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REMARKS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR JOHN A. CARVER, JR., NOVEMBER 12, 1963, AT OPENING OF THE COUNCIL OF MICRONESIA, SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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Mr. President, members of the Council!

It is an honor to be with you, and to be introduced by
High Commissioner Goding.

Two and a half years ago, I came to this area with Mr. Goding, when he assumed his responsibilities as High Commissioner. Since then, I have made several visits to the Trust Territory, to confer with him and to meet many of you.

Although this is my first opportunity to meet with the Council of Micronesia, I have met with District and Municipal councils. I sincerely regret that I cannot remain for your deliberations. ^{However,} I must return to Washington, but I do so with a vastly increased store of knowledge about the Trust Territory, gathered in the past eight days that I have been at the Saipan headquarters.

As all of you know, we are entering on a new period for the Trust Territory. The Congress of the United States a year ago enacted legislation which authorized a higher level of appropriations. The effects of the new programs are being felt throughout Micronesia -- new classrooms, better qualified teachers, public works improvements, with more jobs and other activity affecting the people even in the outlying islands.

As you know also, last July and August a Survey Mission was appointed by President Kennedy to study the economic, social, and political problems and potentials of the Trust Territory.

Many of you met the Mission members, who travelled to every district.

The High Commissioner will tell you more about the Survey Mission report,

which has been

already submitted to the President. He welcomes, as does the Secretary of the

Interior, the interest and concern of the President, and the continuing interest and concern of the Congress of the United States.

It has been my purpose, while here representing Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, to study the programs recommended by the Survey Mission Report with the High Commissioner and his staff. Many of ~~them~~ *these programs* will require sympathetic

attention and assistance of the Congress of the United States. That body, like this Council wants to be assured that programs are wisely conceived, and efficiently executed.

It is an important concept of the American system of government that programs — political as well as social and economic programs — have the interest and involvement of the people affected. In this case, you speak and act for the Micronesian people.

take pride
There has been much of which we can *take pride* in the political progress of Micronesia. As an illustration, let me speak of the establishment of a territorial legislature. Several years ago, the United States promised the trusteeship

council that we would try to establish a territory-wide legislature by 1965.

in previous sessions
In this Council, you studied the problems in October, 1968, and in March of this year.

The High Commissioner, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior,

can order the legislature created, but, as you are well aware, he and the

of the Interior Secretary want your consideration and advice. In this session, *H.C. Goddard, H.C. Godding* will lay

before you the recommendations made to him by the Survey Mission and a comparison

of those recommendations with those previously made by the Council, and by the

Administering Authority.

The decision to give legislative powers to a territory-wide legislature is with the United States; the decision to use those powers wisely is with you. That is why we have not hurried the process; that is why we think the time is now close.

Let me suggest one aspect of the responsibility to use such powers wisely

to which you ought to give attention, *B.* In your districts, legislatures or councils

already have power and authority on a district basis which might pass to you on a

territory-wide basis. The district legislatures will have to be advised and con-

sulted. This ought to be your task, not the task of the High Commissioner's staff.

There are several ways in which such consultation might take place. One

method might be the appointment of a committee of the Council to meet with committees appointed by the district legislatures or councils. You can think of other techniques. But the important thing is not so much how the consultation takes place but the fact that it does take place.

Those of us in Washington ^{D.C.} concerned with the Trust Territory have watched with considerable interest the development of the Council of Micronesia. In your sessions since 1956, the Council has achieved a unity of purpose which reminds us of the history of other American legislatures, such as the Continental Congress which eased the distrust between ^{before our Constitution of the US was adopted} ~~the~~ the merchants of Boston and the ^{between} planters of Virginia. It seems to me that each session of the Council has been more productive than the session before. I have no doubt that this meeting, which is now being opened, will be one of the most important in the Council's history.

Though I return to Washington this afternoon, I wish to leave with you my ^{and the best wishes of the President and the Secretary of the Interior} best wishes for a successful meeting here in Saipan.

Thank you.