UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

For Release to PM's, March 29, 1967

deYoung - 202/343-4736

AIR SERVICE PROPOSALS SOUGHT BY TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is seeking proposals from airlines and aircraft operators to provide scheduled air service from Guam to various points in the Caroline, Marshall, and Mariana Islands, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today.

Pan American World Airways has served the area since July 1, 1960, and the present agreement will expire on December 31, 1967. Because of the absence of local commercial facilities, the Trust Territory must contract for commercial air transportation, Secretary Udall said.

Current commercial service consists of daily DC-4 service, except Sundays, between Guam and Saipan; bi-weekly DC-4 service between Guam, Yap and Koror; and weekly DC-4 flight service between Guam, Truk, Kwajalein and Majuro. Weekly service between Truk and Ponape, and Ponape-Kwajalein, is provided by SA-16 amphibian aircraft making connections at Truk and Kwajalein with weekly eastbound and westbound DC-4 flights.

The present air service system consists of 2,589 unduplicated route miles and it is anticipated that approximately 30,000 revenue passengers will be served during the current fiscal year.

The Government also wants proposals for air services in addition to those presently provided.

Interested parties may obtain copies of the solicitation for proposals by contacting the Director, Office of Territories, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.

Proposals should be submitted to the High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, and copies should be sent via airmail to the Director, Office of Territories, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Delivery of proposals at either the Interior Department or Office of the High Commissioner must be on or before June 30, 1967.

x x x x