

Week in Review

SUMMARY OF NEWS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Prepared by Micronesian News Service

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HEINE-AMARAICH SPEAK ON DIALOGUE

Two more public officials were interviewed last week on the new Education for Self Government radio program "Dialogue for Micronesia," and their comments on current events were broadcast throughout the Trust Territory. The program follows a "Meet-the-Press" type of format, with a rotating panel of newsmen and women interviewing each subject.

Carl Heine, Deputy Director of the Public Affairs Department, and Senator Andon Amaraich of Truk, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Law of the Sea, were the most recent subjects.

Heine, whose name has been mentioned recently as a possible opponent for Marshalls Senator Amata Kabua in the November election, said he is not now a candidate for any office. But despite this denial of political aspirations, many of the questions continued to bore in on Heine's political plans and, by extension, the current political situation in the Marshall Islands.

Heine said he is afraid that this year's election in the Marshalls may become a personal fight, and if he runs he would prefer to campaign on the issues, among which he mentioned corruption in government, Micronesian unity, and the political future of Micronesia as being the most important. He said he cannot conceive of any future for the Marshall Islands apart from the other islands of Micronesia, but conceded that there are many in the Marshalls today who do not agree.

Concerning Micronesian unity Heine, who recently authored the book "Micronesia at the Crossroads," said he thinks unity will be difficult to achieve for at least another twenty to thirty years. He said in his view the different systems of land tenure from district to district are the biggest obstacle to achieving unity.

Heine also mentioned what he calls "the new colonialism" in Micronesia today. This, he explained, is the exploitation of Micronesians by their own fellow Micronesians, business leaders, politicians and others who are "exploiting the rest of the people through political, traditional or economic means for their own personal gain." Heine said this poses a very great danger for Micronesia.

Senator Amaraich, who left last week to return to Caracas, Venezuela and the International Conference on the Law of the Sea, said the outcome of this conference is very important to Micronesia. The future of these islands, he stated, will be strongly affected by the outcome of the conference, for it involves the resources of the sea, and Micronesia is going to grow increasingly dependent on the sea in coming years. The Senator said if other countries do not accept the so-called "archipelago theory" of territorial waters, then members of his committee would like to see a special status for Micronesia, perhaps a "mid-ocean state" that would protect her identity.

Senator Amaraich added, however, that the chances for approval of a 200-mile "economic zone" are quite good. He explained that Micronesia's position seeks to establish a twelve mile territorial limit, extending out from a base line drawn between the outermost islands of the present Trust Territory, and a 200-mile economic zone extending out from there. Within this zone, Micronesians would have exclusive rights to the economic resources, such as fish and minerals found on the bottom of the ocean. Other countries would have to have the permission of the Micronesian government to fish these waters. If Micronesians could not exploit these resources themselves, they could then sell licenses, tax boats from other countries, or in other ways raise money from countries who want to exploit them.

The Senator admitted that patrolling of such a vast area of ocean would be expensive, and he said much would depend on the willingness of other countries to respect this zone and control their own boats.

The Micronesian delegation at the conference is officially part of the U.S. delegation, and although their positions are quite different Senator Amaraich said the arrangement has worked well so far. The conference in Venezuela is expected to last until the end of August.

SHIPS IN THE NEWS

Ships were in the news in the Trust Territory last week. Fishing vessels were reported aground in the Yap and Ponape Districts, while in the Marianas a huge Russian tour vessel came and went, without getting into port.

A Korean fishing vessel was reported aground at Ngulu Atoll in Yap District. Her 18 crewmen were taken off the stricken ship by another Korean vessel that was nearby when the accident occurred. Nobody was injured.

In Ponape District, a Japanese fishing vessel was aground on Minto Reef.

Her 16 crewmen were also rescued by another fishing boat and taken to Moen, Truk, from where they were to be flown back to Japan. Both boats were stuck fast to their respective reefs, and salvage appeared unlikely.

The Russian cruise ship was the 21,406 ton S/S Fedor Shalayapin, which has been chartered by the Leisure Development Corporation of Japan to take some 700 Japanese businessmen on a tour of potential resort areas in the Trust Territory

and New Guinea. The big ship is scheduled to make two calls at Saipan, and one each at Truk and Rabaul, New Guinea. The first call at Saipan, however, was something of a disappointment. The ship arrived offshore during a tropical storm, with high waves and wind making entry into the harbor impossible. However a spokesman said it was unlikely that a ship of that size would be able to enter the Saipan harbor without assistance even in good weather.

The Japanese businessmen are making a survey of the potential of Pacific resort areas. But the Pacific Daily News reported over the weekend that about 40 of the passengers left the ship at Saipan--transferred to shore by a smaller vessel--because they were unhappy with the food and service on the Russian ship.

The Fedor Shalayapin was also originally scheduled to call at Guam, but permission for the ship to enter Guam's port was denied by the U.S. Government without explanation.

SURVEY TEAM IN PALAU

A United States land survey team headed by Navy Rear Admiral William Crowe, Jr., is currently in Palau District, preparing a detailed report on American military land option needs in that district. Ambassador F. Haydn Williams visited Palau early last month, meeting with elected and traditional leaders to discuss the recently adopted Palau District Legislature resolution concerning U.S. land requirements in Palau. Essentially, the resolution says that negotiations with the people of Palau for land cannot proceed until the sites and locations are precisely known. The Ambassador and the Palauan leaders agreed that a survey should commence as soon as possible. The team is expected to be in Palau until about the end of August.

NURSING CLASS DELAYED

The Trust Territory Health Services Department announced last week that, because of salary problems involving three expatriate, local hire teachers, it will be forced to delay the scheduled September 3 opening of the new class at the Trust Territory School of Nursing on Saipan. Dr. Arobati Hicking, Deputy Director of Health Services, said that some 30 to 35 students had been expected from all districts for the class. But because the Congress of Micronesia did not approve amendments in the salary plan law pertaining to local hire expatriates, the nurse instructors are going to resign, leaving the school without enough instructors to handle the new students. The teachers say they will resign rather than accept reductions in their salaries as required by the present law.

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

BUDGET Hearings by the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Program and Budget Planning were held on Saipan last week. The committee looked first at each of the proposed district budgets, then dealt with each of the Headquarters departments.

A survey of Saipan's water has disclosed that the drinking water supply is safe, and that recreational beaches are now safe for swimming and fishing.

A specialist in internal medicine, Dr. Frank D. Irwin, has joined the Ponape health services staff.

The Chase Manhattan Bank has applied for a permit to do business in the Marianas District, setting up a development finance office.

The foreign business permit of Micronesian Manufacturing Corporation was revoked last week for non-compliance with terms. The company was issued the permit, for the Marianas District, in 1969, but had never commenced operations.

The revenue division has begun a territory-wide check of businesses to insure compliance with the Trust Territory Income Tax Law.

The Chief of the Marine Resources Division, Peter Wilson, has taken a year's leave of absence from his job to work with the government of the Sultanate of Oman, in the Middle East, developing fisheries programs. Truk Fisheries officer Chris Mitchell will be acting chief of the division in Wilson's absence.