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PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner Saipan, Mariana Island

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TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

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Palau

LEGISLATORS TO ARRIVE SAIPAN SATURDAY FOR FIRST MEETING

Truk

SAIPAN, M.I. (June 23)...Micronesian legislators from five districts are scheduled to arrive Saturday (June 26) in Saipan, the provisional capital of Micronesia, to join their colleagues from the Marianas District for a two-week Pre-Congress Conference slated to begin June 28 before the actual opening of the first Session of the Congress of Micronesia on July 12, according to a Headquarters announcement.

Guam

Sponsored by the Trust Territory Administration in cooperation with the East West Center's Institute for Technical Interchange, the Pre-Congress Conference is designed to orient the members with fundamental legislative procedures and also afford them an opportunity to discuss problems of mutual interest before the legislators convene in their first session in July. It is also anticipated that the members will exchange their ideas on preliminary legislative organizational plans during the Conference.

Marshalls

Yap

Six members of the House of Delegates and 13 members of the General Assembly from the Marshalls District and the Eastern Caroline districts of Ponape and Truk are expected to arrive on Guam tomorrow afternoon (June 24) via special DC-4 flight. They will be joined late Friday afternoon (June 25) by Palau and Yap delegations, then proceed on Saturday to Saipan where they will be met by their associates from

Ponape

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the Marianas District. Two members of the Western Caroline contingent are already in Saipan.

High Commissioner M. W. Goding, who is returning from the Marshalls where he was the principal speaker at the Ebeye Elementary School graduation and at the first Commencement Exercises of the Marshalls High School today, is accompanying the legislators to Saipan on Saturday's flight.

Mrs. M. W. Goding, who heads the Social Events Coordinating Committee for the members of the Congress, said an official welcoming reception consisting of both Headquarters and District Administration staffs, members of Marianas and Saipan Legislatures, members of Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and other dignitaries has been planned to welcome the incoming legislators at the airport. The general public in Saipan has been also invited to welcome the territorial congressmen at the airport and a good crowd turn-out is expected on Saturday.

According to Social Events Coordinating Committee the members of Congress will be fully occupied with receptions and welcoming parties from June 26 through 28, the first of which will be a welcoming reception given by the High Commissioner and Mrs. Goding. Other social events have been planned for the legislators through August 1st.

Dr. Robert Robbins, recently appointed by the High Commissioner as the Legislative Counsel for the First Session of the Congress of Micronesia, arrived in Saipan last Monday. He is presently busy getting his office organized in anticipation of the Pre-Congress Conference as well as the first Session. Dr. Robbins is the Chairman of the Department of Government and Professor of Government, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts.

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The East West Center team, headed by Dr. Norman Meller, which will conduct a legislative workshop during the Pre-Congress Conference, is also expected to arrive in Saipan on Saturday (June 26) with the Micronesian legislators.

The Congress is expected to be in Saipan until the second week of August.

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