

Wakako

HIGHLIGHTS

May 15, 1974

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS



TT Membership in Asian Development Bank

Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman said last week on Saipan that preliminary arrangements are now underway for the Trust Territory to become a member of the Asian Development Bank.

Coleman, who is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Micronesia Development Bank, attended the Seventh Annual Conference of the Asian Development Bank held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, along with Senator Amata Kabua of the Congress of Micronesia, other members of the Board of the Bank of Micronesia and Legislative Counsel Kaleb Udui.

The TT Delegation attended the conference as official observers at the invitation of the ADB. Also attending as official observers were representatives of Nauru and the Cook Islands.

Deputy HiCom Coleman said that steps are now being taken in Washington, D.C., for the United States Congress to sponsor legislation enabling the TT to become a member of the Asian Development Bank. He added that if the legislation is passed, it will be possible for Micronesia to become the 41st member of the bank, following admission of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands as the 40th member this year.

Coleman stated that when the TT becomes a member of the bank, it will be indirectly associated with many of the world's financial institutions with the capital for development programs necessary to build the economic structure of Micronesia. He added that in joining the bank the TT will also have access to technical assistance, such as economists, agriculturists, industrial expertise, and other resources necessary to the development of the territory.

"Also in becoming a member, the TT will be sharing in the 'sphere of island-community' feeling with Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Western Samoa, Tonga and the Gilbert and Ellice Islands—neighboring island-nations that have already joined the bank," the Deputy HiCom said.

Coleman added that with the establishment of the Micronesia Development Bank, a Micronesia financial institution, "we will be opening up some new major sources for the necessary capital essential to the development of the Trust Territory." He noted that a bill was approved by the HiCom last week calling for changing the name of the already established Bank of Micronesia to "Micronesia Development Bank." Coleman explained that the bill also amends the previous law establishing the Bank of Micronesia as a commercial institution to a



The TT Manpower Advisory Council met this month (above at a public hearing) to decide on manpower training priorities for Micronesia. A report on their work will be included in the next issue of Highlights.

development bank which will be more responsive to the needs of Micronesia at this stage of development.

Coleman said when the TT becomes a member of the ADB, funds could be channelled through the Micronesia Development Bank for use throughout the territory. He added, however, that this type of arrangement needs the backing of the U.S. Government which is sponsoring TT membership in the ADB.

According to the Deputy HiCom, the ADB as a major development bank has a variety of loans with technical assistance from which Micronesia can greatly benefit. He noted, among other things, "soft loans," which are essentially long term loans with long grace periods. Coleman explained that a "soft loan" can be obtained with a term of 30-years but the borrower in some cases, does not have to start paying back the loan for the first ten years until the business is well-established. Coleman added that this type of loan is what an under-developed territory like Micronesia needs. "There are other similar loans," he noted.

The Deputy HiCom said he hopes that legislation by the U.S. Congress sponsoring TT membership in the Asian Development Bank will soon pass, so the TT will be admitted as a member. "Only by becoming a member can we take the necessary steps through the Micronesia Development Bank to secure from that source the financial and technical assistance essential for the economic development of the territory," Coleman concluded.

Bikini Return Postponed

The leaders and people of Bikini Atoll, relocated by atomic tests from their homeland nearly twenty-five years ago, have decided that the time is not yet quite ripe for the return to their home atoll.

The Trust Territory has been in the process of rehabilitating Bikini Atoll, following the removal of radioactive debris, for the past several years. Seedling coconut and breadfruit trees have been planted, and 40 of 78 house sets have been constructed on Bikini Atoll. (A house set consists of a core house, cook house, wash house, toilet and water catchment). The U.S. government originally announced that the Bikini people would return to Bikini from the tiny island of Kili, in April of 1974. On March 30, three Bikini leaders plus Congress of Micronesia Representative Ataji Balos left for Washington, D.C., to petition Department of Defense and Interior officials for an *ex gratia* payment of three million dollars to the Bikini people, similar to the one million dollar gift given the Eniwetok people by the United States in 1970. At the request of the Bikini leadership, Micronesian Legal Services attorneys asked for a delay in the scheduled return until the leadership could report to the Bikini community on the mission to Washington. The Marshalls District Government agreed that it would be inappropriate to attempt a return to Bikini before the leadership arrived back from Washington.

