

HIGHLIGHTS



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII LIBRARY

10 35 AM '69

A digest from the Office of the High Commissioner, Saipan, M. I.

FEBRUARY 21, 1967

HICOM ATTENDING BUDGET HEARINGS

The High Commissioner departed Trust Territory Headquarters on February 17 to attend the Senate and House Appropriations Committees hearings on the budget for fiscal year 1968, in Washington, D.C. He is expected to return to Saipan in approximately three weeks. Assistant Commissioner for Administration Joseph F. Screen accompanied him.

U. N. MISSION INSPECTS THE MARIANAS

The seventh United Nations Visiting Mission to come to the Trust Territory received a typical Micronesian welcome when it arrived in Saipan on February 12. The nine-member Mission disembarked from the SA-16 to be laden with leis of exotic flowers. High Commissioner and Mrs. W. R. Norwood, Deputy High Commissioner and Mrs. Martin P. Mangan, District Administrator and Mrs. Peter T. Coleman, Mayor Vicente D. Sablan, Mariana Islands District Legislature President Vicente N. Santos, and Saipan Municipal Legislature Speaker Herman Q. Guerrero headed the welcoming line. A large crowd of Trust Territory officials, District and Municipal dignitaries, and local residents were present to express the friendliness of the islands to the Visiting Mission.

Dr. Angie Brooks of Liberia is chairman of the Mission. Other members are Richard N. Posnett, United Kingdom; Kenneth Rogers, Australia; Pierre J. Basdevant, France; Dr. Najmuddine Rifai, Principal Secretary; Richard W. Wathen, Political Officer; Henry Astwood, Administrative Officer; Bhagirathan R. Devarajan, Economist, and Miss Norma Chai, stenographer.

The Mission expressed pleasure at the obvious progress in political development since its last visit in 1964. At that time the Congress of Micronesia had not yet been established. The Mission spent its first day in the Territory with the Senate and House Interim Committees of the Congress of Micronesia. During the afternoon-long session, Congressmen from the six districts brought before the Mission recommendations and resolutions affecting the 93,000 citizens of the Territory. Discussions included low-cost typhoon-proof local housing; improved power and water systems; the need for business loans at low interest rates; technical assistance in agriculture; and the need for a master plan for overall economic development, with established priorities; and claims for damage during and after World War II. Legislative Counsel Kaleb Udui presented a 20-category agenda on behalf of the Interim Committees. Social, educational, and economic development; communications and transportation facilities were included. Of major interest to the Committees was the status of the Congress of Micronesia as one of the branches of the Trust Territory Government.

The Mission met with the High Commissioner and his staff on Monday, February 13. Opening the meeting Mr. Norwood said, "It is an unusual experience for any agency of the United States Government, as we are out here representing the administering authority, to have its performance, administrative competence, programs, its goals and rate of progress subject to review by a commission such as yours... It is beneficial to have outsiders look carefully at what we are doing. If we cannot meet the test of scrutiny, then we should ask ourselves whether we can do it or ask some other administering authority to take over the job."



Dr. Angie Brooks, left, conducts a meeting with the Rota Municipal Congress. Others are Dr. Najmuddine Rifai, Richard W. Wathen, Bhagirathan R. Devarajan, Henry Astwood, members of the Mission; Roman Manglona, and standing, Commissioner Antonio Atalg of Rota.

Assistant Commissioner for Administration Joseph F. Screen gave a status report on federal appropriations and programs in his area of responsibility. He said that the Territory views its construction programs with a long-range "master plan" for roads, schools, airfields, and hospitals rather than continuing emergency type construction.

Dr. Bert Bowden, chief of the Nathan Associates team, specialists contracted to analyze the potential development of economic resources in the Territory, reviewed the recently completed Nathan Report.

Deputy High Commissioner Martin P. Mangan briefed the Mission on the Territory's air service and the invitation to bid for operation of the air transportation system to be issued in April.

John Pincetich, Director of Peace Corps Micronesia, said there were now 458 Peace Corps Volunteers in the Territory. The proposed training center in Udot, Truk District, would mean \$400,000 to the economy of the Territory.

