

Friends of Micronesia

NEWSLETTER

FALL 1972

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missing some pages
see negotiations
sections files

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● 2ND INVASION NEWS

● AMARAICH AT THE UN

● ON SELF-RELIANCE

● TRANSPAC

● EMINENT DOMAIN

FOM program:

1. We support the Micronesian struggle for self-determination and have pledged ourselves to support the Micronesian people in any way possible.
2. We provide information to create a public awareness on the part of the American people concerning Micronesia and the exploitative administration of Micronesia by the United States Government.
3. We work to prevent the destruction of Micronesia by "developers" who have no sensitivity to Micronesian needs nor to the adaptability of traditional economic and political ways.
4. We work to prevent the resurgence of American militarism in Micronesia and support attempts to end American aggression in other parts of Asia.
5. We work against American racist policies as exhibited in the destruction of Micronesian islands, the forced removal of populations, the radioactive contamination of Marshallese and the discriminatory economic and political power of American officials.
6. We work with many international groups who seek a peaceful world free of armed aggression and nuclear weapons.
7. We do not attempt to dictate policy to the Micronesian people nor do we prescribe solutions to the problem of Micronesian "development."
8. We do not believe that anthropologists, political scientists, economists and other academics are specially qualified to dictate policy or evaluate events but we do believe that academics, especially those who have profited from their work in Micronesia, have an obligation to support Micronesian desires and to provide information and services when requested.

Friends of Micronesia

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Roger W. Gale, Editor
With the Help of a lot of Friends

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land



The T. T.'s attempt to condemn land on Yap for a water and sewage system is shaping up as a landmark case. The Yapese and their lawyer, William Anderson of Guam, are arguing that the U.S. Government is only the administrator of Micronesia, not the sovereign. As such, it lacks power of eminent domain, a power reserved to sovereigns; in this case the people of Micronesia and the United Nations. Had the U.N. wanted the U.S. to exercise this power it would have explicitly delegated it to the U.S. Instead, the Trusteeship Agreement says the U.S. shall "...protect the inhabitants against the loss of their lands and resources." Title 10 of the Trust Territory Code bases the power of eminent domain on "inherent rights." The Yapese are arguing that there is no inherent right.

In addition, they are arguing that the use of American legal precedents in a Micronesian court is inadmissible and that, in any event, in Yap as elsewhere in Micronesia, traditional land ownership patterns make land inalienable under any circumstances.

The case is important to the Yapese because its victory would stop plans for the unnecessary airport now planned for Yap by the T. T. and Hawaii Architects and Engineers. Having fought to keep the T. T. from building it on the reef, it is now planned to be built at an angle to the present airport which is already FAA certified to handle jets.

Perhaps most important, U.S. power to condemn land for construction of military bases would be null and void and all of the "military retention" land in Micronesia might have to be returned to the people.

If the U.S. should win this case, however, it will for all practical purposes be decreed the sovereign government of Micronesia and Micronesia is, thus, a colony of the U.S.□

CHEAP BIRD

No doubt about it, everybody says, Continental/Air Micronesia's service is a great deal better than Pan Am's. No doubt about it, everybody says, Air Micronesia's service is still lousy.

Lost reservations, oversold flights, no back-up aircraft, lost freight and luggage are constant reminders that a big, capitalist, profit making airline is running a shoestring operation in Micronesia. Saving money rather than providing decent service seems to be the key. To avoid costs, ticketing and reservations services are not even rudimentarily adequate. Micronesian employees get blamed for incompetence when it is the system that is to blame. To avoid the need for extra flight crews, passengers bound from Saipan to Honolulu, for example, have to change planes.

To make extra money, Micronesian employees work for low wages and rather than supply more adequate meals, stewardesses hawk drinks up and down the aisles even at 7:15 in the morning.

No doubt about it, there are a lot of problems operating an airline in Micronesia but Continental with its two plane "fleet" and its poor customer service has alienated many of its customers. Flying Air Micronesia is no easy task.

NEWS

● The Congress killed a bill to implement a federal HOUSING PROGRAM that would have led to the construction of low-cost housing. The bill was one of the most blatant examples of American community-destruction techniques. The program was designed to build cluster housing that would force people out of their villages and into new artificial "communities".

● The Congress' new limited power to control high-level APPOINTMENTS led to the rejection of the High Commissioner's choice for Education Director and deputy director of transportation. Although both of Johnston's nominees are Micronesians, the Congress was not satisfied with their experience. In addition, the new T. T. Board of Education has recommended another candidate, David Ramarui. The deputy director of education, John Richard, a close friend of the High Coms, was severely criticized by the appointments committee. At least four other nominees were approved.

