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Week in Review

SUMMARY OF NEWS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Prepared by Micronesian News Service

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BIKINI INHABITANTS TO RETURN

The inhabitants of Bikini who were removed from their island over 25 years ago are being returned for a preliminary inspection of their newly constructed houses. Late this month forty families will travel aboard one of the Government's field trip vessels for an initial inspection of the houses constructed by the Government. According to Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman, if the houses are acceptable, final plans will be made to return the people to Bikini permanently by the end of the year.

Rehabilitation of Bikini began several years ago after it was devastated by U.S. Atomic testing in the late forties and early fifties. At that time, the people were removed from Bikini to Kili Island in the Marshall Islands where they have been living since that time. Because this is only an inspection trip, full news coverage will not be provided until the people are returned permanently to their homes.

MARIANAS BUSINESSMAN RESIGNS FROM STATUS COMMISSION

Jcse C. Tenorio, President of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, has become the second member of the Marianas Islands Political Status Commission to resign.

In a letter to the Marianas District Administrator read at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting held October 1, Tenorio said he is resigning as the Chamber's representative of the business community. He stated his personal business commitments, which require his full attention, as one reason he is resigning.

Secondly, he stated that he believes that the commission could "function more effectively by having its members composed of people without 'reputation' of being in conflict with the goals and objectives of the talks".

The Chamber submitted the name of Pedro A. Tenorio, also in private business in the Marianas, as a replacement for Tenorio.

BURNETT ORDERS ISSUANCE OF HOMESTEAD DEEDS

A class action suit to force the High Commissioner to issue deeds of conveyance to homestead land in the Marianas has been decided in favor of the homesteaders. On October 2 Chief Justice Harold Burnett signed an order on Saipan declaring that deeds must be issued within 20 working days to the four homesteaders who initiated the suit and to all other homesteaders in similar circumstances who had fulfilled all other necessary requirements.

According to Deputy Attorney General Mervyn Makarua, representing the High Commissioner, the TT Government will appeal the case and ask for a stay of execution pending the appeal. Samuel Withers of Micronesian Legal Services, representing the plaintiffs, stated that granting a Government's request for a stay of execution would only mean additional delay in the issuance of the deeds.

If an appeal is granted, the work of surveying the homestead land will be accelerated with the assistance of outside surveyors. If the appeal is denied, deeds will be issued as ordered and any boundary disputes arising from such issuance will be adjudicated in the courts or through the Marianas Land Commission.

PALAU LEGISLATURE CONVENES

The fifth regular session of the Fifth Palau District Legislature convened this week, with the opening addresses delivered by Legislature Speaker Itelbang Luii and Palau District Administrator Thomas Remengesau.

Speaker Luii urged that special emphasis during this session be placed on a study of the political status question and the long-over due issue of returning public lands to the people.

District Administrator Remengesau cited several projects that were completed during the year, including a new 20-bed children's hospital, school facilities, and several community development projects. Remengesau noted the importance of the completion of the Renrak Bridge over Airai Channel in assisting farmers in transporting their crops from farms in Babelthwap to markets on Koror. He also urged the members of the legislature to place special emphasis on appropriating money for a hot lunch program for school students, appropriating of additional funds for the operation of the Palau Museum and the passing of legislature to allow foreign ships to call at the Palau port to buy supplies for their vessels.

Both speakers emphasized that this is a "critical period" for Palau and urged cooperation within the Palau leadership, among the districts, with the Trust Territory Government and with the United States Government.

NOW BRIEFLY, HERE ARE SOME OTHER ITEMS THAT MADE NEWS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY LAST WEEK:

High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston has announced the appointment of Elias H. Thomas of Ponape as the new Chief of the Broadcast Division replacing George T. Callison, who has been appointed Special Assistant to the Director of Public Affairs on broadcast matters.

Certificates of Achievement were presented to Henry Muthan, WSZA, Yap; Krispil Ikeda, WSZB, Palau; Weit Kin, WSZC, Truk; Billimon George, WSZD, Ponape, and Emil Luke, WSZO, Majuro after completing a month-long training

session in program producing at the Headquarters Broadcast Center on Saipan.

Installation of the dial telephone service in the district center of the Marshall Islands has begun. With the inauguration of this system in Majuro, all six districts of the Trust Territory now have telephone service.

