

Wakako

HIGHLIGHTS

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS



September 15, 1972

TRANSPAC, Nauru Pacific Sign Shipping Agreement

Representatives of the Trust Territory's shipping line, TransPacific Lines (TRANSPAC), and Nauru Pacific Line have reached an agreement that will allow Nauru's ships to enter the TT Port of Majuro, in the Marshall Islands.

The agreement is the first which grants Nauru's ships the right to serve a TT port. An exclusive franchise has been enjoyed by TransPac and its predecessor, Micronesian Inter-ocean Lines, Inc. (MILI), since 1968.

In lengthy negotiations earlier this month, it was agreed that Nauru Pacific Line will be allowed to enter the port at Majuro, the Marshall Islands District Center, for the purpose of discharging and taking on cargo. Majuro will then serve as a trans-shipment center from which cargo will be carried by TransPac to the other five district centers, as well as to the U.S. West Coast and the ports in the Orient served by TransPac. TransPac cargo from those areas destined for Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific areas served by Nauru ships will also be handled through Majuro.

The Nauru representatives, led by the President of the Republic of Nauru Hammer DeRoburt, had requested permission to serve all TT ports. This was deemed not possible at this time, but both sides agreed to meet again in the next six months to discuss progress generally, and to give consideration to extending the agreement to another port in the western part of the TT.

(continued on page 2)

— Status Talks To Resume —

Round six in the negotiations between the United States and the Congress of Micronesia on the future political status of the Trust Territory will begin September 28 in Hawaii, amid some uncertainty as to the future of the talks themselves in light of recent actions by the Congress in Ponape.

Senator Lazarus Salii of Palau, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Future Status, said on Saipan this week that the talks will be held at the Barber's Point Naval Air Station, a U.S. military base near Honolulu on the island of Oahu. The U.S. will again be represented by a delegation headed by Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, President Nixon's Personal Representative to the Micronesian Status Negotiations.

"I expect the talks to last about two weeks," Senator Salii said, adding that, as in Washington during the fifth round, "there will probably be an opening plenary session, with an exchange of statements, and then on the second day we will probably go into the drafting committees to continue work on the Compact of Free Association."

During its Ponape Special Session, the Congress of Micronesia adopted a resolution directing Senator Salii's Committee to negotiate for independence while continuing the negotiations toward free association. The

(continued on page 2)

His Excellency, Hammer DeRoburt, President of the Republic of Nauru, arrived by charter flight on Saipan earlier this month to lead his country's negotiations with representatives of TRANSPAC, the shipping line serving the Trust Territory. At right, the agreement between Nauru and TRANSPAC is signed by President DeRoburt as High Commissioner Johnston looks on.



More on TRANSPAC

(continued from page 1)

Both sides also expressed the hope that the new arrangement will provide the people of Micronesia with access to the markets of Australia, New Zealand and the islands of the South Pacific for the purchase and sale of commodities with regular delivery at reasonable rates.

Negotiations on the agreement reached this month on Saipan were conducted in the presence, not only of the representatives of Nauru Pacific Lines and TransPac, but also of the executive branch of the TT Government and members of the Congress of Micronesia from the House Committee on Resources and Development.

At ceremonies held in HiCom Johnston's office this month, the shipping agreement was signed by President DeRoburt for Nauru Pacific Line and by Elias Okamura, Vice-President of TransPac on behalf of TransPac President Bernard Helgenberger. Also signing the agreement and signifying the approval of the TT Government was High Commissioner Johnston.

SPC Meetings Scheduled

A total of nine people from the Trust Territory will be attending various meetings of the South Pacific Commission in Apia, Western Samoa, this month and in October.

The Twelfth South Pacific Conference, beginning September 19, and the Thirty-fifth South Pacific Commission Session, beginning October 2, will involve administration representatives and members of the Congress of Micronesia. Senator Ambilos Iehsi of Ponape and Marshalls District Administrator Oscar de Brum are the official Trust Territory Delegates to the SPC conference, which involves people from all of the Pacific nations under SPC jurisdiction. In addition, Senator Iehsi will serve as the T.T. advisor to the United States delegation to the SPC Session, which involves only the governments which administer the various Pacific Island groups.

Others in the T.T. group which will be attending the meetings are: Eusebio Rechucher, Deputy Director of Resources and Development (Alternate T.T. Delegate); and Official Observers including Congress of Micronesia Representatives Sasauo Haruo and Charles Domnick; Congress Legislative Counsel Kaleb Udui, Congress Attorney Steve Miller; and Saipan businessman David Sablan. Also, Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman will attend as an advisor to the delegation.

