian copra is one of the best in the world," Lutrell indicated. "We are also receiving copra from the Solomon Islands and the Philippines, but the initial shipment to the U.S. West Coast was produced from Micronesian Copra."

Two barges were brought to Koror to tranship the processed copra oil from factory tanks to the Fuzi Hoshi Maru, Lutrell said.

The Micronesian Industrial Corporation purchases copra from Trust Territory producers at the current world market prices. The company, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, also employs over 80 local people to operate the mill.

## Education Awarded Money

The Trust Territory Department of Education has received grant awards for Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title IV for FY 77 in the amount of \$764,286.00, Director of Education David Ramarui announced. The grant awards were received after announcement from the Acting U.S. Commissioner John Phillips that the FY Annual Program Plan for FY 1977 had been approved.

ESEA Title IV is a consolidated title, combining earlier ESEA Titles II, III, V, and VII, and NDEA Title III-A. There are two major parts to ESEA Title IV: Part B, funded at \$349,707 and subtitled Libraries and Learning Resources; and Part C, funded at \$414,579, subtitled Educational Innovation and Support.

Part B funds, which will be distributed on the basis of enrollment and such factors as geographic isolation, trilingualism, gifted and talented, will provide support for the areas of library resources and textbooks, audio-visual equipment, testing, and counseling and guidance. Part C funds will be used to support curricular areas of social studies, metrics, and health education; to assist district education departments strengthen their administrative capabilities; and to carry out other activities aimed at strengthening the system of education in Micronesia.

ESEA Title IV has, by law, an advisory council consisting of twelve members; the council will meet four times during Fiscal Year 1977, to review proposals, evaluate and monitor projects, advise on administration of the Title IV Annual Program Plan, report to the U.S. Commissioner, and act in other advisory capacities to the Director of Education. Chairman of the Council is Tosiwo Nakamura of Palau.

When asked to describe these titles, officials at the Headquarters Department of Education said that Title II is for library programs, Title III for curriculum development, Title V is to strengthen the administration of Federal programs, and Title VIII is aimed at providing counseling and guidance to school drop-outs. It was explained that all of these programs are provided for the Trust Territory by the U.S. Federal Government.

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*Ngaremlengui bridge under construction in the western part of Babelthup. This bridge is slated to be completed this month.*



## MATA Holds Annual Meeting

The Micronesian Agriculture Teachers' Association (MATA) held their 4th annual meeting at Ponape Agriculture & Trade School (PATS) in August. New officers elected for the next two years were: President, Teruo Rengulbai; Vice President, Feliciano Blailes; Secretary Treasurer, Raphael Garanug. The MATA meeting was held in conjunction with the Summer Agriculture Teachers' Workshop sponsored by the Community College of Micronesia and PATS. Seventeen agriculture teachers from the secondary and elementary schools of the Trust Territory attended the 3-week workshop. The workshop emphasized tropical horticulture and animal husbandry.

One of the recommendations made at the MATA meeting urged the Department of Education to make it possible for Micronesian agriculture teachers to up-grade their professional competency by attending workshops and short term training programs outside of the Trust Territory.

Another recommendation urged the Department of Education to improve the sub-standard facilities being used for agriculture education at several schools in the Trust Territory.

Anyone wishing to become a member of MATA should send \$1.00 membership fee to Mr. Raphael Garanug, Treasurer, MATA, P.O. Box 217, Yap, Caroline Islands 96943.

The teachers who attended the workshop were: Kusaie: Murdaniel Tolenna; Marshalls: Kasuo Kabua, Ribo Jarom, Thomas Pillimon; Palau: Feliciano Blailes, Lomisang Ngirmkur, Teruo Rengulbai; Ponape: Andrew Cheuaw, Joseph Edward, Sebastian Amor, Welden Welbert; Truk: Isak Namelo, Julius Santer, Misa Sewen; Yap: Raphael Garanug, John Mailus; Marianas: Miguel Kileleman. Dr. Miklos Szentkiralyi and Rev. Edward A. Soucie were the instructors at the Workshop

*New officers of the Micronesian Agriculture Teachers' Association (MATA). They are (l-r) Raphael Garanug, Feliciano Blailes, and Teruo Rengulbai.*



## Marianas CON-CON Opens

The historic 50-day Marianas Constitutional Convention officially got underway October 18 on Saipan with a speech of encouragement from Delegate Lorenzo I. Guerrero, who was later elected Convention President.

