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Opening Statement to the United Nations Trusteeship Council by
The Honorable William R. Norwood, Acting High Commissioner of
The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands June 27, 1966

This is the first time I have had the honor and the privilege of serving as the Special Representative of the Administering Authority. I look forward to receiving the comments and recommendations of the members of this body, many of whom have visited the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and know from first hand observation the magnitude and complexity of the problems that exist in our widely scattered island area.

My immediate connection with the administration of the Territory necessarily is limited since I became Deputy High Commissioner only some six weeks ago. At that time, I also began to serve as Acting High Commissioner and I would like at this time to express my appreciation to my predecessor, The Honorable M. W. Goding, who had the privilege of appearing before this body on five previous occasions. Prior to my appointment, I had the opportunity of discussing with him the problems of the Trust Territory and I appreciate his friendly assistance during the brief period when our terms overlapped.

Our annual report which is before the Council provides detail on the period under review, July 1, 1964, to June 30, 1965. Inasmuch as almost a year has elapsed since the latter date, I shall report on some of the significant events which have occurred since that time.

Administration

Our budget this past year, fiscal 1966, of 17.5 million dollars enabled us to continue program expansion in elementary and secondary education, in public health, in construction of facilities and in other major activities. Four years ago, increased appropriations were sought from the U. S. Congress. The former statutory limitation on appropriations of 7½ million dollars was raised to a new authorization level of 17½ million and for the past two years the U. S. Congress has granted our requests for appropriations up to this new level. But as our programs expanded so did the needs of the Trust Territory. It soon became evident that a bold new approach

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was essential if the Territory were to achieve acceptable levels of development in the political, economic and social spheres. Accordingly, a few weeks ago, the Department of the Interior submitted to the U. S. Congress a legislative proposal to authorize a multi-million dollar, five-year accelerated capital investment program for the Trust Territory.

This multi-million dollar investment would bolster health, education, water, power and sewage services; provide better air, ground and water transportation; modernize and extend radio and telephone communications; and establish suitable buildings for executive, legislative and judicial branches of the Territorial Government. The U. S. Congress presently has this proposal under consideration.

Along with the request to provide a stepped-up construction program, the new legislation calls for removing the present ceiling of \$17.5 million a year for civil government operations. Under the new proposal, Trust Territory operating budgets would increase proportionally with proven need and ability to carry out essential expanded programs.

Simultaneously with accelerated programs in various areas of development will be the infusion into the Territory within the next few months of some 400-500 Peace Corps Volunteers. Recruitment of Volunteers for work in the Territory has been underway on over sixty college campuses throughout the United States for the past two months. An unprecedented response resulted in more than 2,700 applicants in the first month. Among these were over 100 volunteers who had previously served in the Peace Corps in various parts of the world.

The first phase of the Peace Corps proposal calls for 400 volunteers to go to work in the Territory by this coming October 1966. The first and largest group will be elementary school teachers and community development workers. This division will consist of approximately 180 elementary school teacher and 18 secondary school teachers. There will also be at least three experienced former Peace Corps Community Development workers per district to assist with community development projects for the local communities.

The second largest group of volunteers will be assigned to the public health area and will consist of some 80 health aides, 11 nurses, 6 pharmacists, 6 lab technicians; 3 X-ray technicians. The health workers will make local surveys aimed at helping to control such diseases as tuberculosis and leprosy; they will teach health education in the schools and to adults and will work on various community health projects. The

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nurses, pharmacists, lab and X-ray technicians will be assigned to district and sub-district hospital units to upgrade present Micronesian technicians.

Group Three will be in public works and will provide a mixed cadre of engineers, architects, surveyors, and urban planners to supply planning and engineering support for a variety of construction projects from water catchments to docking facilities. It will be a relatively small group, starting with approximately 12 civil engineers, 18 surveyors, and 6 architects/planners.

The fourth group will be assigned to public administration and will include 6 lawyers and 6 small-business advisors to assist with business development in each district.

The second phase of the Peace Corps project provides for volunteers in such fields as agricultural extension, credit union and cooperative development; more secondary and elementary school teachers; additional volunteers in public health, especially for immunization teams serving remote outer island areas; and volunteers with experience in radio broadcasting and communications.

