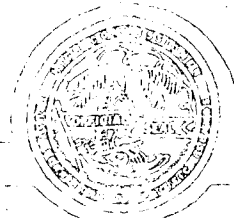


PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

96950

RELEASE: 162-66

Micronesia

PRESIDENT JOHNSON UNABLE TO VISIT TERRITORY

Truk

Ponape

Marshall's

Yap

Palau

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, October 13 . . . In a message received today by the High Commissioner, President Lyndon B. Johnson expressed his regret at being unable to visit the Trust Territory as part of his tour through the Western Pacific and Asia. The President's message to the High Commissioner and the people of Micronesia stated: "Mrs. Johnson and I greatly regret that we will be unable to visit the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands during our trip to the Western Pacific and Asia. Although time will not permit such a stop, I assure you and the people of Micronesia that we are deeply conscious of their needs and aspirations and that this Administration will continue to give full weight to the requirements for educational opportunities, improved health services, better communities, and the chance to make economic use of their resources. Will you please convey to the people of the Trust Territory our deep interest in their future and our regret that circumstances preclude our visiting, even briefly, their islands on this trip."

MORE

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The message was in response to an invitation from the High Commissioner on October 10 inviting the President to visit Saipan during his forthcoming trip to the Pacific region. The High Commissioner in extending this invitation indicated he felt "that as the new administration of the Trust Territory moves forward with sound, imaginative and forward-looking development programs, no single event could do more to underscore the sincere concern of the Government of the United States for the welfare of the people of Micronesia than a brief visit by the President."

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