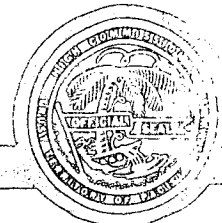


PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

96950

RELEASE: 59-67

Marianas

EBEYE STARTS ITS OWN "PEACE CORPS"

Tauk

Saipan, Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Mar. 9 . . . During the past two months, Tony Mondello, Peace Corps Community Development Specialist, has been working closely with the youth of Ebeye in order to find out whether there would be enough interest among the young men to establish the Ebeye Youth Corps. At first this novel idea did not win too much support but gradually the boys began to see that this was to be an important part of the Ebeye Rehabilitation Program and that the men in the Ebeye Youth Corps were to be highly selected citizens of the community. They were also attracted to the athletic program which is an essential feature of the Corps.

Ponape

Marshalls

After two months of intensive activity and selectivity, the initial group comprises about 40 young men of whom 25 will be selected, according Dr. W.V. Vitarelli, the High Commissioner's Representative on Ebeye.

Yap

The training period will start on March 9 and will be conducted on Carlson Island where Mr. Mondello and the men who have applied for acceptance in the Youth Corps have already done preliminary work in establishing the camp site. The Army has promised some tents for use during the training period and various members of the Ebeye Community have volunteered their help.

Palau

MORE

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Although the program has not started officially, the selectees have already demonstrated their willingness to work by helping to paint the new Ebeye Nursery-Kindergarten school, by working on the Ebeye Landscaping program, participating in the monthly clean-up campaign and volunteering for emergency stevedoring. Future programs will include a 3-day a week fishing program, establishing a fresh produce market, helping in road maintenance, helping the Municipal police in keeping law and order, volunteering for fire prevention, and helping in the new home beautification program.

Two hours each evening will be spent on academic and skill subjects under the auspices of the new Youth Center Program. In addition, there will be a scheduled athletic program throughout the year. The entire day will include 12 hours of planned activities. It is hoped this program will pave the way toward other such practical training programs for the youth of Micronesia who are not able to go to high school and who cannot find work.

On March 9, during the scheduled visit of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Ebeye, induction services were held, at which time the 40 selectees formally started their one month training. Many people and groups have been responsible for the success of this program to date. The Yukwe Yuk Club started off the Corps with a much needed "kitty" of \$2,315.00 for uniforms, tools and supplies; Colonel Healy and his staff at Kwajalein cooperated in making this program possible; Mr. Jalle, Mr. Jinna and other leading members of the Ebeye Community gave their help

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VITARELLI/PIO/2140