Paramount in the use of Peace Corps Volunteers will be the underlying principle of supplementing the activities of administrative employees-- not replacing them. Areas for special focus will be in the outer islands and villages away from the district center. The volunteers, who are coming to the Territory at the express invitation of the Micronesian people, will provide "middle-level manpower". Their aid is expected to add thrust to all aspects of social, economic and political growth, especially in the areas away from the district centers.

Several important appointments were made in keeping with our policy of placing qualified Micronesians in senior administrative positions. Mr. Dwight Heine of the Marshalls was named District Administrator of the Marshall Islands. He is the first Micronesian to be appointed head of a district administration.

Mr. Leo Falcam's appointment as Acting District Administrator for the Ponape is the most recent example of this trend.

Mr. Kaleb Udui of Palau, formerly Assistant Attorney General at Trust Territory Headquarters, was chosen by the Congress of Micronesia to be Legislative Counsel for the Congress. Mr. Udui was the first Micronesian to receive a law degree and it is especially fitting that

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the important post of Legislative Counsel went to a leading Micronesian. In the Marianas, Mr. Frank Ada, former Political Affairs Officer, was promoted to the post of Assistant District Administrator for Public Affairs. Four of our six districts now have Micronesians serving in the posts of Assistant District Administrators. At Headquarters, Mr. Eusebio Rechucher, former Economic Development Officer, became Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Resources and Development.

Mr. Koichi L. Wong, a graduate of the University of New Mexico in 1965 with a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering, was appointed to the staff of the Headquarters Civil Engineering Department. As has been noted at previous session, the head of our Headquarters Political Development Department is a Micronesian, as are the Assistant Director of Public Safety and the Assistant Public Information Officer. Two Micronesians serve as Assistant Treasurers in the Headquarters Department of Budget and Finance.

The Headquarters Community Development Department has a senior Micronesian Community Development Advisor and the Women's Interests Officer is Micronesian.

Mrs. Tosiwo Nakayama and Mrs. Nick Bossy became the first Trukese women to run for public office and the first to be elected to the Truk District Legislature.

In the public health field, Miss Ulai Trudy Otobed of Palau became the first Micronesian woman medical officer and at the same time won recognition for her outstanding performance at the Fiji School of Medicine in Suva.

There are many Micronesians holding other senior executive and professional positions throughout the Territory. Our Scholarship and special training programs are increasing and more and more Micronesians are returning to the Territory to fill responsible positions. We shall continue to implement the policy of placing qualified Micronesians in senior posts.

A Social Security Plan for Trust Territory citizens is being studied and in November 1965, the Chief Actuary of the U.S. Social Security Administration, traveled throughout the Territory preparatory to making recommendations on possibilities for eventual establishment of a Social Security System.

The Micronesian Title and Pay Plan, which established position classification and pay rates for all positions occupied by Micronesian employees of the Trust Territory Government also has been restudied. This study includes the relationship between grade levels and the skill requirement

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of positions, the extent of pay distinctions between steps within a grade, and qualification standards in selecting employees for all categories of positions.

Further, in March in this year, a Task Force to develop proposals for a Micronesian Civil Service Act was established in response to the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Resolution which requested the High Commissioner to develop proposals for Civil Service regulations for Micronesian employees of the Trust Territory Government.

Education

The accelerated program in education continued into its fourth year. Education development was marked chiefly by improvements in programming, planning, and in consolidating the gains made in the prior three years. It may be of interest to the Council to note that Education Department operating expenditures, not including construction, rose from \$963,272 in fiscal year 1963 to some \$3,765,500 for the year we are concluding. For the year under review, FY 1965, some 3,500,000 was provided for Education programs, plus approximately \$1,100,000 for elementary, high school and dormitory construction. Additionally in FY 1965, private schools, mainly mission schools, spent \$425,000 for school operation.

During the FY 1965, 213 elementary classrooms and 16 new high school classrooms were completed, and other new elementary school classrooms and additional high school classrooms were placed under construction. Some 142 American teachers were on local elementary school staffs as compared to the 123 of the previous year.

