

# HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS



December 15, 1972

## New Majuro Airport--A Model Project

Two airplanes—Air Micronesia's 727 jet and an Army DC 4 from Kwajalein—became the first planes to land at the new airfield on Majuro over the past weekend. They landed as several thousands of people gathered at the airfield-water catchment to officially dedicate the 7,000-foot runway.

Participants in the celebration ranged from High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston, Senate President Amata Kabua and House Speaker Bethwel Henry, through the ranks of Marshalls District government and traditional leaders, to Air Micronesia officials and virtually all of the citizens of Majuro as the airfield dedication continued into the night with a huge feast.

The Saturday Air Mike flight arrived to the music of Father Hacker's band from the Catholic Mission school on Majuro. As the plane taxied to a stop, girl scouts from Majuro decorated the aircraft's tail with leis of flowers.

In remarks at the ceremonies, HiCom Johnston congratulated the people of the Marshalls, saying that the successful completion of the field will serve as a model for future projects in the Trust Territory. The HiCom also extended his gratitude to American International Constructors, to District Administrator Oscar DeBrum's staff, and to the others who played a part in the project.

President Kabua marked the historic occasion with similar remarks. He recalled that just a few years ago there was a winding road lined with coconut groves and thick underbrush leading through the area where the runway now lies. He said: "I wish to say that I am most impressed with the fact that from these coral rocks, sandbars and jungle land there has been carved out and fashioned a new landmark of great significance, a landmark that will play an important role in our strides toward achieving a viable economy, a landmark which will monumentalize and cement the understanding and friendship between the United States of America and Micronesia."

Senator Kabua added: "We are deeply grateful to the government and people of the United States for having generously rendered their financial assistance, without which the new Majuro airport would not have been a reality."

House Speaker Bethwel Henry also spoke at the ceremonies. He said that the airport, with its built-in water catchment capability will solve the water shortage problem in Majuro. He went on to say that the airport will also help to bring in increased benefits to air travelers and the people of Majuro alike. "I think we must stand in awe



*Rain and mist shrouded the new airfield as Air Micronesia approached last week. This photo is a pilot's-eye view, taken from the cockpit.*

(continued on page 2)

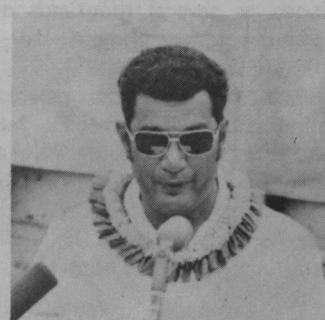
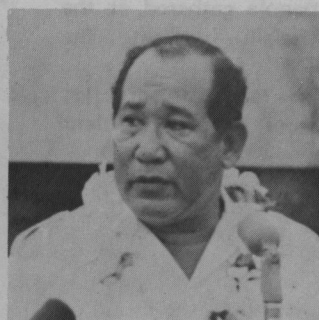
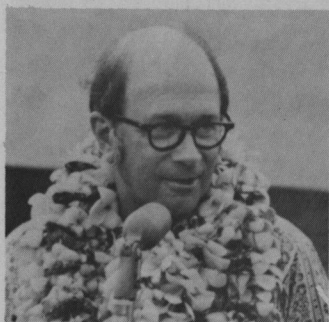
## The Majuro Airport--Now "Semi-Operational"



*The crowds . . .*



*Father Hacker's Band . . .*



*Speakers: The High Commissioner, District Administrator DeBrum, Senate President Kabua, House Speaker Henry.*



*The first landing . . .*



*Decorations for "the golden tail . . ."*

### More on Airfield

(continued from page 1)