A preliminary agenda for the meetings this year calls for discussions of Pacific-wide developments in telecommunications, programs for the South Pacific Islands Fisheries Development Agency (SPIFDA), and a United Nations Development Program report on the feasibility of a Pacific area development bank.

More on Status

(continued from page 1)

Senator acknowledged that this will mean additional work for both sides, and that it leaves the eventual outcome of the talks less certain.

"This certainly puts a different perspective" on the talks, he said. "It will make any agreement we might reach a little less definite with respect to the reaction to it within the Congress and elsewhere in Micronesia."

Senator Salii added that it has not yet been decided whether the subject of independence will be brought up during the sixth round in Hawaii. "Our Joint Committee has to decide," he said, "whether to bring up the question of independence during the sixth round, or ask the U.S. for another round of talks to deal with this matter." He said it is now the responsibility of the Joint Committee on Future Status to determine the U.S. reaction to the independence question, and how the U.S. would feel about including an independence alternative on any plebiscite ballot, and then inform the entire Congress of this feeling.

"We just have no choice but to take into account the growing support for independence," he said. "A lot of the people who sponsored the independence resolution were not happy with respect to portions of the Draft Compact, and the members of the district legislatures with whom we met were also unhappy about parts of the document."

The Senator also announced that, partly as a response to this unhappiness with the Draft Compact, he has created a sub-committee of the Joint Committee on Future Status to review United States military land requirements in Micronesia, and to bring recommendations to the committee regarding those requirements.

This sub-committee, he said, will survey the landowners, district legislatures, and traditional leaders of the Marshall Islands, Palau and Mariana Islands District to determine their feelings about U.S. military land needs in their districts. Since it is going to take some time for that sub-committee to do its work, Senator Salii said he does "not expect" that the two sides will be able to complete the military portion of the Compact of Free Association during the Hawaii talks.

Senator Amaraich (Truk) has been named chairman of the new sub-committee, according to Senator Salii. Other members are: Senators Isaac Lanwi (Marshalls), Roman Tmetuchl (Palau), and Edward Pangelinan (Marianas); and Representatives Olter Paul (Ponape), and John Mangefel (Yap).

The members of the Micronesian Joint Committee will leave the Trust Territory for Hawaii on September 23 to allow them time for some meetings among themselves prior to the start of the sixth round of talks.

Meanwhile, the Mariana Islands Political Status Commission has also begun its meetings. In a preliminary meeting mainly for organizational purposes, Senator Edward Pangelinan of the Congress of Micronesia was chosen as the Commission's Chairman. District Legislature President Vicente N. Santos was chosen Vice-Chairman.

Kwajalein Atoll Activities

A Highlights reporter recently travelled to Kwajalein Atoll, visiting Ebeye, Enubirr and Carlson Island. A lot is happening on these islands where the Marshallese live in the atoll, but there are also some frustrating delays in much-needed projects. Herewith, a pictorial roundup.



Ebeye Public Works Director Fred Hanson stands next to his newest acquisition, the island's only piece of mobile fire-fighting equipment. It is a pickup truck-mounted pump, and should assist in fighting the frequent house fires on the congested island. Hanson also hopes to obtain a fire engine through Kwajalein sources.

Making the trip to Carlson Island by M-boat, Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman inspects the new pig farms there. He was accompanied by Kwaj LNO and Ebeye DistAd Rep Murph Ownby, left, and by Marshalls District Agriculturist George Nakanishi. About five families live on Carlson now, and land problems among owners of the privately-owned island are reported slowing plans for any major residential development.



A young miss on Enubirr does the family dishes.



A new hospital is under construction on Ebeye, home of more than 5,000 Marshallese many of whom work at Kwajalein. But the project has been delayed, mostly by supply shipping problems. The hospital should be completed by early next year, says Ebeye DistAd Rep Murph Ownby.

The Manager of the Roi-Namur station in the Kwajalein Missile Range, Frank Serafini, raises prime hog breeding stock as a hobby. Here, on Roi-Namur, he looks at one of his prize animals. His "hobby" has resulted in a substantial upgrading of the pig stock on several of the Marshall islands, to which he has given animals. The Carlson Island pig farms are being started with Serafini-raised stock.