Reprogramming on the elementary school level resulted in the addition of the 7th and 8th grades in many of the public schools, thus affording educational opportunities for hundreds of pupils who otherwise would not have had an opportunity for schooling past the 6th grade. The addition of the 11th and 12th grades in some of the high schools afforded high school education for an additional 700 students throughout the six districts.

An event of considerable significance to the Territory's educational program was the inclusion of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the U. S. Elementary and Secondary School Act of 1965. Under this Act the Territory will add 40 additional elementary school teachers this fall to the local school staffs with all costs being supplied under the new law. The addition of these 40 additional elementary school teachers plus the Peace Corps Volunteer teachers should have a substantial impact on local elementary schools.

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An orientation program for the 40 new elementary teachers mentioned above will be conducted in cooperation with the East-West Center and the University of Hawaii this summer for a period of six weeks.

For the year just concluding, FY 1966, there were 197 students on various government scholarships. For the school year which will open this autumn, there will be 264 official government scholars: 36 in public health, 128 in various other professional fields, and 100 partial government scholarships in general fields. During the past year over 200 Micronesians took short-term refresher courses and on-the-job training through the Institute for Technical Interchange of the East-West Center and under the Trust Territory administration.

The year was also an expansion in number of U.N. fellowships with seven Trust Territory citizens studying and observing, or preparing to do so, in professional activities in various countries abroad on United Nations Technical Assistance grants, UNESCO fellowships or WHO fellowships.

It should have been noted that forty (40) Trust Territory citizens have been awarded United Nations fellowships to date.

Political Affairs

The creation and establishment of the Territory-wide legislature, the Congress of Micronesia, loomed large in the political sphere this past year. Accredited to the United States delegation and seated here today is Mr. Francis Nuuan of Yap Islands. He is a member of the House of Delegates of the Congress. Some of you have met him and I hope all of you will come to know him during the course of these meetings. He can, I am sure, give you first-hand information, his own views and those of the people he represents, regarding their attitude, desires, and hopes for the Congress and their political future.

The organization and rules of procedure of both houses of the Congress are basically those common to many legislative bodies throughout the democratic world. These rules are essentially similar for each house. They provide for the manner of opening and conducting the business of each session, the election of officers, and detail parliamentary procedures to provide for decorum and orderly deliberations. The rules also contain sections on appointment of various committees and definition of functions of each committee. These rules are set forth in the Congress of Micronesia Manual, copies of which have been provided your respective delegations.

The First Session of the Congress of Micronesia closed August 12, 1965.

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During the 30-day session of the Congress, 45 bills, 15 resolutions and 43 joint resolutions were introduced in the General Assembly, while 32 bills, 40 resolutions and 21 joint resolutions were introduced in the House of Delegates. Thirteen bills and 20 joint resolutions were passed by the Congress and submitted to the High Commissioner. All 13 bills were signed into law.

The publication, Laws and Resolutions, Congress of Micronesia, which has also been provided you, contains the full text of the measures adopted by the Congress.

Anticipating rapidly expanding legislative activities of the Congress of Micronesia and the need for related legislative services, the Legislative Counsel and five prospective legislative aides accepted an invitation by the Institute of Technical Interchange of the East-West Center, University of Hawaii, to observe the 1966 Budget Session of the State of Hawaii Legislature. This instructive visit to the Hawaiian Legislature was an outgrowth of one of the resolutions adopted by the first session of the Congress.

In preparation for the second regular session, the Interim Committee of the lower house recently met at the provisional headquarters to discuss various legislative matters.

Thus, through the Congress of Micronesia, the people of the Territory are making substantial progress toward self-government and are developing and strengthening a mutuality of interest and understanding among the widely scattered districts.

Economic Development

The Territory has a two-year contract with Robert R. Nathan Associates, Inc., an internationally known consulting firm. Under terms of this agreement a team of economists is conducting a study in depth of the resources of the Territory and factors related to their potential development. The Nathan group has just submitted a detailed preliminary report identifying those areas with most promise. Later this summer they will submit specific recommendations for implementation of economic development.

Meantime, copra continued to be the largest export item with 13,718 tons valued at \$2,525,000 exported for the year under review. Although the world market prices fell this past year, the Copra Stabilization Board

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was able to maintain a price of \$132.50 per ton to the producer for grade one copra throughout the year.

