

RELEASE: 83-66

GODING BIDS FAREWELL TO TRUST TERRITORY

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, May 29 - - - High Commissioner M. W. Goding issued a statement today on the eve of his departure from the Trust Territory, following a farewell "pot-luck" dinner given in honor of him and Mrs. Goding last night by the Trust Territory employees. The statement, which points up the accomplishments of Mr. Goding's five-year administration follows:

"As Mrs. Goding and I prepare to depart for leave and my forthcoming retirement, we find ourselves thinking more and more about our many friends in the Trust Territory. In the five years during which I have been High Commissioner I have come to know many of you well and I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the friendship which has been shown to me and my family.

"My service here as your High Commissioner will always be remembered as the high point of my career. We have made considerable progress together during these five years. We were able to break through the long existing ceiling authorization which for years had

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kept our budget on a caretaking level and the first of our increased funds became available just three years ago; since then hundreds of new elementary school classrooms have been built, our entire teaching staff has been revitalized, public high schools have been established in each district, utilities have been expanded, communications greatly improved, airfields have been constructed and our air service greatly expanded, our sea transportation service has been improved immeasurably. A start has been made in establishment of a road system. With the establishment of the Congress of Micronesia, a new era of growth and expansion in the field of self government has begun. I could list many other important programs and accomplishments but I am certain that all of you, thinking back to 1961, can take satisfaction with the progress we have made. We have a great many things still to do but here again the future augers well.

"President Johnson has asked the Congress of the United States to lift the present ceiling of 17.5 million which now exists for our operating and capital improvement budgets. Increased funds will be requested to build new hospitals, more schools, power plants, roads, and other needed physical facilities. At the same time our operating budget would be increased to keep pace with the growing needs in all fields of administration. While the United States Congress has not yet acted upon this new proposal, I am hopeful it will be favorably received.

"Another new and important program about which you have all heard is the decision to bring many hundreds of Peace Corps workers to the

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Territory. The first group of several hundred, mainly elementary school teachers, should arrive this next October. They will be followed by volunteer nurses, community development workers, public works volunteers, as well as engineers, architects, surveyors and many others.

"I will not be here to work with you on these new and exciting projects. As many of you already know, I am retiring later this summer from Government after 28 years of service. While Mrs. Goding and I have been looking forward to our retirement, now that it is almost upon us, we find ourselves with mixed feelings. We will miss our many friends in these beautiful islands and you may be assured that we will always think of you and follow your progress out here with the greatest of interest.

"Your new Deputy High Commissioner, William R. Norwood, has now arrived and upon my retirement later will become your new High Commissioner. I know Bill Norwood well and his appointment pleases me a great deal as future High Commissioner, a man who loves the island world of the Pacific and who believes, as I do, that given proper support and encouragement, the people of Micronesia have an ever-expanding horizon of growth and development before them. If the staff, both Micronesian and American, and the people of Micronesia give Mr. Norwood the same type of support that I have been given, together you cannot fail in the task before you.

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"In saying goodbye, I wish to express my deep feeling of gratitude to all of you. Mrs. Goding and I look forward to meeting many of you in other parts of the world in the future but we wish you to know that we leave a considerable part of our hearts with you in these beautiful islands."

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