Attorney General Robert K. Shoecraft brought the Mission up to date on the latest developments on World War II damage claims and land problems.

Personnel Officer Richard F. Kanost reported on the Micronesian Title and Pay Plan and the Management Intern Training Program.

The Mission met with the Saipan Municipal Legislature, Mariana Islands District Legislature, the Micronesian Medical Association, and the Councils of Tinian and Rota.

The group left for Palau on February 16. They are scheduled to arrive in Yap on February 22; Ulithi and Guam, February 25; Truk, February 27; Ponape, March 3; Kwajalein, March 9; Majuro, March 10; Saipan, March 15. They will depart Saipan and Guam en route to the U.S. on March 17.

While in the Territory the fact-finding Mission will listen and observe. A report on its findings will be transmitted to the United Nations Trusteeship Council.



In Saipan, the U. N. Visiting Mission met with the Senate and House Interim Committees of the Congress of Micronesia. From left at head of table: Richard N. Posnett, Pierre J. Basdevant, Kenneth H. Rogers, Dr. Angie Brooks, Dr. Najmuddine Rifai, Richard W. Wathen, and Bhagirathan R. Devarajan.

INTERIM COMMITTEES RETURN TO SAIPAN

Members of the Senate and House Interim Committees of the Congress of Micronesia who traveled to the Eastern districts returned to Saipan after spending one week in Ponape District. The members of the Committees of both houses of the Congress had earlier spent one week each in Truk and the Marshall Islands Districts. Major problems and programs brought to the attention of the Committees included the progress status of the Ponape airfield construction, the feasibility of extending water and electricity to the people in Kolonia and adjacent communities; improvement of roads and designation of primary, secondary and tertiary roads; attendant problems in existing tax laws,

ac.
U500
A2145

and the need for an over-all economic development program for Ponape.

The Committees have scheduled hearings with various members of the Administration during the coming week.

PEACE CORPS' VAUGHN IN TERRITORY

Peace Corps Director Jack Hood Vaughn arrived in Saipan on February 20 for a six day visit in Micronesia. He was accompanied by Ross Pritchard, Peace Corps Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific. Their itinerary includes stops in Truk, February 21 and 22; Palau, February 23 and 24; and Yap, February 25 to visit the 294 Volunteers now stationed in the Mariana and Western Caroline Islands.

Mr. Vaughn became head of the Peace Corps in 1966. He served as regional director for Latin American programs from 1961 to 1964. In that position, he was instrumental in establishing the policy of Volunteers living at the economic level of the people of the host country in which they are working.

In mid-1966, the 20,000th Peace Corps Volunteer was recruited for overseas assignment and 10,000 Volunteers had completed their two years' of service and returned to the United States.

MARSHALLS' PC DEPUTY DIRECTOR DROWNS

George Puerschner, 28, Peace Corps Deputy Director, Marshall Islands, drowned during a skin diving excursion near Majuro on February 14. Following memorial services in Majuro at Father Hacker's Chapel, the body was returned to his home in Oceanside, New York.

In a message to Mr. Puerschner's family the High Commissioner said, "We deeply appreciate the dedication Mr. Puerschner had shown to the people of the Marshalls. He was a fine young man and a great credit to the Peace Corps. He will be missed."

John Pincetich, Director Peace Corps Micronesia, cabled, "You have our deepest sympathy. George was not only a fine member of staff, but a good friend. He pioneered the opening of our Peace Corps program in the Marshalls District. His dedication, his deep interest in his work endeared him to Marshallese people and volunteers. At the time of his death he had volunteered to assist in a photographic mission the purpose of which was to encourage others to volunteer to help Micronesia. He won an irreplaceable spot in our hearts. We, the staff, the volunteers and the people of the Marshalls who knew him so well, mourn his loss with you."

Peace Corps Staff Physician John Wolf said the probable cause of death was due to lack of oxygen, or oxygen cramp or paralysis of the lung. Mr. Puerschner was reported to be an experienced diver. He was not married.

