

7/8

Week in Review

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

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TENORIO CONTINUES CASE

Juan C. Tenorio & Associates, Inc., a Saipan surveying company, had their motion to enjoin the Trust Territory government from hiring other surveyors for a specific contract thrown out of court last week. Tenorio attempted to prevent the Lands and Surveys Division of the Department of Resources and Development from awarding contracts to two other firms for the surveying of Micronesian public lands.

TT Chief Justice Harold W. Burnett said that the Tenorio firm had not been able to substantiate its charges that the Lands and Surveys Division had either failed to follow Title 31 of the TT Code or misled Tenorio & Associates by inflating the importance of certain criteria for contract awards.

By mid-week, however, two Congress of Micronesia Representatives had sent letters to Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton asking that he investigate the contract awards. Marianas Congressmen Felipe Q. Atalig and Pedro P. Tenorio told Morton that preference should be given to Micronesian companies in such instances. Tenorio's was the only Micronesian firm to submit a bid. The contract awards were given to Asia Mapping, Inc., and Hawaii Architects and Engineers, Inc.. Both are American companies.

PALAUAN LEADERS REPORT

The report of the Third Palau Municipal Leadership Conference was issued last week. In a special declaration attached to the report, the Conference members urged High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston to issue an executive order to "implement and effectuate the United States Government policy on the return of public lands with respect to the people of Palau."

The traditional leaders and elected Magistrates sharply criticized the Congress of Micronesia for failing to pass public lands legislation which would have allowed Micronesians to gain control of the land. The Congress, the declaration stated, "failed to pass said legislation in apparently wanton disregard of the request and petition of the people of Palau."

In the report, Conference members also asked the TT government to increase the size of Palau's police force. This step was necessary, the report stated, to help control "rising crime and juvenile delinquency" caused by heavy drinking among Palauan youth.