

# 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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### STATUS AGREEMENTS REACHED

U.S. Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams announced that "considerable progress" was made during informal discussions between American and Micronesian officials meeting on Guam last week.

According to a statement from the Status Liaison Office, a tentative draft agreement was formulated during the four day conference. Ambassador Williams, however, said that a release of the details of the agreement would have to wait until it was reviewed by the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status.

Others attending the meeting included Joint Committee Chairman Lazarus Salii, co-Chairman Ekpap Silk and Senate President Tosiwo Nakayama.

### MARIANAS LAND USE TALKS BEGIN

The Joint Land Committee for the Marianas and the United States began deliberations last week over U.S. land needs in the Marianas. The negotiators met to determine, among other issues, the method of acquisition, price, and the joint uses of land that the United States has previously indicated it needs in the Marianas.

The results of the Joint Committee meeting will be submitted for final action to the two status delegations during the next round of Marianas Status talks.

### LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE BEGINS

The first report from Micronesia's delegates at the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference in Caracas, Venezuela, indicates that they are hopeful that Micronesia's interests will be well represented.

According to Senator Andon Amaraich, Chairman of the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Law of the Sea, current indications appear to be that if adequate navigational rights and scientific research can be guaranteed, a number of major maritime powers "may be willing to seriously consider the concept of the 'economic zone' proposal."

The Congress' official position is to claim exclusive control over all waters within straight baselines connecting Micronesia's outer-most islands as an internal sea area, establishing a 12-mile territorial sea beyond that where ships would pass freely, and finally, 200-mile resource and mineral zone extending outward from the territorial sea.

The Joint Committee is participating in the Conference as members of the United States delegation. Other Congress members attending the meeting are Representatives Herman Q. Guerrero, Masao Nakayama, and Luke Tman.

#### ST. PIERRE CASE: CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES

The St. Pierre case continued last week with The Trust Territory administration producing a letter signed by twelve Marshallese supporting High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston and Chief Public Defender Roger St. Pierre citing letters and petitions from other Marshallese supporting him.

In the letter supporting High Commissioner Johnston's efforts to remove St. Pierre, twelve Marshallese said that they "protest the allegation that all districts through their legislatures have expressed support for Mr. Roger St. Pierre. This district, for one," the letter said, "has not expressed any such position."

Among the twelve signing the letter were Congress of Micronesia Representative Charles Domnick and Ataji Balos, Senator Amata Kabua, and Speaker of the Nitijela Atlan Anien.

St. Pierre responded sharply to the letter by producing letters and petitions of support from other Marshallese. His attorney, Benjamin Abrams, called the letter supporting the High Commissioner "manufactured and tailored."

The Marshallese supporting the Chief Public Defender included Ebon Magistrate James Milne, Henry Moses, Assistant Chief of the Legislative Liaison Division, and Senator Wilfred Kendall.

#### SATAWALESE RETURN TO SAIPAN

The two Satawalese canoes which left Saipan two weeks ago to return to their Yap island were forced to come back to Saipan because of poor weather conditions off Guam.

The canoe Pacifica returned first. Heavy winds and seas, its skipper reported, made progress difficult for four days. The captain of the other canoe, the Alingala, and the Pacifica decided to return to Saipan to replenish their supplies and wait for clear weather.

The Alingala, however, apparently changed directions again and tried to sail to Satawal when a break in the weather appeared.

The Pacifica returned to Saipan first and there was some concern that the Alingala might be lost. However, the second canoe arrived the next day.

The crew members are staying at Saipan's Chalan Kanoa Carolinian Community meeting hall.

## LEADERS WILL MEET THE PRESS

Micronesia's Education for Self-Government Task Force announced that it was planning a new program to help Trust Territory citizens become familiar with the different choices they have for their future political status.

The ESG program is based on the American radio and television program "Meet the Press." Members of the different press groups in Micronesia, including the Micronesian News Service, district radio stations, and correspondents from Guam and Trust Territory newspapers, will interview officials familiar with the political status issue.

An ESG spokesman said he hopes that the new program will offer an open and free discussion of the important questions facing all Micronesians.

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

The United States Senate passed a bill to protect Hawaii and American Pacific territories from the first 160 days of any dock or shipping strike originating on the West Coast. The bill now has to pass the House of Representatives.

The TT District Personnel Officers' Workshop will begin this week on Yap. According to Podis Pedrus, Deputy Director of the TT Personnel Department, Headquarters staff members and district personnel officers will discuss aspects of personnel management.

The U.S. Department of Labor granted the Trust Territory \$315,000 for providing transitional jobs in the public service field.

The second annual Workshop for Trust Territory Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing began on Saipan last week.

Australia's High Commissioner to Nauru, L.G. Sellars, met with Yap District Officers last week during an official visit. He also toured Palau.

TT Public Works Programming and Scheduling Officer Tipne Phillippo returned last week from San Francisco after completing two Civil Service management courses.

Marianas District Administrator Francisco C. Ada announced the appointment of Allan Nicholson as District Attorney. He replaces William Amsbary.

Bermin Weilbacher, TT Chief of the Agriculture Division, left Saipan last week to attend the tenth session of the Asian Coconut Community in Apia, Western Samoa.

The TT Department of Health Services announced last week the appointment of Ms. Jean Giddings as a member of the Division of Maternal and Child Health.

Two special education teacher trainers, Ms. Alice Miles and Ms. Pat McCormack, have been hired on a short-time basis to assist Ponape and Palau elementary school teachers.