Emphasis continued to be placed on the development of the marine resources of the Territory. A fisheries development program is underway on an experimental basis. This covers boat building, inshore and offshore fisheries development, conservation of marine resources, and we look forward to the establishment of biological and oceanographic research facilities.

Total export of fish by the Van Camp Seafood Company this past year was estimated at 4,000 tons. There were 19 tuna fishing vessels operating in Palau waters, and two additional tuna fishing boats are to be added within the next few months.

Exploration of commercial fisheries operations in other districts is underway by Star-Kist and Van Camp Seafood Companies who hold options on sites in the Truk District.

In Palau, the Government's Fisheries Development Program saw the completion of a 75-foot Hawaiian-style fishing boat and continued to improve the Palau shipyard and the Palau Fisheries Station. The Hawaii Skipjack Fisheries Training Program was reactivated; and 11 Micronesians from Palau, Truk, and Ponape were sent to Hawaii for advanced training on commercial skipjack boats.

The Palau Boat Yard expanded its operation and now has over 10,000 square feet of covered work area including a slipways capable of overhauling and maintaining the present tuna boats fishing in the area. This past year 61 boats were constructed in the yard for sale to government and private customers. On June 4, I had the honor of being present at the launching in Palau of the 75-foot Hawaiian-type fishing boat which, incidentally, was the largest vessel to be built within the Trust Territory. This vessel will be operated under an experienced fishing captain from Hawaii in an attempt to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Hawaiian method of skipjack fishing utilizing all Micronesian crew members. Those trainees returning from Hawaii with accumulated savings have indicated they intend to use these funds to invest in vessels of their own in order to carry on their profession on fishing boats they themselves own. Another 43-foot tuna vessel is under construction, and plans for larger fishing vessels of 50 and 65 feet are on the drawing boards.

The Economic Development Loan Fund is presently capitalized at \$600,000, and it is planned to raise the capital level to \$1,000,000. Since last July, 16 loans totaling \$146,000 were granted to individuals or groups desiring to initiate new enterprise or to expand existing business. Additionally, the Loan Fund guaranteed 15 bank loans for a total of \$127,600.

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The Territory's infant but promising travel industry received added impetus with the acquisition by the Government of a second 60 passenger DC-4 airplane and increasing construction of hotel facilities. A new two-story, concrete hotel with 16 rooms, built by the government in Saipan, was leased to a Micronesian company. Ten motels also operate in Saipan, and four more are currently under construction. Private interests have leased a site for a 50-room \$400,000 hotel on Saipan. A new hotel was built by the government in Yap and will be leased to local private operators.

Credit unions are proving an effective means of accumulating capital and at the same time are providing helpful credit to the local population. The 27 credit unions with nearly 4,000 members had assets amounting to \$290,000 - an increase of 51 percent in less than one year's time. Further, Micronesian members had accumulated \$263,000 in savings, an increase of 59 percent over the previous year with an average per member of \$72.00. Three additional credit unions were chartered last month.

Credit unions granted 1,670 loans amounting to \$409,000. Since their inception, credit unions have made over 4,800 loans totaling \$900,000. These loans were principally for such purposes as buying building materials for home improvement, for purchasing furniture and household appliances, and for buying boats and outboard motors and for many other useful purposes. These credit unions are entirely controlled, managed and operated by Micronesians.

I might note that Mrs. Carmen Chigiya Dauel, who is with us today as an observer in our delegation, is treasurer of one of the most successful credit unions in the Territory, the Yap Islands Employees Credit Union.

The past year also witnessed expansion in cooperative associations, with some 23 chartered cooperatives in operation as compared to 16 the previous year. Additionally, there were some 13 unchartered cooperatives in operation. By far the greater number of cooperatives were serving copra producers. Often on a remote island, they purchase copra at prevailing prices and make available needed merchandise.

In addition to the copra producers' cooperatives there are four serving fishermen; three for handicraft marketing, one for boat-building, and one for low-cost housing for Micronesians.

The cooperatives have assets of roughly \$1,000,000, and it is estimated that they carried on more than three million dollars worth of business with their producer-consumer members during the past year.

