

20 July 1953

Honorable John P. Saylor  
Subcommittee Chairman of Territories  
and Possessions  
Interior and Insular Affairs Committee  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Saylor:

Pursuant to our conversation of June 30, 1953, I am pleased to enclosed a suggested itinerary for a proposed trip through the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Appendix A) and an outline of some of the interesting people and aspects of the places to be found along the way (Appendix B).

Scheduling of the itinerary has been adapted in most cases to the availability of transportation within the areas listed. Yet allowances have been made for you and your party to spend considerable time in discussing problems with indigenous community leaders. The scheduling of transportation as to time and means has not been attempted inasmuch as the planning is still in the tentative stage. Should you find that time did not permit you to spend as many days as indicated in the overall trip, provision could be made for deleting certain sections from the itinerary, or subject to the availability of transportation revisions could be made in the time spent at particular stops.

It is suggested that your equipment for the trip through the Trust Territory include sufficient light cotton clothing for frequent changes, shoes that will stand walking over sharp coral, a camera, sun glasses, and if so inclined some swimming trunks. The climate is tropical - warm and humid. In the coral islands the reflection of the sun from sand and water is intense, and even on cloudy days sunburn is ever a problem.

The people throughout the area are hospitable, friendly, intelligent and interesting. They will endeavor to make your visit as pleasant as possible and will invite you to share in their native food and

C O P Y

entertainment. You will find them very much interested in the proposed Organic Act for the Trust Territory and the indigenous leaders will have salient comments and questions. The District Administrator and his staff will be ready to assist you in contacting local leaders and in seeing places of interest.

Inasmuch as all of the Trust Territory except for Saipan and Tinian is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, it is suggested that this trip be coordinated with their people, particularly as it involves local accommodations at the District Administrative centers.

My best wishes for a pleasant trip. I shall be available for any further assistance you may desire in this connection.

Sincerely yours,

C. E. HERRICK, LCDR, USNR  
Civil Affairs/Military Government Branch  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations

APPENDIX A

- August 5 - Wednesday - San Francisco - Depart by Air
- 6 - Thursday - Honolulu - Arrive by Air  
- Meet with Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet  
and High Commissioner of the Trust Territory
- 7 - Friday - Honolulu - Meet with Staff Commander in Chief,  
Pacific Fleet and High Commissioner
- 8 - Saturday - Honolulu - Visit Bishop Museum
- 8 - Saturday - Depart by Air
- 10 - Monday - Kwajalein - Arrive by Air  
- Visit Ebeye
- 10 - Monday P.M.- Majuro - Arrive by Air
- 11 - Tuesday - Majuro
- 12 - Wednesday - Majuro - Visit Laura and Rongrong by boat
- 13 - Thursday A.M.-Majuro - Depart by Air
- 13 - Thursday P.M.-Ponape - Arrive by Air
- 14 - Friday - Ponape
- 15 - Saturday - Ponape - Metalania Plantation by boat
- 16 - Sunday A.M.- Ponape - Depart by Air
- 16 - Sunday Noon- Truk - Arrive by Air
- 17 - Monday - Truk
- 18 - Tuesday - Truk - Visit Dublon by boat
- 19 - Wednesday noon- Truk - Depart by Air
- 19 - Wednesday - Guam
- 20 - Thursday A.M.-Guam - Depart by Air
- 20 - Thursday - Yap - Arrive by Air



## APPENDIX B

### Honolulu - Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet

Admiral F. B. Stump, USN - Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet  
Rear Admiral W. K. Phillips, USN - Deputy CINCPACFLT  
Commander L. G. Findley, USNR - Island Governments Officer

### Trust Territory Headquarters - High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Staff

Frank E. Midkiff - High Commissioner  
James A. McConnell - Deputy High Commissioner  
H. G. Marshall - Attorney General  
H. L. Marshall - Director of Public Health  
H. C. Wolfgram - Director of Public Works  
C. C. Steward - President of Island Trading Company

The Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet is located at Pearl Harbor, Oahu. The Office of the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory is located at Fort Ruger, Honolulu.