"The glorious days has come for us," Guerrero told the delegates who assembled at Saipan Beach Inter-Continental Inn Hotel, "...to carry out the mandate of our people, and commence the task of drafting a constitution which is truly representative of our people's wishes and aspiration..."

Guerrero told the delegates that framing a constitution "is not an easy task." He said every delegate has ideas and beliefs on what should best "suit the requirements under the new government" and "which governmental setup would be the most suitable for adaptation."

"It is in the consolidation of our individual ideas," Guerrero pointed out, "that we could really form a constitution that would apply to the present generation and the future."

Guerrero, a Senator at the Northern Marianas Legislature, warned the delegates that because time is short, all approaches on "sensitive and delicate matters" must be taken with "caution and extreme care", citing as an example the matter of citizenship and naturalization which, in his words, "must be given the strictest degree of concern."

"Let us provide an assurance that our people will continue to be the majority in our island nation. We must similarly provide due protection to our people's rights and strengthen the safeguards to the privileges they now enjoy as part of the democratic way of life," President Guerrero pointed out.

Saying that the Constitutional Convention is one of the most significant events in the history of the Northern Marianas, Guerrero concluded his speech by saying that in order to succeed during this Convention, "unity and harmony" must first be attained and maintained a close working coordination among all the delegates should be realized.

The opening session was largely ceremonial. Several delegates made welcoming remarks.

Northern Marianas Resident Commissioner Erwin Canham acted as Master of Ceremony until Guerrero was elected President. Guerrero was unopposed in his selection as Con-Con President.

During the afternoon session of the first day, the delegates were expected to adopt their Rules of Procedures and elect other officers.

Three committees were formed and its chairmen elected. They are: The Committee on Governmental Institutions, chaired by Delegate Jose P. Mafnas; Committee on Personal Rights and Natural Resources, chaired by Delegate Felipe Q. Atalig; and the Committee on Finance, Local Government and Other Matters, headed by Delegate Benigno R. Fitial.

Oscar C. Rasa of Saipan was elected floor leader and President Guerrero appointed Pedro M. Atalig of Rota convention secretary.

The Convention will meet for 50 calendar days ending no later than midnight, December 6, 1976.



# PERSONNEL NEWS AND INFORMATION

## NEWS

A Workshop on "The Factor Ranking Benchmark - Guide Chart Evaluation System" was conducted by Chester Beaman, Institute for Manpower Management, Washington, D.C., at the Saipan InterContinental Hotel, October 5-8, 1976. The Workshop reviewed a variety of position classification systems, evaluated their advantages and disadvantages, and had the participants, in working groups, apply the system to sample positions, thus gaining experience in the various methods through actual performance. Participants in the Workshop: from the Districts, all CETA Coordinators, and many of the District Personnel Officers and District Classifiers; from Headquarters Personnel, all of the Classification and Compensation Division staff who are classifying positions, and many representatives of the Training Division and of the Employment/Employee Relations Division; and representatives of other Departments and of the Government of the Northern Marianas.

The District Personnel Officers participated in a Workshop on Saipan October 11-15, 1976. All Districts, Headquarters, and the Northern Marianas were represented. Highlights of the Workshop were:

- Monday Morning: Welcome by the Acting High Commissioner; reports of the various Districts' personnel programs; and training of personnel staff, both Headquarters and District. A brunch was served mid-morning. No afternoon session in recognition of the holiday.
- Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday Morning: Review of the proposed revision of the Personnel Regulations, with the Personnel Board and the participants.
- Attorney General's Office and Finance Department invited to participate.
- Thursday afternoon: Review of RIF procedures and impact (most Districts face reduction-in-force actions now), and clerical/secretarial training programs.
- Friday: Auditing District Personnel Offices Actions, Personnel Action handling and expediting, Manpower Planning, and meeting seminar.

Your District Personnel Officers are able to provide you full details upon their return.

