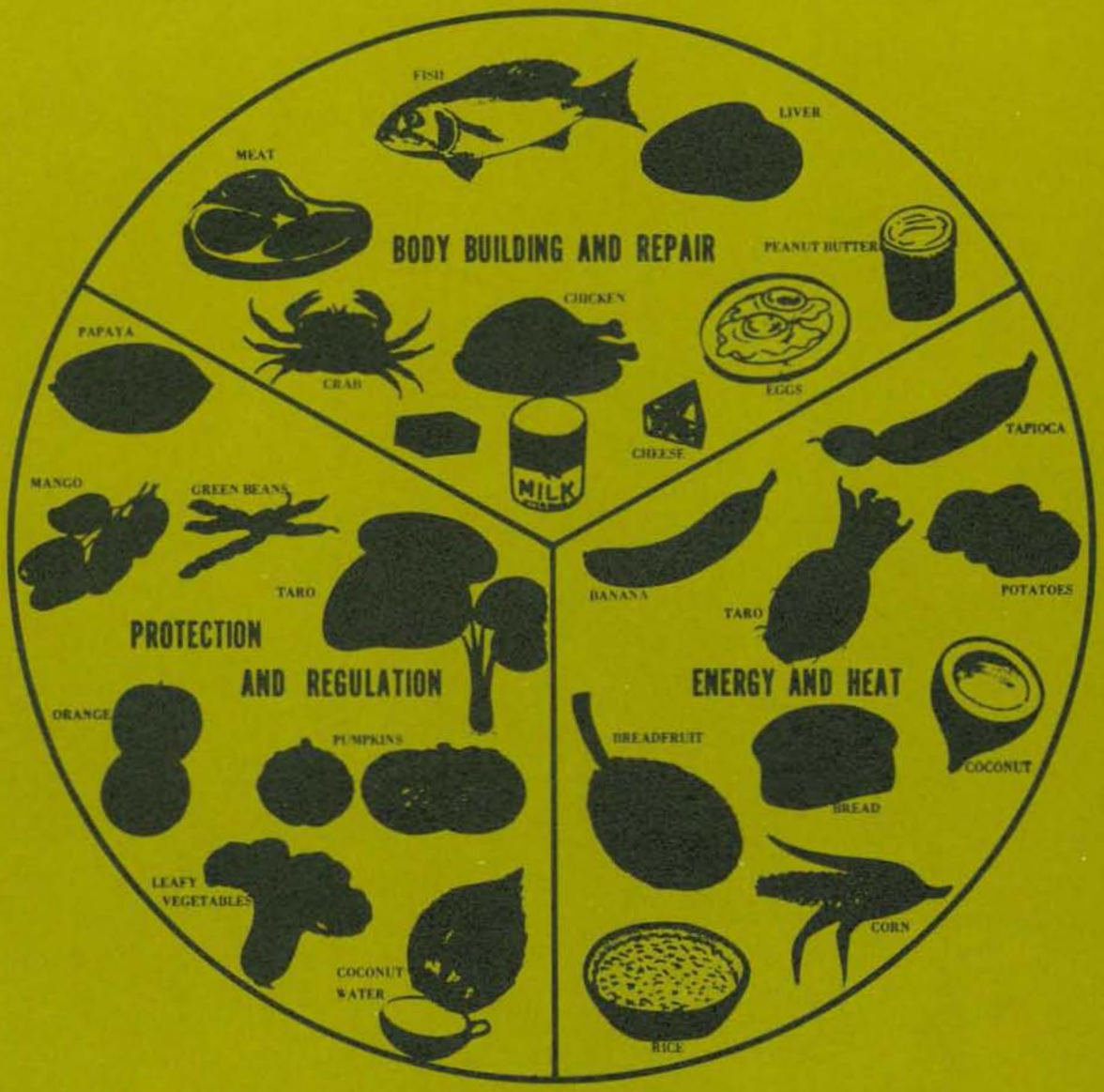
Micronesian Reporter

SECOND QUARTER 1976

NUTRITION:
A SOCIAL PROBLEM



cover story:

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COVER: Illustration by the Trust Territory Community Development Division.

