

Pol Ed

Highlights  
10-15

## Hicom Announces New Program

### "Education for Self-Government"

The Trust Territory Government will move decisively during the next several months to fill the need for more and better political education in Micronesia.

Calling it "education for self-government in Micronesia," High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston said that a program of political education that will utilize all media is being launched by the Government's Executive Branch under the overall coordination of Director of Public Affairs Strik Yoma.

"This program will provide for seminars, discussion groups, written materials, as well as broadcast material," said the HiCom. "There will be close cooperation with the Department of education to make sure that the material is distributed and used in the schools and in Adult Education. The program will also include a greatly expanded use of translators to insure that the material is quickly translated into all of the Trust Territory's major languages."

High Commissioner Johnston said he and Yoma met early this month in Hawaii with United States Ambassador Haydn Williams, President Nixon's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, Senator Lazarus Salii, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Future Status, and Stanley S. Carpenter, Director of the Office of Territorial Affairs in the Interior Department. Out of the meeting came an agreement that

the basic responsibility for a program of Political Education in Micronesia lies with the Executive Branch of the Trust Territory Government, and the HiCom pledged that his Administration will immediately begin to formulate a comprehensive and effective program, one that will be "in every respect a factual presentation of all facets of future self-government for Micronesia."

Initially, at least, the program will be directed by the Civic Affairs Division of the Public Affairs Department, but Johnston held open the possibility that "consultants" from outside the T.T. might be engaged. "We will have to seek additional fundings to finance this effort," he said, "but certain parts of the program will begin immediately. At least the preparatory work can be done with the present staff."

The program will make extensive use of radio, the most comprehensive medium of mass communication in Micronesia. George T. Callison, former TT Broadcast Division Chief, was recently named a Special Assistant to the Director of Public Affairs, and the High Commissioner said he will be involved in the development of broadcast materials for the education for self-government program.

But more than radio programs will be needed, the HiCom acknowledged, saying that the possibility of a special team that would travel aboard field trip ships from island to island making political education presentations and answering questions is under consideration.

The High Commissioner stressed that in all respects the program and materials developed by the administration will be "objective and factual." He said it is not necessary

for the Government to take a position favoring one form of status over any other, and it will not do so. The term "education for self-government" speaks for itself, he stated. In describing the type of program the Administration intends to undertake.