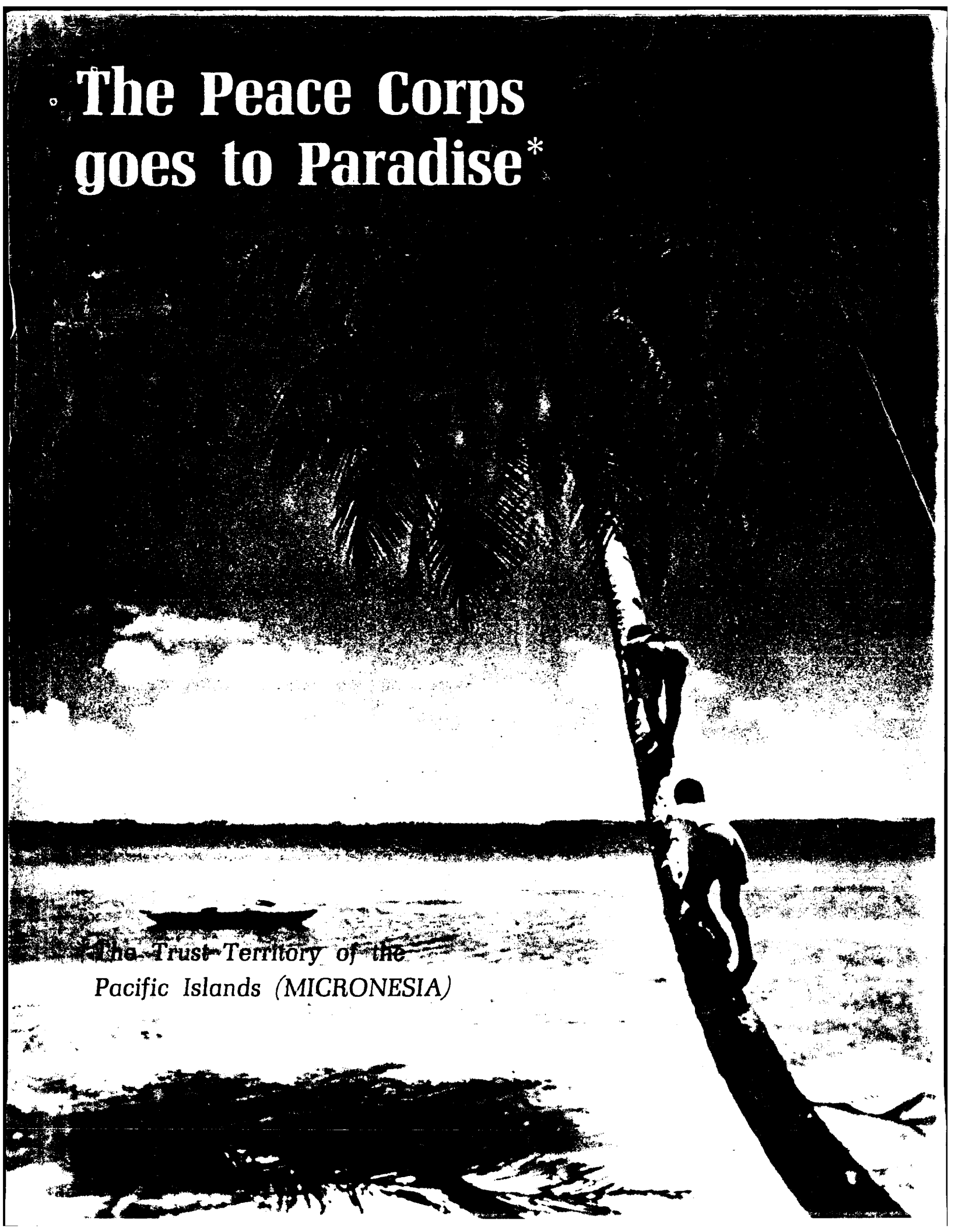


# The Peace Corps goes to Paradise\*



The Trust Territory of the  
Pacific Islands (MICRONESIA)

# There are Problems

## Education, Health and Public Works are First Peace

**T**ropical islands. Enchanted evenings. Swaying palms and sun-kissed maidens. Understaffed schools. Bad roads. Insufficient medical facilities. Inadequate water and sanitary systems. An island territory that has to import its seafood.

In short, there are problems in paradise.

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia) consists of 2,141 islands and atolls with a total land area of 687 square miles scattered over some 3,000,000 square miles, all sitting just north of the equator in the western Pacific.

