

*Costigan, Father* (3)

X  
REV. HUGH F. COSTIGAN, S.J.

JESUIT MISSION BUREAU  
39 EAST 83RD STREET  
NEW YORK 28, N. Y.

GENERAL  
ST 51  
FG 105-13  
PC 5

cc: Mr. Timothy Riordan, Jr.

Agent 4-1114

Mission Address:  
PONAPE, CAROLINE ISLANDS  
TRUST TERRITORY, PACIFIC

November 14, 1961

Mr. Sargent Shriver  
Director of Peace Corps  
Executive Office  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Shriver:

Through the good offices of Mr. Timothy Riordan, Jr.,  
Presidential Assistant, I have been informed that you will be kind  
enough to see me for a few minutes on November 21st, at 2:00 P.M.,  
in the Executive Office, Washington, D. C.

I have been informed by members of the Interior  
Department that plans are being readied for members of the Peace  
Corps to be assigned to the Trust Territory of the Pacific,  
specifically the Caroline and Marshall Islands, within a year's  
time. This I find of the greatest interest to my own work in the  
Caroline Islands where I have been stationed for the last fifteen  
years at the Island of Ponape.

My immediate Superior, the Most Reverend Vincent I.  
Kennally, S.C., M.S., has assigned me almost exclusively to the  
work of building an Agricultural and Vocational School on the  
High School level intended for the education of the young men of  
Micronesia in agriculture, animal husbandry, construction, mechanics,  
food production and preservation and other allied subjects. This  
institution, now under construction, will be completed in September of 1962, and  
stands ready to receive select students from all the islands in  
the Pacific.

In addition, we hope to embark on extensive work  
in Cooperatives, Credit Unions, Women's Social Centers and other  
adult projects which we feel are geared to "help the people to  
help themselves".

In an enclosing with this letter some literature  
which will give an idea of what we are attempting to do.

Personnel to maintain the standards of the School  
poses a problem, at least for some time to come. We have some  
Jesuit seminarians still in their training, destined to go to the  
Islands after suitable scientific and agricultural training most  
probably at the University of Hawaii. The first few years pose  
the immediate problem of some trained American personnel to

November 14, 1961

implement Micronesian teachers now in training who will also be used in this project. Specifically, I would like to discuss with you the possibility of Peace Corps personnel being assigned to this work. Or from another angle, inasmuch as I already have definite commitments from two very highly trained persons, one of whom has had very extensive experience in island work, I would like to discuss the possibilities, if any, of their inclusion in the Peace Corps for this specific project.

It may help in clarification of this whole problem if I state all our adult educational work is done on a completely non-denominational basis and that our school while of essence Catholic, plans to admit without any difficulty boys who are not Catholic. Or in fact who may have no religion whatsoever.

Knowing how very preoccupied your schedule must be, I deeply appreciate the courtesy of this interview and I assure you the very clarification which I may carry back to the Trust Territory may prove mutually beneficial to all of us.

Very sincerely yours,

Hugh F. Costigan, S.J.

# REPORT from PONAPE

A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF FATHER HUGH COSTIGAN, THE JESUIT MISSIONARY, ON THE ISLAND OF PONAPE IN THE CAROLINE ISLANDS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC . . . . OCTOBER 1960

## SCHOOL NEARING COMPLETION

-----

New York: The first Jesuit Agricultural School in the South Pacific, and probably the only school of its kind in an area of over one million square miles, dotted with hundreds of islands, is well on its way to completion.

Reports from Father Hugh Costigan on the Island of Ponape indicate that all the foundations are complete, three of the buildings are up, and all the really difficult construction work has been completed.

Better than half the work is now finished is the estimate of Walter Klotzback, Chairman of the Ponape Council.

Current tape reports from Father Costigan state that if no new natural disaster hits the South Pacific, or some unforeseeable event were to occur, the school will be ready for dedication some time in the latter part of 1961.

Chief Klotzback reported that in October 1960, a six ton shipment of materials will be delivered to Ponape. The shipment which left New York in July includes an International Harvester dump truck, a cement mixer, and 800 lb bell for the Church, some beautiful statues of the saints, a number of cases of books and other materials.



Father Hugh F. Costigan is pictured with Moses Hadley, King of Metelanim, Ponape, the largest island in the Caroline Islands in the southwest Pacific. The picture was taken at Father Costigan's mission on the island.