● Representative Carlos Shoda of the Marianas demanded that Arthur Akina and Luther Baker of the T. T. PERSONNEL Department be forced out for their "haughty attitude, sneering and supercilious manner." In 1961 Hawaii Legislature called Akina, then director of personnel there, "incompetent, deceitful and dishonest." Shoda claims that Akina and Baker commonly refer to Micronesians as "untrainable savages", "monkeys", and "niggers".

● A team of medical doctors from three American government agencies, from the Japanese government and from Britain visited RONGELAP at the invitation of the Congress of Micronesia. The team of doctors examined victims of 1954 radioactive contamination. This is the first time that any of the victims has received a personal diagnosis. Annual visits by the Atomic Energy Commission have been opposed by the people of Rongelap and by their congressman, Ataji Balos, who claims the Rongelapese are used for medical experiments.

● Marshallese Nitijela congressman Handel Dribo has filed charges for \$826,000 COMPENSATION from the U. S. because of a coercive confiscation of his land on Ebeye. Dribo claims that former HiCom William Norwood "held a hankerchief in his hand and told Dribo: "If you don't sign the lease agreement by the time this (hankerchief) hits the ground I will confiscate your land with my power of eminent domain." Dribo has consistently refused to accept payment from the Government for the land they confiscated.

● Tia Belau reports that Modekngai, Palau's indigenous religious-political power, has opted for INDEPENDENCE. It was not clear whether independence is desired for Palau alone or for all of Micronesia. Modekngai has also decided to establish a school in Palau.

● Ousted Director of Education, Burl Yarberry, accused HiCom Johnston of "CRONYISM" in the operation of the T. T. Government.

For more detailed news, and views, subscribe to the Micronitor. Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960. \$13 a year for 52 issues.

Self-reliance

HANS WILIANDER

7

I would like you to join me in conjuring up a vision--not a dream--but a vision. A vision of what Micronesia can be like as an independent nation.

In this independent Micronesia, no fish would be imported, because of the development of small and medium sized fishing companies and cooperatives and the establishment of canning factories. Micronesia, however, would export large quantities of trepang, cultured pearls, and shrimp and crayfish to world markets.

Micronesia would also import no beef, chicken, pork or eggs. Beef could be raised on selected islands, such as Rota and perhaps Babelthau in Palau. Pork, chickens and eggs could be produced in each district in sufficient quantities to provide for all Micronesia's wants and any excess could be exported to Guam.

Micronesia would import no onions, potatoes, lettuce and other such vegetables and fruits because Micronesians would have heeded the government's urging for families to grow enough to provide for themselves and because of the agricultural training and practice experienced by students in elementary, secondary and vocational schools. Micronesia would, however, export large quantities of bananas, black pepper, cacao and citrus fruits to Guam and other markets. Micronesia would also export its copra to a central regional Pacific processing plant where it would be either dessicated or refined into oil before shipment to Japan.

Micronesia would import no beer or alcoholic beverages because of the prohibitive import tax and because several districts produce a variety of bev-

erages from local plants.

No cars would be imported into Micronesia. Only essential farm equipment, jeeps, trucks and buses would be imported. The buses would be needed for the transportation systems developed in all the district centers, replacing expensive and short-lived luxury cars.



Less foreign labor would be needed in Micronesia because of increased vocational training programs qualifying Micronesians in middle and upper levels of manpower. Micronesia would spend less money for public programs because all Micronesian secondary or vocational school graduates would be required to donate two years of service to the "Micronesian Conservation and Construction Corps" which would construct roads, docks, seawalls, and fish hatcheries; aid in the construction

of public schools and hospitals; and help in the planting of coconut trees and the clearing of land for agricultural purposes.

Micronesia would import few if any outboard engines, because it would import small, diesel engines which would be used in vessels built at boat-yards in Palau and Truk.

There would be few foreign investors' permits issued because of the success of the Bank of Micronesia in providing Micronesian investment capital for gradual and carefully planned Micronesian development and also because of the formation of many cooperatives and clan or family-owned corporations following traditional patterns of cooperative effort.

There would be no big resort hotels owned by foreign corporations, but rather small, locally owned accommodations using local materials. Tourists would have to receive advance permission before entering Micronesia and would also have to pay a tourist tax. Not every tourist would be accepted and some might be asked to leave if they do not respect Micronesians or their culture. Micronesia would be an exclusive tourist area. The waiting list would be long.

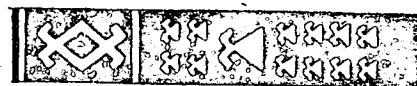
In independent Micronesia you would see no jet planes but perhaps there would be several DC6's and a service that is adapted to suit Micronesia's needs, not the requirements of a tourist industry. Additionally, the planes would be owned by Micronesians or the Micronesian government and not by a foreign firm.

This Micronesia would also have its own shipping service within its islands, and would pick up cargo from transshipment points delivered by Japanese and American freighters in the course of their normal trans-Pacific routes. The shipping company, too, would be owned by Micronesians.