Seized by American military forces after some of the bitterest fighting of World War II, the area became a United Nations Trusteeship under U. S. administration in 1947. In 1951, administrative responsibility for the Trust Territory was transferred from the Navy Department to the U. S. Department of the Interior. It was America's first attempt at administering a mandate.

But time has passed Micronesia by. Americans always seemed to have more urgent problems at hand — in Korea and Vietnam, in Birmingham and Watts.

The day is rapidly approaching when Micronesians will decide what their self-governing status is to be. In early May, they requested that the Peace Corps send "middle-level manpower" to help build the social, economic and political basis for self-government.

They asked for teachers, engineers, surveyors, health technicians, draftsmen and people who could

work in agriculture and help form cooperatives.

They did not want advisers, but men and women willing to pitch in alongside themselves to get the job done. And they knew that in the last five years, more than 19,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have provided this kind of assistance to some 50 independent nations around the world.

The Peace Corps responded to the request in a matter of days. An intensive program was developed to utilize liberal arts graduates with special Peace Corps training in the

skill areas requested.

The first phase calls for several hundred Volunteers to be sent to the Trust Territory by October, 1966. They will begin programs in elementary education and community development, public health and public works. The second phase which will begin in January, 1967, will concentrate on secondary education programs, cooperative and credit union development, agriculture (gardening, cattle, poultry), public administration, communication and transportation. Other phases will follow.

**Teaching and Community Development:** In the first phase, Volunteer elementary school teachers will work with Micronesian "counterpart" teachers. These two-man teams will help develop curriculum and upgrade teaching methods.

To help overcome a communications problem caused by the existence of nine Micronesian languages these Volunteers will help teach spoken English. They will also teach elementary health and hygiene, community development techniques and the elements of democratic organization.

Community development also will be an important part of the Volunteer's life outside the classroom. As a catalyst in his municipality, he will help his neighbors come together and articulate their problems, decide how to solve them and then take action. A project might be the construction of a water or sanitation system or the erection of a public meeting hall. The Volunteer's job is one that requires special skill, patience and training.

### HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete special abbreviated Trust Territory application form available from Peace Corps / Washington.
2. Because of the special nature of this program, no Placement Test is required.
3. Air Mail application to Peace Corps, Trust Territory, Washington, D. C. 20525.
4. You will be notified by phone within 15 days of receipt of your application of your acceptability.
5. Submission of this application does not obligate you in any way to serve in this program.

# in Paradise

## Corps Challenges

Secondary school teachers, who will be assigned to Micronesia as part of the second phase of the program, will also work in community development.

The teacher-community development volunteers may also find themselves teaching adult courses in the evenings. Among the subjects taught will probably be English language, child care and sanitation.

**Public Health:** In many countries, the Peace Corps' principal contribution to health programs has been its ability to utilize large numbers of properly trained liberal arts graduates under professional medical personnel.

The Peace Corps in this way has developed control programs against malaria and tuberculosis; it has been able to organize and carry out immunization programs and administer projects in environmental health and sanitation.

In the Trust Territory some of the Volunteer health workers will concentrate on leprosy and tuberculosis control programs. Other Volunteers will help staff small clinics while also training Micronesian counterparts in health aide duties. There will also be adult courses in child and maternal care, immunization projects and community health programs.

**Public Works:** The Peace Corps plans to supply a mixed cadre of engineers, architects, surveyors, draftsmen and construction supervisors to supply planning and engineering support for a wide variety of construction projects from roads to water catchments to docking facilities.

**The Second Phase:** Secondary school teachers will be part of the second phase of the Peace Corps program in Micronesia. Again working within the counterpart system, they will experiment with new curriculums. They will concentrate on English instruction and vocational training. Like the Peace Corps elementary school teachers they will also teach citizenship and work in community development and adult education.

