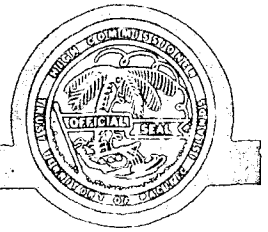


# PRESS RELEASE



## TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

96950

RELEASE: 205-88

### TT EXECUTIVES CONFERENCE OPENS TODAY

#### Marianas

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, December 5 . . . Serving as the general Chairman, High Commissioner William R. Norwood today officially convened the 1966 joint Conference of the six District Administrators and the Headquarters "cabinet" members in the Senate Chamber of the Congress of Micronesia in Saipan.

#### Truk

#### Ponape

In his opening address the Trust Territory's chief executive emphasized that the "policies, programs, and efforts of the Administration, as representative of the Administering Authority, must be directed toward the full implementation of the United States obligations in Micronesia" as set forth in the Trusteeship Agreement. "It is incumbent upon this Administration," Mr. Norwood continued, "to ensure that Micronesia shall also play its part in the maintenance of international peace and security."

#### Marshalls

#### Yap

"It is our responsibility to develop Micronesia and its inhabitants to achieve a kind of political institution best suited to the particular conditions of this Territory and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of its people." To achieve this challenging responsibility, Mr. Norwood added: "One of the expressed policies of this Administration is the preservation of political, economic, and social unity of the Micronesian people."

#### Palau

Continuing, the High Commissioner said: "The concept of our mission in Micronesia has changed from the idea of maintaining the Trust Territory on a 'caretaker' basis in previous years to that of recently recognized need for progressive development of the area in all the fields of endeavor in order to prepare Micronesians to make an intelligent self-determination with respect to their political future."

The 1966 Conference was also honored by the presence of Assistant Secretary of Interior for Land Management Harry R. Anderson, whose first visit to the Trust Territory conveniently coincided with the Territory's major meeting of the top executives. Expressing his pleasure for being able to participate in such a meeting, Mr. Anderson hoped for a fruitful conference.

Today's session devoted itself to discussing the organizational structure and pattern of the Trust Territory Government and clarifying the authority and responsibility of the District Administrators and the High Commissioner's staff at Headquarters. During the morning session, Marianas District Administrator Peter T. Coleman represented his fellow colleagues in presenting a review of problems and conditions existing in the districts as seen by the District Administrators. Representing his counterparts from the other districts, Ponape District Administrator Robert Halverson presented the District Administrators' recommendations in regard to the relationship between

MORE

the field and Headquarters staffs. Dr. E. V. Bowden, chief of the Economic Development Team from the Nathan Associates, also discussed his recommendations on the administration and organizational structure of the Government.

Other conferees are: Marshalls District Administrator Dwight Heine, Palau District Administrator J. Boyd Mackenzie, Truk District Administrator Alan M. MacQuarrie, Acting Deputy High Commissioner Robert K. Shoecraft, who is also Attorney General, Assistant Commissioners Joseph F. Screen, John E. deYoung, James E. Hawkins, Paul L. Winsor, and Management Improvement Officer Laurence K. Anderson.

The conferees actually began preliminary meetings last Saturday, December 3, to work out the final Conference agenda. The Conference has been tentatively scheduled to adjourn on December 9. It is possible, however, that it might be extended into the second week.

Tman/PIO/2148