The Micronesia that I see would have no military bases, or testing or restricted areas in it, and would be an internationally recognized neutral area, and perhaps a place where international research efforts in marine biology and other related fields might be carried out.

Finally, in the Micronesia I envision, the people would lead productive lives in harmony with their cultures and not in an attempt to emulate western patterns of society and economics. Micronesian youths would be taught the values of their traditions and customs. Lore, skills and crafts of our ancestors would be taught and cherished. Education at all levels would prepare our people to respect the land and the sea and their customs while enabling them to participate meaningfully and understand the modern world around them. □

(From a report presented at the University of California, Santa Cruz, April 1972)



Felix Moos, Department of Defense contractee on the study of population movements in Micronesia, is teaching at the National War College this year. He is professor of anthropology at the University of Kansas. Neiman Craley, the new Special Assistant to the High Commissioner for Legislative Affairs, has been an attendant of the National War College.

The Militant, a weekly newspaper published in New York, is offering FREE six month subscriptions to Micronesians. FOM encourages Micronesians to write to

The Militant
14 Charles Lane
New York, N.Y. 10014

(Air mail postage is \$13.50 extra.)

U.S. Take-over?

As this issue of the Newsletter was going to press, a person formerly reluctant to talk to Friends of Micronesia came to us deeply disturbed about what he says he has learned about a new secret contingency plan now being discussed in Washington. It is said to be under consideration in the event the new stiff position of the Congress of Micronesia, manifested in the Special Session on Ponape, leads to a breakdown in the U. S. effort to obtain military rights in Micronesia through negotiations.

Although forceful annexation is a real possibility (see editorial), the U.S. would obviously prefer to avoid the blame for once again defying the United Nations and world opinion. The new plan, therefore, is apparently intended to achieve the same result by pretending to save Micronesians from themselves.

It begins with the formation of an anti-independence, pro-U.S. movement or party built around civil services employees and other Micronesians who want Micronesia to continue in a dependent status. Such a move was in fact started in Truk in 1971 in an effort to offset the solid independence stand of the Truk Delegation to the Congress, but it soon ran out of energy and support. This time the effort would be spread to all districts (except the Marianas) and pushed much harder. Accusations and public confrontations would be encouraged. As anger and division increased, the administration would encourage representatives of the world press to visit Micronesia and report on factionalism and unrest.

Finally, there would be violent clashes, riots, injuries, and perhaps, one or two people killed. The situation would be declared out of control, the HiCom would declare a state of emergency, and ask the U.S. military to help maintain order. The military would take control of Micronesia. By uncovering an occasional plot and arranging ambushes and perhaps assassinations, the military presence could be continued for months and years, meanwhile building the necessary facilities to maintain itself. Translated, this means military bases, which are the goal of the entire U.S. negotiating effort in the first place.

We hope this report is not true. However, if there is such a plan and it is one day put into action, we could never forgive ourselves for having failed to warn the people of Micronesia about it.

transpac

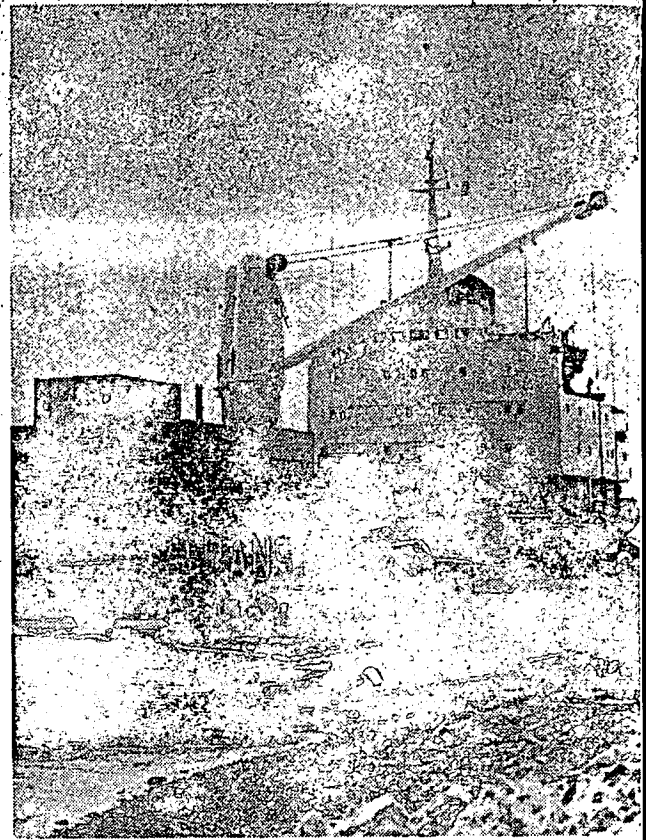
Held in receivership since October 1971 by the T. T. Government and run by an inexperienced \$250 a day consultant, Micronesia's monopoly shipping service, Transpac, is in trouble with some of its customers. Despite an improvement in service, the Marshalls have already forced Transpac to accept competitive operations with Nauru Lines, and Ponape, Kusaie and Palau are talking about following suit in the near future.