## Information

Our Public Service System- Political Non-interference: A personnel system which follows the merit principle in selection and advancement, compensating its members, training the staff, retaining within the system on the basis of efficient performance, and following non-discriminatory practices is not a true merit system if it permits partisan political coercion, and its officials to

use their authority to interfere with or affect the results of an election or a nomination for office.

Our Public Service System Law - 61 Trust Territory Code - includes:

- "... on merit, free from coercion, discrimination, reprisal or political influences, ..."
- "Equal opportunity for all regardless of ... political affiliation ..."
- "No person holding any position in the Public Service shall be suspended, demoted, or dismissed from his position on account of ... political grounds, ..."

These clearly rule out political coercion and political influence in our Public Service System.

Our Personnel Regulations include a Part (15) on Political activities. This includes a **Prohibition** sub-part, which states "Employees of the Public Service System shall not:

- a. Use their office of official influence to interfere with an election or to affect the results of an election,
- b. Use their official authority to coerce any person or political party in reference to any politically related activity,
- c. Be obligated to contribute to any political fund or render service to any political activity,
- d. Solicit or receive political contributions from anyone while on Government time or on Government property,
- e. Campaign for any candidates for public office during official working hours."

Obviously, an employee who violates these prohibitions is not only not in conformity with our laws and regulations, but exposes himself to the penalties relating to those violations. But of even greater fault is his part in tearing down our Public Service System in keeping it from being a true merit system. The act is bad, the intent behind it is worse; deliberate violation of the merit principle makes the violator suspect in all of his actions.

And as an employee, even if on the "receiving end" of such a violation, we have an obligation to protect, to point out the violation, to refuse. To do less is to participate in tearing down our merit system.

The merit principle is essential to an effective government service. From an employee at Pay Level 1, step 1 to the highest level administrator - all employees, at all levels of our Public Service - non-political decisions are essential to our public service. When we start using our government service affiliation and our position within the service to influence people within and outside the service in the performance of their civic obligations, we are violating a major merit system principle - and we are destroying possibility of our having an effective, efficient government service. Regardless of how good our system may be in other areas, we will not - we cannot - have a merit system, if we have political coercion and influence.

# briefly

The 16th South Pacific Commission's Conference was held in Noumea, New Caledonia, from October 20-29. Leading the TT delegation to the Conference was Acting HiCom Peter T. Coleman. Accompanying him were Yap DistAd Edmund Gilmar and Vice Speaker of the Ponape District Legislature Kasiano Joseph.

The appointment of the last U.S. ambassador to South Vietnam, Graham Martin, had to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate; but Congress adjourned last month without taking action on it. Graham was appointed in August by President Ford as the President's Personal Representative to the Micronesia Status Talks to replace Franklin Haydn Williams, who resigned from that post on July 31, 1976.

The Micronesian Claims Commission, by act of the U.S. Congress, ceased to exist effective midnight October 15, according to J. Raymond Bell, Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the U.S. Claimants who have questions pertaining to the completed program may either contact Mrs. Patricia Doctor at the TT Attorney General's Office, Saipan, Mariana Islands, telephone 9325 or 9364, or may write directly to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, 1111 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20579.

October 22 was proclaimed as Cooperative and Credit Union Day in Micronesia by the TT Acting HiCom. Cooperatives and unions, Coleman said, "make significant contributions to the development of the people of Micronesia..."

Jacob Nena, Chairman of the Kusaie Transition Committee, recently announced that the celebrations for the new district of Kusaie will be held from January 4-8. Kusaie will officially become a separate district on January 1, 1977.

Yap Senator John Mangefel, a member of the Micronesian Commission on Future Status and Transition, said recently on Saipan that control over Micronesia's vast ocean resources will be the "make-or-break issue" in the Micronesian future political status negotiations.

Director of the Department of Resources and Development Eusebio Rechucher has said that, in accordance with Public Law 6-114, the following loan funds have been transferred to the Micronesia Development Bank: Production Development Loan Fund, Marine Resources Development Loan Fund, and Agriculture Development Loan Fund. Rechucher requested that interested individuals should deal directly with the President of the Micronesia Development Bank, J. Knox McConnell. These loan funds were formerly under the direction and supervision of EDLF Board of Directors.



## HIGHLIGHTS

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