Upon their arrival, it was agreed that a meeting should be held at Kili Island to discuss the return to Bikini.

On April 25, Bikini Magistrate Lore Kessibuki, Scribe Nathan Note, and Councilman Moses, plus District Administrator Oscar DeBrum and Legal Services Attorney Chips Barry and Counselor Hemos Jack, sailed for Kili Island aboard a Trust Territory LCU. On Saturday, the entire Bikini Council, plus many members of the community, met with the lawyers, the District Administrator, and the members of their Washington delegation. After hearing a report from the delegation, and reading the documents the delegates brought with them from Washington, the council members unanimously

agreed that they would postpone the return to Bikini until the results of the Washington mission were known.

Upon inquiry by the District Administrator, the council agreed that individual families who wished to separate from the existing community and who wish to return to Bikini in the near future, would be permitted to do so. The council asked, however, that such requests be referred to them before any action is taken by the government. The full text of the announcement from the Bikini people, drafted by their scribe and signed by the magistrate and twelve councilmen, is as follows:

"On April 27, 1974, there was a meeting conducted between the District Administrator of the Marshalls, Oscar DeBrum, Chips Barry and Hemos Jack, lawyers from the Legal Services Corporation, and the people of Bikini who are now residing on Kili.

"The purpose of this meeting was to find out the desires of each individual Bikinian now residing on Kili, and to find out whether they want to return or not to Bikini on the date that the government has set aside.

"The answer was given and firmly made in front of the DistAd and other representatives from Legal Services, Magistrate and Scribe of Kili, and also councilmen and the people of Bikini who are residing on Kili. The answer given was that nobody will be returning to Bikini until such time as the wishes and requests of the delegation to Washington are granted. Also, there should be one day when the people of Kili will return to Bikini all together, and the government should delay the return until such time as all the desires of the delegation are granted. Those desires are the ones that our delegation made on their trip to Washington, D.C. Another factor is that there should be an agreement or satisfaction among the Bikinians concerning the rehabilitation of the island.

"We are hereby requesting Oscar DeBrum not to send a vessel for the return until such time as determined by the people of Bikini who are now residing on Kili."

The statement is signed by the Magistrate, Scribe and councilmen and witnessed by the DistAd, Oscar DeBrum.

Second Supplemental Request Approved

The United States Congress has given its approval to the Trust Territory Government's request for a \$1.5 million second supplemental appropriation for the Fiscal Year 1974 TT budget. The amount includes \$750,000 to cover additional costs on the Ponape Referral Hospital, and an equal amount to pay for sharply increased fuel costs during the year.

According to word received on Saipan from Washington, both the Senate and House have now completed action on the bill, but because of differences in some items affecting other agencies the measure must be considered by a joint conference committee before it is sent to President Richard Nixon for his signature. The

amount approved for the Trust Territory is the same in both houses, however, and thus will not be affected by the conference.

Trust Territory and Congress of Micronesia program and budget officials traveled to Washington in late March and early April to testify before congressional committees on the supplemental appropriation request, as well as on the FY 1975 budget, which still is under consideration by the Congress.

The Congress of Micronesia had asked that money for another new TT field trip ship also be included in the second supplemental for FY 1974, but this was not done.

Action on Bills

Briefly

District Administrators and their representatives are meeting at a semi-annual conference in Truk District this week. Major topics up for discussion include: the coming constitutional convention delegate election, recently passed legislation from the Congress of Micronesia session, the TT's new three-year budget plan and accelerated CIP program, sea transportation, and boating safety. High Commissioner Johnston was expected to attend the closing days of the meeting.