Formerly called Micronesia Inter-ocean Line, and run by a San Francisco firm, the Government took over last October to save the company from bankruptcy and claiming that MILI did not fulfill all contracted services. Despite the fact that Transpac claims to be making money now, they did not issue a mandatory financial report and they have just asked the Congress of Micronesia for a \$100,000 loan.

The operation is now run by Doug Echols, president of Admiralty Pacific Company of Guam, a dummy firm which has no office or employees. His job as \$250 a day consultant to Transpac is his company's only business. His past experience is as a labor informer and dock manager in San Francisco and Vietnam.

Three new Transpac ships were chartered from an old friend in Hamburg, Germany and the brokerage firm that handled the deal is reportedly owned by the charter company. The old management of MILI claims the ships were chartered at above market rates. There is no question, however, about the high quality of the ships and the greatly improved service that can be expected now that some of the old MILI ships, often called "dregs of the seas", have been gotten rid of.

There is also little question that chartering procedures in the past were handled in a convoluted fashion that may have led to large financial advantages



for George Kiskaddon, the operator of MILI.

"Admiral" Thiessen, until now the T. T. 's director of transportation, has also taken an active part in running Transpac until recently but the T. T. Government refuses to take legal responsibility for any Transpac problems. Since Echols, who runs the company, is officially only a consultant and thus has no responsibility, this may leave Bernard Helgenberger, the Micronesian president of Transpac, holding the bag even though he does not have any part in actual operations.

There is a possibility of a series of suits against Transpac, according to Marshallese congressman Charles Dominick, and the old operator, Marine Chartering, which owns 210,000 shares of stock, is suing to regain control of the company. □

A YOUNG MICRONESIAN SPEAKS

WHAT DEVELOPMENT? SIR???

The word development has been spoken out from so many talkative tongues of Micronesia, but to date the improved use of natural resources is ZERO. I believe that development in a country is shown if that country then stands more independently. Let us examine the facts.

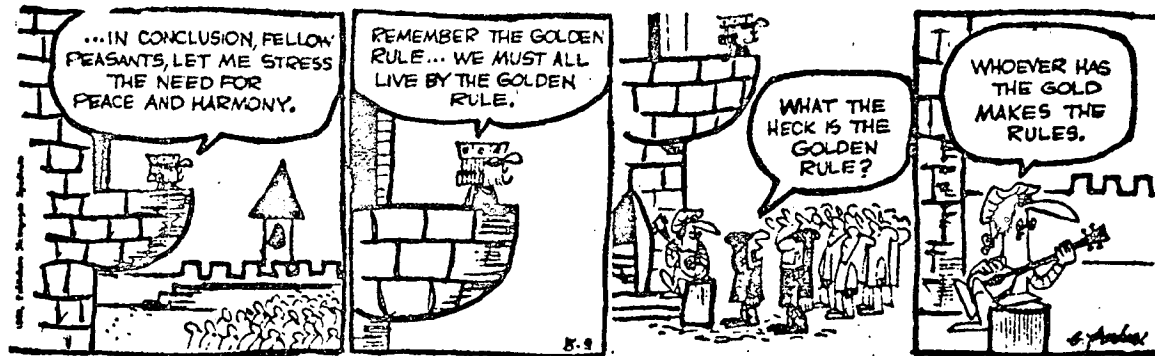
Ladies and gentlemen, most of our congressmen are "lip service." They have been talking about development in all the special sessions. However, do we poor people profit from these lip services? In their fancy speeches they always promote agriculture and fisheries, because land is so critical to us. Surely we need protection badly. So please watch, the Congressmen have already divided their budget for 1972, giving \$2 million for the construction of buildings, roads, etc. However, they offered only \$25,000 for agriculture and fisheries which I believe are more important and badly needed. Let me ask you a question: which do you prefer... beautiful roads all around Micronesia and cement houses to live in and a diet of foreign foods; or normal houses, roads we simply walk on, but your own food?

So maybe it is better for us to live like Americans? Rather forget our lousy customs. Believe me, gentlemen. No one can change his appearance to be an American. We are talking about two different kinds of people. Nixon is Nixon and Albert is Albert.

Finally, I'm not saying that this \$2 million would be uselessly spent, only that I prefer it used for agriculture and fisheries first. Then we would see real development because we'd be paving the way to becoming more independent.

So we have the answer today. Let us hope that the solutions will be realized tomorrow.