You will depart from Honolulu by air headed for Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands. En route you will cross the international date line and lose a day. The landing will be made at the U.S. Naval Air Station, commanded by Captain George J. Dufek, USN. Close by on the eastern perimeter of Kwajalein Atoll lies Ebeye Island where the Navy built a model village in 1950 to house the Marshallese workers employed by the various military activities on Kwajalein Island, and their families. Your first contact with the Marshallese will be on this island which currently has a population of approximately 600 people, of which some 200 are employed by the military services.

Airborne again the same day, you will fly 220 miles to the southeast, where you will set down on Dalap Island of Majuro Atoll. Here at Majuro on the adjoining island of Uliga you will find the District Administrative Headquarters for the Marshall Islands. Don Gilfillan is the District Administrator. Among the places of interest at headquarters you will find a 35 bed hospital, a large school center encompassing units for vocational studies, refresher training for teachers, intermediate grades and elementary grades, a local boat building industry, and extensive copra handling facilities. Majuro is the home of the Marshallese Congress and here you will meet some of its officers and members.

The Marshall Islands are of low coral limestone and sand formation, 29 of which are atoll units and 5 single island units. They extend some 600 miles in two arcs running in a northwest-southeast direction and are scattered over an area equivalent to approximately 572,500 square miles.

The population totaled 11,096 on 30 June 1952 of which more than 40% lived on the four atolls of Arno, Jaluit, Kwajalein and Majuro.

While at Majuro you may wish to visit two native villages located at the western end of the atoll, Laura and Rongrong. Laura is the largest village in the Marshalls, and there you will find a well organized community with a town hall, elementary school, dispensary and several stores. Close by at Rongrong is a large mission school and a Coast Guard Loran Station. Both villages will bring you in close touch with the indigenous people in their native habitat.

Back in the air your next stop some 770 miles to the West will be the village of Colonia on Ponape, the seat of administration for the Ponape District. Here the District Administrator is Henry Hedges.

Ponape is different from the Marshalls in that it is a large high island, area 129 square miles and a maximum elevation of 2579 feet. Culturally you will find that the Ponapeans are also different from the Marshallese; land ownership, language, community leadership and local mores are distinct from other areas. Also within the District are two other cultures, one on the Island of Kusaie and the other, a Polynesian culture, on Nukuoro and Kapingamarangi Islands. The district has a total population of 11,205.

Points of interest on Ponape Island are: the village of Colonia which during the previous German and Japanese administrations was a bustling urban center, and now has within its confines the administration facilities including schools, a hospital, offices and economic functions, several warehouses and retail stores, a local saw mill, an agricultural experiment station, the remnants of a former hydro-electric system now under consideration for rehabilitation and on the eastern end of the Island, Metalanin Plantation some 2500 acres in size and now producing 30 to 50 tons of copra per month in addition to providing grazing land for a considerable number of cattle and hogs.

Leaving Ponape and still travelling west about 400 miles, your next port of call will be at Truk Atoll. You will land on Moen Island one of the six volcanic islands located inside the large coral Truk Atoll. Here you will meet Will Muller the District Administrator who presides over the administration of the Truk District.

Again a change in people, culture and language will be noticed as the Trukese are a group distinct from the several other cultures in the Trust Territory. The District itself extends to the south and west and includes nineteen islands and island groups, all of which are of coral formation except for the six islands inside the Truk Atoll lagoon. Some 15,800 people live in the Truk District.

Moen Island is the administrative center for the District. It has a modern hospital, modern quarters, a large concrete administration building built in 1950 and the main public works shops for the Trust Territory. Those things of particular interest are: the Pacific Island Central School to which students come from all over the Trust Territory for advanced educational work and teacher training; the judicial headquarters and law library for the Trust Territory over which Judge Edward Furber presides; and the Truk Trading Company the largest locally owned trading company in the Trust Territory operating its own vessels, a soap factory, movie theatre, retail stores, and extensive warehousing, all under the guidance of Henry Chatroop the local manager. Here too you will find the headquarters of the Jesuit Mission activities under the direction of Bishop Thomas J. Feeney, S.J.

A short boat trip from Moen will take you to Dublon Island where the Japanese prior to World War II had constructed extensive military facilities. Today the remnants are still visible including a floating dry dock, marine railway, seaplane base and innumerable caves formerly used for ammunition storage and shops. Here also is the headquarters of the Protestant Mission administered by the American Board of Foreign Missions. Dublon Island has been approved by the President as the future site of the Trust Territory capital from which all administration will ultimately stem.

