

FOR RELEASE: 89-66

PLANS FOR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS FOR TT FIRING UP

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, June 14 . . . Acting High Commissioner William R. Norwood announced today that plans for Peace Corps volunteers for the Trust Territory are firming up, with indications that some 365 volunteers will be arriving in the Territory by October or early November to join forces with the Administration in improving social and economic conditions in the area at a more rapid pace of development.

According to Assistant Commissioner for Community Services James E. Hawkins, who is coordinating the Trust Territory Peace Corps program, about 2700 applications had been received as of June 4 from some 60 college and university campuses in the U.S. Mainland and Hawaii. Additionally, approximately 100 Peace Corps volunteers, whose two-year term is due to end this summer, have extended their tour of duty to continue in the Trust Territory.

Hawkins said for the first phase of this new program expected to begin in October after a three-month training and orientation period, it is anticipated that the volunteers will be assigned to the following

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areas: 180 English language teachers for elementary schools; 18 secondary school teacher; 80 community health workers; 11 nurses; 6 pharmacists; 6 laboratory technicians; 3 x-ray technicians; 18 community development supervisors; 18 surveyors; 12 lawyers; and about 12 recreational supervisors, who will be stationed in district centers or in areas of major population concentration.

The volunteers for the second phase of the program are tentatively scheduled to arrive in the Territory early next year, probably in January or February. It is planned that the second batch of volunteers will be working in the areas of radio broadcast, newspaper development, and agriculture extension work. Additional medical volunteers are also expected, Hawkins added.

The assignment of the first wave of volunteers was made on the basis of study and recommendations made by a six-man planning team that visited the Territory in May. Headed by Kevin Delany, the team's other members were: Athos Revelle, Robert Burns, Roger Flather, Dr. Stanley Schever, and Mrs. Lola Smith. Visiting all the districts of the Territory, the members of the team consulted with Administration officials

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and interviewed key Micronesians to determine the areas in which Peace Corps assistance was most needed.

Hawkins said Trust Territory officials have been busy gathering and compiling information from all district sources in determining where the Peace Corps volunteers will be assigned. Most of the volunteers are expected to be assigned to outlying communities and other heavily-populated areas away from the district administrative centers. A few of them will be stationed in the district centers.

Headquarters officials said reprogramming of funds would be necessary for the Administration to carry out its part of the program in supplying the volunteers with tools, materials, and equipment needed to carry on their work.

High Commissioner Norwood also announced that two representatives from the University of Hawaii, Mr. and Mrs. Payton Rowhan, have arrived in the Territory to initiate plans for the Peace Corps training program. They will be joined by Dr. E. Voulgaropoulos, Dr. Norman Sloan and language specialists, Don Topping and Byron Bender, for a period of two or three weeks in formulating additional plans in medical and linguistic areas for the Peace Corps training.

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Hawkins emphasized again that the Peace Corps program for the Trust Territory will supplement the Administration's endeavors in trying to achieve as rapidly as possible advancements in social, economic, and educational standards in the Territory and "will not replace present efforts of our employees in the area."

High Commissioner Norwood said he is confident that the Peace Corps program will be welcomed by the Micronesian people and that his Administration is looking forward to working with the volunteers in meeting the United States' obligations in Micronesia.

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PIO/2148