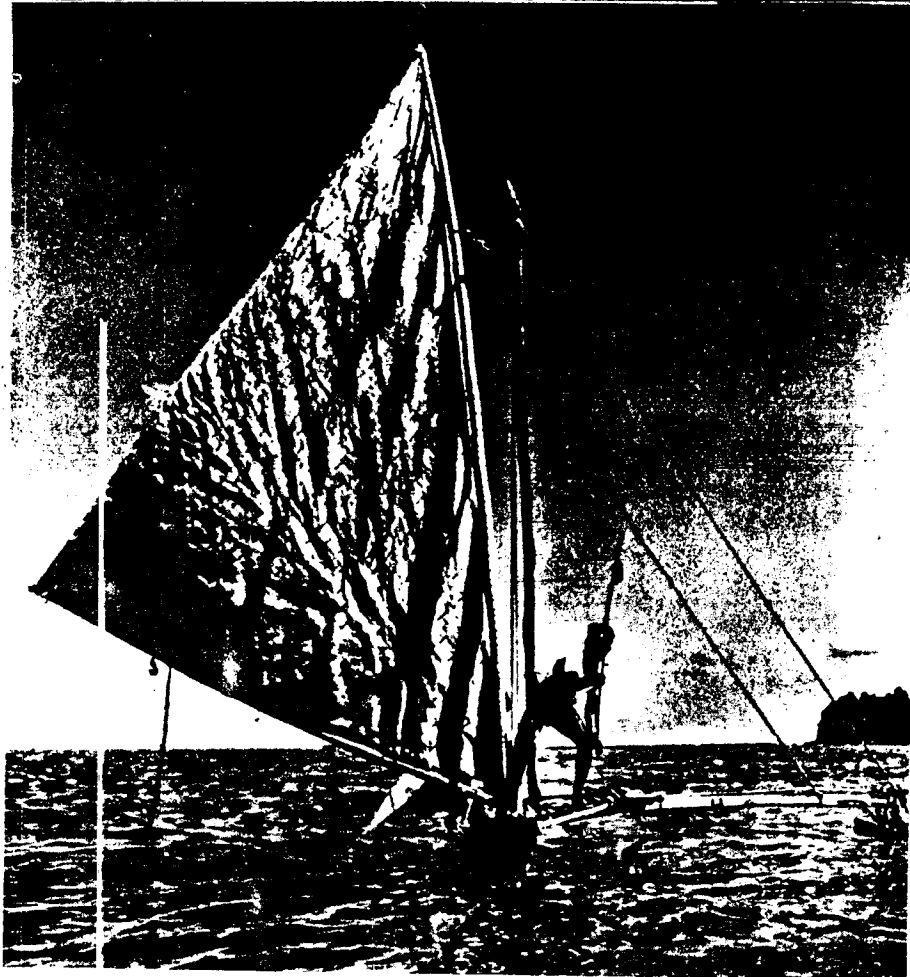
A large contingent of agricultural

specialists is planned for this phase. Some of them will develop gardening techniques for truck crops, especially on Rota, an island close to the large markets of Guam. Other Volunteers will help develop cattle and poultry industries.

To assist in the public administration field, the Peace Corps will also send lawyers, public administrators and secretaries to help provide on-the-job training for Micronesians and classroom instruction as well.



*Students en route to Outweh village school on the island of Kusaie.*



*Spear poised, fisherman spots his quarry off Ulithi Atoll in the Western Carolines.*

## MAGELLAN'S "PARAISO":

### 2,000 Islands in 3,000,000 Miles of Water

To Magellan, they were "paraiso": those islands where his scurvy-stricken crews got their first taste of fresh fruit after the long, empty reaches of the Pacific.

They were the Marianas — Guam, Tinian and northward a thousand miles to the distant Farallon de Pajaros — a chain of mountains whose tops alone break the surface of the ocean. Steep green slopes fall away to barrier reefs and sliding surf, the scene capped by magnificent clouds—all this is, indeed, "paradise," as the word has come to be

applied to the islands of the South Pacific.

A few other islands in the Trust Territory are mountainous — the Palaus, Yap and Ulithi in the Western Carolines, for example. Most of the Carolines and Marshalls are coral atolls, island rings formed of the reefs which once circled mountains eroded away or sunk beneath the sea.

Some tiny atolls, formed by the settling of sand in the cracks of coral, have grown through the ages to a size large enough to hold people — and even a few coconut palms.

### The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

*Sometimes called Micronesia, the territory consists of three island groups—The Marianas, Marshalls and Carolines in the western Pacific.*

**Area:** 3,000,000 square miles of water hold 2,141 islands with a total land area of 687 square miles.

**Population:** The 97 inhabited islands have 88,000 people.

**Best Known Islands:** Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas; Palau, Ulithi, Yap, Truk and Ponape in the Carolines; Bikini, Eniwetok and Kwajalein in the Marshalls.

