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TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS

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PEACE CORPS WILL COME TO TRUST TERRITORY

SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS,  
May 9 - - - Plans are being made for at least 350 Peace Corps volunteers  
to begin their work of improving social and economic conditions in the  
Trust Territory, according to High Commissioner M. W. Goding.

The High Commissioner's announcement followed immediately President  
Johnson's approval of a dramatic new use of the Peace Corps. The President  
responded to invitations of Micronesian and Trust Territory officials in  
sending a group of Peace Corps planners to Saipan on May 5 to make arrange-  
ments for the volunteers to spread throughout the six districts of the  
Territory probably beginning in October, following a training period which  
will get underway in August.

The following Peace Corps representatives who talked with Trust Terri-  
tory officials in Saipan, and who left today for conferences with Trust  
Territory officials and Micronesian people in the various districts, are:  
Kevin Delany, Athos Revelle, Robert Burns, Roger Flather, Dr. Stanley  
Schever and Mrs. Lola Smith. In their talks with Headquarters officials,  
ideas were exchanged as to where the volunteers can make their greatest  
impact. Exact numbers of volunteers and locations of their work will be  
determined after the programming trips are complete.

(MORE)

It is anticipated that immediate recruitment of volunteers will be started at a wide range of colleges and universities.

Assistant Commissioner for Community Services James E. Hawkins outlined the role of the Peace Corps in the Trust Territory as follows: "In general it will be the teaching of English as a foreign language in the elementary schools, village health and sanitation improvement; staffing teams for leprosy and tuberculosis control and detection; adding to the staff of our Nursing School with registered nurses; community public works projects such as streets, trails, water supply and waste disposal; engineering and surveying in order to insure the most productive use of land; agriculture extension activities and general community development assistance.

"The first wave of at least 350 volunteers possibly will be followed by an additional 100 arriving by January. The Peace Corps staff will consist of a representative and deputy representative, one doctor and clerical assistance on Saipan, and one representative in each of the district centers, with clerical assistance.

"The Peace Corps will join forces with the administration in trying to improve social and economic conditions in the Trust Territory and will not be operating as separate entity. The use of Peace Corps volunteers will supplement the activities of administration employees and will not replace them. Areas for special focus of Peace Corps work will be chiefly in the outer islands. It is anticipated that relatively few will be concentrated in district centers."

(MORE)

High Commissioner Goding had this to say in welcoming the new operation:  
"The administration strongly supports the Peace Corps idea and anticipates that with Peace Corps participation significant advances can be made in social and economic conditions in the Trust Territory in the years immediately ahead."

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