

# Week in Review

## SUMMARY OF NEWS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Prepared by Micronesian News Service

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Saipan, Mariana Islands

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### AIRPORT CONCESSION AWARDED

International Shoppers Limited, a Guam based firm, was selected last week as the best over all bidder for the construction of the prime concession at Saipan's new International Airport.

According to Addison Marrow, Marianas Program and Budget Officer, several factors determined the best bid. They included experience, management and merchandising staff, and a marketing program as well as the highest prepaid minimum concession fee. "As far as we are concerned," he said, "the best bid is International Shoppers, any way you look at it."

International Shoppers' bid, the highest of three, was for five million dollars in prepaid minimum concession fee, including the highest minimum improvement cost bid at four hundred thousand dollars.

Other bidders included Saipan Mayor Vicente D. Sablan and Saipan Duty-Free Shops Limited, a joint venture by Saipan's JoeTen Enterprises and the government of Nauru.

Marrow said that the total cost of constructing the terminal and its associated structures will be five million dollars. "That was one of the reasons that we needed the money for the bid we took," he said. "It was almost impossible to go to any other bid because this one would end up writing itself out."

International Shoppers operates duty-free concessions in Sweden, San Francisco, Honolulu, and Guam. The airport, when completed in 1976, will have the capacity to handle up to 800 travelers at one time.

### FIRST INDUSTRIAL PERMIT ISSUED

The Micronesian Industrial Corporation last week became the first company to be issued a Trust Territory foreign investment business permit for an industrial development project.

The company, which will be located in Koror, Palau, will produce and sell coconut oil. The coconut processing plant will cost \$2.5 million.

The processing mill will have the capacity to handle 140 tons of copra per day. "This is in excess of the amount of quantities available to us in the Trust Territory," company president Guy Luttrell said. He indicated

that until the rate of Micronesian copra production increases, copra will be imported from the Philippines or Indonesia.

Luttrell said that Micronesia is one of the best coconut growing areas in the world. "Before too long," he said, "we hope to be able to get all of our copra needs within the Trust Territory."

The new firm has contracted with the Marwood Company of San Francisco, California, to market their products. The Marwood Company is one of the world's largest companies selling edible oils.

The Micronesian Industrial Corporation hopes to be in operation within 14 months. Forty-seven Micronesians will be initially employed. The company's local agent in Palau is Jonas W. Olkeriil.

#### TREATMENT PLANT FUNDS APPROVED

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency granted over a million dollars to the Trust Territory last week to assist in the construction of a Palau wastewater treatment plant.

The new facility will serve the municipality of Koror and the Malakal Islands. It will be located at the southern end of Malakal Island.

According to Koichi Wong, Deputy Director of Public Works, the plant will be able to treat one million gallons of wastewater a day. The plant, Wong said, will be completed in two years.

#### KUSAIE RECEIVED GRANT

The Kusaie Community Development Office last week received a \$49,482 grant from the Trust Territory Office on Aging to start a Cultural Education and Geriatric Health Services program.

The Cultural Education program, it was pointed out, will teach Kusaiean cultural heritage, history, and traditional arts and crafts. Artisans will be recruited to teach and train youngsters interested in canoe building, weaving, wood carving and the construction of traditional houses.

The Geriatric Health program will provide direct medical aid to the elderly in their homes, and refer them to appropriate health education and referral services.

#### CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM PLANNED

The National Cancer Institute announced last week that it has tentatively accepted a Trust Territory proposal to develop a Micronesian cervical cancer screening program.

According to the TT Health Services Department, the School of Public Health of the University of Hawaii and the Cancer Control Detection Branch of the NCI helped formulate the Trust Territory proposal.

A spokesman for the department said that no definite date has been set to institute the program. Funding and personnel, he indicated, still have to be found.

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

A member of the Australian diplomatic corps, Jeff Hart, will make an official visit to the Trust Territory in early August. He will meet with district officials in Majuro, Ponape, and Truk to discuss their local economy and prospects for development.

Neil K. Chase was appointed as the new chief of the Trust Territory Land Resources Branch last week.

A two week food handling seminar started on Saipan last week with remarks by Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman and Dr. Masao Kumangai, Director of TT Health Services.

The Marianas Automotive Clinic, Inc., a car rustproofing firm, applied for a foreign investors business permit last week. They hope to operate on Saipan.

The Yap Economic Development Board rejected the application of Gunther W. Mothes and Company. They had applied for a permit to start a fishing industry in Yap.

The former Chief Counsel of the Micronesian Claims Commission, Robert Bowles, was appointed to serve as a Commissioner last week. However, Bowles will remain Chief Counsel until a successor to that position is announced.

High Commissioner Edward Johnston appointed Neiman Craley to act as a coordinator between the executive branch and the Congress of Micronesia for all matters relating to the Micronesian Constitutional Convention. Senator Lazarus Salii will serve as the Congress's coordinator.

A group of Japanese real estate and tourist firms formed the Micronesia Association, it was announced last week. The group will assist its one hundred member companies in examining the possibility of investing in Micronesia.

A \$25,000 grant-in-aid was given to Truk's Faichuk Municipality last week to construct concrete sea walls throughout villages to prevent salt water from spilling onto farm lands.

Eighteen electronics technicians from four TT districts completed a five-week communications technicians course at the Kagman receiver-control station on Saipan last week.

Twelve Satawal sailors left Saipan last week on their return voyage to their Yap District island. The 500 mile trip is being completed in canoes using traditional navigation methods.