

PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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Marianas

HIGH COMMISSIONER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TESTIFY AT BUDGET HEARINGS

Trust

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Feb. 28 . . . High Commissioner W.R. Norwood appeared before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs on February 21-23 to support increased appropriations for the Trust Territory. Also testifying was Harry R. Anderson, Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior for Public Land Management, who made a survey trip to Micronesia in December 1966.

Ponape

Marshalls

Yap

The legislation is presently before the House Subcommittee in varying forms in several bills. The one that the High Commissioner and Department of the Interior support calls for an authorization for appropriating \$25 million for fiscal year 1967 and not to exceed \$35 million for each of the fiscal years 1968, 1969, and 1970. Another section of this legislation calls for a change in the titles of the two highest officers in the Trust Territory Government to Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

Palau

In justification of the increased appropriations High Commissioner Norwood stated: "Despite the very substantial impetus which our program has been given during the last five years, effective and realistic development requires further increases in

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the ceiling if we are to meet the needs of the people of Micronesia and the obligation which the United States has assumed in these islands."

He went on to say that the central objective of the Trust Territory administration is to establish solid fiscal responsibility and accountability, coupled with a sense of purpose and a determination to carry out its mission in a manner that would sustain the confidence of the people of Micronesia as well as that of the Congress of the United States.

Assistant Secretary Anderson in his statement to the Subcommittee emphasized: "The obligation we have assumed under the trusteeship provisions of the United Nations Charter and the terms of our trusteeship agreement runs much deeper than that held by the Japanese. In addition to preserving the security of the area, we are also committed to the social, economic, and political development of the people. This means, in the first instance, raising the standards of education and health. Our goals in those areas have been established and understood for several years. In major part, the capital investment program which this legislation contemplates is necessary to make those goals a reality."

(The text of High Commissioner Norwood's statement follows)

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