

# Week In Review

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

Saipan, Mariana Islands

June 10-14, 1974

## CON CON RESULTS COMPLETE

The unofficial results of Micronesia's first constitutional convention election were complete at the end of last week. Slow field trip ships and other local difficulties in tabulating votes prevented an early announcement of the June 4th election results. The Convention is expected to be held sometime in early 1975. Between now and then many delegates plan to tour their districts to find out what the political aspirations of the Micronesian people are. The unofficial results for the 42 elected delegate seats are as follows:

### Marianas

1. Jose R. Cruz
2. Larry Cabrera
3. Luis Limes
4. Joaquin I. Pangelinan

### Yap

1. Luke Tman, and Samuel Falanruw
2. Hilary Tacheliol

### Palau

1. Johnson Toribiong, and Santos Olikong
2. John Ngiraked, and Jacob Sawaichi
3. Tosiwo Nakamura

### Ponape

1. Hirosi Ismael, and Tadao P. Sigrah
2. Kikuwo Apis
3. Apinel Mateak
4. Leo A. Falcam
5. Darow Weital
6. William Eperiam
7. Strik Yoma
8. Heinrich Iriarte

### Marshalls

1. John Heine

2. Langue Kalles
3. Issac Lanwi
4. Mary Lanwi
5. Carl Heine
6. Kinja Andrike
7. Tipne Phillippo
8. Hemos Jack
9. Tom Kijiner

Truk

1. Sasauo Haruo, and Frank Nifon
2. Soukichi Fritz
3. Soiter Meti
4. Maketo Robert
5. Chutomu Nimwes, and Hans Williander
6. Tatasi Wainit
7. Manuel Sound, Kotaro Eltar, and Iskia Sony
8. Tosiwo Nakayama

UN HEARINGS CONCLUDE

This years hearings of the United Nations Trusteeship Council ended in New York last week. The final sessions included concluding presentations by U.S. Ambassador Barbara White, Trust Territory High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston, and Senator Wilfred Kendall and Representative Joab Sigrah of the Congress of Micronesia. TT representatives were also present at ceremonies which officially included the Trust Territory in programs of the United Nations Development Program.

In her closing remarks, Ambassador White assured the Council members that the United States remains committed to increasing self-government for Micronesia while pursuing an eventual and speedy resolution of the status negotiations, and, secondly, continue to work to lessen Micronesia's dependence upon outside economic assistance.

High Commissioner Johnston restated the Trust Territory policy of placing qualified Micronesians in positions of responsibility as soon as it is possible. He pointed out for the Council that of the 37 positions now subject to advice-and-consent by the Congress of Micronesia, 20 are occupied by Micronesians and 12 by non-Micronesians. The HiCom also said that of the remaining 5 vacancies, 4 are expected to be filled by Micronesians in the near future.

Senator Kendall and Representative Sigrah both addressed their remarks to questions that Council members had raised during earlier sessions. Senator Kendall covered a wide area of concerns, and told the Council that, "We would assure all the members of this Council of Micronesia's continuing interest in assuming a place in the Pacific community of nations."

Representative Sigrah concentrated his remarks on economic and developmental matters. At the end of his presentation, the Congressman said that differences of opinion between the Administering Authority and Micronesian Congressional

representatives are not harmful. "I am sure," he said, "that even when Micronesia is internally self-governing there will always be a certain amount of healthy tension between the branches of government. This is as it should be."

#### BURNETT DISQUALIFICATION CHALLENGED

The case of Trust Territory Chief Public Defender Roger St. Pierre took a new turn last week when Chief Justice Harold W. Burnett disqualified himself from hearing St. Pierre's latest appeal. Burnett cited unspecified "considerations" as the main reason for disqualifying himself. Assistant Public Defender Benjamin Abrams, St. Pierre's TT attorney, filed a motion in the High Court at the end of the week calling upon Burnett to reconsider his order. Abrams said that there were no grounds for the Chief Justice to disqualify himself. A hearing will be held on the motion sometime this week.

#### PALAU CON CON LAW SIGNED

A bill calling for a Palauan Constitutional Convention was signed into law this month by Palau District Administrator Thomas O. Remengesau. Palau is the only district to call for its own constitutional convention. No date has been set for the elections. Remengesau said that the signing of the bill occurred during a period of a full moon - a sign of good times in Palauan traditions.

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

A second TT supplemental budget appropriation was signed into law by President Nixon last week. It will provide an additional \$1.5 million for the Trust Territory during the 1974 fiscal year budget.

The Hanil Construction Company has been awarded the contract to construct the Ponape Referral Hospital. Hanil's basic bid, according to a TT Public Works spokesman, was for \$4,196,630.

Eleven Satawal sailors arrived in Saipan last week after sailing in two canoes over the 500 miles that separate Satawal from Saipan. This is the third year that a group the Yap outer island have made the long journey.