On Enubirr, near Roi-Namur, a new school classroom is the greatest need. This old, bombed out bunker has served as a classroom for several years, but is clearly inadequate. Funds for a new classroom as well as some other projects on Enubirr are budgeted for this year.



Survey Team to Rongelap-Utirik

A team of doctors from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), accompanied by observers from Japan, England and the U.S. and by members of the Congress of Micronesia, has resumed its annual medical survey of radiation fallout victims on Rongelap and Utirik Atolls in the Marshall Islands.

The team, headed by Dr. Robert Conard, had made the visits to the two island groups annually ever since the people were accidentally exposed to fallout from a U.S. atomic test at Bikini nearly twenty years ago. This year, however, the team was forced to cancel its survey in March after the people, under instructions from their political leaders, refused to cooperate with the doctors.

This week the team left Majuro to return to Rongelap and Utirik, the political problems apparently worked out. Accompanying the AEC team are Congress of Micronesia Representative Hans Wiliander (Truk), a member of the Congress' Special Joint Committee Concerning Rongelap and Utirik, and Representative Ataji Balos (Marshalls), who served as an interpreter-informant to the Joint Committee and represents the people of one of the atolls.

Also travelling with the team as observers, at the

request of the Congress Joint Committee, are Dr. Toshiyuki, Chief of the Clinical Research Division of the National Institute of Radiological Science in Japan; Dr. Haruo Ezaki, Chief of the Department of Survey at the Research Institute for Nuclear Medicine and Biology at Japan's Hiroshima University; Dr. Edward E. Pochnin of the College of Medicine of the University of London, representing the UN World Health Organization; and Dr. William S. Cole, Director of the Bureau of Radiological Health of the U.S. Public Health Service.

Several representatives of the TT Department of Health Services are also on the survey team. They include: Dr. Ezra Ricklon, Deputy Director of Marshall Islands Health Services; Sebio Schoniber, laboratory technician; N. Zeika, health assistant; and Kosang Mizutani, Assistant medical equipment technologist.

The team is expected to complete its survey work on Rongelap and Utirik by September 19, and will then spend several days in Majuro interviewing former residents of the atolls who now live in the district center. A complete report on the findings of the medical team will be made available to the Congress of Micronesia.

Important Election Information -- Deadlines Approach

It is less than a month until the deadline for voters to register for the upcoming Congress of Micronesia general election. By Sunday, October 8, all who wish to vote in that election will have to be registered. The election will be held Tuesday, November 7.

Persons who are registered and who voted in the last Congress election, two years ago, do not need to re-register unless they have changed their name or residence, or there has been some other intervening disqualification. All others, however, must register if they want to vote, and this registration is being handled through the offices of the various district administrators.

Any citizen of the Trust Territory is eligible to vote who is eighteen years of age or older, who has fulfilled the residence requirements, who is not currently under a judgement of mental incompetency or insanity, and who is not currently under parole, probation or sentence for any felony for which he has been convicted by any court of the Trust Territory or any court within the jurisdiction of the United States. The residence requirements are that

a person must have actually resided in the TT for nine months, and in the election district for three months preceding the date of registration. Temporary absences for such things as school or business are permitted during that period.

All persons wishing to register must do so in person, except for fulltime students studying at schools outside the Trust Territory. Such students may register merely by subscribing to an affidavit and sending it to the Election Commissioner of their district.

The November election will see all 21 seats in the Congress of Micronesia's House of Representatives up for election, as well as six of the twelve Senate seats. In addition, a number of municipal and district elections will also be held on that same day.

The resulting Congress will be known as the Fifth Congress of Micronesia, and will hold its first regular session beginning in January next year. The location of that session must still be decided by the present Congress leadership.



Donald K. Hess (left), appointed by President Nixon as Director of the Peace Corps, visited Peace Corps operations in Yap and Saipan this month. He's pictured here with Peace Corps/Micronesia Director Tom Warren during a visit with High Commissioner Johnston.

Briefly

Alfonso Luguliol of Ulithi in the Yap District has been awarded a two-month U.N. Fellowship to study community development programs in Australia. He departed Yap this month to begin the second term of studies under the U.N. grant. Luguliol has already spent three months in the Cook Islands in 1971 studying community development there. A graduate of PICS and a former Outer Islands High School teacher, Luguliol is presently employed as Community Development Aide assigned to Ulithi.