Leaving Truk you will fly almost 600 miles to Guam for a layover until the next morning when you head south again by air on your way to Yap. An early morning departure will carry you the 450 miles in time to land in the harbor by nine or nine thirty. Don Heron, the Acting Administrator will be on hand to meet you. The Yapese of whom there are some 2800 are among the most interesting people in the Trust Territory. They are a people proud of their culture, stone money, indigenous architecture and local mores, and as a result are felt by some to be the least acculturated to Western ways of any of the folks in the Pacific.

Off to the east and north lie other islands of the Yap District including Ulithi, a former fleet anchorage during World War II, and Fais where the Japanese at one time mined phosphate. About 700 people live on these outlying islands which have cultural ties with the Yapese.

Leaving the same day you will continue south some 250 miles to Koror in the Palau Islands. En route you will fly over the largest island in the Trust Territory, Babelthaup, some 153 square miles in extent. Here the Japanese formerly mined bauxite of which there still remains many scattered small deposits of relatively low grade ore. Today the Government of the Trust Territory has underway on Babelthaup a large cacao plantation, designed to provide in the future an additional source of revenue to the Territory.

Arriving at Koror you will be met by Sidney Burnett the District Administrator. Some 7000 people live in the Palau Island Group clustered around

Koror, on Kayangel, Babelthaup, Arakabesan, Peleliu, Malakal and Angaur, yet the District extends still further to the east and south encompassing some eleven other islands and atolls on which 1600 additional people live. The Palau Island Group is of volcanic origin whereas the outlying islands are of coral formation. Again you will notice a different language and culture, and the one place in the Trust Territory where signs of Japanese acculturation may still be found. Off to the south of Koror, active phosphate mining is underway on Angaur by a Japanese Company operating under a contract with the Government of the Trust Territory.

On Koror you will find a large school, hospital, two missions, and an extensive community welfare and recreation project operated in connection with the South Pacific Commission.

From here you will return to Guam landing at the U.S. Naval Air Station Agana. Rear Admiral Ernest W. Litch, USN, Commander Naval Forces Marianas is located on Guam. Here too you will meet Ford Q. Elvidge the Governor of Guam with whom you may wish to discuss some of the problems of the Government of Guam. Alfred M. Hurt, Executive Officer of the Trust Territory also has his headquarters on Guam. There are many interesting sights here including Apra Harbor, Government of Guam Headquarters, the Agana Civic Center and Tumon Harbor.

Underway again this time to the north you will arrive at Saipan in the Mariana Islands within an hour as it lies only 120 miles away. Commander R. D. Law, Jr., USNR, Commanding Officer of the Naval Administration Unit will be on hand to meet you with his staff.

Saipan is the largest island of the Mariana Group, which extends in a slight crescent running north from Rota Island just off Guam some 500 miles to Pajaros Island and includes 14 island groups. Inhabitants are found however only on Rota, Tinina, Saipan, Alamagan, Agrihan and Pagan Islands; some 6700 in the whole district of which over 5300 live on Saipan Island. The Marianas form part of a volcanic ridge extending south from Japan, of which active elements are still found in the northern portion.

Saipan has extensive medical facilities including an 80 bed general hospital, a 38 bed tuberculosis section and a 20 bed psychiatric section. Also under its medical jurisdiction is a 120 bed leprosarium serving the whole Trust Territory and located close by on Tinian Island. Also on Saipan will be found a large agricultural experiment station and an extensive herd of beef cattle with which the administration is attempting to breed adaptations to Trust Territory conditions as a potential source of food.

Off again to the north you will leave the Marianas and shortly be in the Volcano Islands where you will land on Iwo Jima. Other than a local



military detachment, no activity of any kind will be found here. Iwo Jima has no indigenous population. Mount Suribachi is the main point of interest.

Departing the same day you will arrive next at Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands. From there your next landing will be at Tokyo. Returning from Tokyo to the United States your route will be via Wake Island and Honolulu. Again you will cross the international date line but in the opposite direction so you will gain the day back you lost going west.

It is suggested that you may wish to stop over in Honolulu on your return for a review of your trip with the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, both of whom I am sure will be interested in your comments and observations on the Trust Territory.