

# PRESS RELEASE



## TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner  
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Saipan, Mariana Islands

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### NEIGHBORING TERRITORIES STRENGTHEN COOPERATION

Following a two-day series of meetings between High Commissioner W. R. Norwood and Governor Manuel F. L. Guerrero and their respective staffs, the two Chief Executives mutually agreed that the discussions had been enlightening and similar conferences should be held in the future.

Governor Guerrero came to Saipan March 22 to be the principal speaker at the charter presentation dinner sponsored by the newly formed Saipan Island Rotary Club. He was accompanied by Rudolph G. Sablan, his executive assistant; Tom Ardies, his special assistant and press secretary; and Dr. Antonio Yamashita, president of the College of Guam.

While Governor Guerrero was in Saipan the conference was held to discuss informally matters of common concern to the two territories. Discussions were focused on education, public health, economic development and joint disaster planning.

The Governor called attention to some problems which have arisen in connection with Guam families who serve as sponsors of Trust Territory elementary students, the shortage of classrooms, and the inadequacy of the cuenset-style dormitories now occupied by the Micronesians attending the College of Guam. Approximately 500 Trust Territory students attend school on Guam, 200 at the College of Guam and 300 in elementary schools.

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The officials reviewed Guam's teacher training program and examined opportunities for more Trust Territory participation and the possibilities of adapting the program to meet some specific Trust Territory needs. It was noted that both Guam and the Trust Territory are shifting direction and content of the high school curriculum to place more emphasis on industrial arts and vocational skills.

The Governor reported that under work-study grants made available to Guam under the Higher Education Act Guam has been hiring about 100 Trust Territory students for part-time employment at \$1.53 per hour.

The possibility of developing a more comprehensive program of College of Guam extension courses to the various districts was discussed.

The Trust Territory's health training needs and programs were reviewed, as well as the training function of the proposed new Ponape hospital, and the continued interim use of Guam hospitals for Trust Territory medical referrals.

It was agreed that Guam and the Trust Territory should be in close communication relative to Pacific Area Tourism. The possible establishment on Guam of a Micronesians Visitors' Bureau with joint Guam-Trust Territory participation was discussed.

Considerable discussion focused on food production and farming opportunities for the Trust Territory to produce food crops for the Guam market.

The Governor proposed that Guam and the Trust Territory formulate a joint disaster plan so each territory could more effectively assist the other in the event of future typhoons. The Guam legislature is

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currently considering a disaster relief fund which would be available for emergency assistance to stricken Trust Territory areas as well as to Guam's disaster needs. The Trust Territory's need for a similar emergency fund was noted.

Trust Territory officials who participated in the joint staff meeting were Deputy High Commissioner Martin P. Mangan, Attorney General Donald R. Tindal, Assistant Commissioners Joseph F. Screen, Administration; Paul L. Winsor, Resources and Development; Francis B. Mahoney representing the Assistant Commissioner for Education; Assistant Commissioners N. Neiman Craley, Jr., Public Affairs; Dr. William M. Peck, Public Health; Program Analyst Rendel B. Alldredge, Special Assistant to the High Commissioner Leo Falcam, Director of Education John R. Trace, and Director of Economic Development William H. Rhyne.

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