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LAND MANAGEMENT, OFFICER JOINS HEADQUARTERS STAFF

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, (MARCH 4)...William A. McGrath of Fremantle, Western Australia, has joined the Trust Territory Headquarters Staff as Director of Land Management, the Office of the High Commissioner has announced.

Mr. McGrath's primary responsibility is to develop and initiate comprehensive land management programs for the Trust Territory and to assure that the maximum economic and financial benefits will be derived from available land resource in the Territory. His office is under the administrative direction of the Assistant Commissioner for Resources and Development, Paul L. Winsor. His appointment also highlights the interest and concern of the Congress of Micronesia in improving the land management program of the Territory.

Born in 1932, Mr. McGrath completed his secondary education in 1949, and subsequently attended Aquinas College and Perth Technical College in Western Australia, graduating in 1952 as engineering surveyor. He was first employed by the Department of Public Works in Western Australia and later by the Goomalling Shire Council as Assistant Secretary-Engineer.

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He joined the public service of the administration of the Trust Territory of Papua and New Guinea in April 1953 and served continuously until January 1966, when he received his present appointment. In 1958, Mr. McGrath completed a Pacific Administration Course conducted by the Australian Federal Department of Territories at the Australian School of Public Administration, Sydney. While in Papua and New Guinea, he served on the Native Lands Commission between 1959 and 1961 and conducted major land tenure and acquisition surveys there. From 1961 to 1966 he was on the Headquarters Staff of the Department of Land Surveys and Mines at Port Moresby. Qualifying as Cartographer in 1965, he was admitted as a member of the Institute of Cartographers in November of the same year.

In 1965 Mr. McGrath was also accredited observer to the Sixth South Pacific Commission Conference held at Lae, New Guinea.

Mr. McGrath and family, wife Eleanor and sons Rod, age 6, and Don, age 4, arrived Saipan in February.

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