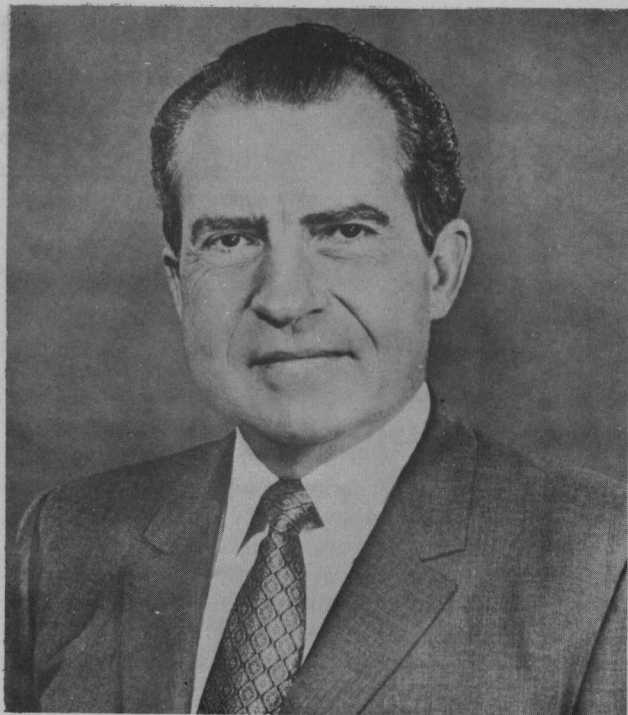
of the transformation this jet project portends. While a short time ago sailing canoes plied the waters of Majuro's great lagoon powered by puffs of air, now huge and sleek jetliners from other nations of the world may in the future wing across these same waters in seconds," Henry said, and he added: "It somehow shows that if we do well today, tomorrow will be better than yesterday." Concluding, Speaker Henry said that the Congress of Micronesia is proud to have played a part in this special

occasion, and pledged his support in the future for similar projects to benefit the people.

The new airfield is now "semi-operational." Temporary terminal facilities are to be erected by Marshalls District Public Works and permanent fueling facilities will be built by Mobil Oil. It is expected that full operations may be able to switch from the old airfield to the new field—seven miles south—within a month or two. A permanent terminal building is to be completed in May, 1973.



## Holiday Greetings for 1972



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 22, 1972

Dear Commissioner Johnston:

Mrs. Nixon joins me in warm holiday greetings to you, your family and the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

May this Christmas Season and the year ahead be remembered as the dawn of a just and lasting peace everywhere in the world -- a peace in which your people may prosper and from which they may derive new opportunities for self-fulfillment.

I look forward to working with you in the year ahead on their behalf and on behalf of the goals we share as Americans.

May the spirit of Christmas sustain and strengthen our common purpose and guide our efforts throughout 1973.

Sincerely,

Honorable Edward E. Johnston  
High Commissioner  
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands  
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950

This will be our fourth Christmas Season in Micronesia, and we have come to look upon this time of the year as a special time for remembrance and renewal. We hope that this is so for all of the people of the Trust Territory.

We remember the work that has been carried out over the past year in the island tradition of sharing for the common good and working together for the common goal. And at the same time we renew our dedication to the often difficult tasks which lie ahead.

My family and I wish everyone in Micronesia a very Merry Christmas, with the hope that the New Year will bring further progress toward our dreams of a better life for all.

  
Edward E. Johnston

# Marianas Status Talks Open W

The first meetings of the Mariana Islands District Political Status Commission with the representatives of the United States took place on Wednesday and Thursday of this week on Saipan.

A large public ceremony at Mt. Carmel Auditorium officially opened the meetings and welcomed the delegates from the U.S. to the Marianas. Invited guests for the ceremonies included Guam's Governor, Carlos G. Camacho, Marianas Bishop Felixberto Flores and Monsignor Jose Guerrero, and ComNavMarianas Rear Admiral George S. Morrison. A sixteen-piece Navy band was flown to Saipan to provide music for the occasion.

