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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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NEWS BUREAU SET UP FOR CONGRESS COVERAGE

Marianas

SAIPAN, M.I. (Micronesian News Service) -- The Micronesians News Service has been set up this summer by the Trust Territory's Department of Public Affairs. The project involves a 12-members news bureau which will cover the fourth session of the Congress of Micronesia.

Truk

The bureau will provide daily coverage of the session for the six district radio stations in the Trust Territory and will prepare weekly round-ups for the various local newspapers published throughout the territory. Special features for the radio stations will include recorded interviews with individual members of the Congress in their own languages for broadcast in their home districts and panel discussions between groups of congressmen, recorded in English. Major speeches presented during the session will also be recorded for distribution to the district radio stations. The district newspapers will receive weekly feature stories written especially for them by a news bureau participant from their district.

Ponape

Marshalls

Yap

Palau

Material prepared by the news bureau staff will also be made available through the Trust Territory's public information office to media in Guam, Hawaii and the U.S. mainland.

Seven young Micronesians, all associated with the various news media in the territory, have been selected as trainees to work in the
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news bureau this summer. They will be supervised and assisted by four Peace Corps volunteers on temporary assignment to Saipan for the news bureau project. Chief of the congressional news bureau is Marjorie Smith, a former Guam journalist now living in Saipan.

Trainees participating in the program are Lee Silk, news director at WSZO in Majuro, Marshall Islands; Kodaro Gallen, program manager at WSZD in Ponape; Isaac Figir, announcer at WSZA in Yap; Luke Bekebekmad, staff reporter for Didil a Chais newspaper in Koror, Palau; Ben Fitial, news director at KJQR in Saipan, and Isauo James and Itoshy Mefy of Truk. James and Mefy are 1968 high school graduates. James was selected by his teachers as Truk's outstanding journalism student and Mefy was nominated for participation in the news bureau project by the station manager at Truk's WSZC where he has been employed on a part-time basis.

Peace Corps volunteers on the news bureau staff are Dan Smith and John Perry of the Marshall Islands and Dave Altshul and Marc Wallace of Ponape. All the volunteers have been actively involved in media programs in their respective districts.

The members of the news bureau arrived in Saipan this week to begin preparation for covering the Congress which will open its pre-session on July 1. The regular 30-day session of the Congress will begin July 8.

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