The Congress of Micronesia Joint Committee on Administrative Appointments met on Saipan last week to consider the High Commissioner's nominations of several individuals under advice and consent provisions of the law. The nominations include those of Mrs. Kiyoko Rengiil of Palau to the TT Personnel Board, and of Hilary Conrad (Ponape) and Mrs. Carmen Bigler of the Marshalls to the Board of Education. Also, Phillip Chamberlain has been officially nominated to the post of Territorial Planner, the newly created office on the staff of the High Commissioner. Chamberlain has been serving as the Chief of the Planning Division in the Department of Public Works. Public Law 5-78 removed Planning from Public Works and placed the function at the HiCom staff level.

Tropical Storm Carla developed to Typhoon intensity on May 3 as she passed close to the Mariana Islands. DistAd Marianas reported that winds of 68 miles per hour and gusts to 85 miles per hour were recorded on Saipan, where some houses were destroyed. There was some structural damage reported on Tinian also, while Tinian, Rota, Saipan, Pagan and Agrihan all suffered heavy damage to agricultural crops. The storm developed rapidly north of Truk and moved northwest into the Marianas.

High Commissioner Johnston has completed action on all of the bills passed during the Second Session of the Fifth Congress of Micronesia. Below is a list of the new public laws and those measures disapproved by the administration:

- Public Law 5-86: Relating to Administrative Law.
- PL 5-87: Regarding payment for electricity by occupants of government housing.
- PL 5-88: Establishing the Micronesia Development Bank and appropriating money for its operation.
- PL 5-89: Appropriating money for Trust Territory scholarships and for other purposes.

Those measures which were disapproved include:

- A Bill amending the TT Environmental Quality Protection Act.
- A Bill providing for the education of exceptional children.

Deputy Attorney General Mamoru Nakamura has left Saipan for an eight-month study program at the National Law Center, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Nakamura will be taking courses in International Law, Constitutional Law and Corporation Law, and may be working at the Office of Territorial Affairs in the Interior Department.

A successful open heart operation was performed last month in Truk on a young man who was stabbed in the heart. Dr. Charles Jones, assisted by Kalisto Thomas and other Truk Hospital personnel, operated on the heart of 26-year-old Misael Martin, who had been stabbed in a fight. The operation went well, and the patient is on the way to recovery. Jones gave much credit to Thomas, an anesthetist, and a graduate of the TT School of Nursing who has received advanced training in the field of anesthesiology in New Zealand.



In ceremonies held on Law Day (May 1) in Palau, two new district judges were sworn into office by High Court Associate Justice Kelly Turner. Receiving the oath of office as Presiding Judge was Francisco Morei, (right photo) who fills the vacancy left by the death of Judge Pablo Ringang. Benjamin N. Oiterong (left photo) was sworn in as an Associate Judge; Oiterong is a former District Prosecutor.

Appointments Announced



Manuel T. Sablan has been permanently appointed to the position of Superintendent of Public Safety of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Sablan has been acting Superintendent of Public Safety since July of 1973. He began his law enforcement career in 1951 when he joined the Marianas District Police Department. In 1953 he was promoted to Police Sergeant in charge of both traffic and criminal investigation, and then was appointed to the position of Chief of Police of the Marianas District in 1956, a position which he held until 1965. At that time he joined the Headquarters staff of the Attorney General's office as Deputy Superintendent of Public Safety. Sablan has attended the International Police Academy in Washington, D.C., at which he undertook the General and Senior Law Enforcement Courses and in addition attended a nine-month Advanced Police Management Course. Sablan is the first Micronesian to assume the position of Superintendent of Public Safety.



Trust Territory High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston has announced the official appointment of Tommy Perez of Guam to the position of Liaison Officer on Guam for the Trust Territory. Perez's appointment became effective May 1. The new liaison officer replaces Captain Gordon Findley, who retired last July 1. He has been serving in an acting capacity in the position since that time. The 31 year-old liaison officer is a graduate of George Washington High School on Guam in 1960. He started his government career when he joined the TT Liaison Office.



HIGHLIGHTS

Jim Manke, Editor
Rhonda Holland, Assistant Editor
Nick Guerrero, Graphic Artist

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