ALBERT AUGUSTINE



LETTERS

TASK FORCE

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this letter to you because none of the Trust Territory publications publish letters from the people. They apparently don't allow criticism of their deeds in their publications.

The most recent issue of the Micronesian Reporter carried an article by John Dorrance. He claims that sovereignty is not an important issue anymore. While it is true that the term has multiple political, legal and psychological facets, the term is no less relevant because of that.

One of the most central facets of the term is its definatory power as it relates to foreign affairs. Sovereignty in this sense means a nation is independent of other nations and can choose to relate to other nations in any way it wants.

It is this part of the term that Dorrance and the American delegation are trying to cover up. Dorrance tries to show how sovereignty is used in relation to the 50 states of the United States. He forgets that Micronesia is not a state and doesn't aspire to become one.

Richard Olaf
Honolulu

Dear Friends,

I found myself in constant conflict over the amount of effort I wanted to put into FOM and the amount of effort I wanted to apply to the general struggle against the brutal war in Indochina and against the suffering and destruction of life seen here in the minority ghettos, in the factories, and in the schools. At the same time, all of us realized, sometimes too pessimistically, our uphill battle in fighting the greatest power on earth with the little we had to keep it from devouring a little-known group of

A new departmental level TASK FORCE has been created by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to coordinate and modify existing federal programs in Micronesia. The Task Force is headed by Jesse Steinfeld, Surgeon General of the U. S. Steinfeld is one of the few people in Washington with an interest in problems facing the Micronesian people.

The multiplicity of federal programs now being funded in Micronesia has led to serious bureaucratic snafus and in many cases programs are either irrelevant or dangerous to Micronesia. Ponape, for example, now has 53 uncoordinated federal programs. The Task Force is empowered to alter provisions of HEW programs and coordinate and merge administration of them. The U. S. congress has been unwilling to appropriate funds with regulations different from those of domestic U. S. programs.

There will be Micronesian members on the Task Force to be chosen by the Congress and the HiCom.

Steinfeld visited Micronesia early in 1972 and in a letter to Friends of Micronesia said he "was impressed with the need for markedly improving sanitary facilities and pure water supplies. I would hope that it will be possible for those of us who are interested in health problems to work more closely with the citizens of the Trust Territory, in order to provide additional health services with particular emphasis on public health and preventive medicine practices..." Steinfeld is also instrumental in organizing a medical visit to Rongelap to examine victims of radioactive fallout whose health needs have not been met by either the Atomic Energy Commission or the T. T. Government. □

islands that its militaristic logic impelled it to control. At the same time, I saw that Micronesia was developing its own class of business men and two-bit capitalists, people who would be willing to destroy an island in order to make a profit off the American military, to wipe out a reef and a culture to make a profit off tourists. These people are no more evil than the rest. Perhaps a little more short-sighted, but such are the pressures of the profit system on us.

I am no less interested today in seeing the Micronesian people free than I was a year or two ago. But a hundred thousand Micronesians alone, even if they took to guns, could not defeat any army thirty times their size. Neither can a few dozen Americans and Micronesians here in the States, alone. Besides, many Micronesians rightfully want some of those things they have been told they can get only by selling out to the US--like radios, cameras, hospitals, etc. I came to the conclusion that the only way Micronesia can be freed is by working for a socialist revolution to overthrow the capitalist ruling class that with its search for markets and profits worldwide gets us involved in Indochina and Micronesia, as well as Harlem and Watts and Kent State. This revolution must be led by the very same workers here and everywhere whose exploitation provides these capitalists with their profits. This realization makes me a Marxist-Leninist-Trotskyist.

What I see happening to some of my friends who care for Micronesia's future but have not adopted this revolutionary perspective is that they become pessimistic and cynical and think there is nothing we can do, so they give up and become involved only in their personal lives. Or, they decide the only way to do anything is by playing games 'within the system,' by spending a lot of money to advertise and impress American government officials and get them

on 'our side.' Or, they decide they must do it all alone, and the end result of that is the same as throwing rocks through a bank window--you can't do it alone! The way of a revolutionary struggle looks slower and less certain, but history has proven that it's the only way.

In comradly struggle,
Len Galet



ANOTHER DEFECTOR

A second ex-Peace Corps lawyer has defected to the American side. Adrian de Graffenreid, a PCV lawyer on Yap and employee of the Congress of Micronesia, is now working for Williams in Washington's Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations.

Two years ago, Tom Whittington, a lawyer on Ponape, went to work for the Interior Department and is now a member of the American negotiating apparatus.

Few members of the Congress of Micronesia have been willing to discuss the matter, but some of the other Peace Corps lawyers have expressed concern that their credibility has been severely damaged.

Although the Congress of Micronesia's growing bureaucracy has not yet reached the point where security precautions are very elaborate, in the future information will be more tightly guarded. John Dorrance, the former State Department officer on Saipan who used to roam around the Congress offices "borrowing" documents. The de Graffenreid case will hopefully lead to the end of such easy spy games.