BACK COVER: The photo on the left by the White House; the photo on the right by J. Ngiraibuuch.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Pages 2-10, 46, 49-51, by J. Ngiraibuuch; pages 11-14, Mike Ashman; page 15, United Nations; page 18, the photos of rice on Ponape, Palau's Van Camp fish, the coconut mill in Palau on page 26, 43-45–all from the PID photo file; pages 19 & 27, Lois Valk; the photo of a man carrying a copra sack on page 26, by Charles Sicard; the photo of Truk ferro-cement boat program on page 26, by Jon Anderson; individual photos of the essay contest winners on pages 32-37 provided by the individuals themselves; page 41, the U.S. Navy; and pages 52-53 & 55-56, photo courtesy of Dr. William Rhodes.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Pages 22-23, by Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, Columbia University; page 29, TTPI (ESG); page 42, Brian Daniels; page 54, Nick C. Guerrero & Mike Ashman; and page 55, Nick C. Guerrero.

MicronesianReporter The Journal of Micronesia/Second Quarter 1976/Volume XXIV, Number 2

PUBLISHER: The Public Information Division, Department of Public Affairs, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
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Micronesian Reporter is published quarterly by the Public Information Office, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950. Subscription rate is $4.00 air mail, payable in advance. Check or money order should be made payable to Trust Territory Treasurer and sent to the Circulation Department, Micronesian Reporter. The funds for printing this publication approved by Director of the Budget on July 29, 1966. Printed in the Territory of Guam, U.S.A. by the Navy Publications and Printing Office. Stories and photographs are welcomed; stories in manuscript form, photos 8x10 prints or undeveloped film. Send contributions to the editor.

This Quarter's Worth

At the time this issue of the MICRONESIAN REPORTER was being put together, Trust Territory High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston was preparing to leave Micronesia for his new job as Executive Vice President of the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA), a San Francisco-based organization designed to promote tourism and travel in the Pacific region. An appointee of former President Richard M. Nixon, Johnston has served as the Chief Executive of the Trust Territory Government since May 1969, a much longer time than any previous High Commissioner. He has been praised by numerous resolutions of the district legislatures and the Congress of Micronesia for his fine and dedicated work in this part of the Pacific. The REPORTER interviewed him in May of this year—seven years after he became High Commissioner of the Trust Territory. During the interview, Johnston talked about the experiences, accomplishments, and problems of his administration. He indicated that in his new job at PATA, his main emphasis on tourism will be to make sure that when a tourist travels, he travels to the Pacific.

We have maintained that one of the most important aspects of our government is the very basic issue of assuring the very survival of the people of Micronesia. After all, people must be alive in order to carry out the functions of a government. For this reason, we offer "Nutrition: A Social Problem" (by Dr. Moises Behar of the World Health Organization), an enlightening presentation made at the 13th Pacific Science Congress in 1975, Vancouver, Canada. The Micronesian people will surely benefit by reading this article. Related to Behar's account are two essays presented by two employees of the Congress of Micronesia (COM): John S. DelRosario's account of the COM/UNDP economic conference held recently in Truk and Michael Malone's unofficial assessment of "The Micronesian Sea: Who Will Control It?".

The Reporter also offers "Strangers in Your Islands: Tourism in Micronesia", written by P.F. Kluge. Early this year, Kluge visited the districts on an assignment for the government's tourism office and wrote this story. We also offer tourism-related essays. These are "Bulwark of the Pacific" (by James V. Hall), "Bos'n Bill and the Saipan Frogmen" (by Dirk A. Ballendorf), and "A Revisit to the Submarine I-169" (by Christopher K. Mitchell).

For literary buffs, poems by Valentine Sengebau and essays on the Constitution for the Federated States of Micronesia by Micronesian students are thought-provoking and intellectually stimulating . . . And finally, for watchers of the political arena we offer a description of the contemporary political spectrum in Micronesia today. — *B.B.*

Who's Who

. . . in this issue of the Reporter

P.F. KLUGE, author of two novels set in Micronesia, was sent on an assignment early this year for the government's tourism office and prepared for this issue his observations on "Strangers in Your Islands: Tourism in Micronesia".

