

# PRESS RELEASE



## TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

96950

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Marianas

### PATIENT PARENTS PURCHASE PAINT POTS

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Feb. 27 . . . Parents of children in the Saipan Public School system will be delighted to learn they have received a grant-in-aid from High Commissioner's office which will enable them to paint their own children's schools. The announcement of the grant was made by the Headquarters Community Development Officer, Francis B. Mahoney whose office processed this grant request, as well as two others awarded the Marianas district during the current fiscal year. The two earlier grants funded construction of a school-dispensary-teacher house complex on the islands of Pagan and Agrihan.

The new grant, in the amount of slightly over \$3,000, which was approved for Mr. Norwood by Deputy High Commissioner Martin P. Mangan on February 23, will permit the painting of all public school buildings on the island by members of the Parent-Teachers Associations of Saipan. "The parents are ready and anxious to do the job", remarked Howard Kerstetter, Marianas Educational Administrator as he transmitted their grant request to Headquarters.

In discussing the various shades of color with which the schools would be painted, Mr. Kerstetter gave his comments to the District Administrator in a recent memorandum.

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"They (our schools) are buildings not Educational facilities. We want and need gay, colorful attractive facilities exemplifying the free, grasping, searching mind of a child. The child's surroundings have a tremendous impact on his attitude toward learning and we must provide this atmosphere."

So while Saipanese and American parents are collecting drip cloths and getting out their work clothes, more conservative members of our community are advised to steel themselves for cheerfully colored school houses, possibly in tints of shell pink, wild hibiscus yellow, and tropic sea blue.

("Anything would be better than the present dusty concrete gray", commented an anonymous observer with reputedly liberal sentiments. "Say," he added reflectively, "do you suppose I vote as I do because I attended a 'little red schoolhouse'?").

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