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Statement to the United Nations Trusteeship Council by Francis  
Nuuan, Adviser, United States Delegation June 27, 1966

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Administering Authority and this much-honoured body for making it possible for me to appear before you. This is a moment which the Micronesians look forward to each year, the moment when we may be represented on a council which deals with and upholds the interests of the Trust Territory people.

In addressing you, I do not wish to take up the time of this Council by dwelling upon the physical and the cultural problems of the Territory which make development most difficult. Many members of this Council have visited the Territory and know from first-hand information the nature of the problems of our area.

I would like to share with you the views of my people, in a very general way, with regard to the over-all development of the Trust Territory. I do not wish to try to duplicate the report of the High Commissioner, Mr. Norwood, nor even to speak of the development of the Territory, with many aspects of which I am not

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intimately familiar.

I believe it is in order to make mention of the progress in the Trust Territory that has been made under this Administration, especially within the last four years, progress which I feel is most remarkable. Now, there may be many among my people, and even among members of this group, who may think otherwise. However one looks at it, though, one must not be blind-folded and must keep in mind the point that "progress" is a very qualitative word. When the term "progress" is used to describe programmes of the Trust Territory, or of any area, for that matter, it must be evaluated in the light of the past experience of the area.

I am overwhelmingly intrigued by the developments that have taken place. Outstanding in the political sphere is to be noted the inauguration of the first Congress of Micronesia. This body has taken over the legislative power that was once the sole prerogative of the High Commissioner. The Congress of Micronesia, once only a dream, now stands as an embodiment of the wishes of the people. The formation of the Congress also pointed out very vividly the fact that the Micronesian people can work together for a common goal, one that is beneficial to the welfare of the entire area.

It must be noted also that, in addition to the legislative power now held by the Congress of Micronesia, a great number of responsible, policy-making positions are now being held by Micronesians in the executive branch of our government.

When speaking of the economy and of the social development of the area, I would like to point out that my remarks will be limited in scope and vision since economic problems can be treated only by experts in such fields.

I should like to point out once again that the people of Micronesia have expressed their discontent many times with regard to the slow pace of economic development in the area. This is especially true in the development of transportation. New roads and improvement of existing roads, the opening of channels and docking facilities and additional airfields are all needed. There is a definite demand, indeed, for the extension of water and electrical power to the Micronesian communities. All of these have an important bearing on the economic and social development of the area. Most of you are well aware of these and of many other demands.

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of the people, and this is not the first time that the people have expressed their concern over the need for these services.

The Congress of Micronesia in its inaugural session expressed keen interest in rapid economic development of the area. At the moment, we are looking forward to the findings of the economic development team, which we hope will serve as guidelines for the economic development of the Territory. It is hoped that this group will provide an objective report of the economic potentials and offer, at the same time, constructive recommendations that can be used as guidelines.

It is a known fact that economic development of the area is very limited. The natural and human resources that are basic to any development are very meagre. Nevertheless, there may be possibilities that commercial enterprises, now unprofitable or incapable of development by the Micronesians themselves, could be developed either by government sponsorship or by foreign investment. All such ventures, I feel, must provide opportunities for Micronesian participation.

As for the introduction of foreign firms and capital to develop the economy of the area, there is not much that I can say about it. I know one thing to be certain, and that is that the Micronesian people seem to contradict themselves to some extent. They want vast economic exploitation; yet, at the same time they want protection of their interests as well as of their cultural heritage.

In the social affairs of the area, interesting developments are taking place. One remarkable development is in the advancement of education for the Micronesian people. This is to be accredited largely to the programme widely known in the Territory as the accelerated elementary school programme, under which many modern school buildings have been built. American teachers as well as educational facilities have been provided to upgrade the elementary education programme.

It should be borne in mind, however, that these programmes have not solved all the problems facing educational development in the Territory. I believe it is in order to mention that in Yap the educational facilities and school buildings still are in need of development, especially in the outer islands. Outworn school buildings are still being used and few American teachers as yet have been able to be sent to the outer islands.

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I can add little to what has been said about the existing health and sanitation problems in the Territory. We have found that only so much could be accomplished in the past by the Administration's limited funds. The report of a World Health Organization on the Territory points out many of the health problems that still need to be solved.

In conclusion, I should like to mention the fact that my people are aware of the problems encountered in the development of these far-flung and scattered islands. I give credit to the Administering Authorities for the progress which has been made under difficult conditions and limited budgets. I know that the Administering Authority has plans for a more rapid development, and the people of Micronesia look forward to the implementation of expanded as well as new programmes in all areas of development.

We know that these new projects, such as the Peace Corps Programme and the expansion of capital improvement requirements, will do much to speed development. The people of Micronesia welcome these new programmes and will give them their support.

Within a few weeks -- actually on 11 July -- I shall be sitting in the Second Session of the Congress of Micronesia. Among the many things which will be debated in that session will be the deliberations of this body. I shall be most pleased to convey to my colleagues the greetings of this body as well as to report on the deliberations of this session.