MOISES BEHAR, Chief of the Nutrition Unit at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, attended the 13th Pacific Science Congress in 1975, Vancouver, Canada, and presented a paper on "Nutrition: A Social Problem", this issue's cover story.

MICHAEL MALONE, an information assistant for the Congress of Micronesia, offers in this issue an unofficial assessment of the work of the Joint Committee on the Law of the Sea as this topic now influences the proposed draft Compact of Free Association with the United States.

JOHN S. DELROSARIO Jr., an information intern at the Congress of Micronesia, attended the COM/UNDP conference in Truk (May 5-14) and offered an account of the conference and the recommendations which resulted during that meeting aimed towards making Micronesia a self-supporting nation.

CHRISTOPHER K. MITCHELL, former Chief of the Trust Territory Marine Resources Division, visited the sunken Japanese submarine IGO-169 in the Truk Lagoon and wrote for the Reporter an account about the submarine.

JAMES V. HALL, the Trust Territory High Commissioner's Press Officer, offers "Bulwark of the Pacific", a description of a Japanese bonfire ceremony of the skeletal remains of World War II Japanese dead and some reflections on the events of the war on Saipan. Hall is a graduate of the University of Iowa School of Journalism.

DIRK A. BALLENDORF is formerly a Peace Corps staff member in Micronesia and has been back to visit numerous times since his initial tour in 1966-68. A writer of several articles of human and historical interest for the Reporter in the past, Ballendorf is presently the Director of Planning for the Office of Higher Education in Pennsylvania.

VALENTINE SENGEBAU is an information specialist at the Public Information Division. Everyone in our small office calls him "our poet in residence." He contributes three of his favorite poems for our literary buffs. Val is a recent graduate of the University of California at Berkeley.

INTERVIEW:

Edward E. Johnston

"I am sure you know that I leave Micronesia with some considerable regret. Despite the turmoils that have been created from time to time; the sometime unpleasant coverage of our administration in the public press, I've enjoyed thoroughly the seven years I have served as the High Commissioner," Trust Territory High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston told his Cabinet officers on Saipan shortly after he announced his resignation from the top governmental post to become the Executive Vice President of the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA), a San Francisco-based organization designed to promote tourism and travel in the Pacific. "I want to thank each and every one of you, and all the people of Micronesia, for making these last seven years the most rewarding period of my life." His resignation becomes effective July 1, 1976.

Before he was appointed by former President Richard M. Nixon in early 1969 as High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, Johnston was a successful business and government executive who served as Secretary of Hawaii (Lieutenant Governor) in 1958-1959, was Acting Governor when the Statehood Bill was in its final stages of passage in the U.S. Congress, and was Hawaii State Chairman of the Republican Party from 1965-1969.

It was in May 1969, that "a planeload of Washington figures, including both U.S. government executives and top men of the press, left the nation's capital for a journey half-way around the world. Heading the group was (then Secretary of Interior) Walter J. Hickel. Midway across the Pacific, word was received aboard the jet that one of the group, Edward E. Johnston, had just been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to lead the Trust Territory as its High Commissioner," the MICRONESIAN REPORTER (Second Quarter, 1970) wrote of Johnston's arrival in Micronesia in its first interview with the High Commissioner.

High Commissioner Johnston "has been instructed to move rapidly and decisively to bring more Micronesians into high ranking and responsible positions in the Trust Territory Government," Hickel said on Saipan when introducing the new High Commissioner to the people of Micronesia. "We plan to establish a close rapport with the Micronesian people, to seek their counsel, and to determine what they want for their political future and their public works programs, investment capital, and development of potential resources," Hickel added. "Our special concern is to give the Micronesians a greater voice and representation in the administration of the islands. The aim of the administration is to take positive action in the area . . . Mr. Nixon, for his inauguration, announced that under his Administration our people would go forward together—and I emphasize, together—toward common objectives . . . We now, together can eagerly look forward to a better future, a full partnership that begins today," the former Interior Secretary told the Micronesian people seven years ago.

