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*Mrs. Van Cleve*

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TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

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VISITING U.S. CONGRESSMEN CONTINUE TOUR OF TRUST TERRITORY

PONAPE, (NOVEMBER 30)...An epidemic of goodwill has broken out in the Trust Territory and is spreading rapidly. A Visiting U.S. Congressional party, acting very much as if they were running for re-election back home, are conducting an arduous 3,500 mile campaign to prove to the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands that the United States wants to put forth its best efforts to help them help themselves establish a sound economic base and a secure political future.

The tour, which started in Guam and moved through the Marianas, the Western Carolines and Truk, arrived in Ponape November 29 and visited progressive Metalanin community and its contrasting neighbor, the ruins of Nanmadol. The party, composed of Rep. Roy A. Taylor (D-N.C.); Rep. N. N. Craley, Jr. (D.-Pa.); Rep. Richard C. White (R-Tex.); Rep. Charlotte Reid (R-Ill); Honorable Santiago Polanco-Abreu (Puerto Rico); Ambassador Eugenie Anderson (U.S. Ambassador to Trusteeship Council); Mrs. Ruth Van Cleve (Director, Office of Territories, Department of the Interior); Honorable M. W. Goding, High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of Pacific Islands; Dr. John L. Taylor (Consultant to the House of Interior

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*37-100-29 - Van Cleve's visit to Congress*

and Insular Affairs Subcommittee); Mr. John Anderson, and Trust Territory officials, was impressed with the accomplishments of the world-famous Metalanim cooperative society, an inspiring example of self help, and with the massive brooding ruins of Nanmadol which remind Micronesians of the strength of their ancestry and which hopefully will attract increasing numbers of tourists to help the present-day economy.

The Truk program, planned by newly-appointed District Administrator and Mrs. Alan MacQuarrie, was balanced with highly informative discussions with students and members of local legislative bodies. The almost overwhelming hospitality was topped off with a spectacular stick dance at the community club on Sunday night, November 28. Far reaching questions regarding the political future of Micronesia were discussed as freely between the visitors and hosts as verbal communication would allow. The visitors learned how local political leaders and the people relate to the various legislative bodies, and endeavored to explain the relationships of the U.S. Congress and the United Nations to the people of the Trust Territory. The U.S. Congressmen suggested several political alternatives which the people might take and took informal samplings of preferences. This was informative for Congressmen and stimulating for people such as the students of the Truk and Xavier high schools.

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At both Truk and Ponape the visitors were met by members of the Congress of Micronesia with one notable exception — Chief Petrus Mailo of Truk, who became speaker of the General Assembly upon the recent resignation of Dwight Heine, was ill.

Wherever the Party has gone in Micronesia the people have greeted them with somewhat more than the traditional hospitality, and the visitors have insisted on talking with as many as possible. The visitors have also received a somewhat stern lesson in Trust Territory transportation problems by traveling miles in outboard motor boats and sometimes outrigger canoes through choppy and shallow water to visit outlying islands. So far the visitors have been indefatigable, cheerful travelers, who have insisted on missing nothing on the schedule. On Dublon (Truk) this required slogging miles through mud and rain. Women members kept pace with the men, shook as many hands, asked as many questions, and made as many friends.