

PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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POSTAL IMPROVEMENTS IN MICRONESIA

A formalized plan for the improvements and up-grading of United States Postal services and facilities throughout the Trust Territory now appears to be in the offing, it was announced this week. United States Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien has dispatched his personal representatives to the Trust Territory to examine at first hand the level and quality of postal services and the improvements and changes which appear feasible.

John D. Swygert, Executive Assistant to the Deputy Postmaster General; Thomas F. Meagher, Jr., Assistant General/^{Council}for Transportation; and Thomas E. Downey, Postal Service Officer for Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and the Trust Territory, are in the Territory to meet with Government officials and postmasters in all the district centers.

According to Mr. Swygert, the Postmaster General expects to be advised as to the improvements that can be made in the transportation of mail to, from and within the Territory; the Postal facilities that should be procured, expanded or improved; and those communities which can be considered qualified for customer services such as door and curbside delivery and rural route delivery.

Bids have already been requested for a new Post Office on Saipan, and carrier service is expected to be implemented, hopefully before

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the end of 1968. Siting of a new combined Post Office and Bank Building has also been accomplished at Koror in connection with the new Civic Center Plan; and it is hoped that a site can be selected shortly on Moen Island in the Truk District at the proposed new Civic Center area recommended by the Hawaii Architects and Engineers, master planning consultants to the Trust Territory. New facilities on Majuro and at Ebeye in the Marshall Islands are also included in the long range plan of the Post Office Department.

The Postal officials visited Saipan March 10 through the 13th and left for Koror and Yap this week. After meeting with the High Commissioner on March 21 they expect to visit Ponape, Truk and Majuro before making their report to Postmaster General O'Brien.

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