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By **ROBERT TRUMBULL**
Special to The New York Times

SYDNEY, Australia, Aug. 22—A diplomat specializing in Pacific island affairs at the United States Embassy in Australia has been assigned to the new post of political adviser to the American High Commissioner in Micronesia, apparently reflecting concern over deteriorating relations between Washington and the United States administered United Nations trust territory.

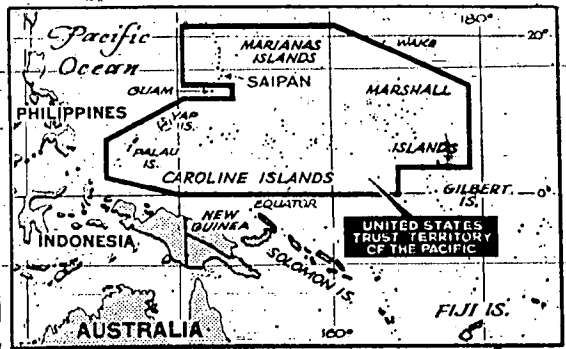
The diplomat, John C. Dorrance, second secretary at the embassy, expected to play a key role in United States efforts to resolve a deadlock between Washington and Micronesian leaders over the future political status of the strategic, central Pacific islands and atolls.

An offer by the United States of commonwealth status, similar to that of Puerto Rico, has been rejected by Micronesian representatives in a 57-page report severely critical of the American administration.

Overtures Rebuffed by U. S.
Washington in turn has rebuffed Micronesian overtures for a self-governing "free association" with the United States. American negotiators for the Department of the Interior, which administers the islands, and the State and Defense Departments also turned down independence as an alternative.

Declaring that a unilateral declaration of independence by the islanders was "not impossible," the Micronesian side has requested intervention by the United Nations, which has technical sovereignty in the trust territory.

The 2,141 tiny islands, and atolls of Micronesia, known officially as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and inhabited by about 100,000 people, were taken from Japan by the United States in World War II. The major groups, all



The New York Times Aug. 23, 1970
Leaders of the central Pacific trust territory have rejected the United States proposal of commonwealth status.

with different languages and customs, are the Marshalls, Carolines, and Marianas.

Known as much for their strategic importance as their vivid tropical beauty, the perpetually summery islands lie just north of the Equator south and west of Hawaii, dotting a sea area about the size and approximate shape of the United States.

The principal military use of the islands since World War II has been operations in the Marshall Islands.

"Security interests in Micronesia seem to be the overriding consideration" in Washington's apparent determination to join the islands permanently to the United States as a commonwealth, says the Micronesian report on negotiations.

Self-Rule Is Goal
The American administration is headed by Edward E. Johnston, a former Honolulu insurance executive and Republican party leader, as High Commissioner. Commonwealth status falls "well below the minimum standards of self-government acceptable to the Congress of

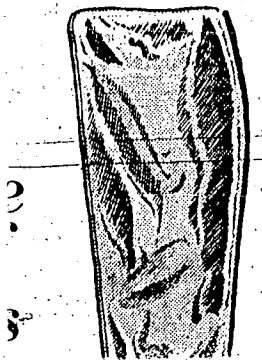
Micronesia, the people of Micronesia, and the United Nations," says the report on the American offer. The report was prepared by a delegation from the Congress of Micronesia, an elected legislative body with limited powers.


The report is being debated at the current session of the Congress on Saipan Island in the Marianas, the provisional capital of the trust territory. It accuses the American administration of many shortcomings during the 25 years of United States rule.

"Under our present quasi-colonial system," the report declares, "the identity, individuality, and dignity of the people of Micronesia are being suppressed."

"American power and influence are currently so dominant that Micronesia and its people are being 'Americanized' at an ever increasing rate. This is having a tremendous effect upon all aspects of Micronesian life and society and it will be impossible to control this influence until the people of Micronesia can establish their own government."

House Plea for P.O.W.'s Set
WASHINGTON, Aug. 22 (AP)—Representative Roger H. Zion, Republican of Indiana, said today he will fly to Paris on Monday with an appeal signed by 406 of the 435 House members for more humane treatment of United States prisoners of war. He is scheduled to deliver the letter to the North Vietnamese delegation after a brief talk with the chief United States negotiator at the Paris peace talks, David K. E. Bruce.





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