

RELEASE: 119-66

HIGH COMMISSIONER REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON BUDGET

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, July 28 . . . High Commissioner W.R. Norwood appeared before a joint session of the Congress of Micronesia Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. to report on his trip to Washington to testify before Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittees of the U.S. Congress on a proposal for a capital improvement program of \$172,000,000 for the Territory over a five-year period.

Mr. Norwood, who arrived in Saipan, Wednesday, stated that although the Congressmen recognized the need for more money in the Trust Territory, they felt that the Territory should demonstrate what could be done with a lesser amount and suggested that a new, scaled-down, proposal, based on a two-year plan, be presented for Fiscal Years 1967 and 1968. This new proposal, prepared by the High Commissioner and Interior Department staff and resubmitted to the Congressional committees, is for a \$15 million supplement for 1967 and an appropriation of \$35 million for 1968. The supplement is broadly divided into \$6 million for programs and \$10 million for capital improvements.

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Reprogramming of the present 1967 request for \$17½ million will not be undertaken by the Territory until the U.S. Congress indicates if and when it will act on the supplemental request.

Mr. Norwood urged the Congress, after they have reviewed the revised proposal, to request the U.S. Congress, by resolution or other means, for favorable action on the measure.

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