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# TIE TO U.S. FAVORED IN PACIFIC ISLANDS

## Survey Finds Micronesian Leaders Wary of Change

By ROBERT TRUMBULL  
Special to The New York Times

SAIPAN, Marianas Islands—An extensive sounding of political opinion in Micronesia over the last month indicates that most of the leaders in the far-flung Pacific Islands would prefer a union with the United States to independence.

However, many interviews with Micronesian officials, traditional chiefs, businessmen, students and others in a 4,000-mile tour to more than two dozen islands in all six administrative districts, disclosed a general reluctance to "rush" a decision on the future political status.

"The question is far more complex than a simple choice between independence and joining the United States or some other country," said the Reklal (high chief) Lomsang of the northern Palau Islands.

Complicating all political considerations in Micronesia, he explained, are the cultural differences, feuds, suspicions and caste distances that separate 2,141 islands. And rule by foreigners throughout Micronesia's known history—first the Spanish, the Germans, Japanese and Americans in turn—has left the 90,000 islanders with little national-consciousness, he said.

### Johnson Urges Plebiscite

President Johnson has proposed that the islands hold a plebiscite on their political future by 1972, a date that all Micronesians interviewed considered "too early."

Captured by American forces in World War II and then awarded to the United States as a United Nations trusteeship in 1947, the Micronesian islands extend across the central Pacific in a broad arc about 2,400 miles long and 1,000 miles deep. Micronesia (tiny islands) is referred to in the United Nations as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, its official name.

Spread over four main archipelagoes—the Marshall Islands, the Eastern and Western Carolines and the Marianas—the islanders are in different stages of advancement. This cultural gap is yet another divisive influence and has worked against efforts to form a viable federation among a widely scattered people who speak nine different languages.

The sophisticated inhabitants of Saipan in the Marianas, most of whom have Spanish names, are rivals for commercial leadership in Micronesia with the Palau Islanders of the Western Carolines, who change their names periodically under a complicated system. The less Westernized majority, many still in the "grass-skirt stage" of development, is said to distrust both the Saipanese and Palauans.

### Annexation to Guam

Many Saipanese, who speak a language called Chanopro, clamor to have Saipan detached from the trust territory and joined to nearby, Chanopro-speaking Guam, an American possession since 1898. This move is opposed by some Guamanians because of potential economic complications and resentments, animosities lingering from World War II, when Saipanese aid to the Japanese was resented on pro-American Guam.

"We are Yapese, not Micronesians, and we want to remain that way," High Chief Roboman, the political leader of the relatively primitive Yap Islands, said. He favored retaining Micronesia under American trusteeship for "at least 100



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Like most hereditary nobles in Micronesia, the high chief of Yap is said to set the political tone in his area. "I was elected by the ballots of all the voters," said Francis Nuan, a senator from Yap in the Congress of Micronesia, "but in reality I just represent High Chief Roboman."

#### We Need Unity

"We need unity within Micronesia before we try to decide a common political destiny for all the islands," said Petrus Mallo, the powerful hereditary chief, political leader and biggest businessman of Moen Island of Truk.