Johnston has served in the Trust Territory's top post longer than any other High Commissioner. When the MICRONESIAN REPORTER sat down to interview him on a clear, sunny day in May of this year—seven full years after he came to Micronesia—Johnston was in the midst of "getting packed up and preparing myself for my new duty (at PATA)." He was dressed in a bright, colorful shirt and flashy slacks. On the beautifully-decorated lanai of his house, with its breathtaking view of the glimmering, blue Saipan lagoon, the High Commissioner began the interview with a description of the many accomplishments in which he took particular pride during the seven years that he served as the Chief Executive of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

JOHNSTON: Naturally, I am very proud of the tremendous physical improvements which have been put in place in Micronesia these past seven years or are now under construction or definitely scheduled for the near future. The 35-million gallon dam at Yap; the Palau bridge; the new mariculture center in Palau; the new court house at Majuro; new hospitals at Truk, Ponape, and Yap; new docks in the Marshalls and Ponape; high schools in Truk, Jaluit, etc.; the international airports at Majuro and Saipan and upgraded airports in all districts. We should all be proud of these visible reminders of what we have accomplished by working together. But basically the *greatest* accomplishment has been placing Micronesians in positions of responsibility in the Trust Territory Government—at the District Administrator's level, at the Cabinet and Deputy level, and at the Chief of Division level. A great many more Micronesians are now involved in the top level decision making processes than when I came to Micronesia seven years ago.

REPORTER: On the other hand, what is the opportunity you perhaps missed, the thing you regret most . . . either having done or not having done?

JOHNSTON: Well, I have probably visited more of the islands than any other High Commissioner, but I have missed opportunities to visit some of the other islands of the various districts. I guess this is one thing I do regret has not been possible. Given the amount of time I have and the number of things that I have to do, it has not been possible to really visit each one of the islands that I would like to have visited.

REPORTER: In 1970, one year after you became High Commissioner of the TTPI, you said in your first interview with this magazine that if you were to single out any one event as being most gratifying, that item would be the return of the people of Bikini to their atoll in the Marshalls District. Can you comment on that in light of the present situation?

JOHNSTON: The problem of people moving back to Bikini and Enewetak is still a serious problem. Particularly in the case of Enewetak, it will continue to be a problem for a few years. I don't believe all of this can be blamed upon the United States Government or the Trust Territory Government. At many stages in the process, the Marshallese people did change their minds about what they wanted, where they wanted to put certain parts of the infrastructure, how they wanted their homes built, and so on. It has been a long and a very involved process. I think that there has been a great deal of effort in good faith on the part of the government and on the part of the people of Bikini. But I do hope that the situation is completely resolved fairly quickly now. I know that some of the people have already moved back to Bikini from Kili, and I would hope that before too long the people who are now on Ujelang can move back to Enewetak. I think both of these moves are very important.

REPORTER: You told a group of key businessmen in Honolulu shortly after you became High Commissioner that Micronesia was "on the road to something big." What was that "something big" you talked about then? And is it true today?

JOHNSTON: I am not sure exactly, looking back almost seven years ago, in what context I made that statement. But I imagine that they were two things that I could have been thinking of then. First, by 1970, the status talks had begun. It appeared at that time that it would take only a few years to conclude the status talks and that Micronesia would be on the road of self-government. Secondly, that was the year when our budget started going up to a reasonable level for the first time. For the first time, we had money to develop airports, roads, harbors, and worked on the infrastructure that was so necessary for Micronesia to have any viable economic development. I think that was what I meant-that with increased budgeting and an increased desire for self-determination and self-government-Micronesia was about to cross the threshold and get things rolling that should have been done many many years before.

REPORTER: After seven years in Micronesia, you have seen or visited the district centers and many of the outer islands of Micronesia. Are there any experiences that stand out in your memory as personally significant? For instance, when you first visited Kusaie several years ago, a baby boy born on the date of your visit was named after you. Are there any other experiences worth mentioning as far as your visits to the islands of Micronesia are concerned?