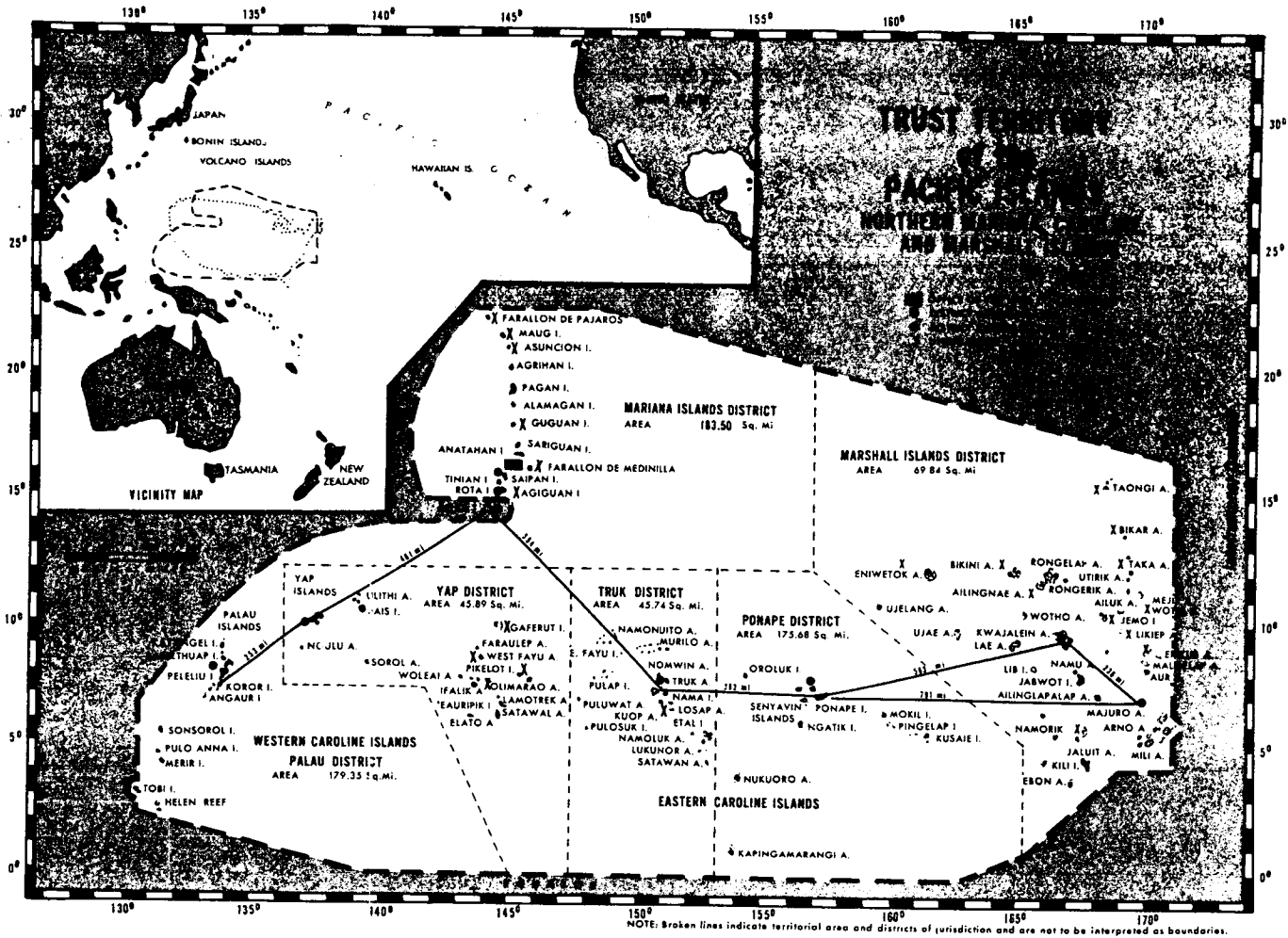
**Languages:** The nine Micronesian languages, with dialectical variations, are related to Malay. English is becoming the lingua franca.

**Education:** 202 public and private elementary schools accommodate 19,000 students. (A crash classroom building program has raised the enrollment from 12,000 since 1960.) There are 14 secondary schools for 2,500 students. Many public school teachers have not completed high school.

**Economy:** Copra accounts for about 85 per cent of all exports. Living standards are being improved through the introduction of agricultural and marine products. Among the food plants are taro, yams, tapioca, pandanus, bananas, coconuts and cocoa.

Some of them, like Eniwetok and Kwajalein, grew large enough to acquire fame when they became the scenes of major American landings against the Japanese in World War II. One of them, Bikini, acquired fame in another way — as the site of the world's first hydrogen bomb explosion.