ATAJI BALOS

THE RONGELAP BOMB



It is... sad but true that today, in the Marshall Islands, people have developed diseases caused by H-bomb fallout 18 years ago, and no one can say whether or not we have seen the last case of radiation-induced disease in my home islands.

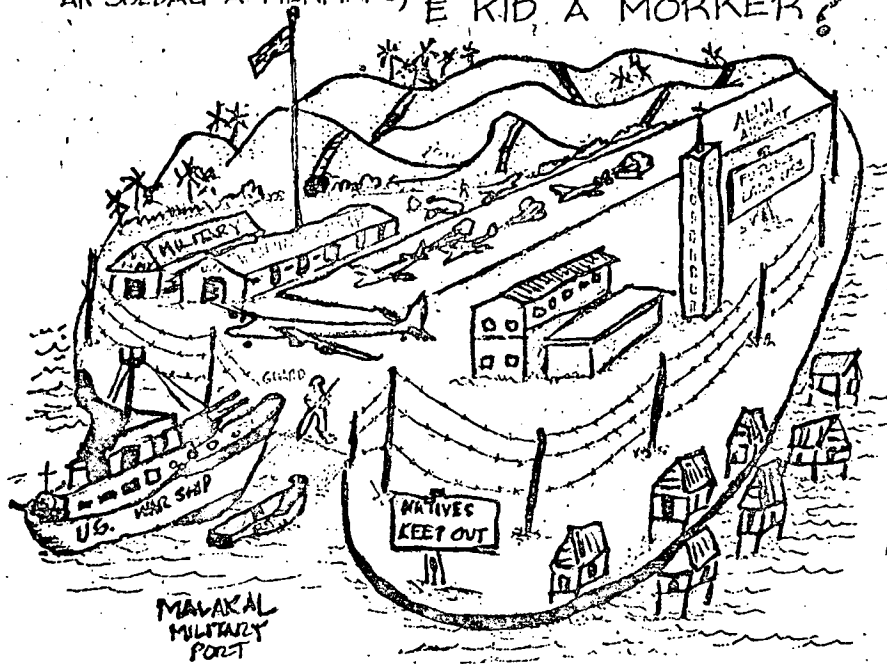
...The phantom, the ghost of the bomb...haunts its victims. It is the phantom of unknown illness, disease and death; it is that uncertain, unsure, intangible feeling of anxiety and fear. It is, perhaps, more than anything else the aspect which characterizes its victims as "children of the bomb." That aspect is simply: the unknown. Each person who has been exposed asks himself: "Will I be well tomorrow? Will my children be normal?" And when he becomes ill he asks himself: "Is this an ordinary illness, or has the ghost of the bomb come to claim me now--even years after?" This is the terrible legacy of nuclear weapons, the legacy of the unknown, of anxiety and of fear.


And this feeling of the victims can also on a broader scale apply to all of mankind, for must we not ask ourselves: "Will we be alive tomorrow? Will our children have a future? When will the terrible, vengeful phantom of nuclear destruction come to claim us?"

It is this fear of nuclear destruction and the future agony and suffering, disease and death it can cause to future generations that should not lead us to be fatalistic, or passive, but more resolved to end--through letters, through speeches, through our votes, through demonstrations--to end the nuclear arms race, nuclear weapons production and testing. It is time to end the folly of mankind toying with its own destiny and the destinies of future generations.

(From a speech given at the 27th International Conference Against A- and H- Bombs, Tokyo, August 1972)

HAYDN WILLIAMS ARMY BASE, KOROR, BELAU 86810
 "AR SOLDADU A MERMANG, E KID A MORKER?"



MILITARY USE 
 40 ACRES MALAKAL
 32000 BABELDAOB

Tia Belau

2nd Invasion News

● The destructive Pacific Atoll Cratering Experiments scheduled for Eniwetok have been postponed until December at the earliest through pressure from Micronesian Legal Services Corp. attorneys. The Defense Dept. had not prepared a required Environmental Impact study prior to commencing preparations for the tests. Legal Services may seek to permanently enjoin the Air Force from conducting the tests.

It was also revealed that two other classified projects, known only as "Senior Girl" and "Col. Russell's Project," are underway on Eniwetok.

● The Congress of Micronesia passed a resolution demanding that the Army provide past due compensation to Kwajelein landowners within 60 days or residents plan to return to their ex-homes on the Kwajelein missile base. Two years ago, Congressman Ataji Balos and other Marshallese "re-occupied" their homes in the Marshalls, causing the Air Force to postpone a series of missile tests.

● Air Force generals and other high ranking officials have been visiting Tinian in the past few months. Traveling in secret and in civilian dress, the Air Force planners are readying plans for construction of a large base there.

