

6/3/74

# Week in Review

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

---

Saipan, Mariana Islands

May 20-24, 1974

---

## HICOM NOMINATES HEINE, TACHELIOL

Trust Territory High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston last week submitted the names of Carl Heine and Hilary Tacheliol to the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Administrative Appointments for advice and consent. Heine was nominated to fill a now-vacant position as Deputy Director of the Public Affairs Department, while Tacheliol was nominated to officially take over the position of Deputy District Administrator, Yap, a job he has held on an acting basis since March, 1973.

Heine, who authored the recently published book "Micronesia at the Crossroads," is a former deputy Yap DistAd himself, and also served for two years as the staff director of the Joint Committee on Future Status of the Congress of Micronesia. A Marshallese, he is a graduate of Pacific University in Oregon and is presently completing a year of advanced study at the East-West Center in Hawaii. He is expected to return to the Trust Territory next month.

Tacheliol was formerly DistAd Rep for Ulithi and the outer islands of Yap. He is a graduate of the University of Guam, and a former teacher and school vice-principal.

The Joint Committee on Administrative Appointments is chaired by Senator Andon Amaraich of Truk. The committee is expected to meet on Saipan beginning June 4 to take up these nominations, along with the nomination of Philip Chamberlain to the position of Territorial Planner in the Office of the High Commissioner.

## STATUS TALKS CONTINUE

Negotiators for the United States and the Mariana Islands continued their discussions on Saipan last week. The week's activities included visits to Rota and Tinian to discuss the progress of the status talks with residents there.

During a public meeting on Rota, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams expressed the hope that the two sides will reach an agreement on a commonwealth status for the Northern Marianas before the end of the year. Considerable interest in the benefits of various forms of citizenship was shown by those who attended the meeting. Ambassador Williams also announced that initial funding has been appropriated for an accelerated public land survey and adjudication program that will take approximately three years to complete. He said the U.S. is firmly committed to the completion of that program.

---

On Tinian, a wreath was laid at the memorial to those who lost their lives in a recent boating accident in the channel between Tinian and Saipan. The delegations also made a second visit to Tinian later in the week at the invitation of the Tinian Municipal Council for the express purpose of presenting to the people of Tinian in an open meeting the amended United States proposal for its federal land requirements on Tinian. Reaffirmed was the information that it will no longer be necessary to re-locate the village of San Jose from its present site near the harbor.

A Guam attorney, Joaquin Arriola, representing citizens on Tinian who wish to limit the American military presence on the island, spoke against giving the U.S. more than one-third of the island. Tinian Mayor Antonio Borja, speaking on the other side, said many people on Tinian support the request of the U.S. for land on Tinian and are upset that the village will not be re-located, which would have meant improved living conditions and facilities for the residents. Ambassador Williams responded that without a military requirement to move the village the U.S. could not spend the funds for re-location. Williams also said the proposed military presence on Tinian will not mean that agriculture and other private enterprise on Tinian will be halted.

#### HICOM REMOVES ST. PIERRE

Some thirteen months after he was first given notice of the government's intent to remove him from his position, Chief Trust Territory Public Defender Roger St. Pierre was formally notified by High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston last week that he will be removed from his position effective at the end of May. In taking the action, the HiCom referred to the findings of Interior Department Administrative Law Judge Robert Snashall in April that the government had sustained its main charge against St. Pierre, that he had accepted compensation in the form of a fee or gift for work performed while acting in his official capacity.

The Judge had recommended, however, that St. Pierre be given a 90-day suspension, rather than being removed outright from his job. The High Commissioner chose not to follow that recommendation.

Several avenues of appeal are still open to St. Pierre, but at week's end it was not clear just what action, if any, he would take to fight this latest move by the government. He has been Chief Public Defender in the TT since 1962.

#### BUREAU CRITICAL OF PAN AM AND AIR MIKE

The United States Civil Aeronautics Board's Bureau of Enforcement, which conducted an investigation into airline conduct in the Saipan-Japan route case in March and April, issued a preliminary statement of its findings last week that was critical of both of the major contenders for the route, Pan American World Airways and Continental/Air Micronesia. If airline conduct were to be the sole basis of awarding the route, said Bureau Attorney T. Christopher Browne, then the award should go to Northwest Orient Airlines, the third applicant. The investigation and public hearings held on Saipan failed to turn up any evidence of misconduct on the part of Northwest, Browne, said.

If the choice were between Pan American and Continental, again using airline conduct as the basis, Browne said the record of evidence presented clearly favors Continental. He added, however, that it is the feeling of the Bureau that no carrier should be disqualified because of misconduct.

The statement is one of several submitted by participants in the Saipan hearings to Administrative Law Judge Greer Murphy, who heard the case. More detailed briefs will be presented early next month, and shortly thereafter Judge Murphy is expected to issue his recommendation to the CAB.

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

The waters around a stream where sodium arsenic was accidentally spilled in Yap District three weeks ago were declared safe last week, following analysis of water samples at a laboratory in San Francisco. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Paul DeFalco flew to Yap to check the situation, and announced that a procedure has been set up for disposing of all remaining banned pesticides from all locations in the TT.

Procedural arrangements are now being negotiated with the Government of Japan for the purchase of goods by the Trust Territory as Japan's payment for war damage claims. A detailed plan for the acquiring of roughly six million dollars worth of goods from Japan was presented last week to TT officials. The goods were prorated on the basis of needs in Micronesia as reflected in the regular TT budget.

---

High Commissioner Johnston announced the appointment of Richard E. Barber as Acting Chief of the Labor Division, which has been vacant since last December. Barber is presently Chief of the Employment and Employee Relations Division of the Department of Personnel.

The HiCom also announced last week that responsibility for the coordination and liaison of the military Civic Action Team program in the TT has been assigned to the community development division. This responsibility was formerly with the office of the Special Consultant.

The Truk District Legislature went into session last week on Moen. The first order of business was the election of officers to serve for the next four years, and Speaker Hermes Katsura was defeated in his bid for re-election. The new Speaker: Newly elected legislator Koichy Sana of Moen. Also newly elected was floor leader Fermin Likiche, while Joseph Muritok retained his vice-speaker position.

36 Micronesian students received degrees, ranging from Master of Education to Associate of Science, in commencement ceremonies held at the University of Guam last weekend.

At least two containers from the TransPacific Lines barge that sank April 8 between Guam and Ponape have washed ashore in Truk District. Residents of Fananu in the Hall Islands found a container full of beer, while residents of Piserach in Namonouito Atoll found a container loaded with canned meat, plywood and motor scooters. A total of 76 containers was aboard the ill-fated barge.

Finance officers held their annual conference on Saipan last week. The meeting was completely conducted, for the first time, by Micronesian personnel from the Headquarters Finance Department.

Maritime Day was recognized last week throughout Micronesia on May 22.

And finally, the winners of the territory-wide essay contest conducted by the Education for Self-Government Program were announced last week. The overall winner was a Junior at Xavier High School in Truk, William Iriarte from Ponape, who submitted an essay entitled "An Independent Micronesian Economy." He received a district first prize of fifty dollars, and the overall grand prize of seventy-five dollars as well, and his selection will be re-printed in the next issue of the Micronesian Reporter.

Other District winners were: Lucia Blanco, Marianas; Faith Gulibert, Palau; Lorin Robert, Truk; Marita Phillip, Yap; and Wooden Ishoda, Marshalls. Each received a fifty-dollar prize.