

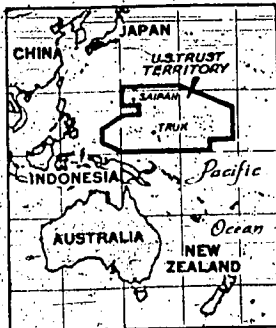
Micronesia Commonwealth Urged

Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, July 25—The Administration has proposed that the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands become permanently associated with the United States as a commonwealth, the Interior Department announced this week.

The trust territory, which encompasses more than 2,100 islands of the Caroline, Mariana and Marshall groups, now is administered by the United States under a 1947 trusteeship arrangement with the United Nations. The islands have a population of about 100,000.

Under the Administration's proposal, the new entity, to be known as the Commonwealth of Micronesia, would be self-governing under a constitution drafted by a representative convention and approved by the people of the islands, consistent with enabling laws passed by the United States Congress.

The Interior Department said that the Congress of Micronesia—the trust territory's elected legislature—was expected to consider the



The New York Times July 26, 1970

future political status of the islands during its annual session, now under way in Saipan in the Mariana Islands.

A commission appointed by the Congress of Micronesia recommended last year that the islands enter into free association with the United States.

The Administration's proposal for a commonwealth arrangement was discussed at meetings during May in Saipan between delegations representing the Congress of Micronesia and the Interior Department.

India Considers an Atomic Test To Check on Economic Benefits

Special to The New York Times
NEW DELHI, July 25—India is examining the advantages of an underground nuclear explosion "for peaceful purposes," Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, chairman of the Government's Atomic Energy Commission, reported today.

He said at a news conference that he favored underground explosions "for the economic benefits of the country."

But he emphasized that India was not working on a nuclear weapons program, adding that there was no immediate prospect of an underground explosion.

Dr. Sarabhai listed potential benefits of underground blasts, including extraction of low-grade copper and nickel ores and exploitation of oil.

Policy Termed Unchanged

Although many observers interpreted his remarks as a re-

Nevertheless, the Government has refused to sign the treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, signed by the Soviet Union and United States, on the ground that the treaty discriminated in favor of countries that possessed nuclear superiority.

Bomb Seen Possible

Experts assume that India has developed her nuclear technology to the point that a bomb can be developed in 18 months. She has two atomic power plants producing the basic material for fissionable uranium used in the bomb.

India is building a bigger atomic power plant, near Madras, which will make possible unrestricted use of fissionable material. It is expected to be ready by 1974.

Dr. Sarabhai made available a document on atomic energy

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