● An Army Civic Action in the Marshalls has completed a new air-strip on Wotje. The Air Force has officially certified it for military aircraft such as the C-130.

● Wake Island has been turned over to the Air Force after many years of FAA control. A new series of missile tests will be monitored from Wake as well as from Kwajelein.

● It has been revealed that the U. S. Navy's nuclear weapon distribution system is operated by Naval Tactical Air Squadron VR-21 based at Barbers Point Naval Air Station on Oahu. The squadron's C-118 aircraft are a familiar sight on Guam and other Pacific military bases.

U.S. FAILURE

AND AMARAICH

17

To say that the United States has allowed a major share of self-government to the Micronesians people even after 25 years of administration would be, I am afraid, a distortion of the state of affairs in Micronesia as we see them. But through the initiatives exercised by the Congress of Micronesia the door to self-government is beginning to open.

As all of the members of the Council know, the question of land is nearest and dearest to the hearts of my people. It has always been a cornerstone of our future political status negotiations with the United States that ownership and control of land in Micronesia must rest in Micronesian hands. During the years of the United States administration of Micronesia, this has unfortunately not been the case. While it is true that nominal control of land, use of land, is still in Micronesian hands, in fact it has rested, until this very year, in the hands of the American administration.

But control of our own land cannot be complete unless and until the administration agrees to a change in the law of eminent domain. The present law, which antedates the Congress, provides that the High Commissioner alone has the right to determine what constitutes a "public use", he can then simply condemn the land to the Government. Several times the Congress has tried to amend this regressive law; each time, the administration has vetoed reasonable changes. The Congress, on one occasion, took the drastic step of repassing such a measure over the High Commissioner's veto, only to have the Secretary of the Interior — who has absolute and final authority — administer his veto power.

I am again sure that I do not have to stress to this Council the importance of the sea, as well as of the land, to Micronesia. If our security is in the land, our wealth and our sustenance, and our economic future, are in the sea. For this reason the Congress of Micronesia has been extremely concerned with developments in the area of international limitations of territorial waters, the seas and the sea-beds. The Congress of Micronesia has on numerous occasions in the past considered legislation which would have broadened the present three-mile territorial waters of the Trust Territory. On each occasion the Trust Territory Government, on instructions from Washington, has spoken out against such legislation, or has disapproved it.

I am sorry to have to report that, during the past year, the replacement of expatriate personnel by Micronesian personnel was minimal. Despite an increase in government employment by almost 20 per cent during the reporting year, the percentage of Micronesians employed by the government increased less than 1 per cent. Thus, while an already too-large government is still increasing in size, the level of Micronesian participation in that government is hardly increasing at all. About 9.36 per cent of our government employees are expatriates, as compared with 10.20 per cent just a year ago — a reduction of less than 1 per cent.

The mere increase in the size of the bureaucracy is alarming, not only in its implications that size brings low-

(From a speech in the Trusteeship Council, United Nations, May 1972)

ered efficiency, or that jobs are created simply to cover up the mistakes that the administration has made in training Micronesians solely for government jobs, largely behind desks. More important, the 20 per cent growth in the size of our government means that much less of the annual budget can be devoted to badly-needed capital improvement projects, and that much more must go towards salaries and administration. The nearly 10 per cent increase in expatriate personnel means that the share of the budget utilized for salaries will be increased even further, since expatriate salaries are so much higher than Micronesian salaries to begin with, and since expatriates occupy high-level, high-salaried offices far out of proportion to their numbers. The figures indicate that the average expatriate employee earns about three and one half times what the average Micronesian employee earns.

The figures indicate the sad story of the American administration of Micronesia: too much government, devoted to the wrong things; too many bureaucrats, and not enough capital improvement; and, even after a quarter of a century, too many expatriates and not enough Micronesians, and second-class status for Micronesians in our own land.

The extent to which the Administering Authority has failed to implement self-government in Micronesia is further augmented by the fact that so many of the major decisions affecting the Trust Territory continue to be made not in Saipan, the provisional capital, by persons who live and work in Micronesia, but some nine thousand miles away, by persons who have been there seldom, if ever. This type of "absentee government" is not conducive to the best interests of the people of Micronesia; it is not consonant with the principle of self-government for Micronesians.

During the Fourth Congress the High Commissioner refused to sign a number of measures. Some of these eventually became law in different forms; others were disapproved for technical reasons or because of administrative problems which would have arisen had they been allowed to become law. The remainder of these measures will never become law as long as the Administering Authority retains full and final power and absolute control over what can and cannot become law in the Trust Territory, despite the expressed wishes of the people of Micronesia through their representatives in the Congress. If the Congress of Micronesia is structured on the American model, then it would seem logical that the American system of checks and balances between the several branches of the Government should be an integral part of the system. And yet in Micronesia a very important part of this system of checks and balances is conspicuously absent: the power to override the veto of legislation by the Chief Executive. The experiences of the Congress in the past show that even the attempt to override a veto is but an exercise in futility; if the High Commissioner again refuses to sign the measure, the Secretary of the Interior has final, unchallengeable authority over whether it becomes law or not. Further, members of the Congress have been informed by the Administering Authority that as long as the United States remains Administering Authority in Micronesia, it will never relinquish this control, not even as to purely internal matters. This is hardly self-government; this is hardly taking into account the wishes of the

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people; this is not fulfillment of the obligations of the Trusteeship Agreement.

