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July 4, 1962*



DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Agana, Guam

THE WHITE HOUSE

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June 1, 1962

President John F. Kennedy
The White House
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Our High Commissioner, the Honorable M. Wilfred Goding, and the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands cordially invite you to the historic occasion of the establishment of the first provisional capital of Micronesia, on the island of Saipan, Marianas District, next July 4, 1962.

This ceremony will mark the most outstanding of a series of achievements accomplished by this New Frontier administration.

Under the Trusteeship Agreement between our nation and the United Nations it became our obligation to develop politically, socially and economically this immense area of three million square miles.

The Trusteeship Council of the United Nations had recommended that the administration of this Trust Territory should be established within the Territory itself.

As you know, the headquarters of the Trust Territory had been at one time in Honolulu and since 1954 has been on Guam.

It is the strong belief of this administration that in order to create a sense of unity between the people of the seven districts the establishment of a provisional capital, until the people themselves through self determination choose a permanent capital, is of vital importance to gain rapid and effective political advancement.

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Our obligations to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations are being fulfilled and our policies, those that we represent as part of a democratic government, have proven that dedication to our great cause can stimulate loyalty and friendship from those whom we serve.

They realize that all our work is dedicated to help them as human beings, to gain a better form of life, guarantee all kinds of freedom and assurance for a better future for their sons and descendants.

Among the biggest achievements for the betterment of Micronesia gained by this administration are the following:

Unification of the administration of the Territory under a single civilian authority. On July 1 and at the ceremonies July 4 this will come to a reality. ✓

Appointments of Micronesians for top executive positions in our government: best example - Mr. Takeo Yano of Palau and Mr. Prudencio Manglona of Rota as Acting District Administrators of their respective districts. ✓

Election of the first Micronesian as Chairman of the Council of Micronesia. This council is composed of two delegates from each district in the Territory. This year these two delegates will be elected directly by the people. Before, they were elected by the district congresses. This Council of Micronesia is the first elected body that sits together - people from different cultures in an effort to democratically run the affairs of the different races that live in the Trust Territory. Their recommendations are considered by the High Commissioner, and we are working toward the eventual conversion of this council into a true territorial legislative body. ✓

Tax exemption on liquor for non-indigenous groups no longer exists.

Chartering of municipalities is being strengthened. We hope as soon as possible that all municipalities of the Territory may be formally chartered.

An Economic Unit, or task force, has been created on our staff to deal exclusively with economic matters. Plans are under way to provide for outside capital to participate in economic enterprise, presently beyond the capacity of local investors. This is a major change from the previous policy which held that outside capital should be excluded from the Territory. At present negotiations are under way with a number of major United States commercial fisheries companies for the establishment of large scale commercial fisheries operations in the Palau and Truk districts.

We have so much ocean that we have to conquer it!

Other enterprises which may require outside capital participation are the manufacture of clothing, food processing, and eventually commercial transportation and travel facilities.

Copra and cacao co-operatives have been created for expansion of trading companies' activities.

A slaughterhouse has been established in the district of Rota.

Bank loans have been made to small private businessmen to enable them to invest in productive economic enterprises.

A soap factory has been established in the district of Palau. At the present time this local factory provides the soap used by the Trust Territory in boarding schools, hospitals and hotels. A Micronesian Products Center has been established at Guam which will largely be devoted to the sale of handicraft.

Efforts have been made to develop Territory-wide marketing co-operatives so that they will be capable of serving a wide variety of producers co-operatives in the various districts.

Copra production has been increased to over 13,000 tons a year and our ship operation has been merged with the copra transportation to the destination of sales. This new merger will afford additional income for our shipping division plus better opportunities to the copra producers.

In Ponape District the cacao planting program was strengthened. Over 500,000 cacao seedlings were planted by local farmers

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during the year. There were 230,000 seedlings planted in the Truk District.

A Farm Institute to train Micronesian agricultural extension workers was established in Ponape District.

In Palau a new boatbuilding co-operative was created.

Major transportation improvements were instituted. A DC-4 airplane will start serving some of our districts July 1; this plane is in addition to our present two Albatrosses (amphibious SA-16s). A ship, the North Star, was acquired from the Department of the Interior and will reinforce our present six-vessel fleet.

New airfields are being constructed in the districts of Yap and Palau.

Thirty-five miles of new roads were started and completed, linking the entire Majuro atoll in the Marshalls. This project initiated a new policy whereby this government provided for the free use of Trust Territory's construction equipment for this and other community development projects.

Radio broadcast station facilities were expanded. Two new government-sponsored broadcast stations were established. The first commercial radio station, privately-owned, was inaugurated in the district of Truk.

Education has been subject to close analysis. A policy of aiding in the subsidizing of elementary school teachers was instituted. Entry age for elementary school was lowered from 8 to 7 years. English is being taught as fast as possible and has been established as the medium of instruction at the elementary school level.

Another major and significant step forward in higher education was the decision to provide full secondary school programs in all districts by expanding the present intermediate schools into full junior-senior high schools.

The safeguarding of the health of the people of Micronesia is one of the most important aspects of our over-all program. All of our districts now have qualified Micronesians in charge of

districts public health programs. A new hospital opened in the Palau District; the one in the Marshalls is half-completed. New hospital plants with modern facilities will be a reality in all districts by the end of 1965. ✓

Post graduate training for Micronesian doctors, nurses and dentists was carried out at the U. S. Naval Hospital and Naval Dental Clinic in Guam this past year. ✓

The program of releasing public domain land to the Micronesians and the issuance of homestead deeds was greatly expedited this past year. A good example to be given is that in the district of Ponape alone some 276 homesteads were issued. Every attempt is being made to push the homestead program vigorously. It is our intention to keep only the necessary land to be used for public services, such as airfields, water reservoirs, roads, schools, hospitals, etc. ✓

In each district a commission has been established to preserve historical monuments. ✓

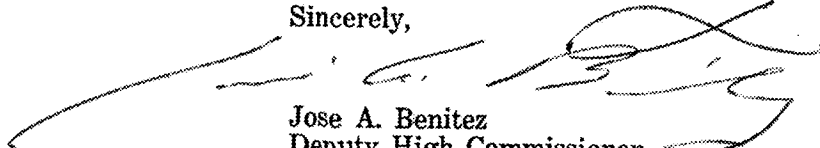
These are some of the achievements of this administration.

The Fourth of July ceremony will serve as a symbol of our effort to achieve bigger goals so that in the future these can be used all over the world as examples of what freedom-loving people under a democratic form of government can achieve.

We sincerely hope that you will find it possible to be with us on the occasion of the creation of the provisional capital of Micronesia. If you are unable to come we will deeply appreciate your sending a message and a photograph which can be inserted in the printed program and transmitted to all the people of the Trust Territory. We are sure that they will deeply appreciate such a message as you are considered a symbol of our cause.

Hoping to be able to have the honor of having you with us for this occasion, I am

Sincerely,


Jose A. Benitez
Deputy High Commissioner
and
Chairman, Saipan Planning Committee