Wednesday's meetings included the ceremonial opening of the sessions and an afternoon plenary session where the two negotiating groups faced each other across the conference table for the first time. This plenary session included statements from the heads of the two delegations—Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams for the United States and Marianas Commission Chairman Senator Edward dLg. Pangelinan. This meeting was also open to the public.

The sessions continued on Thursday, with the two delegations meeting in closed working sessions. A joint communique was issued at the conclusion of the talks.

## please note...

*All of the public remarks  
meeting will be published  
Highlights to be dated Decem*

In meetings prior to the negotiating sessions, the Marianas Commission announced that it had hired an Executive Director. He is James White, former Palau District Attorney, currently working as legal consultant to TransPacific Lines, Inc. White will work part time for the Marianas Commission.

The Commission has also engaged the Washington law firm of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering Associates as legal consultants, and is considering proposals from at least two economic consultants to work with the commission.

Earlier this month, Senator Lazarus Salii, Chairman of the Congress of Micronesia Joint Committee on Future Status, announced that there will be no further negotiating meetings between the Joint Committee and the U.S. representatives until after the adjournment of the coming session of the Congress.

Several hundred people gathered at Mt. Carmel Auditorium for the opening ceremonies.





# Public Ceremonies on Saipan

from the Marianas Status  
in a Special Edition of  
-20.

*The first plenary session of the status talks took place at the Royal Taga Hotel. Below right, the Marianas Status Commission. Below left, the two delegations face-to-face across the long conference table. This session was open to the public.*



## HiCom's Remarks at Mt. Carmel Ceremonies

As we gather here this morning for this most historic occasion, I cannot help but recall the day some 43 months ago when I stood here at Mt. Carmel with my hand on the Holy Bible and had the distinct honor of becoming the first High Commissioner to be sworn into office within the Trust Territory.

Much has happened in those 43 months as we have dealt with the myriad problems of this vast but wonderfully fascinating area, and sometimes that day in early May, 1969, seems a part of the distant past; but I can still recall—and do recall frequently—the words which were spoken by then Secretary of Interior, Walter Hickel, here at Mt. Carmel on that occasion, because he set forth the policy of President Nixon — which has been so important to all of us here in Micronesia. Many of you were here on that day as he said:

“Just one day before I left Washington, D.C., I discussed many things about Micronesia with the President of the United States. Our discussion was one of a number which we have held about Micronesia during his first 100 days in office, and I can say he wants to understand—even more—your needs and aspirations.

We discussed, of course, two points present in your minds—your political future and your economic development. But foremost in the President's mind—and in my thoughts also—was that you, the people of these islands, be fully consulted about every step we take in these areas.

We do not come here today to outline our plans for you. The President does not believe in the government ruling the people. Instead, he believes in the people ruling the government. He does not believe in Washington imposing its will on the people. He believes in government voicing the will of the people.

And especially this applies to you. For years you have had little voice in your government. This is wrong. Only when people lead their government can that government be great and that people prosper.”

Under the guidance of Secretary Hickel and then Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton, this policy of President Nixon has resulted in the greatest progress in any similar period in the history of the Trust Territory.

The historic talks which will begin here today between the United States and the people of the Marianas District to resolve your future political status are certainly a firm indication that President Nixon's policy was not one of idle words.

Although many of us had entertained a hope that the Trust Territory could remain a single entity upon termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, it became increasingly apparent that the citizens of the Marianas District had aspirations and goals different from those of the other five districts, and that it would be necessary to conduct separate negotiations toward the solution of your future political status. The President's personal representative, Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, was authorized to begin such negotiations. American leaders in Washington have listened to Marianas leaders in Saipan and today's ceremonies are the result.

The status talks which begin here today could well be the most important discussions in the history of the Marianas; but while fully realizing their importance to this area, let us not overlook their perhaps even more important message to the rest of the world—the message that today—and in the days to come—the representatives of two free people can sit at the negotiating table—and in the true spirit that has guided America since 1776, can resolve their mutual problems in peace and harmony as equal partners.

