

9/3/74

Week in Review

SUMMARY OF NEWS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
Prepared by Micronesian News Service

Saipan, Mariana Islands

AUGUST 19-23, 1974

ENIWETOK MEETINGS SCHEDULED

About fifty of the people of Eniwetok, who have lived on Ujelang in the Marshalls Islands since being moved to accommodate nuclear testing on their atoll 27 years ago, will return to Eniwetok next month--many for the first time--for a series of meetings with U.S. and TT Government officials.

A delegation from Washington, headed by Lt. General Warren Dr. Johnson, head of the Defense Nuclear Agency, will present to the Eniwetok leaders a draft environmental impact statement on the cleanup of the atoll, which the agency has responsibility for.

The leaders will also discuss plans for the rehabilitation of the atoll, which will be undertaken by the Interior Department once the debris and buildings left from the testing period have been removed.

The Ujelang delegation will be headed by the two top Iroij of the island, the members of the municipal council and the island's planning committee, and the heads of each household in the community. They will travel by a special field trip ship arranged by Marshalls DistAd Oscar DeBrum.

Washington officials have expressed hope that, based on the final environmental impact statement and plans to date, the United States Congress will provide the necessary funds to proceed with the cleanup and rehabilitation of Eniwetok soon. Atomic Energy Commission officials on the trip will also brief the Eniwetokese on their recently completed radiological report and analyses, with Interior and Trust Territory officials addressing the master plan for rehabilitation and resettlement.

The meetings will take place on Eniwetok September 7 and 8.

SURVEY TEAM IN PALAU

A special survey team, headed by Navy Rear Admiral William J. Crowe, is currently in Palau District surveying lands for possible future use by the U.S. Military. The team arrived in Palau August 19 at the invitation of the Palau District Legislature, which had declared in a resolution on May 2 of this year that in order for negotiations on possible land use by the military in Palau to proceed it would be necessary for the U.S. to specify what sites

might be needed in detail. The survey is expected to take about two weeks.

MICRONESIA PRINCESS HERE SOON

The first new ship built especially for the Micronesian inter-island service, the M/S Micronesia Princess, is expected to arrive at Saipan in early September. The ship was officially turned over to the Trust Territory Government August 15 in Pusan Korea, following successful completion of sea trials. The trials went well, with all operating and performance criteria equalled or exceeded, according to a spokesman for the Transportation Division last week. He said the captain of the new ship is John Ongrung of Palau, and he and a crew of 13 are already in Korea to sail the Micronesia Princess to Micronesia. She will leave Pusan on August 29.

There will be an open house on Saipan when the ship reaches the island, after which she will make a short field trip to the Northern Marianas, and will then head for Yap and Palau to replace the M/S James Cook, which is scheduled for drydock. The Micronesia Princess will also see service in each of the other districts, but the spokesman said it has not yet been decided where she will be permanently assigned.

The Micronesia Princess is the first of a planned series of eight ships. She is capable of carrying 800 tons of cargo and as many as 100 passengers at a top speed of 15 knots. She can also carry up to 36, 20-foot containers.

SYMPHONY TO AGAIN TOUR TT

The Honolulu Symphony Orchestra has again announced plans to tour the Trust Territory and Guam. The tour will begin September 6 with a concert in Kwajalein, and will include concert stops at Ponape, Guam, Saipan and Truk in that order. Gordon T. Coats, the new general manager of the symphony, made an advance trip through the TT last week to complete final arrangements.

Heading the orchestra's musical forces for the tour will be the symphony's associate music director, Joseph Levine. The guest soloist will be guitarist Turan-Mirza Kamal, an Indonesian born American who is considered one of the outstanding guitarists of the younger generation. He will appear as soloist with the orchestra in works by Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Vivaldi.

The symphony concert tours the past two years have proven to be very popular with the Micronesian public. Included in the schedule this year once again are youth concerts for elementary and high schools, plus visits to classrooms by 12 ensemble teams who will demonstrate their instruments and present formal programs. "Peter and the Wolf" for narrator and orchestra will be a feature of the children's concerts, with the narration done in the vernacular of the district where the performance takes place, with a narrator selected from the area.

The tour of the symphony is made possible by a grant from the national endowment for the arts in Washington, D.C., a U.S. Federal Agency, with

additional funding from the insular arts council of Guam. The tour is sponsored by the Honolulu Symphony Society in cooperation with Continental/Air Micronesia. Additional funding is solicited from local groups in the areas where the orchestra performs, since the grants are not enough to cover all of the costs.

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

High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston has received 18 of the 23 bills passed by the recent special session of the Congress of Micronesia, and is considering his action on them. The HiCom has 30 days from the date of receipt to act on the bills, or they will become law automatically without his signature. Most of the bills passed during the session were appropriation measures.

A Russian cruise ship, the S/S Fedor Shalayapin, visited Truk and Saipan last week, carrying nearly 600 Japanese tourists. The visit to Moen, Truk was the first time a large cruise ship has been there since World War Two. The people of Moen went all out to entertain the guests and make their brief visit a memorable one.

Members of the Trust Territory Environmental Protection Board are meeting this week in Yap District.

Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman returned to Saipan last week from Japan, where he attended a special national ceremony for Japanese war dead. ~~It was the first time that foreigners have been invited to the ceremony since 1952.~~ The invitation was in special recognition of the cooperation rendered by the TT Government to the Government of Japan in the recovery of Japanese war dead from Micronesia.

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton spoke to Interior Department employees in Washington recently, following the resignation of Richard Nixon as President. The new President, Gerald Ford, has asked Secretary Morton to remain at his post, and the Secretary has indicated that he will do so.

The renewal application of Black Micro Corporation for a foreign business permit in the Marianas District was approved last week by High Commissioner Johnston. The Economic Development Division also received four new applications for foreign businesses proposing to operate in the Marianas-Inter-island Development Company, Saipan Realty Company, Saipan Mortgage Company, and First Saipan Title Insurance and Escrow Company.

A Saipan businessman, Ray Guerrero, has announced plans to form a new airline to serve the Marianas. It will be known as "Marianas Airlines" and will initially operate a 20-passenger Twin Otter 300. The company hopes to be in operation by November.

Truk presiding judge Sokuichi Fritz recently completed two weeks of special training at the National College of the State Judiciary in Reno, Nevada.

Trust Territory School of Nursing Principal Marie L. Bologa is attending a two-week World Health Organization workshop on the training of nursing teachers in Manila.

John Rechucher of Palau, a recent law graduate of Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, has joined the staff of the Attorney General's Office, specializing in corporation and contract law.

And finally, the Trust Territory Public Information Division is seeking color photographs of the Congress of Micronesia, for use in the TT 1975 calendar and possibly in a special edition of the Microneisian Reporter marking the tenth anniversary of the Congress next year. Anyone having color slides or photographs of the Congress is asked to contact the Public Information Division on Saipan.