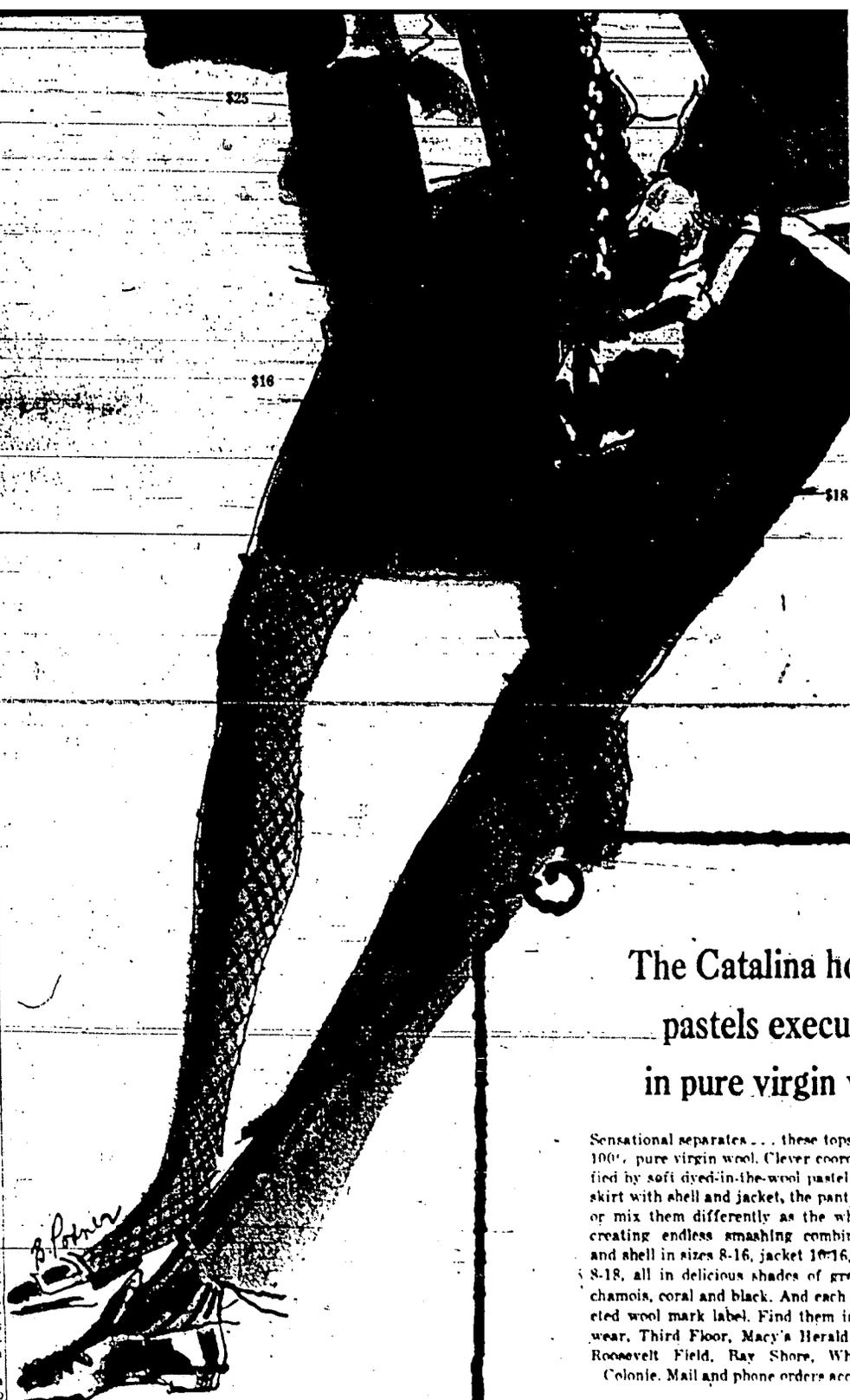
Most of the aware and vocal Micronesians interviewed said that, some of the older generation, remembering more prosperous times under the prewar rule of the Japanese, would vote to rejoin Japan.

The youth will vote "for America," many Micronesians said, but Aaron Silk, a senior in the high school at Majuro, in the Marshall Islands, declared that his generation was inclined to "study all alternatives" before making a decision.

The Congress of Micronesia has appointed a commission to study various forms of government — territorial status in Guam and American Samoa, the Commonwealth form in Puerto Rico, the semi-independent relationship of the Cook Islands to New Zealand—in preparation for the plebiscite. President Johnson has announced support for an American preparatory commission proposed in several pending Congressional resolutions.

#### Quakers Ship to Jordan

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 4 (AP)—The American Friends Service Committee announced today it was resuming shipments to the Middle East. About 40,000 pounds of clothing and supplies are being shipped to Jordan



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Sensational separates... these tops 100% pure virgin wool. Clever coordinated by soft dyed-in-the-wool pastel skirt with shell and jacket, the pant or mix them differently as the whi creating endless smashing combin and shell in sizes 8-16, jacket 10-16, 8-18, all in delicious shades of grey chamois, coral and black. And each l eted wool mark label. Find them in wear. Third Floor, Macy's Herald Roosevelt Field, Ray Shore, Whi Colonie. Mail and phone orders acc



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