



PRESS RELEASE

HEADQUARTERS

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS, SAIPAN
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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS.
November 12, 1963--REMARKS OF HONORABLE JOHN A. CARVER, JR., ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF THE INTERIOR, AT THE OPENING OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF COUNCIL OF MICRONESIA
IN SAIPAN ON NOVEMBER 12.

Mr. President, members of the Council:

It is an honor to be with you, and to be introduced so graciously by
High Commissioner Goding.

Two and a half years ago, I came to this area with Mr. Goding, when
he assumed his responsibilities as High Commissioner. Since then, I have made
several visits to the Trust Territory to confer with him and to meet many of
you.

Although this is my first opportunity to meet with the Council of
Micronesia, I have met with District and Municipal Councils. I sincerely regret
that I cannot remain for your deliberations. However, I must return to Washing-
ton, but I do so with a vastly increased store of knowledge about the Trust Ter-
ritory, gathered in the past eight days that I have been at the Saipan Head-
quarters.

As all of you know, we are entering on a new period for the Trust
Territory. The Congress of the United States a year ago enacted legislation
which authorized a higher level of appropriations. The effects of the new pro-
grams are being felt throughout Micronesia--new classrooms, better qualified
teachers, public works improvements, with more jobs and other activity affecting
the people even in the outlying islands.

As you know also, last July and August a Survey Mission was appointed
by President Kennedy to study the economic, social and political problems and
potentials of the Trust Territory. Many of you met the Mission members, who
travelled to every district.

The High Commissioner will tell you more about the Survey Mission
report, which has already been submitted to the President. He welcomes, as does
the Secretary of the Interior, the interest and concern of the President, and
the continuing interest and concern of the Congress of the United States.

It has been my purpose, while here representing Secretary of the
Interior Stewart Udall, to study the programs recommended by the Survey Mission
Report with the High Commissioner and his staff. Many of these programs will
require sympathetic attention and assistance of the Congress of the United

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States. That body, like this Council, wants to be assured that programs are wisely conceived, and efficiently executed.

It is an important concept of the American system of government that programs--political as well as social and economic programs--have the interest and involvement of the people affected. In this case, you speak and act for all the Micronesian people.

There has been much of which we can take pride in the political progress of Micronesia. As an illustration, let me speak of the establishment of a territorial legislature. Several years ago, the United States promised the Trusteeship Council that we would try to establish a territory-wide legislature by 1965. In this Council, in previous sessions, you studied the problems in October, 1962, and in March of this year.

The High Commissioner, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, can order the legislature created, but, as you are well aware, he and the Secretary of the Interior want your consideration and advice. In this session High Commissioner Goding will lay before you the recommendations made to him by the Survey Mission and a comparison of those recommendations with those previously made by the Council, and by the Administering Authority.

The decision to give legislative powers to a territory-wide legislature is with the United States; the decision to use those powers wisely is with you. That is why we have not hurried the process; that is why we think the time is now close.

Let me suggest one aspect of the responsibility to use such powers wisely, to which you ought to give attention. In your districts, legislatures or councils already have power and authority on a district basis which might pass to you on a territory-wide basis. The district legislatures will have to be advised and they will have to be consulted. This ought to be your task, not the task of the High Commissioner's staff.

There are several ways in which such consultation might take place. One method might be the appointment of a committee of the Council to meet with committees appointed by the district legislatures or councils. You can think of other techniques. But the important thing is not so much how the consultation takes place but the fact that it does take place.

Those of us in Washington, D.C., concerned with the Trust Territory have watched with considerable interest the development of the Council of Micronesia. In your sessions since 1956, the Council have achieved a unity of purpose which reminds us of the history of other American legislatures, such as the Continental Congress which eased the distrust before our Constitution of the United States was adopted between the merchants of Boston and the planters of Virginia. It seems to me that each session of the Council has been more productive than the session before. I have no doubt that this meeting, which is now being opened, will be one of the most important in the Council's history.

Though I return to Washington this afternoon, I wish to leave with you my best wishes and the best wishes of the President and the Secretary of the Interior for a successful meeting here in Saipan.