Initial phases of the renovation of Isley Air Field on Saipan have begun. By 1975 the Saipan International Airport, as the field will be called, will be able to accommodate the largest commercial jet aircraft.

A Special Task Force of the TT Health Planning Council and a Congress of Micronesia Senate Committee on Health are in the process of studying alternatives to the increase in rates for TT patients being referred to Guam Naval Hospital and the U.S. Army's Tripler General Hospital in Honolulu for treatment. Members of the Special Task Force traveled to Guam and investigated the feasibility of referring patients to Guam Memorial Hospital and discussed administrative problems involved in the referrals. Members of the Congress Committee will travel to the Philippines later this month to investigate the possibility of referring patients to the Philippine Medical Center.

According to Health Services Director Dr. Masao Kumangai, a second grant has been made available to the Department of Health Services for public health maternal and child health programs. Funds will be apportioned to each district to be used for health services for mothers, infants, pre-school and school children. The grant was made available by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Deadline for submitting entries for the ship-naming contest is October 15. All Micronesian students in grades six through twelve are eligible to submit names of something of importance to Micronesia. The ship being named is the first to be constructed with TT Government funds and will carry a TT flag. It was designed, constructed and equipped specifically to meet the requirements of transocean support and intra-district service for Micronesia. The contest winner will receive a cash prize of one hundred dollars, plus recognition at the christening ceremony.

Hearings to study the state of law enforcement and the Judiciary throughout the Trust Territory are in progress. The Congress of Micronesia's Senate Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations traveled through the Western Districts during the first week of October and will continue on through the Eastern Districts during the remainder of October. A report on its findings will be presented at the next regular session of Congress beginning on January 14, 1974.

Peace Corps official, Andrea Leong has returned to Washington after touring the six districts to determine how the Peace Corps can better serve Micronesia. She met with the District Administrators and their staff members, peace corps volunteers and other people involved with Peace Corps activities in each of the six districts.

The Trust Territory Board of Education will meet on Saipan October 15 through October 19. Among those things to be considered will be the renomination of two board members, Lepty Leviticus from the Marshalls and Bernard Helgenberger of Ponape, for a new term of office. Deputy Director of Education Joseph Oakey will present a report on the role and function of education, universal education, planning priority, vocational education and its emphasis by the Congress of Micronesia. Also on the agenda will be discussions on the manpower advisory council, and scholarship loan policies, problems related to classroom additions, the hiring of new teachers, and budget and reorganization policies of the Education Department.

Search for two Kusaie men who left on a fishing trip on September 27 has failed to turn up any signs of the missing men or of their 16-foot white outboard boat. Assistance from the U.S. Navy on Guam and an HU-16 amphibious aircraft proved futile. The missing men are identified as 42 year old Joseph T. Joseph from Utwe Village and 13 year old Hosia Otis of Tafunsak Village.

Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman, Congress of Micronesia Representative Sasauo Haruo and Legislative Counsel Kaleb Udui left October 8 for the Philippines, Bangkok and Taiwan. Coleman and Haruo will meet with Asia Development Bank officials in the Philippines to discuss possible financial assistance for the Bank of Micronesia. Deputy High Commissioner will then proceed to Bangkok to meet the U.S. Mission to discuss requirements necessary for the activation of the associate membership of the Trust Territory Government with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. Discussions with vegetable and rice production officials and inspection of certain fishery projects will be on the agenda for the Taiwan visit. Congress Haruo and Udui will return following the Philippine portion of the trip.

Mrs. Emiliana S. Ada, Congress of Micronesia Librarian, along with nine other persons from the Trust Territory, are currently undergoing training at Hawaii's East-West Center. The program, sponsored by the Pacific Basin Cultural Centers Education Project of the East-West Center, will concentrate on the study of archives, ethnomusicology and museology. Field trips to observe museums and archives in Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and American Samoa will be sponsored by the United Nations, South Pacific Commission and the East-West Center.

In ceremonies held on October 6, the western islands of the Truk District officially became a sub-district with Ulul as the sub-district center. The ceremonies were attended by District Administrator Juan Sablan and other dignitaries, including Congressman Masao Nakayama. Other features of the event-filled weekend for the people of Ulul included a visit by the officers and men of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter "Mallow", the official turnover of the new high school facility from the contractor to the Trust Territory Government, tours of the island and lagoon, and special festing and entertainment.