The AJU Construction Company, contracted to build the Airai Bridge in Palau, will be bonded by the Korean Reinsurance Corporation, a TT Public Works spokesman announced last week. Difficulties in meeting all Trust Territory contract procedure regulations prevented AJU from being bonded by the original bonding company, Nanbo Insurance Underwriters. The Airai Bridge, connecting Koror and Babelthuap, is expected to be completed in mid-1977.

TT Chief Justice Harold W. Burnett has taken under advisement a motion to dismiss Trust Territory charges against Vicente N. Santos. Santos, President of the Marianas Islands District Legislature, is charged with having misused more than \$35,000 in public funds since 1970.

Saipan's Popular Party recorded a landslide victory over the Territorial Party according to unofficial results of last weeks election. On Tinian, however,

Territorial candidates won the Mayor's office and all Municipal Council seats.

A special education workshop on curriculum development will be held on Koror, Palau, it was announced last week. The workshop will concentrate on Education for Self-Government teaching material.

Marshalls Senator Amata Kabua revealed that he will introduce an amendment to the Constitutional Convention Law that would require a majority vote in each district to give approval to any Micronesian Constitution. The present law makes no provision for individual districts to accept or reject the proposed constitution from other districts.

The Congress of Micronesia's Assistant Clerk of the House of Representatives, Singkitchy George, announced his resignation last week to work for the Department of Education on his home island of Kusaie.

Palauan officials confirmed last week that the 12 Taiwanese fishermen captured on Helen Reef, in Palau, are from the Nob Tei Sheng Gen No. 6. Navy gunboats captured the same ship a few weeks ago illegally poaching on the same remote reef. The men are awaiting trial in Koror.

TT Chief of Transportation Wayne Thiessen resigned last week. Thiessen, whose resignation will become effective June 30, will remain with the Trust Territory as a Special Consultant to the Transportation Division, initially for a period of six months. No replacement has been announced as transportation chief.

Over 750 pounds of fish were caught overnight at the annual Truk Farmers and Fishermen's Fair held on Moen Island last week. Truk's three best farmers won week-long trips to Saipan.

Another Micronesian student, Maria E. Sablan of Saipan, was selected to receive an American Foreign Service International Scholarship. Ms. Sablan, along with 11 other Micronesian students, will complete her high school education in the United States.

7/1/74

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June 16-22, 1974

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## ADMIRALTY BILL VETOED BY MORTON

Senate Bill No. 94, the Admiralty and Maritime Bill which would have made Micronesia a port of registry for ships, has been disapproved by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton. The measure had been vetoed by the High Commissioner last year, but was repassed this year by the Congress of Micronesia and vetoed again by the HiCom.

In a letter to High Commissioner Johnston, Secretary Morton stated: "I deeply regret I must take this action because there is obvious merit to such legislation for the Trust Territory. However, the bill as enacted is not fully consistent with the obligations of the United States under international conventions relating to shipping..."

The Secretary's letter continued, "I trust that you will convey to the leadership of the Congress of Micronesia the sense of my regret in taking this action and our sincere desire to assist them in developing at an early date a workable law, should the Congress wish to pursue new legislation in the admiralty and maritime area."

Secretary Morton's action on the bill is final. There can be no further review by the Congress of Micronesia.

## COMPLAINT DISMISSED BY BURNETT

A complaint filed last week by Juan Tenorio and Associates, Inc, a Saipan surveying firm, against the TT Government asking the High Court to issue an enjoining order to prevent the TT from signing a contract to survey Micronesian public lands with either Asia Mapping, Inc. or Hawaii Architects and Engineers, Inc., the other two survey teams that submitted bids for the contract, was dismissed by TT Chief Justice Harold Burnett.

Tenorio contended that his bid was the lowest and that he should be awarded the contract. However, after hearing testimony of witnesses last week, Chief Justice Burnett ruled that the motion to enjoin the TT Government from hiring other surveyors should be dismissed because none of the charges by Tenorio and Associates had been substantiated during the hearings.

## MARINES INVADE TINIAN

A small-unit amphibious exercise, nicknamed "Quick Jab", will be conducted on Tinian Island in the Marianas next week to train units of the Seventh

Fleet in small scale amphibious operations. Participants in the maneuver include one U.S. Navy ship, the USS Monticello, approximately 200 marines of the Fleet Marine Forces, U.S. Seventh Fleet, and 4 Marine Corps A-6 jets.

The exercise also includes involvement of the Marines in civic action projects on Tinian including road repair work, work on Tinian's new civic center, painting of various municipal buildings, and the general clean-up of the Tinian port area.

