

PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

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Marianas

INTERIM COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS SPEND A BUSY WEEK IN THE MARSHALLS

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Feb. 6 . . . After having spent a day touring Ebeye and leaving two committee members from both Houses there, the Interim Committee members of the Congress of Micronesia left Kwajalein on January 26, to spend a week in Majuro after which they proceeded to Ponape.

Truk

In Majuro the Committee members held public meetings with officials of the Hold-Over Committee of the Marshall Islands Congress, the Councilmen of DUD (Darrit-Uliga-Dalap) Municipality, Councilmen of Laura Municipality, and with the District Administrator Dwight Heine and his staff.

Ponape

Marshalls

During these public hearings problems of concern to the Marshallese were brought to the attention of the Congressmen. Among them were requests for having water and electricity extended to all persons able to pay for them; the possibility of establishing a social welfare program for the care of the aged and the jobless Marshallese who have migrated to the District Center from the outlying islands; and the need for a clearer definition of municipal control over private land. The need for increased logistic support to the outer islands was emphasized. In addition, Marshallese

Yap

Palau

MORE

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leaders requested that a ship equipped with medical facilities be added to bring medical care to the 13,000 inhabitants of the outer islands.

The Marshallese reemphasized previous requests that ports of entry be established in areas of the Trust Territory in order to avoid unnecessary delays of transshipment. A Resolution to this effect had been adopted by the First Regular Session of the Congress.

Major discussion in the Marshalls centered around the political future of Micronesia. The consensus of opinion was that there is still a need for every Micronesian to present, in an unbiased manner, the various alternatives and their consequences--good or bad--for the Micronesian people.

Members of the eastern group of Congressmen include: Sen. John Ngiraked, Palau, co-chairman; Sen. Olympio Borja, Marianas; Sen. Francis Nuuan, Yap; Sen.-elect Francisco Palacios, Marianas; Rep. Lazarus Salii, Palau, co-chairman; Rep. Bethwel Henry, Ponape; Rep. Atlan Anien, Marshalls; Rep. Soukichi Fritz, Truk; Rep. Manuel Muna, Marianas; Rep. Jacob Sawaichi, Palau; Rep.-elect Daro Weital, Ponape; and Kaleb Udui, Legislative Counsel.

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