

Press Release No. 16a
(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Trust Territory Headquarters, Saipan
Information Office -- Phone No. 2148

Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands.
March 19, 1963 -- Speech of High Commissioner M. Wilfred Goding at the opening
of the Special Session of the Council of Micronesia.

Chairman Heine, delegates to this Special Session of the Council of Micronesia. It is a real pleasure to meet with you again to carry forward the planning for a territorial legislature which was begun at Koror in October. While some of you just arrived on Saipan yesterday, others of you have been here for a week working on the report of the Legislative Committee. At this time I would like to formally welcome all of you to Saipan and the provisional capital of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

As you all know this is the second time this Council has met within the boundaries of the Trust Territory and the first at its provisional capital.

Most of you were at the last session of this Council in Koror. You will recall at that time you made a declaration stating your view of the importance of creating a territorial legislature as well as a resolution for a committee to begin work on the structure and nature of such a body. Both measures had my support. As you know, I have expressed to the Trusteeship Council my confidence that a territorial legislature could be established by 1965. This session is a natural step forward in the planning of such a body. Out of it should emerge your recommendations regarding the legislature.

The present territory-wide body is, of course, this Council of Micronesia which functions in an advisory capacity. The body was established in 1956 as the Inter-District Advisory Committee and meets annually at the request of the High Commissioner. It has steadily improved in its ability to understand a wide-range of Trust Territory problems, offer valuable recommendations and advice and to conduct its proceedings in an orderly, deliberative manner

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with a free exchange of opinion and interplay of ideas. While originally the delegates were all appointed, today most have been popularly elected. I am confident that the progress which has been made will continue. By carrying forward the spirit of Koror I'm certain this will be the case.

I have read, with great interest, the preliminary recommendations of the working committee of your Legislative Committee. I look forward to receiving the recommendations of the entire Council. You can be assured that your deliberations and views will be carefully considered. They will serve as a valuable guide in this special effort to further the political development of Micronesia.

Based on the past performance of you as a group, and my personal knowledge of you individually, I am certain that these proceedings will be of the highest order.

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