About the best that I am able to report about the administration's political education program is that it, too, has been a total failure. One indication of exactly how far the program has come in 25 years of United States administration is that just recently, for the first time, spot radio announcements have been made to inform the people that the Trust Territory Government is divided into three branches, executive, legislative and judicial. These announcements are, paradoxically, made almost exclusively in English, so that those who really need to understand them — those without schooling — cannot do so. Little has been done to prepare the people of Micronesia for the awesome responsibilities of self-government; as a result, beyond a handful of political leaders, higher government employees and the educated elite, very few people even know the rudiments of the political system in the Trust Territory.

The vast majority of the people of Micronesia does not want and has no use for the United States military. Yet the United States has disregarded the wishes of the people in proposing its demands for military lands in Micronesia after the end of the Trusteeship. That the people of Micronesia hold this attitude should not come as a surprise. We are and have always been a peaceful people. Within memory, our islands have been devastated by the horrors of war, our people dislocated, our islands turned into radioactive infernos, blown up completely or altered by the awesome force of the hydrogen bomb so that they are unrecognizable if they are still there at all. Only recently, the United States announced its intention of conducting a series of tests at Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands for the purpose of seeing how big a hole in the ground its bombs can make.

We welcome the recent United States offer to return Bikini and Eniwetok, even though in a real sense they do not belong to the United States to return. Of course, those islands which have been blown off the face of the earth by bombs cannot be returned. Twenty-five or thirty years of life away from one's home cannot be returned either.

Because of its sad experience with the military — not only under the United States Administration but also under our past rulers — our only hope is that we be left alone in peace. We hope that we do not have any enemies, and we do not want them — ours or anyone else's. It is therefore our hope that Micronesia and eventually the entire Pacific Ocean can be neutralized, closed to the war-makers of all nations — truly an ocean of peace in a world of strife and conflict.

Where have we gone during these past 25 years? A few roads, some hospitals and schools, some bad experiences and some good ones. A quarter-century — half a lifetime — under American administration has brought little that will remain long after the Administration has gone. Yet, if it has left us anything, America's 25-year legacy to Micronesia is that the Micronesian people now know how important it is to control their own lands, to run their own Government, and to be a free people.

With the continuing support of the United Nations, and with the acceptance by the United States of the full spirit of its Trust obligation to promote the Micronesian people to self-government or independence, I am confident that Micronesia will one day soon see the fulfillment of a century of dreams, the satisfaction of our fundamental right to be free and to live as free men in a sovereign nation we can call our own. □

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"I WAS GOING TO SEND YOU SOMETHING BUT I JUST DIDN'T GET AROUND TO IT. MAYBE NEXT TIME."

Subscriptions are \$5 a year for individuals, \$12 for institutions.

HAPPENINGS

● An exhibit of Micronesian Ethnographic Art, the largest exhibit of its kind, was shown at San Francisco's Upstairs Gallery from August 15 to September 15. The exhibit was organized by Don Soker.

● Thomas Gladwin has moved from Honolulu to Palo Alto, California. His address is 1010 Moreno, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

● Roger and Connie Gale attended the 27th International Conference Against A and H Bombs held in Japan in early August. The Conference was sponsored by Gensuikin, the Japan Congress Against A and H Bombs. Micronesia was one of the main subjects of consideration. The Conference delegates resolved to work to-

ward the neutralization of Micronesia and the rest of the Pacific and opposed the construction of military bases in Micronesia. Gensuikin is also concerned with medical treatment for radiation sufferers from the Marshall Islands.

Congressman Ataji Balos and Rongelapese bomb victim, John Anjain, also attended the Conference.

The Gales also attended the special session of the Congress of Micronesia in Ponape.

● Yinug, former FOM worker in Berkeley, is now administrative assistant for the Yap delegation to the Congress of Micronesia.

● A new bi-weekly newspaper, Tia Belau, is published in Palau by Moses Uludong. It is largely in the vernacular. It is available for \$13 a year c/o PO Box 569, Koror Palau 96940 MICRONESIA.

Local Friends

There are Friends almost everywhere now. If you have any questions or need information contact the people near you.

Meetings are being scheduled across the country for October and November. If you live near one of the cities listed, you'll hear from Friends of Micronesia soon.

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