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## Micronesia Congress Nears End of Session

As the Congress of Micronesia nears the end of its first regular session, the controversy over non-Micronesian investors entering the Trust Territory continues within the halls of Congress.

At the head of the list is the hotel construction agreement between the Micronesian Hotel Corporation and the Trust Territory administration, which calls for the construction of a hotel on Saipan's Public Beach. The administration has granted a long-term lease for the property to the hotel corporation, which members of Congress have branded as being owned by American citizens from Guam.

Hon. Jose R. Cruz, Chairman of the House of Delegates' Committee on Governmental Operations, received a reply to his committee's request that the High Commissioner stop Micronesian Hotel Corporation's operations in Saipan, pending passage of House resolution No. 20, which requests the High Commissioner to halt the company's hotel operation.

The High Commissioner's letter said that negotiations on the hotel corporation's proposal had been conducted at great length and that the administration believed that the arrangements were satisfactory. The High Commissioner said that there would be considerable opportunity for Micronesians to invest in the hotel operation.

Cruz' committee had authorized the letter to the High Commissioner.

Resolution 20, which was reported favorably by the Governmental Operations Committee, would ask the High Commissioner to suspend the hotel corporation's charter and invite public proposals on the project.

Micronesian Construction Company of Saipan has also submitted proposals to build a smaller hotel on Saipan, but MCC's request was refused.

But if members of the Congress were opposed to the hotel corporation, apparently the people of Saipan were not. Among the other information submitted with the Governmental Operations Committee's report was a petition signed by Saipan District Commissioners, which claimed that the people of Saipan favored Micronesian Hotel Corporation's venture. The Commissioners' statement carried the approval of the Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan, V. D. Sablan, who said that the hotel corporation's plans would "... benefit the expansion of

our economic development as well as the potential opportunity in which such improvement can be added to the overall economy of our island."

The Congress also passed its amended version of the bill covering the powers of various Trust Territory governments. Submitted by request of the High Commissioner, the bill clarifies the powers of the Congress of Micronesia, the District Legislatures and the municipal governments, specifying what responsibilities they will have.

The final bill contains several

High Commissioner's version of the amendments which were not in the bill. But the bill is needed at once and since the High Commissioner submitted it with an urgency clause, he will have to accept the amended version.

The House of Delegates also passed a resolution which would ask the High Commissioner to negotiate with officials at the University of Hawaii and the Hawaii State Legislature to allow members of a select Committee of the

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## Marianas District Legislature Asks U.S. Citizenship For Territory

In the first week of its regular session, the Marianas District Legislature adopted a resolution requesting the United States to grant American citizenship to the people of the Trust Territory.

Introduced by Congressman Daniel Muna of Saipan, the resolution says that the people of the Marianas District have "been under democratic leadership for nearly 20 years and the people of the Marianas Islands District have come to appreciate the high principles and ideals of democracy" and that the people of the Marianas wish to become a full part of the United States.

The resolution was one of several measures passed during the Legislature's first several days of meetings. Other important legislation included an election bill, a bill to require inspection of all vehicles operated within the Marianas District, a resolution authorizing the President of the Legislature to appoint a legislative committee to investigate the Saipan Land Trust Fund and several congratulatory resolutions.

The election bill would change existing law to make election day the second Sunday in November instead of the fourth Sunday in October, as has previously been the case.

Other changes in the law require the use of printed ballots, which must be sealed before being issued to election officials. A new provision governs registration and voting procedures, and another amendment to the bill prevents candidates from being pre-

sent when ballots are counted.

Resolution 5, which calls for an investigation of the Saipan Land Trust Fund, notes that the Trust Fund was created while the island was under Naval government and says that the people of Saipan are not informed of the status of the Trust Fund. The resolution authorizes the President of the Legislature to name a committee which will "conduct a complete investigation on the creation, condition and current status of the Saipan Land Trust Fund."

The current session of the District Legislature opened with District Administrator Roy T. Gallemore's State of District Affairs message, in which the Distad asked that the Legislature delay action on any tax proposals because the Congress of Micronesia had not yet acted on the Trust Territory-wide tax proposals submitted to it by the High Commissioner.

District Administrator Gallemore said that if the District Legislature concluded its business without having a chance to deal with the tax measures, he would call a special session of the Legislature after the regular session.