JOHNSTON: I do clearly remember my first visit to Kusaie because little Edward Johnston Skilling was born just a few minutes after I arrived. In fact, I saw him before his own father did. I went right to the hospital to see him, and to congratulate his mother. I kept in touch with little Edward J. during the ensuing years. I have his picture on my desk. I write to him and send him things now and then. I hope to keep in touch with him even after I leave Micronesia. And also I will never forget the greetings that I have received on many outer islands where the entire island population would line up on the shore to greet the visiting party; and that is really quite an experience to have men, women, and children all lined up to shake your hand and to say hello and

really want to make you feel at home on their island. I also remember—and will never forget—my first visit to Tol Island in the Truk District where I was suddenly aware that a large group of men was waiting waist-deep in the water to greet us and suddenly the boat was picked up and physically carried ashore. This was an old Trukese custom that I will always remember.

REPORTER: And you were on the boat as they . . .

JOHNSTON: Yes, right. They put me on one boat and Admiral (Paul) Pugh on another boat and they carried us both ashore.

REPORTER: You have often said in the past that you would like to be the last American High Commissioner of the TTPI, but events have not gone as you had wished. Now that you are leaving Micronesia, what will be your advice to your successor?

JOHNSTON: For the immediate future, since Mr. Peter Coleman, who has been a very integral part of our administration, is going to carry on as the Acting High Commissioner, I don't feel that I need to give him any advice because he has been in Micronesia for many years and has been Deputy HiCom for the past seven years. But if a successor is appointed, I think I would basically give him the advice that he should keep uppermost in his mind at all times that this is a United Nations trusteeship and that the most important duty which he has is to administer this area as a United States citizen—if he is a United States citizen—but on behalf of the people of Micronesia, taking the place of the chief executive that they have not yet had the right to select. I could give him specific suggestions in specific areas, but in general that he should be constantly aware of his responsibilities as a representative of the Administering Authority administering a United Nations trusteeship.

REPORTER: Is it very difficult to handle the responsibilities of the Office of the High Commissioner?

JOHNSTON: Yes. Joe Murphy of Guam's *Paific Daily News* has referred to that in his column a number of times-the difficulties of trying to keep everybody happy. It is a very unusual position in that you must deal with both the Congress of Micronesia and the Congress of the United States, and that you always have some people in the United Nations, some in the Interior Department, some in other departments of the United States Government, and your constituents in Micronesia, all thinking that they know the best way to solve any specific problem. You have to make decisions, and you can't make decisions that will keep everybody happy. You just have to make up your mind at the start that not everyone will be happy with you all the time and then with that frame of mind you can somewhat minimize the difficulties of handling the position. I would say that the challenges the position affords are certainly worth the difficulties of handling the responsibilities that go with it.

REPORTER: Are we at a stage of Micronesian history that a Micronesian may be qualified to assume the responsibilities of the Office of the High Commissioner?

JOHNSTON: Oh, I think that without any exaggeration that there are at least a dozen Micronesians who are well qualified to be High Commissioner. Basically, serving as High Commissioner is just one step more difficult than serving as a District Administrator. All six of our District Administrators are Micronesian citizens; each one a citizen of the district he administers. There are many others – in the government, in the private sector, and in the Congress of Micronesia – who could make an excellent High Commissioner. My hope would be that a Micronesian will be *elected* to the position as soon as possible, because I believe that in that way he would be in a better position to properly administer the area than if he had been appointed by the Administering Authority.

REPORTER: What will be your main emphasis in tourism in your position as Executive Vice President of the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA)?

JOHNSTON: The main emphasis is to get a larger percentage of the world's tourists, and the world's tourism expenditures, into the Pacific area as opposed to the many other areas of the world. Our job is to see that when a person anywhere on this big earth of ours desires to travel – that he travels to the Pacific. We will be promoting not only the Pacific island areas that recently formed the Pacific Islands Tourism Development Council but of course the metropolitan areas such as Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Australia, India, Nepal, and the other active government members who are not necessarily Pacific islanders as we think of them but are certainly a very important part of the Pacific area.

