

# MICRONESIA DIES TO JAPAN GROWING

Better Air Service Leads to  
Rise in Tourism and Trade

By ROBERT TRUMBULL  
Special to The New York Times

**SAIPAN, Marianas Islands—**A marked resurgence of interest in Japan and things Japanese has occurred in Micronesia, the former Japanese colonies now administered by the United States as a United Nations trusteeship.

Recently, a ship unloaded 30 Japanese automobiles at Koror, the administrative center and principal port of the Palau Islands, at the extreme western end of the far-flung trust territory in the central Pacific.

A few weeks later in Majuro, the administrative center of the Marshall Islands, more than 2,500 miles east of Koror, a young Marshallese official who had been educated in the United States said that he wished he "had spent six years studying Japanese instead of Latin."

Middle-aged Micronesians speak Japanese fluently. Japanese consumer goods far outnumber the more expensive American imports in island stores. Japan is the buyer of the principal Micronesian export—copra, the dried meat of coconut, used in making soap.

### Many Japanese Visitors

A trust territory official on Guam who issues permits or visas to enter Micronesia said that the number of Japanese tourists and businessmen who wished to visit the islands was increasing rapidly.

"Since the Navy command on Guam has to approve all entries into the trust territory by non-Americans, a flood of Japanese applicants may become a problem," the official said.

I. Gordon Findley, the trust territory liaison officer on Guam, said that the Navy had been giving approval "on the same day" for Japanese applications to enter the islands from Guam. However, he added, the number of applicants has been rising rapidly since May, when Pan American World Airways began direct service from Tokyo to Guam twice weekly.

Passengers on the Tokyo-to-Guam flights, most of them Japanese tourists and honeymooners, are averaging 700 monthly, the airline reported recently.

### 'Japanese Days' Recalled

Older Micronesians, encountered during a recent 4,000-mile tour of all six administrative districts of the trust territory, spoke of the "Japanese days" with nostalgia and considerable ambivalence.

"There was more money in circulation among Micronesians when the Japanese were here," said a chief on Moen Island, in the Truk group, formerly an important Japanese naval base. "The Japanese paid only 70 cents a day, where the Americans pay that much an hour, but nowadays the money seems to stay around the district centers."

Countless Micronesians wistfully recall the bustling city life in the days when the Japanese exploited fishing and sugar, the principal industries of the islands. Sugar cultivation has ended, and fishing operations have been conducted on a much smaller scale since the United States took over after World War II.

