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HIGH COMMISSIONER COMMENTS ON U.S. SENATE
COMMITTEE ACTION

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,
Aug. 25 . . . High Commissioner W.R. Norwood today in commenting on
a United Press International press release which reported that the
Senate Interior Committee on August 24 had approved a proposal to
raise the budgetary ceiling for FY 1967 to \$32 million and to \$35
million for FY 1968 stated:

"The favorable action by the Senate Committee on Interior and
Insular Affairs is most encouraging.

"I hope, however, that all people throughout the Trust Territory
will realize this is but the first in a series of actions which must
be taken before more money is available.

"The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has yet to
consider our new ceiling proposal. We have understood that the House
was waiting for the Senate Committee to act first and now that this
has happened the House Committee may take up the measure.

"We hope they will do so, but we have no assurance that this will
happen during the remainder of this session of the Congress."

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"This means that we must continue our freeze on all new hiring and must make every other reasonable and prudent effort to hold the line on spending.

"I am, of course, grateful to the Senate Committee because there are presently many other pressing demands on the Congress as well as those of the Trust Territory."

Mr. Norwood noted that the acceptance of the alternate proposal was in lieu of a proposed \$172 million five-year capital improvement construction program and lifting present ceiling limitations on civil government operating costs presented to the U.S. Congress by Secretary Udall on May 13, 1966.

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