The U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity has announced that the Ponape Community Action Agency has been given the go-ahead for an Oregon-type dory building and fishing demonstration project in the amount of \$153,976. Regional Director of OEO Thomas H. Mercer said the project has been in the planning stage for more than a year and is patterned after the successful OEO funded dory and fishing demonstration project in American Samoa.

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) Elliot Richardson have extended an invitation to the people of the TT to participate in a U.S. Federal task force to review health, education and welfare needs in Micronesia. Four people will be selected to represent the TT in this program. The task force's objective is to seek ways and means of making HEW programs more responsive to the needs of the people they serve, more efficient in terms of management and administration, and better coordinated with local programs aimed at accomplishing similar goals to those of HEW.

District Employment Service Officers and employers in the TT have been reminded that up-to-date records must be kept on their employees. According to Wyman X. Zachary, Director of the Department of Resources and Development, the reminder went out in a letter from William E. Mooney, acting chief of the Labor Division, through the offices of the six district administrators. The reminder called attention to Section 12 of Public Law 3C-44, the Protection of Resident Workers Act, which requires that records must be kept up-to-date and available as the law prescribes.

The Popular Party, one of the major parties in the Marianas, held its nominating convention this month and renominated all four incumbent members of the Congress of Micronesia. In the House, Herman Q. Guerrero, Felipe Atalig and Carlos Shoda were renominated. For the Senate, the party nominated Senator Olympio Borja who recently defected from the Territorial Party.

Saipan is in the midst of an epidemic of influenza, according to TT Communicable Disease Control Officer Dr. Francisco Palacios. Some 100 cases a day are being treated at Dr. Torres Hospital, and an estimated two or three hundred more affected victims are staying home and treating the disease themselves.

The Gannet News Service has reported that a U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) hearing into the Saipan-Japan route case will be held beginning January 3, 1973 in Washington. Reporter Peter J. Walsh, writing from Washington, said in a recent article that a pre-hearing conference was held several weeks ago at which the hearing date was set. Pan American, Continental, Air Micronesia, Northwest and Trans World Airlines are all competing for the route.

A nineteen year-old Saipan youth has been selected to attend the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, according to an announcement this week from the Trust Territory Transportation Division.

Jose S. Borja will enter the academy this fall to begin a four-year program of study leading to a Bachelor of Science degree in marine engineering.

Borja worked for one year in the Transportation Division prior to his appointment to the school. In a brief ceremony this week, Trust Territory High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston presented a certificate of appreciation to Borja for his outstanding service and dedication to duty while working for the government, and wished the young man well in his school career. Borja plans to return to the Trust Territory to work in the field of sea transportation upon completion of his schooling. He will be the only Micronesian attending a United States maritime academy.



A second series of Credit Union Seminars was conducted in Palau last month which was preceded by a similar seminar held in the Marianas District earlier in August. Participants at the seminar included Mary E. Mitag and Philip N. Rrig of Yap, the rest were from Palau: Ponsiano K. Mad, Isaias Ngirailemesang, Humio T. Kebekol, Besure F. Kanai, Martin Ngchar, Teruko A. Baiei, Robert Bells and Ichiro Melterl. They are pictured above with Co-op and Credit Union Advisor, Charles M. Sicard (Standing). The seminar covered credit union management, accounting and legislation, financial counseling of credit union members, and computation of interest rates.

The Trust Territory's Two Status Commissions



The Trust Territory's two status negotiating committees are pictured here. In the photo above, members of the Mariana Islands Political Status Commission meet in their first sessions at the District Legislature chambers on Saipan. Below, in a picture taken at the close of the final plenary session of the Washington status talks which ended in early August, members of the Congress of Micronesia Joint Committee on Future Status are pictured with their U.S. counterparts. Front row, from left (seated), Capt. William J. Crowe, Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, Senator Lazarus Salii, Representative Ekpap Silk; second row, Thomas Whittington, Col. Athol Smith, Representatives Herman Guerrero and John Mangefel, Adrian deGraffenried, Senator Isaac Lanwi; third row, John Dorrance, Stanley Carpenter, Herman Marcuse, Senators Tosiwo Nakayama and Roman Tmetuchl, Jim Stovall.



HIGHLIGHTS

Jim Manke, Editor
Patrick Mangar, Assistant Editor
Nick Guerrero, Graphic Artist

Public Information Office
TRUST TERRITORY of the PACIFIC ISLANDS
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950