## Micronesian Arts Group Formed at CCM



*Students from Community College of Micronesia perform Yapese dances as members of the Guild of Performing Micronesian Arts.*

A Micronesian student dance group at the Community College of Micronesia (CCM) in Kolonia, Ponape, put on its first show December 10 at the school campus.

Called the Guild of Performing Micronesian Arts, the dance group is dedicated to the study, performance, and preservation of the authentic music and ceremonial dances of Micronesia and includes members from all districts of the Trust Territory.

Since it was first organized in August of this year, the group has been concerned with planning projects to raise funds so that members can travel to other islands in TT to perform.

Depending on the success of the short tours the Guild plans to make in the coming months, the group eventually hopes to travel on tours beyond Micronesia to the United States, Japan, and other countries as well.



In performing chants, music, and dances with native Micronesian instruments, members of the Guild teach each other music and dances from islands other than their own. In addition, the guild obtains information regarding the dances, chants, and music from TT sources such as a district's department of education and the Net Cultural Center in Ponape.

According to Donald Evans, advisor to the Guild who also serves on the faculty at CCM, the Guild of Performing Micronesian Arts is a nonprofit organization. He says, "We just want a sufficient budget to support travel and costumes."

In describing the group, Evans says, "One of the goals of our group is to facilitate intercultural understanding among the Micronesian islands as well as countries outside Micronesia."

## Martime Center Graduation Scheduled

The fourth graduating class of the only institute in the Trust Territory which offers a course in seamanship will take place December 22, 1972, according to Captain Dewey R. Huffer, headmaster of the Micronesia Maritime Center. A total of 20 young Micronesians from the six districts will have completed the six-month course of study in practical seamanship, which includes tying knots, painting, operating masts and booms for loading and off-loading, docking vessels, conducting lifeboat drills, firefighting, steering vessels, splicing of cables and lines, learning how to anchor, learning the different types of anchors, seamanship terminology, first aid at sea, and academic subjects such as English and Math.

The center operates mostly aboard the ship, the M/V Pugh, thereby providing on-the-job training for the trainees.

Since its first class in January 1970, the Center has had three graduating classes with 20 trainees in each class. According to Bill Williams, Truk District Vocational Education Supervisor, these 3 graduating classes each consisted of 15 men from Truk, and 1 from the other five districts. "The fourth class and all others thereafter will consist of ten from Truk and two from each of the other

five districts. We would like to include more from the other districts, but we are limited by our budget," Williams said. He continued, "Our District Vocational Education office receives about 300 applications from all over the T.T. Selection is based on the applicant having genuine interest in the sea, his scholastic records, references, and interviews made by the individual's District Vocational Education Supervisor," he said. The Center was funded by the Headquarters Education Department's Manpower Development Training Act (MDTA) during the first year and a half of its operation. It is now funded by the Headquarters Vocational Education Department.

Fifty four who graduated to date are now working on TT vessels and on Transpac ships. They joined the ships as ordinary seamen, some have advanced to become able-bodied seamen, and some have progressed to become boatswain mates.

Before the ship was acquired in March, 1972, on-the-job training was conducted on TT field trip vessels. The M/V Pugh was formerly a U.S. Navy reefer-vessel plying the rivers of Vietnam and is on loan to the Micronesia Maritime Center.



# Briefly

Truk District Administrator Juan A. Sablan has announced the appointment of Noha Ruben as District Public Information Officer. Ruben joins the PIO Office from his job as a News Reporter for WSZC Radio in Truk.

He will be working under Truk District Director of Public Affairs Esikel Malon. Ruben is a graduate of Xavier High School on Moen, and attended Oregon State University in the United States for one year before returning to Truk.

Mariana S. Santos has returned to Saipan following completion of a two year course in court reporting at the Bryan College of Court Reporting in Los Angeles, California. The Trust Territory Judiciary began a program in 1970 to train Micronesians to become qualified court reporters. Miss Santos was awarded the first scholarship under that program, and elected to attend Bryan College from the list of schools approved by the National Shorthand Reporters Association.

