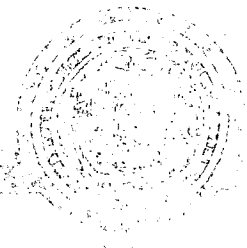


X
PRESS RELEASE



Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

AUGUST 18, 1965
RELEASE: 108-65

FIRST MICRONESIAN APPOINTED DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR

SAIPAN, M.I. (August 18)...The appointment of Mr. Dwight Heine of Uliga, Marshalls, as District Administrator, Marshall Islands, was announced today by High Commissioner M. W. Goding. "I am proud to have the privilege of appointing the first Micronesian to the highest administrative post possible in a district administration," stated the High Commissioner. Mr. Heine is replacing Peter T. Coleman who will be transferring to the Mariana Islands District, whose District Administrator, Mr. Roy T. Gallemore retires at close of business today after 31 years of government service. It is anticipated that Mr. Heine will assume his new duties as District Administrator early next month upon the return of Mr. Coleman from home leave.

Mr. Heine brings with him to this position many years of experience in administration and as a leader of the Micronesian people. His new appointment is only another in the long lists of "firsts" beside his name--first Micronesian to work for the American government; first to receive a government scholarship to study abroad; first to be appointed to the position of district educational administrator; first chairman of the Council of Micronesia; first speaker of the General Assembly of the Congress of Micronesia; and now, first district administrator.

(more)

Dwight Heine was born October 12, 1919, on Aur Atoll, Marshall Islands. His early education was received at mission schools in Jaluit, Marshalls, and Kusaie, Ponape. From 1948 to 1950 he attended the University of Hawaii on a government scholarship. This was the first time a Micronesian was awarded a government scholarship to study outside the Trust Territory. In 1953 he was awarded a UNESCO Fellowship and studied public school administration in Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand, and Western Samoa.

In 1957 he received a one-year Trust Territory scholarship for further education at the University of Hawaii. In 1958, a John Hay Whitney Opportunity Fellowship enabled him to complete his academic work for a B.A. degree in Education.

Mr. Heine was on Ebon Island in 1944, when the American marines landed and approached him with his first job offer with the American government. He has been employed in Government ever since.

His first job with the Marines was as a leader of a guerilla band. During 1944-45, Mr. Heine and other Marshallese scouts approached Japanese-occupied islands by night in canoes, went ashore, mixed with the local population, captured key Japanese and returned to a rendezvous ship with the captives and Marshallese inhabitants of the islands they had persuaded to leave.

When the war ended, Mr. Heine was appointed Advisor on Education to the Naval Government. From 1946-1955 he was Superintendent of Elementary Schools. From 1955 to date he has been Educational Administrator of the Marshall Islands District except for those periods when he was attending the university.

(more)

Mr. Heine has had a long and active career in public office. From 1948 to 1951 he served as a District Judge. From 1951 to 1964 he served as a member of the Marshall Islands Congress from Ebon, and as President of that body. In 1960 he represented the Marshall Islands at the meeting of the Interdistrict Advisory Committee Conference at Headquarters. From 1961-63 he was elected member and chairman of the Council of Micronesia. In January 1965, he was elected to the General Assembly, Congress of Micronesia, and subsequently elected its Speaker.

Mr. Heine will resign from the Congress of Micronesia upon assumption of his new duties.

Mr. Heine has travelled extensively throughout the Pacific, to Japan, and to the United States. In 1954 he represented the people of the Marshall Islands at the United Nations, presenting a petition against the use of certain islands as atomic testing grounds. In 1959, he appeared again before the Trusteeship Council in a private capacity.

In 1962, he served as Special Trust Territory Ambassador to Western Samoa's Independence celebration. In October 1963, he attended the first meeting of the newly-established Advisory Council for the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony as official representative of the Trust Territory.