Agriculture

Coconut planting and rehabilitation continued with greatest emphasis this past year in the Marshall Islands. Cacao promotion in Ponape and Truk continued although somewhat hampered by disease and rat damage to cacao pods. Twenty-two tons of cacao will be exported this year. Pepper production was pushed in Ponape with ten new private pepper farms being started. Some 2,500 pounds of black and white pepper were processed from the government pepper demonstration plantings in Ponape.

Experimentation on the rice project in Ponape continued. 30,000 pounds of rice were harvested as compared with 5,000 pounds last year.

The Agriculture Department continued special training programs in cooperation with the East-West Center. Thirty five participants took part in a Root Crops Interchange at Palau; 11 spent three months in Hawaii on Plant Quarantine and tropical crop production training projects; and one senior Micronesian agriculturist studied citriculture in Japan. The principal entomologist for the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association conducted a six-week rat abatement methods training program at the Trust Territory Farm Institute in Ponape with 30 participants in attendance.

The Plant entomologist spent most of his time during the year investigating the causes of a serious breadfruit disease first reported from Pingelap Atoll in Ponape District in the early 1950s. The disease is spreading to other districts. Destruction has been very severe, destroying 60-80 percent of bearing trees where it has hit. The effect on a local subsistence economy of the atoll islands is serious, and concentrated attention is being given to the problem. Outside experts currently are in the Territory studying the disease in conjunction with the Territory's plant pathologist and under joint auspices of the Territory and the East-West Center.

The Oriental Fruit Fly eradication program on Tinian and Saipan is complete. A re-infestation of the Melon Fly occurred on Rota, and re-eradication is in progress in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on that island.

The forestry-conservation program, started a year ago, devoted much time to preparing guidelines and policies in this field. Proposed legislation was drawn up for the establishment of territorial parks, forests, and other types of conservation areas. The Forestry-Conservation Officer maintains headquarters in Palau, and methods of reforesting eroded and deteriorated lands of that district are being investigated and will receive first attention with similar reforestation projects being launched later in the other districts.

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A new division of Land Management was established in our Resources and Development Department, and a new Director of Land Management joined our staff in February 1966. He came to us from our neighboring Trust Territory of New Guinea, and is a most welcome addition to our staff. A 12-day Land Management Conference with Land Title and Survey representatives from every district was held at Trust Territory Headquarters, Saipan, in April 1966. The Director also serves as Land Claims Administrator. The Division of Land Management during the year was involved with granting of homesteading deeds, surveying, master planning in various districts, lease inspections, and mapping and boundary surveys.

Transportation

Considerable advance and improvements in air service were made since the last reporting period. Three years ago our small air fleet carried approximately 4,000 passengers annually. Earlier this past year, an additional DC-4 aircraft was acquired, and scheduled DC-4 service is now being provided to all districts except Ponape where water landing still necessitates use of amphibious aircraft.

Recent indications of interest in possible commercial operation of airlines within the Territory have increased hopes of additional links with neighboring areas of the world. As our future development grows, there is no question that air service must be expanded and improved, and I am hopeful that such expansion can be carried out within the framework of a commercial airline operation.

A completely new arrangement for ship transportation was arranged during the year. Last August (1965) we entered into a new contractual arrangement by which a shipping corporation of New York operates our three large logistic vessels: the M/V Gunner Knot, M/V Pacific Islander; and the M/V Palau Islander. An important feature, both from an operational and economic standpoint is that the shipping company concerned, under the laws of the Trust Territory, has chartered a local organization called the Micronesian Line to operate the vessels. Seventeen Micronesians serve as licensed officers in addition to almost exclusive Micronesian crews on these vessels.

All district field trip vessels, formerly operated by outside contract, now are being run by local Micronesian shipping companies. To provide for the field trip service requirements to areas where there is limited revenue, the government supplies operating subsidies to defray portions of the operating costs.

Information and Radio Broadcasting

With the return of 12 employees this past year from training in Hawaii

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the Broadcast network has 35 full time employees, of which 25 have had professional training.

Plans have been made to send an additional group of 12 to the East-West Center for the final stages of our three-year training program.