Miss Santos' courses included intensive study in legal and medical terms, English, and stenotyping. She completed her training with a reporting speed of 180 words per minute, the reporting speed required by the Judiciary. Miss Santos received excellent evaluations from the staff of Bryan College in every phase of her training and was awarded a certificate of completion in recognition of her reporting speed and accuracy.

Miss Santos has begun her new career as a court reporter in the High Court Office on Saipan. She will be reporting certain District Court cases on Saipan and High Court cases throughout the Trust Territory.

Two Trust Territory nurses, Ngedikes Towai of Palau and Kimmok Heine from the Marshalls have recently completed a six-month training course in Dental Nursing at the School of Nursing in Auckland, New Zealand. Their courses included first aid, home nursing, dental health education and the practical aspects of filling, extracting and cleaning teeth. Miss Towai and Mrs. Heine took the examination for first aid and home nursing at the end of the course and were among the top 12 students out of 40 New Zealand nurses.

Joaquin Lg. Tudela has been appointed Acting Mariana Islands Housing Authority (MIHA) Administrator, succeeding Antonio C. Tenorio who was appointed District Director of Public Works. Tenorio is the former MIHA Housing Administrator.

Saipan is experiencing a water shortage primarily due to somewhat erratic and poor water production at the wells, and a relatively dry period of little rainfall forcing the District Administrator of the Marianas to issue a water rationing notice to water consumers.

Water hours went into effect December 3 on Saipan. The DistAd has ordered that water be turned off between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. each night "until such time as the water levels and production capabilities are restored to a level sufficient to restore normal, full water services."

## May 15, 1973--Census Night

Plans for the 1973 Census of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands were officially set in motion last month as High Commissioner Johnston signed Executive Order 106, establishing the Program and designating May 15, 1973, as Census Day.

This off-year Census has as one of its prime objectives the providing of up-dated population data for the Congress of Micronesia that will enable it in January, 1974, to reapportion the electoral districts for the House of Representatives prior to the general elections in November, 1974. This action is required by Secretary of the Interior Order 2918, as amended.

The up-dated population data will also be provided the six Legislatures of the Districts to permit them as well, to carry out such reapportionment as may be necessary also before the elections of 1974. The information developed from the census will also have an effect upon Federal grants to the Territory and will be of importance for planning in the areas of health, education, social programs and community development.

The Executive Order provides that while the census will be taken on a "de facto" basis—that is a population count of people where they are located on Census Day - provision has been made for an enumeration of the "de jure" population. This counts people where they usually reside in the Trust Territory. Both citizens and noncitizens of the Territory will be included in the census.



William Allen, T.T. Chief of Community Development, is pictured above presenting literature on Micronesia to Vallejo, California, City Librarian Josephine Becker and Mayor Florence E. Douglas, during a visit to that city. Allen has been in California for several weeks studying housing and urban development programs in smaller city areas. He was to return to the Territory later this month, following participation in a conference in Honolulu with Pacific area representatives from Hawaii, Guam and the T.T. who are involved in federally funded old-age assistance programs. His participation in the California local housing studies was arranged by James D. Richardson, a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development community renewal advisor assigned to the Trust Territory for several months this year.

# The Congress Building Rises



November 28, 1972 . . .

New meeting chambers for the Congress of Micronesia were virtually complete as this issue of Highlights went to the printer. Micronesian Construction Company completed the structure in near record time, working ten hours each day, seven days each week. The Senate is to meet in the building to the left, and the House will meet in the wing to the right. Both of the photos on this page were taken from approximately the same spot.

The Congress session will convene on Monday, January 8, 1973, and can continue for as long as fifty consecutive calendar days, or until February 26, 1973.

. . . December 13, 1972



## HIGHLIGHTS

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