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Week in Review

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

Saipan, Mariana Islands

Oct. 15-18, 1974

SAIPAN TV STATION MAY CLOSE

The President of the Micronesian Broadcasting Corporation, H. Scott Kilgore, has informed Marianas District Administrator Francisco C. Ada that unless Saipan's television station WSZE officials received some sort of assurance from the government for the land they require to erect a new tower, the TV station may go off the air at the end of this month. In a letter to the Marianas District Administrator, Kilgore and Edgar Olson, the manager of the local station, have concluded that no progress is being made in negotiations to move the facility from its present location at the Royal Taga Hotel to the new site at the District Education complex at lower base. Kilgore stated in his letter to Ada that, "...I must place a cut-off date of October 31, 1974, in which we will go off the air....", unless substantial progress is made in getting the station moved.

Since February, Micronesian Broadcasting corporation has been paying rent on the space at the District Education building where the audiovisual section is located. But the station requires a lease on a 500 by 500 foot piece of land next to the building for the tower. The land is a military retention area. Kilgore indicated that he doesn't want the TV station to go off the air, but, he said, "I certainly don't want to go around and around on this for another year." The Saipan station is losing \$2,000 a month since it opened in 1969. Early this year, Micronesian Broadcasting corporation was granted a renewed business permit that included permission for a commercial AM and FM radio station. "We asked and never received permission for an FM and AM frequency," Kilgore said in his letter. "We get lots of cooperation but no action," the Guam broadcasting executive added. He cited the station's lease at the Royal Taga has expired and for several months now they have been paying rent for two locations. A meeting was held last week among the government agencies involved to see what could be done about the situation.

As this Week-In-Review goes to press, an agreement has been reached that would eliminate the possibility of closing Saipan's local TV station.

HIGH COMMISSIONER HEADS PIDC

High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston officially became President of the Pacific Islands Development Commission (PIDC) last week upon the resignation from the Office of Governor John M. Haydon of American Samoa. The PIDC is headed by four commissioners, the Chief executives of Guam, American Samoa, Hawaii and the Trust Territory, and the presidency rotates among them on an

annual basis. Governor Jack Burns of Hawaii was the first president, in 1971-72, followed by Governor Carlos G. Camacho of Guam and Governor Haydon. High Commissioner Johnston was to have become president in 1975, but that the next two major PIDC meeting will both take place in the Trust Territory. In February 1975, the full Commission will hold its annual meeting in Truk District. In August next year, the PIDC Tourism Conference will be held on Saipan.

The Pacific Islands Development Commission and its subsidiary, the Pacific Tuna Development Foundation, are non-profit corporations incorporated in the State of Hawaii. They are dedicated to the fostering of regional cooperation for economic development among the American island areas of the Pacific.

HOUSING CONFERENCE ENDS

The Territorial Housing Commission concluded its meeting at the Saipan Continental Hotel with High Commissioner Johnston presiding. The High Commissioner praised the Commission for the progress it has made since its creation in April 1973. Johnston also traced the lengthy process which led to the inclusion of the Trust Territory in U.S. Public Law 93-383, "The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974." That legislation makes the Trust Territory eligible for federal housing assistance in many categories and forms. The High Commissioner also distributed \$95,000 in funds made available under Public Law 5-99 of the Congress of Micronesia to representatives of the District Housing Authorities.

ESO TO ATTEND CHICAGO TRAINING

The Trust Territory's six Employment Services Officers (ESOs) will leave next week to attend a one-month course at the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) Training Institute in Chicago, Illinois. Director of Resources and Development Eusebio Rechucher said that this is the first time that Micronesia has ever received funding or support under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

The training received in the course will further the Labor Division's compliance with Section 7 of Title 49 of the Trust Territory Code which states in part, under functions of the duties of the Employment Service, that the Employment Service will "oversee, monitor, and review the use of alien workers and matters related thereto, including but not limited to Health, Safety and others..." Rechucher noted that next fiscal year, six full time safety inspectors, one from each district, will be hired subject to U.S. Congressional funding of the OSEA. The safety inspectors will also be trained in Chicago in basic courses and other courses that deal with specific safety and health factors in construction, maritime, and manufacturing.

LADY CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SEAT

No woman has ever held a seat in the Congress of Micronesia. Only on one previous occasion did a lady from Ponape District make a bid for a Congressional seat. She lost by more than a thousand votes. But that does

not discourage Carmen Milne Bigler from the Marshalls hopes to change that. The only female running for office in the November 5 Congress of Micronesia general election, Ms. Bigler says she is "very optimistic" about it. The 35 year old Adult Basic Education specialist in the Marshalls, said her chances for winning a seat in the Congress this year are "pretty good." She is opposing incumbent Congressman John Heine in a four-way race. Asked why she decided to run, she said that her election district (fifth representative district) was not well represented in the Congress, and also, she was "not really satisfied with some of the things the Congress has done." Ms. Bigler commented on the 20% tax return to the districts and said that it is really "not fair." Many Marshallese still preferred 50%. "And as for me, I think I would prefer 50% too," she pointed out.

She is especially concerned about the poor educational system in the Marshalls district. Right now, she said, the Marshall Islands are really poor and behind in everything.

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

Ninety Japanese bone collectors arrived on Saipan to begin retrieving bones of Japanese war dead. Thirty persons out of the group went to Tinian to collect bones there.

Jesus P. Mafnas, Chief of the Revenue Division, Department of Finance, has been awarded a U.N. Fellowship to attend a Seminar on Fiscal, Financial and Monetary policies for employment promotion to be held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Palau Deputy District Administrator, Haruo Remeliik, has accepted an invitation from the government of Australia to tour that country next month along with Congress of Micronesia Representative Resio Moses of Ponape.

House Speaker Bethwel Henry returned to Micronesia after participating in a celebration marking Fiji's fourth anniversary of independence on October 10, 1974.

Foreign business permits for construction services and a hotel development company were received last week. Holmes and Narver, Inc., proposes to provide architectural, engineering, planning and management and construction services in the Marshalls District if their permit application is approved. M.I.C. Corporation asked to operate a resort hotel on Rota.

The Trust Territory's Adult Basic Education Specialists held a meeting on Saipan last week on curriculum development for adults.

Nine firemen from Micronesia left for a month-long training course at various locations in California.

A survey of the Trust Territory's shipping needs throughout the six districts is presently being conducted by the Congress of Micronesia Joint Committee on Resources and Development.

Finally, the third issue of the Congress of Micronesia Digest was distributed last week to various schools in Micronesia, District Legislatures, Public Information Offices, District Administrations and numerous members of the U.S. Congress.