It may be of special interest to the Council to know that each of the district stations receives weekly by airmail two United Nations programs, i.e., This Week at the UN and SCOPE. All district stations have a program of educational broadcasting and special programs in adult education. Transcription services from major distribution sources have been required for distribution to all stations. Local programs in the vernacular presently take up about 25% of the broadcast day. Presentation of world news throughout the network has been organized and every district has news broadcasts in the vernacular and in English on a daily basis.

The Broadcast Center also records important conferences, duplicates broadcast material, prepares broadcast material for various departments and operates a tape duplication service for all activities. It is also responsible for coordinating all recording functions for the Congress of Micronesia. Full broadcast coverage of the second session of the Congress of Micronesia will be undertaken this year with all district broadcast station managers in attendance during the session to provide vernacular material for broadcasting daily sessions to all the districts.

Several noteworthy projects in the general communication area were accomplished during the year. At Headquarters in Saipan, the completion of the Territory-wide receiver station has resulted in a greatly improved message flow through elimination of the Guam relay. Formerly all messages had to pass through a circuit in Guam.

Four additional two-way radio stations were established on remote islands, making a total of 32 such out-island radio links with the district centers. Another 20 such two-way radio units have been purchased and will be installed within the next few months. We will then have furnished two-way radio communications to all remote islands having sizeable permanent populations.

We are closely watching the development and availability of new techniques in the communications world. New techniques, now in an experimental stage, may offer significant benefits to our area.

Public Health

The field of Public Health is one of very special interest to the Council this year in relation to the Report of the World Health Organization.

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The improvement of public health in the Territory has been, and continues to be, one of the basic goals of our Administration. We have struggled against many odds, not the least of which has been difficulty in recruiting and retaining qualified medical personnel. It should be kept in mind that the goal of the Administering Authority, as stated by the late President Kennedy, is to bring the health services in the Territory to at least the minimum acceptable standards of a community of the United States. The Administration long has stated that this goal is yet to be reached and I would be less than candid were I to imply that we expected to reach it in the immediate future.

I feel it is worthy of special attention that the WHO Report opens on this theme and in its introduction notes that this objective could be achieved only by stages.

Let me say also that we have found the WHO Report to be most helpful in aiding us to pinpoint problem areas. I assure the Council that each and every conclusion and recommendation has received and will continue to receive careful scrutiny.

The Headquarters Department of Health increased its staff during the year by the addition of a Director of Dental Services, a Chief Pharmacist, a Sanitary Engineer, and a Medical Equipment Technician.

A new Director for the Department has been tentatively selected and we hope to make a final decision within the next few weeks. With his employment, we expect orderly improvement in the health program to follow.

The Territory-wide immunization program is 95-100% completed except for the Marshalls out-islands where population is so widely scattered, and in all districts booster shots are being given. Influenza vaccination was included among the regular immunization this year. The out-island immunization program also now has been launched in the Marshalls, and immunization teams are accompanying the field trip vessels as they visit the outlying atolls. We are hopeful that we can complete the Marshalls District's basic immunization program this coming year.

Tuberculosis control is receiving special attention. In Palau, for example, since the WHO team visited the Territory, a district-wide T.B. survey has been carried out, and some 6,700 persons were X-rayed. Of this number only 67 were suspected of having the disease, and follow-up on these persons is underway. Similar intensive surveys as yet have not been possible in all the other districts, but I assure the Council that these will be conducted as rapidly, as our staff and resources permit. I expect the Peace Corps Health island workers to contribute greatly in this area as well as in the field of leprosy control.

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At this time, arrangements are underway for a team from Hawaii to survey the leprosy problem in the Territory and to make recommendations to strengthen our treatment program. Hawaii has had considerable experience with this disease.

An extensive dental survey is being made. Eight thousand children have already been examined in two of the districts, Palau and Truk.

During the past year, the Trust Territory started a family planning program. Family planning services are made available to those who desire such services, according to their personal and religious beliefs. It is not offered as a mass program.

Since November 1965, we have installed new X-ray machines in the hospitals at Majuro, Ponape and Saipan, with a fourth new X-ray machine to be placed in operation in a new X-ray room at the Yap Hospital next month.

