



# PRESS RELEASE

HEADQUARTERS

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Saipan, Mariana Islands

PRESS RELEASE NO. 45A  
(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

INFORMATION OFFICE -- PHONE NO. 2148

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS.  
November 21, 1963--CLOSING REMARKS OF HONORABLE M. W. GODING, HIGH COMMISSIONER,  
AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF COUNCIL OF MICRONESIA, November 21, 1963--

Mr. Chairman and Delegates:

Some ten days ago this Council adopted an agenda which included many items of importance to the Trust Territory. During the following week and a half, in separate committees or sitting as the Committee of the Whole House, these items have been painstakingly studied, discussed and voted upon.

In my opening remarks, I commented that this session of the Council may go down in its history as its most important session. I added that the political development task laid before you was one of magnitude and great responsibility.

In my view this forecast has proven correct. What we sought, and what I believe we have obtained, is a distillation of the views of the various districts with respect to the proposed Congress of Micronesia.

The United States has always had a deep and abiding faith in the democratic process. We have always felt that the active participation of the people and their representatives is essential for a government based upon human dignity and human rights.

It is for these reasons that many years ago we encouraged the formation of district legislative bodies. It is for these reasons that I was pleased to see the former Inter-District Advisory Committee to the High Commissioner convert itself into the Council of Micronesia and name its own chairman.

All of us are fully aware that the pace of political development is quickening. With each session this body, for example, has displayed an ever better grasp of its responsibilities.

On the other hand, we fully appreciate that the Council has not been of one mind about all of the alternative proposals which have been discussed here. And this is good.

Recommendations are the more valuable when hammered out in the forge of debate and free exchange of ideas.

More important, the process develops a better understanding of others and their problems.

At this point, may I refer to one matter which was discussed at some length but which was not the subject of a resolution or recommendation. I refer, of course, to the proposal advanced by some delegates to revise Section I of the Code.

This section and the rights it seeks to protect--the rights of the church against the state and the state against the church--are fundamental. However, the specific provisions of Section I may be unnecessarily restrictive in terms of the universally accepted doctrine of freedom of conscience and the proper roles of church and government in the life of the community.

Several days ago, I named a Committee to review the Trust Territory Code. This Committee is to be chaired by Chief Justice Furber and one of the items which I am asking it to study is Section I of the Code. Although I do not believe that those parts of the Trust Territory Code which constitute your Bill of Rights should be lightly changed, I am confident the Committee will carefully analyze this section. If, after thorough study, they find that its provisions should be modified to any extent, they will so recommend. The ideas expressed in this Council will be helpful to the Code Committee.

x While I have not been able to attend as many sessions of the Council as I would have liked, I have been kept informed of developments by members of the Administration staff who have been in attendance. I might add that I have had the opportunity to listen to parts of the taped proceedings and have found your debate and discussion of great interest.

I understand that the Council has adopted nine resolutions and 14 recommendations. I look forward to receiving them and I trust that it will be possible to implement many of them without delay.

Since your recommendations and resolutions have not as yet been submitted to me, I am not in a position to comment on them in detail. The Council, however, might like to have my general comments on a few of the major issues.

Much of your debate centered on economic matters and I have been tremendously impressed by your analysis of needs and the general soundness of your recommendations. The scanty natural and physical resources of the Territory make it mandatory that we use to the maximum our asset of human resources. I assure you that special attention will be devoted to this important aspect. Trained manpower is, as the Council has pointed out, a major factor in economic development.

Closely related to this problem is, of course, the problem of mobilizing capital and the development of the technical skills necessary for economic development. We are actively exploring ways and means whereby we can re-establish some of the industries of earlier days or establish new industries. In this study, we are giving careful attention to the appropriate role of foreign capital and foreign technicians. We are guided by the concept that the basic interests of the local inhabitants must be adequately safeguarded and that

Micronesians must enjoy their share of the fruits of economic development. Training of Micronesians, for example, should be an essential phase of the operation of any outside investor and we are insisting that such training be provided.

Our plans call for a greatly increased economic development loan fund and we are working toward a comprehensive economic program under which agriculture, fisheries and local industry will each be given its proper emphasis.

We are also looking to the establishment of a low-cost housing project for workers in all categories, whether government employees or private persons. Adequate housing within the means of local workers is essential if we are to improve standards of living.

I welcomed the opportunity to review with you our budget program for the current year and, within the limitations imposed on us at this time, attempted to give you some idea of the direction in which we are trying to move.

If I may briefly repeat myself, over the past three years we have substantially increased the total amount of funds granted to the Trust Territory by the United States Congress. The effects of this increased effort to improve education, health, living standards and economic opportunity are beginning to be felt. We hope and expect to do more in the future.

But let me also add a cautionary note. Whatever the level of American effort in Micronesia, it will have little effect without the involvement and participation of the people of Micronesia. New schools and the best qualified teachers in the world will have little real impact unless the parents of the children and the children participate in the education process. And so it is with every other aspect of life. Your resources, human, physical and financial, will also be required.

As I stated to you in my opening address, the work of the Council in a sense is just beginning. The work of this session has strengthened my faith in the ability of the Council and has reconfirmed my strong belief that we can achieve our goal of having a territorial legislature represent the people of the Pacific Islands by 1965.

In closing, I would like to extend my compliments to your Chairman, Mr. Heine, to the various subcommittees' chairmen, as well as to all delegates for the hard work that has gone into the Fourth Session. I shall look forward to our next meeting.

#