A rehearsal for the June 26th invasion was held last Sunday at Unai Lam Lam Beach on northwest Tinian. The actual landing will occur before dawn on the 26th when about 200 marines carrying small arms will go ashore accompanied by simulated naval gunfire. According to TT Military Liaison Officer Lt. Cmdr. Alan Pendleton, the landings will take place only on military retention land.

#### TRUSTEESHIP REPORT SUBMITTED

The United Nations Trusteeship Council submitted its annual report on the Trust Territory to the U.N. Security Council after completing its 42nd session last week in New York.

Much of the report is concerned with the future political status of Micronesia. The Council report stated that it hopes that the terms of the U.S.--Micronesia political status negotiations "will be clearly defined (by the United States) and that no alternative, including independence, will be ruled out". Concern was also expressed for the separate negotiations being conducted with the Marianas and the possibility of such negotiations starting with the Marshalls. The Trusteeship Council urged that the United States "preserve the unity of the Marshalls and Carolines".

The report asked the United States to hold a political plebiscite for all districts at the same time and stated that it expects to be included in all of the major phases of the Micronesian transition from its present Trusteeship status to its freely chosen future political status.

The Council expressed concern over the veto power now held by the High Commissioner over Congress of Micronesia legislation and stated that the veto power "should be regulated by appropriate legislation" which distinguishes "between special interest of territory and international obligations" of the United States.

The report concluded that the Congress of Micronesia should be given final authority over a larger percentage of the TT budget and that it should be asked to give its consent before any separate status negotiations are conducted.

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

Ponape District was the first district to select its traditional leadership delegates for the Micronesian Constitutional Convention. Max Iriarte, Nanwarki of Net Municipality, and Hainrick Stephen, Naneken of Kitti Municipality, were selected last week.

Four purebred Santa Gertrudis cattle, a bull and three heifers, were flown to Palau on an Air Force plane last week to be used to improve the Palau cattle stock.

The Government of Fiji and the United States failed to reach agreement on an exchange of air routes that could involve the Trust Territory. The Fiji delegation offered world wide routes through Nadi to U.S. airlines, in exchange for permission from the U.S. for Air Pacific, the Fiji national airline, to serve Guam and Micronesia. The U.S. rejected this request. The two delegations accepted the text of an air transport agreement between the two countries, but failed to reach agreement on an exchange of routes.

According to Dr. Arobati Hicking, Deputy Director of Health Services, four dental officers have passed the dental examinations administered by the newly created TT Board of Licensure and will be issued licenses to practice dentistry in the TT. They are Dr. Manuel Q. Sablan of the Marianas, Drs. Stanislaus Gufsay and Ignatuir Rugue of Yap; and Dr. Yalberk K. Enlet of Truk.

Dr. George Pittman, a special consultant from the South Pacific Commission, will conduct a bi-lingual education workshop on Truk next week. Another language expert, Ms. Patsy Lane of the University of Hawaii, will conduct a similar workshop in Yap.

Members of the Joint Committee on Law of the Sea of the Congress of Micronesia left the TT last week for Caracas, Venezuela, to attend the Third United Nations Conference on Law of the Sea.

Territorial Planning Officer, Philip N. Chamberlain, announced last week that a Micro-Planning School will be conducted on Saipan next month aimed at upgrading Micronesian trainees to reach a level of proficiency to replace expatriates within the next four years and to familiarize the trainees with the social, fiscal and economic aspects of a balanced and comprehensive program for Micronesia.

TT Chief Justice Harold W. Burnett heard a motion last week to reconsider his previous order to disqualify himself from hearing the controversial case involving TT Chief Public Defender Roger L. St. Pierre. Benjamin Abrams, who is representing St. Pierre, stated that the Chief Justice had to be prejudiced in fact to disqualify himself and that a judge "must acknowledge his disqualification for prejudice in fact, which this Court has repeatedly admitted, does not exist." Alan Nicholson, representing the TT stated that if a decision was made to reverse the prior order, St. Pierre would be in a position wherein he could not lose. After hearings the two presentations, Chief Justice Burnett stated that he would consider the motion but he did not indicate when he would rule on the case.

A foreign business permit was granted to the Truk Development Corporation to engage in skipjack tuna fishing and the processing of marine products in Truk.

Two Japanese Government officials met with TT officials and Marianas Deputy DistAd Dan Akimoto to discuss details for the salvage and cremation of remains of Japanese war dead believed to have been buried in a "mass grave" at the Tanapag Matanza area.

Ms. Virginia Nancy Wong of Koror, Palau, a recent graduate of Chaminade College in Hawaii, has joined the Resources and Development Department and has been assigned to work with the Mari-Culture Center in Palau.

Trust Territory Program and Budget Officer, William D. Oyler, left Saipan last week to assume a new position with the Department of Interior. Oyler was presented with a commendable service award by Deputy High Commissioner Peter T. Coleman.