Gallemore also commented that the possibilities for tourism in the Marianas were improving and that in the future he thought Pagan Island in the northern Marianas would be the focal point of tourism efforts. Pagan, which contains an overgrown airstrip, it also being surveyed as a homestead site for islanders from the northern Marianas.

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## What Does the Future Hold?

There is presently an extensive discussion of the future political status of the Pacific Islands going on in a number of widely separated areas. Touched off by a speech by United States Senator Hiram Fong of Hawaii, it has found its way to the front pages of numerous Pacific area newspapers, and has been the subject of an editorial in the distinguished Washington Post.

Senator Fong's suggestion of a Pacific state was picked up by Hawaii's Governor Burns, who suggested that Micronesia and Guam be included as far-flung parts of Hawaii, perhaps with American Samoa thrown in for good measure.

But political leaders in Guam have been cool to the idea. They are known to favor a Pacific state composed of Guam and the Trust Territory islands, though they are presently labeling this possible development as a commonwealth in order to avoid arousing the U.S. Congress, which is not thought to be receptive to the idea.

Some Micronesian leaders have expressed a desire for the Trust Territory to become a Territory of the United States, but there has never been an extensive discussion of the idea.

And that is where the problem lies. For until there is a public discussion of this area's political future, there can be no public decision of what its people want.

The possibilities appear to be several. Union with Guam as an extended U.S. Territory is one. Independence is another. Union with Hawaii as Governor Burns suggested. Something new in the American system, as Speaker of the Assembly Dwight Heine once suggested, an idea which would seem closer to the talking point of the Guam leaders — who incidentally are in the Trust Territory now to discuss this very point with our own leaders. Territoriality for the Trust Territory islands, or even commonwealth status, whatever that may be...and no one seems to have a very clear idea at this point just what a commonwealth is in the American context.

But it's not enough to sit back and let matters take their course. The world moves rapidly these days, and if we are to be prepared for the changes which must inevitably occur, we can't begin thinking about them too soon.

Already there is before the Congress of Micronesia a resolution which would ask the United States Congress to pass organic legislation for the Trust Territory. And regardless of what individual leaders may think of it, it is an indication of things to come.

The world is busily discovering the Pacific islands. Guam, Samoa and to a lesser degree the Trust Territory, are already in search of tourists. Guam and the Trust Territory are an important part of the United States' oceanic defense system, whether they have military bases on them or not. In terms of the Trusteeship agreement, in fact, the Trust Territory is strategic, and that is even more true in these days of tense relations in the Western Pacific.

Already Fiji, the Cook Islands, Nauru and other areas are studying their futures with great care.

It is time the Trust Territory did the same. It is time for Micronesians to become concerned with their destiny.



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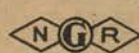
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## United Tanker Gets Ship Contract

The High Commissioner of the Trust Territory today announced the award of a two-year contract to United Tanker Corporation of New York for the operation of the Trust Territory's three major vessels, "Pacific Islander," "Gunnery Knot", and "Palau Islander."

The award was made on the recommendation of the Office of Territories and the Department of Interior based on a careful study of all proposals by a special Evaluation Committee in the Department.

High Commissioner Goding, in making the announcement, said: "United Tanker appears highly qualified for the proposed operations. Its operation should dovetail beneficially with operation of the local field service vessels by local Micronesian interests."

The United Tanker Corporation is a large and well established shipping organization with world-wide operations. The present fleet of the United Tanker group consists of 14 vessels with a combined capacity in excess of 400,000 deadweight tons. A corporate subsidiary operates in Taiwan as sales representative of International General Electric, Worthington Corporation, and other concerns.

The principal officers and voting stockholders of the United Tanker group are all U.S. citizens. The seven members of the Board of Direc-

tors have had an aggregate total of about 70 years of direct experience in maritime operations.

The proposal by United Tanker includes provisions whereby 25% of gross receipts from the operations of the Trust Territory's three vessels will be paid annually to the Trust Territory Government. There are also in the proposal many operational provisions of direct concern for the most efficient operation of the vessels.

The company also will undertake a study, based on its extensive experience in the United States-Puerto Rico trade, of containerized operations for the Trust Territory. Results of the study will be made available to the government and, if conclusions are affirmative, changes in cargo handling will be made.

The new company will commence operations on August 31, 1965 upon termination of the present contract of the Trust Territory with Pacific Micronesian Line. Services will be provided by United Tanker through a subsidiary company to be organized under the laws of the Trust Territory or any jurisdiction satisfactory to the Trust Territory.