These new X-ray machines are 200-miliamp units, the latest models. They can take suitable X-rays of all types, and can also be used for fluoroscopic work. Two hospitals, Truk and Palau, still are using 150-miliamp model units, but these are in good working condition. A new 200-miliamp model is planned for the new X-ray Department of the new Truk Hospital. A new X-ray machine also will replace the older unit in Palau Hospital so that within the next year or two there will be standardized and new X-ray equipment in all of the district hospitals.

A qualified medical equipment technician is now on our staff to keep X-ray units and all types of medical and dental equipment in working order. It is planned that this technician will conduct a formal training course for X-ray technicians and medical equipment repairmen in the near future. Twelve candidate, 6 in each category, are expected to commence this training. Plans also call for replacing or installing new X-ray units or a portable type in the sub-hospital units.

During the past year, the Trust Territory Government was in close contact with the U. S. Public Health Service. Dr. Delmar Ruthig of the Division of International Health spent six months in the Territory as a consultant, aiding in the reorganization of the Department of Public Health and in making improvements to our medical care and public health programs.

The United States Public Health Service provided a special consultant to make an intensive study of the mental health problems of the Territory, and the recommendations of this specialist are now in the process of being implemented. Construction of interim mental health facilities at Ponape and Truk is scheduled for the near future in advance of the construction of the new hospitals which are slated for these two districts. It is proposed to use these two new mental health facilities, which should be ready by January 1967, for patients from the other districts as well.

The University of Hawaii School of Public Health and the State Department of Health are furnishing continuing assistance to the Territory in the fields of epidemiology, medical care, public health and pre-medical

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fields.

The new Sanitary Engineer is devoting special attention to the problems of environmental sanitation.

New hospital equipment was on order at the time of the WHO team visit, and most of this has been installed. Additional equipment is on order, or will be ordered this coming year.

Three Micronesians graduated from the Fiji Medical School at Suva as Assistant Medical Officers and began their internship in Trust Territory hospitals last December. In the paramedical fields, three laboratory technicians graduated from the Suva Medical School, as did one X-ray technician. Twelve nurses graduated from the Trust Territory School of Nursing, and six special candidates with many years of practical nursing experience successfully passed the examination after one year of training in the Trust Territory School of Nursing. Refresher training for medical officers, nurses, and other support staff continued in Honolulu under the joint auspices of the Trust Territory and East-West Center. A senior medical officer completed a WHO fellowship in Leprosy, and participants attended WHO seminars in Manila on Leprosy, Filariasis, and Intestinal Parasitic diseases. Additional public health scholarships were awarded for this coming year making a total of 36 such scholarships in existence.

The Rehabilitation Center at Majuro is in operation. It has two physical therapists and one M.D. on the staff. A surgical team from Honolulu also visited the Center to perform rehabilitative surgery and will return periodically for follow-up and to treat other cases.

During this past year a six-month pilot project was planned for the Truk District under which the clinical supervisor, an M.D., using his own 35-foot motor sailing ketch will visit the islands of Western Truk and the Eastern Truk out-islands, following up on immunizations already given instituting a program for filariasis and treatment, as well as providing general medical care. He will be bringing modern medicine within the reach of hundreds of out-islanders who do not now regularly receive such benefits.

A great deal still remains to be done to improve public health at all levels in the Territory, but I feel we have made real progress this past year.

Status of Rongelapese

The 12th annual medical survey of the people of Rongelap was carried
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out in March 1966 by a joint AEC - Trust Territory medical team. The general health of the Rongelap people appeared to be good. There had been no disease epidemic and no unusual illnesses had occurred. In view of previous findings, thyroid examinations were carried out on a large number of unexposed people at both Rongelap and Utirik to compare incidence of thyroid nodules in the exposed Rongelapese. It is felt that the slight increase in thyroid nodule cases in the Rongelap group may in part be related to inconsistent hormone therapy which had been instituted in September 1965. Two hypothyroid boys who had shown growth retardation showed considerable improvement and spurt in growth following hormone treatment. Five other cases were taken to Brookhaven National Laboratory in late May of this year for examination and surgery. All have responded favorably to treatment and have returned. Of six previous similar cases on which thyroidectomy or partial thyroidectomy had been performed in 1964 and 1955, no reoccurrence has been found.

