

Week in Review

SUMMARY OF NEWS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Prepared by Micronesian News Service

Saipan, Mariana Islands

Oct. 12-16, 1973

EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston announced last week that a new concept in political education is being launched throughout the Trust Territory. The Department of Public Affairs will coordinate the new program of "education for self-government in Micronesia" by utilizing all available media to assist in filling the need for more and better political education.

High Commissioner Johnston said he and Director of Public Affairs Strik Yoma met last week 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. An agreement reached during the meetings was that the basic responsibility for a program of political education in Micronesia lies with the Executive Branch of the TT Government.

The High Commissioner pledged that his administration will begin immediately to formulate a comprehensive and effective program utilizing seminars, discussion groups, written materials, and broadcast materials. The services of the Department of Education will be used extensively to assure dissemination of the material in the schools and in adult education. Also under consideration is a plan to send a special team aboard field trip ships from island to island making political education presentations and answering questions.

The High Commissioner stressed that in all respects the program and materials developed by the Administration will be "objective and factual". The Administration will not take a position favoring one form of status over any other. He said the objective of the program speaks for itself in the term "education for self-government".

SHIPS TURNED OVER TO TT

Two ships were turned over to the Interior Department for loan to the Trust Territory last week in Japan. According to Lambert Aafin, Manager of the Sea Transportation Branch of the Transportation Division, the ships, the M/S Muskingum and the M/S Herkimer, are similar in size and class to the M/S Gunner's Knot.

The two vessels have been chartered to TransPacific Lines at a rate of \$150 per day during the initial period of their charter. TransPac Managing Director C. Douglas Echols stated that "adding these two ships to our fleet will enable us to expand and improve our shipping services to the people of Micronesia." He added that TransPac will turn the Gunner's Knot back to the TT Government as

soon as practical after the Herkimer and Muskingum are placed in service.

The Herkimer and Muskingum were constructed during World War II, and were used for general cargo and troop transport during the war. They have been utilized for short-haul cargo service by the Military Sealift Command and inspections made by both Government and TransPac official revealed that the ships are in excellent condition.

OUTER ISLANDS TO RECEIVE MORE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS

According to Peace Corps Director Dr. Tom Warren, more Peace Corps volunteers will be placed in the outer islands and more remote villages in Micronesia rather than being placed in the district centers. This decision was made as a result of an intensive study conducted during the summer by a Program Evaluation Survey Team from the U.S. and a five-day staff evaluation conference held on Guam. The study revealed that volunteers placed in the relatively developed district centers have generally been ineffective in relation to the cross-cultural goals of the Peace Corps and that contact and coordination with Micronesian leadership was lacking.

Warren said this decision opens the door to filling the increasing number of requests from Micronesia for more outer island teachers rather than volunteer-specialists who in the past have been placed in the district centers.

Of the total 170 Peace Corps Volunteers in the Trust Territory, 105 are engaged in education. 39 of the total volunteers are located in Ponape, 31 in the Marshalls, 29 in Palau, 27 in Yap, and 22 each in Truk and the Marianas.

COPRA PRICE GOES UP

The Trust Territory Copra Stabilization Board has announced that the price for copra will be increased by \$10 a ton effective November 1. According to Deputy Director of Resources and Development Eusebio Rechucher, also the Board Chairman, the world market price for copra has gone up, thus permitting the increase.

The chairman said the increase will put copra collected at the district centers at \$122.50 for grade one, \$112.50 for grade two and \$102.50 for grade three. The new price for copra in the outer islands is \$110 for grade one, \$100 for grade two and \$90 for grade three. The last time the Board increased the price of copra was in April of this year when the Congress of Micronesia appropriated \$300,000 to supplement and subsidize the ailing industry.

Copra is one of the Trust Territory's major exports. Under a special shipping rate charged by TransPac, the main market for copra is Japan. Although other markets are available for TT crops, the freight rates are extremely high, according to Rechucher.

ACCOUNTANTS TRAINING

The Finance and Accounting Division of the Headquarters Department of Finance is implementing a territory-wide program to develop Micronesians to become government accountants by on-the-job training instead of sending them to school. This is a major effort to train Micronesian employees, many of whom never went beyond high school and have minimal training in accounting.

Jack Beeman, Chief of the Finance and Accounting Division, said last week that 24 headquarters finance employees and 22 from the six district finance offices are taking part in a home-study correspondence course in Fundamentals and Principles of Accounting. "Part of our reorganization plan" Beeman said, "is to assign a Micronesian understudy to the Division Chief, Branch Manager or Section Supervisor whether the position is filled by an expatriate or a Micronesian". He added that the purpose of the home-study program is to provide a stronger emphasis on training Micronesians to become professional accountants both at Headquarters and at District Finance offices.

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

Senator Lazarus Salii announced that the Seventh Round of Talks between the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status and the U.S. Delegation headed by Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams is scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C. on November 10. The first order of business will be to review the response of the U.S. with regard to the Committee's position on the return of public lands.

William Allen, Chief, Community Development Division, was elected the permanent Chairman of the Territorial Housing Commission at its first meeting held on Saipan last week. The Commission adopted a set of by-laws to govern its operations and passed a resolution to seek an appropriation from the Congress of Micronesia to carry out the purposes of the Community Housing Act of 1973 to provide a decent home and suitable living environment for every Micronesian family.

An order issued by the Trust Territory's Water Transportation Review Board last week extended for a brief additional period rates for water shipment charged by TransPacific Lines, Inc. However, detailed justification of the rates presently being charged must be provided to the Board by October 29.

Officials on Saipan and Ponape imposed a quarantine on all taro going into and out of Kusaie island due to a serious outbreak of taro disease. According to Territory Chief of Agriculture Division Bermin F. Weilbacher the disease makes the taro inedible.

A Sub-Regional Training Course in Hospital Administration sponsored by the South Pacific Commission will be held in Truk later this month.

Representatives from Truk, Palau, and the Marshalls participated in a training and orientation seminar on Diving Medicine and Recompression Chamber Operations held in Truk early this month.

The first training session for all Trust Territory District Probation Officers got underway last week. Trust Territory Chief Justice Harold Burnett and Chief Justice William S. Richardson of the State of Hawaii initiated and coordinated the training session.

A sub-committee of the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Law of the Sea is visiting all districts for the purpose of gathering information on local views concerning law-of-the-sea. Recommendations will be made to the Congress regarding issues to be considered at the forthcoming United Nations Law of the Sea Conference.

According to the Economic Development Division of the Department of Resources and Development, five new cooperatives were granted charters during this month. They are: Lukunor Fishing Cooperative Association in Truk; Kusaie Fishing Cooperative Association and Kusaie In and Out Fishing Cooperative Association, both in Kusaie, Ponape District; Peleliu and Angaur Fishermen's Cooperative Association in Palau, and the Saipan stockman's Cooperative, first of its kind in the Trust Territory.

According to the first fall edition of the Outer Islands High School news, Kenneth R. Groves has moved from the position as counselor and student advisor to serve as principal of Yap's Outer Islands High School in Ulithi. A senior, Joseph Paiyar of Faraulep, has been elected student body president for the 1973-74 school year.

Director of Education for the Trust Territory David Ramarui has announced the appointment of Manuel Sound as Deputy Director of Education for Truk District. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Sound will be responsible for curriculum development for both elementary and secondary schools in his district.

The eastern district sub-committee of the House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Relations, is continuing a series of hearings in all districts. The committee met in Ponape last week with government officials, legislators, traditional leaders and members of the general public concerning pending pieces of legislation.