## Marianas Produce

### Can Enter Guam

The prohibition on shipping fruits and vegetables from Saipan and Tinian to Guam has been lifted as of July 26, according to information received by High Commissioner M. W.

Goding from Acting Governor of Guam, Denver Dickerson.

The quarantine on fruits and vegetables that are host to the Oriental Fruit Fly such as avocado, mango, banana, breadfruit, and papaya, had been in effect since June 20, 1965.

The temporary ban was designed to eliminate the possibility of infestation of Guamanian fruit and vegetables in case the Oriental fruit fly still remained on Saipan and Tinian.

The one and one-half year eradication program of the fruit fly in the Marianas, conducted jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Trust Territory Government, is now successfully completed.

## Cooks Complete

### Cafeteria Course

Personnel from eight schools and one hospital received certificates of achievement when they wound up six weeks of training conducted for cafeteria workers in Yap recently. Emphasis was on the preparation of U.S. Department of Agriculture food commodities in a greater variety of ways, as well as the utilization of more local produce in the school lunchroom program.

Persons receiving certificates were: Moses Fejeran, Saipan; Ngirmechaet Ikertang, Palau; Bermin Martin, David Aron, Ponape; Justus Siba, Kusaie; Oran Setik, Iufer Malon, Truk; Ignatius Gemnang, Superintendent of Yap Hospital and Gamaruw, Yap.



Members of the General Assembly of the First Congress of Micronesia during a break in sessions in Saipan.

## Guam Legislature Has Special Session

Members of the Eighth Guam Legislature, called into special session by Acting Governor of Guam Denver Dickerson last week refused approval of two urban renewal projects for the island for the second time. The Legislature had also refused the projects, which would have taken place in the villages of Yona and Sinajana, during its regular session in July.

The Legislature also passed a bill which is expected to assure the location of a \$2 million Hilton resort hotel on Guam's Ipao beach, fronting on a two mile wide sweep of enclosed bay.

The hotel, which has been under discussion between representatives of Hilton and the Government of Guam for several months, is to be built by Kaiser Hawaii Kai Development Company, which is presently building housing subdivision on Guam.

Investors in the hotel had asked the Government of Guam to provide

a guarantee of loans which they would obtain from various pension funds. Toward the end of the legislature's regular session the Governor had proposed a bill to guarantee loans through the Guam Finance and Development Corporation, a quasi-government agency which loans money for low-cost housing and for business investment.

But the legislature did not act on the bill during July's session, and the bill became one of the items covered in the special session.

Also before the Legislature was a bill which would have re-instated Assistant Secretary of Guam Rudolph Sablan, whose position the Legislature abolished during its regular session.

The legislature had slashed \$15,000, the amount of Sablan's salary, from the appropriations for the Governor's office for the next fiscal year. The legislature, which is dominated by the Territorial party, also tacked a rider to the bill which would prevent Democratic Governor Manuel F.L. Guerrero from re-appointing Sablan and from creating any new positions for him.

Acting Governor Dickerson submitted a new appropriations bill to the legislature during the special session, but the body adjourned without considering it.

Dickerson out-manuevered the legislators by appointing Sablan Executive Assistant before signing the original appropriations bill.

## Micronesia Congress

Congress of Micronesia to visit Hawaii and observe sessions of the state Legislature and undergo training during the state legislature's February, 1966 session.

In the Assembly, the Ways and Means Committee reported out favorably a bill which would "pinpoint the responsibility for collection of import taxes." The bill would make the Director of Budget and Finance the collection of all import taxes levied in the Trust Territory, half of which are to be returned to the District Legislature.

The Bill is intended as a companion measure to the administration bill (Assembly Bill 20) which establishes Territory-wide import taxes.

Other measures before the Congress include: — A Delegate Bill which would make the Assistant Commissioner for Resources and Development responsible for the sale of Trust Territory copra. The copra is presently marketed by private concerns which earn a percentage of the sale price of the copra as commission.

The bill would provide that the High Commissioner may turn over copra sales to a Micronesian firm on the same basis as it is now handled.

— An Assembly resolution recommending a tax on the salaries of non-Micronesian employees of non-Micronesian construction firms handling public construction contracts in the Trust Territory.

The resolution would ask the High Commissioner to submit legislation imposing a one per cent tax on non-Micronesian employees' salaries.

— An Assembly bill which would make July 12, the anniversary date of the opening of the Congress of Micronesia, a public holiday known as Micronesian Day.

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