HONOLULU COLUMNIST IN MICRONESIA

Writer Bob Krauss of the Honolulu Advertiser is in the Territory for a six-week assignment. He will visit each district. Mr. Krauss is preparing a series of articles for his paper which will better acquaint the reading public with Micronesians, their character, personality, and activities in everyday life. He spent one week in Saipan talking with various persons in an attempt to gain leads for human interest stories. Mr. Krauss, a native of Kansas, has worked in Hawaii for 15 years. He is a feature columnist for the Advertiser. His tentative itinerary through the end of March includes:

Feb. 20 - Saipan to Guam, regular DC-4 flight
Feb. 21 - Guam to Majuro, regular DC-4 flight
Feb. 28 - DC-4 to Kwaj connect with SA-16 to Ponape, flights moved up one day due to UN Mission visit

Mar. 8 - Ponape to Truk regular SA-16 flight
Mar. 15 - Truk to Guam, regular DC-4 flight
Mar. 16 - Guam to Palau, regular DC-4 flight
Mar. 24 - Palau to Yap, regular DC-4 flight
Mar. 31 - Yap to Guam, regular DC-4 flight

TERRITORY-WIDE MEDICAL CONFERENCE

Doctors from the six districts of the Territory convened in Saipan February 6 through February 17 for a refresher course in clinical medicine. The conference was jointly sponsored by the East-West Center and the Trust Territory Field Training Interchange in Medical Information.

Program Director for the East-West Center was Richard Suehiro. Trust Territory Acting Director of Public Health Luke A. Howe, M.D., and Dr. Arobati Hicking, special assistant to the Director, coordinated the program for the Trust Territory Interchange.

Present were Drs. Ngas Kansou, Rafael Moonfell, Nobuo Swei, and Hiroshi Ishmael, Truk; Antonio Golbuu and Simeron Jim, Yap; Lomisan Ngrailild, Roy Yalap and Minoru Ueki, Palau; Alexander Panuelo, Burton Jano, Aminis David and Eliwad Pretrick, Ponape; Tregar Ishoda Ezra Riklon, Isaac Lanwi, and John Iaman, Marshalls; Jose L. Chong, Jose T. Villagomez, Benusto R. Kaipat, Jose D. Torres, Calistro C. Cabrera, Bernard You, Carlos S. Camacho, Francisco T. Palacios; and Tom Haverbush, M.D., Marianas.



A young patient at Saipan's Dr. Torres Hospital concentrates on the proceedings of a clinical lecture. From left: Dr. Jose T. Villagomez, Nurse Grace Johnson, and guest consultant Stanley W. Wright, M.D., professor of pediatrics, University of California School of Medicine. Dr. Antonio Golbuu of Yap, with back to the camera.

Visiting specialists from Hawaii were Drs. Francis Terada, Richard K. Blaisdell, Benjamin C.K. Tom. Stanley W. Wright, M.D., from the University of California, and Jacob A. Brody, M.D., Epidemiology Branch of the National Institute of Neurologic Diseases and Blindness, Bethesda, Maryland, also participated.

ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS WEEK

A proclamation designating the week of February 19-25 as ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS WEEK was issued by the High Commissioner. The proclamation states that the professions of Engineering and Land Surveying are two of the oldest professions of the civilized world and that the Trust Territory has benefited from the works of these professions. It urges all citizens to give appropriate recognition to the observance of this week by showing an awareness of the special role the Engineering and Land Surveying professions occupy in the economy of the Trust Territory.

THREE LICENSED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE

Three recent graduates of the Fiji School of Medicine in Suva, who have completed two years' internship in the Territory, have received licenses to practice medicine in the Trust Territory. They are Dr. Hiroshi Ishmael, Ponape, stationed in Truk; Dr. Simeron Jim, Ponape, stationed in Yap; and Dr. Rufino Xavier, Palau, stationed in Yap.

Submit news items to Highlights editor June D. Winham, Public Information Office, Headquarters.