Of the 2,141 separate islands, dots in the immensity of the Pacific, only 97 are inhabited — by 88,000 people. These are the Micronesians who sailed their great outrigger canoes first to the southern islands (where rain falls in abundance, up to 160



*The more than 2,000 islands of the Trust Territory cover a larger area than the continental United States and are spread across the Pacific from the International Dateline to within 300 miles of the Philippines and 700 miles of the Japanese mainland.*

inches a year) — except for Kapin-gamarangi and Nukuoro, which they left to the Polynesians. They refused to settle on more than a few of the northern islands because of a lack of rainfall and a consequent scarcity of drinking water.

The size and loneliness of this huge region can best be understood by a geographic analogy with the United States. If Taongi atoll in the northeast corner of the Marshalls were superimposed on the state of Maine, then Ebon atoll, still in the Marshalls, would be in Florida. Saipan would be in Montana, Kapin-

gamarangi in Texas, Ulithi on the site of Reno, Nevada. Tobi Island in the Western Carolines would be 700 miles southwest of San Diego.

In reality, Tobi lies on the northern edge of Indonesia. Palau lies less than 500 miles from Mindanao in the Philippines. The Farallon de Pajaros protrude from the sea about 700 miles southeast of Japan. Ranging from 20 degrees north to within one degree of the equator, the islands of the Trust Territory sweep eastward almost to the International Date Line.

Lying where they do, the islands

are warm and humid, averaging 75 to 85 degrees in the Marianas and from 80 to 92 degrees in the Marshalls and Carolines. The warmth and humidity generate the great typhoons, which lash the east shore of Asia. Storm-risen seas sometimes crash clear over the lower atolls east of Yap and Ponape where the typhoons are usually spawned. Many animals, including most of the domestic varieties, have been imported to the islands. The typhoons may be the principal reason why the only indigenous mammal is the airborne bat.

## HISTORY: Germans, Spaniards, Japanese and Americans Have Occupied the Islands in Past 80 Years

Although written history of Micronesia begins with the Portuguese navigator, Ferdinand Magellan, and his discovery of the Mariana Islands in 1521, folk chants of the Southwest Pacific people tell of a culture antedating Rome.

Ancient Polynesians, perhaps the greatest sailors of all history, navigated 5,000 miles by the stars to reach Palau from Tahiti, centuries before Phoenician galleys commanded the Mediterranean.

But until the 19th Century, little was known of Micronesians — first cousins to the Malays and more distant cousins to the Polynesians — or their 3 million square miles of ocean. It was then that Spain extended its administrative control to include all three of the major island groups: the Carolines, the Marshalls and the Marianas.

The Marshall Islands were seized by Germany in 1885. Following Spain's defeat by the United States in the Spanish-American war (1898), the Carolines and Marianas — except for Guam, which was ceded to the United States — were sold to Germany.

With the outbreak of World War I, Japan took over the entire area included in the present Trust Territory, and on December 17, 1920, they were entrusted to Japan under a League of Nations mandate. Upon its withdrawal from the League in 1935, Japan began to fortify the islands and in World War II they served as important Japanese military bases.

Several of the islands, notably the Palaus, Eniwetok, Kwajalein, Saipan, Tinian and Truk, were the scene of bitter fighting during the

war. Indeed, Saipan and Tinian were B-29 bases from which the home islands of Japan were bombed. From Tinian, the *Enola Gay* dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

As each island was occupied by American troops, it became subject to U.S. authority in accordance with the international law of belligerent occupation. In 1947, Micronesia became a United Nations Trusteeship under U.S. administration. Four years later, the administrative responsibility for the Territory was transferred from the Navy Department to the Department of the Interior.

The Trust Territory was divided into six administrative districts: the Palau, Yap, Truk, and Ponape districts in the Caroline Islands; the Mariana Islands District; and the Marshall Islands District. Authority for the Territory is vested in a high commissioner, appointed by the President of the United States and under the immediate authority of the Secretary of the Interior.

The Peace Corps enters the Territory on the eve of its twentieth anniversary as a United Nations Trusteeship.

"Barn Raising" was a tradition in Rural America during the 19th Century. In a gesture of friendship and fellowship, citizens of a community would offer some of their time to help a new settler establish himself. In a community effort, a house would be built, fence posts driven, and a barn raised.

To answer a Micronesian request for help, the Peace Corps is asking young Americans to join a modern day barn raising in the Pacific.

Two citizens of Ponape.





*Stone money, in this case a two-ton piece of change, was historically used on island of Yap, as every schoolboy knows.*

*Reef fishing off Kapingamarangi Atoll. These fishermen live on Ponape.*



*Girl from island of Kusaie, easternmost of the Carolines.*



*Coastal steamer brings supplies to Methalanim Housing Cooperative at atoll of Ngatik, 12 hours out of Ponape.*

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