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WHAT WILL PEACE CORPS FIND IN TRUST TERRITORY?

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands -
June 1 - - - What will the Peace Corps volunteers find when they arrive
at their posts in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands?

They will see the manifestations of several indigenous cultures
and hear the sounds of nine different local languages, depending on
where they are stationed. They will find that Japanese is spoken by
many of the older people, and that some very old ones can speak German
or Spanish. But they will find that English has, to all practical
purposes, long ago replaced other foreign tongues and is becoming the
official language.

In many other ways the volunteers will find strong leanings
toward American culture. Examples are dress, music, sports, and
political ideas.

They will find that the students in the Trust Territory's 13 high
schools and many other people as well, have a fairly good idea of what
is going on in the rest of the world. The Government's six radio
stations give the people substantial doses of world news and general
knowledge, and, of course, music.

The Peace Corpsmen will see plenty of exotic customs in dress,
housing, and social usage. They will have to be tourists for a while,

MORE

PEACE CORPS - Page 2

until they learn the meaning of some of the strange things they will encounter. The fact that a Yapese man chews the betel nut and wears the thu (loin cloth) may, if you see the man as the tourist sees him, be quite misleading. The Yapese man may have studied at the University of Hawaii or the College of Guam. If he is young, the thu-clad Yapese may quite possibly be a graduate of Yap High School and speak very good English.

The volunteers will find that Micronesians are dignified but jovial; cooperative but not subservient; and self-sufficient culturally but not withdrawn from nor resentful of other cultures. The Peace Corpsmen will find that Micronesians want to learn more, do more and have more, but they take great pride in what they already know, do and have.

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