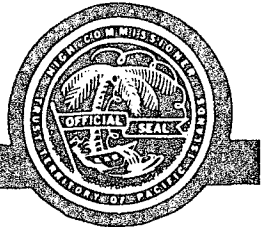


PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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U. N. MISSION MEETS WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Feb. 17 . . . The United Nations Visiting Mission met with High Commissioner W. R. Norwood and his staff for the first briefing session on the Mission's inspection tour of the Territory on February 14.

Opening the meeting Mr. Norwood said, "It is an unusual experience for any agency of the United States Government, as we are out here representing the administering authority, to have its performance, administrative competence, programs, its goals and rate of progress subject to review by a commission such as you...It is beneficial to have outsiders look carefully at what we are doing. If we cannot meet the test of scrutiny, then we should ask ourselves whether we can do it or ask some other administering authority to take over the job."

Assistant Commissioner for Administration Joseph F. Screen gave a status report on federal appropriations to the Territory and programs in his area of responsibility. He stated that the Territory is concentrating on a long-range "master plan" for roads, schools, air-fields and hospitals rather than emergency type construction programs.

Dr. Bert Bowden, chief of the Nathan Associates team, specialists contracted to thoroughly analyze the potential development of economic resources in the Territory, reviewed briefly the recently completed Nathan Report.

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The team's triple assignment was (1) to provide economic advice to the High Commissioner, (2) to provide technical assistance on economic matters, and (3) to prepare a long-range development plan for the Territory.

Deputy High Commissioner Martin P. Mangan briefed the Mission on the Territory's air service and the invitation to bid for operation of the air transportation system to be issued in April.

John Pincetich, Director of Peace Corps Micronesia, said that the arrival of 458 Peace Corps Volunteers had increased manpower and training facilities as well as effecting an economic boost in the Territory. Plans to establish a Peace Corps training center in Udot, Truk District, are going forward. This would mean another \$400,000 to the economy of the Territory. "We hope to leave behind us a legacy of learning for the people themselves," Mr. Pincetich said.

Attorney General Robert K. Shoecraft brought the Mission up to date on the latest developments in claims for damage and personal injury by Trust Territory citizens due to activities during and after World War II. A question was asked about a reported \$1,800,000 which had been paid for governmental use of lands. Mr. Shoecraft pointed out that most of this money had been used to acquire land for use by the U. S. in the Kwajalein Atoll, but that some had also been paid to land owners for lands used by the Trust Territory Administration; again, mostly in the Marshall Islands.

MORE

Personnel Officer Richard F. Kanost reported on developments in the Micronesian Title and Pay Plan and the Management Intern Training Program. The Program was initiated in 1966 to select and systematically train young Micronesians who have the highest potential for administrative posts in the Government.

The Mission will meet with the Saipan Municipal Legislature, Mariana Islands District Legislature, and the Councils of Tinian and Rota before departing Saipan to begin the second phase of its six-week fact-finding tour.

Chairman of the Mission is Dr. Angie Brooks of Liberia; Richard N. Posnett, United Kingdom; Kenneth Rogers, Australia; Pierre J. Basdevant, France; Dr. Najmuddine Rifai, Principal Secretary; Richard W. Wathen, Political Officer; Henry Astwood, Administrative Officer; Bhagirathan R. Devarajan, Economist; and Miss Norma Chai, stenographer.

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