

PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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Marianas

U. N. MISSION MEETS WITH INTERIM COMMITTEES

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Feb. 17 . . . The nine-member United Nations Visiting Mission spent its first day in the Trust Territory with the Senate and House Interim Committees of the Congress of Micronesia.

Truk

The Mission expressed pleasure at the obvious progress in political development since its last visit in 1964. At that time the Congress had not yet been established.

Ponape

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

Marshall's

Yap

During the afternoon-long session, Congressmen from the six districts brought before the Mission recommendations and resolutions affecting the 93,000 citizens of the Territory. Discussion included low-cost typhoon-proof local housing; improved power and water systems; the need for business loans at low interest rates; technical assistance in agriculture; and the need for a master plan for overall economic

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development, with established priorities; and World War II damage claims against Japan and post-war claims against the United States.

Legislative Counsel Kaleb Udui presented a 20-category agenda on behalf of the Interim Committees. Social, educational, and economic development; communications and transportation facilities were included. Of major interest to the Committees was the status of the Congress of Micronesia as one of the branches of the Trust Territory Government.

While in the Territory the fact-finding Mission will listen and observe. A report on its findings will be transmitted to the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

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