I am pleased to report that U. S. Public Law 88-485 which granted \$950,000 in compassionate payment to the Rongelapese was implemented with the distribution of the money to the beneficiaries. I might note that the attorney representing the beneficiaries was present on Rongelap during the final negotiations and payment. The Council will be interested to know that the great majority of the recipients elected to draw only a few hundred dollars in cash and deposited the rest of their funds in bank saving accounts and propose only to use the interest.

Community Development

Our community development program, which formerly confined itself to a few selected rural communities, this past year expanded its scope of activities to include urban programs. There has been growing recognition of the need for community services in congested, socially chaotic urban areas, where over 40 per cent of the Territory's population now resides.

Significant community development projects in eight selected rural communities this past year included projects in environmental sanitation and rodent control, typhoon cleanup, procurement of community copra boats and copra-hauling trucks, procurement of diesel generators for village electricity supply and the like. In women's affairs, a two-week Women's Family Living Seminar was held in the Marshalls for 71 women leaders in joint collaboration with the East-West Center. Two women trainees, one from Yap and one from Palau, were sent to Fiji for a year's study at the South Pacific-sponsored Women's Community Education Training Center; arrangements were concluded for the services for two years of a Girl Scout leader to organize troops and train Micronesian Scout leaders. As a result of intensive work, four districts -- Palau, Marshalls, Ponape and Yap -- have very active women's interest programs.

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Under the youth program, primarily concentrated in Palau, the Youth Corps participated in forestry conservation activities, brick-making for building low-cost pilot houses, and worked on village sanitation projects.

The Community Development Section also will be playing a key role in the use of Peace Corps Volunteers since much of the work of the volunteers will center around community development projects in isolated rural villages.

Legal

An event of considerable significance and one which previously has been debated in this Council occurred this past year when the Congress of Micronesia passed Public Law No. 1-7 which provided for jury trials in certain criminal cases and in certain civil actions at the option of the various district legislatures. Two districts, Marianas and Palau, have adopted enabling legislation to permit jury trials. Since the jury system is a completely new concept in Micronesia, mock or demonstration trials have been held in various districts with members of the High Court, District Courts and members of the Attorney General's staff participating. First jury trials in the Trust Territory are expected to take place at sittings in Marianas and Palau this forthcoming year.

Public Law 1-3 passed by the Congress of Micronesia at its first session provided for the compilation, codification and publication of public laws and regulations of the Territory and established a Committee on the Code to accomplish this task. This new committee replaced the former Code Committee which had been appointed by the High Commissioner and which has been at work reviewing the Code.

Rehabilitation of Ebeye

At the 32nd Session, the Special Representative described in some detail the first phase of the rehabilitation of the island of Ebeye. The second phase of the Ebeye Improvement Project is underway, and work on demolition of all existing sub-standard housing is starting this week. Complete new apartment units, each having indoor salt-water flushing sanitary facilities, electricity and fresh water facilities will soon rise all over the island to join the units built in the first phase. There will be a new power plant, repairs to the dock, a fresh-water catchment, an island-wide salt-water pressure system and an island-wide sewer system. Along with this rehabilitation of basic housing facilities, the Administration will build new school classrooms, and plans call for the rehabilitation and expansion of the present sub-hospital unit.

MORE

It is recognized that even with these improvements Ebeye living conditions will pose many remaining problems which must have and will receive continuing attention.

From the foregoing report I believe we can say with some pride and confidence that we are making progress in the Trust Territory.

This is not to ignore or deny that many problems and needs remain. It is our responsibility to see that these needs are met within the financial and human resources available to us.

The population of the area is growing rapidly at a rate of about four per cent per year. It is a young population, eager to learn, hungering for education, and with rising aspiration and hope for enlarged opportunity.

So in all fields of education, health, community and political development, and economic development, there are growing and justified demands for further improvement in services and facilities.

We must be responsive to these demands and the patterns of growth and change which are inevitable.

We recognize the trust placed in our administration and are determined to fulfill our obligation to the People of Micronesia.

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