REPORTER: My next question is one that is very pertinent to the people of Micronesia, especially the people of the Marianas. What airline should get the coveted Saipan-Japan route?

JOHNSTON: That decision is up to the President of the United States to make. Our policy has always been that we have urged an early decision on the case because I feel that it is tremendously important both to the Northern Marianas and to all of Micronesia to have that route in operation. And since Japan Air Lines will not fly it until a reciprocal United States carrier is named, I am certainly hopeful the

President will make the decision in the very near future and that the route will be flown from Tokyo to Saipan.

REPORTER: What is the Administering Authority's position on the proposed Palau superport?

JOHNSTON: As I understand it, the United States Government does feel that a feasibility study should be made. Since there has been no specific proposal made on the superport, there has been nothing that the government could officially endorse. The policy has mainly been one—and I think it is the right one—that the basic decision as to whether there will or will not be a Palau superport is up to the people of Palau. After the people of Palau have seen the feasibility study and can properly weigh the economic advantages against the environmental or ecological considerations, then they can-and I am sure they will-make an intelligent decision about whether they want the superport if the feasibility study shows that it would be practical in the Palau area.

REPORTER: The Director of the Office of Territorial Affairs (DOTA) said recently that on its own Micronesia is "bankrupt" and that the proposed superport in Palau is the only viable means to economic self-sufficiency in Micronesia. Would you comment on that statement?

JOHNSTON: Well, it is no secret that I do not agree with that statement because I went on public record as disagreeing with it before a committee of the United States House of Representatives when the Director of the Office of Territorial Affairs made that statement in a hearing on Fiscal Year 1977 and FY 1976 supplemental budgets. Bankruptcy, as I have always understood it in a business sense, is when a person or an organization has either no assets and great liabilities or has assets that are far exceeded by liabilities. Now on the liability side of the ledger-since the government of Micronesia is one of the few governments in the entire civilized world which cannot borrow money or go into debt such as the government of the United States does-Micronesia cannot have debts that exceed expenditures. That to me is a condition of bankruptcy. Also I would flatly refute the theory that an area which has the wonderful land resources of Micronesia, and the wonderful people that inhabit the land, would ever be "bankrupt". I think it is a very harsh term. I can readily agree that Micronesia has not yet developed a viable self-sufficient economy. But one thing that seems to me would prevent Micronesia from bankruptcy is Micronesia's strategic location, which proved its value during World War II. As long as Micronesia is in this strategic position and has land that can be leased and as long as the people of Micronesia intend to hold on to their land and to make it as productive as possible, I cannot see any reason for calling Micronesia bankrupt. I wouldn't say, or I don't think any of us would say that Micronesia is an affluent area, but it is not—in my opinion—bankrupt.

REPORTER: What is your prediction on the development of the TTPI after the termination of the trusteeship in terms of political and economic growth?

JOHNSTON: I think a lot of that depends on when the trusteeship is terminated. There seems to be a common misconception in many parts of the world that the trusteeship in Micronesia automatically ends or is scheduled to end in 1980 or 1981 or some other specific year. Actually there is no date specified in the U.N. Trusteeship Agreement. A date of approximately 1981 was at one point fairly well agreed upon by Ambassador Williams and the Micronesian future status committee. As you will recall, in the last session of the Congress of Micronesia, there were several speeches that 1981 might be too soon and that there was still a great deal more to be done in the way of putting an infrastructure in place. I believe that the United States still has a continuing responsibility and a very grave responsibility to provide a much more viable infrastructure than is now in place. The roads, the harbors, the airports, the water, the sewers, the other basic necessities—not frills—but basic necessities—have to be put in place before the people of Micronesia can develop an economically viable area. I predict that Micronesia can eventually sustain itself with income from tourism, agriculture, and vast marine resources, especially with the 200-mile economic zone around the area. I think Micronesia can be economically viable, but first she has to have the basic infrastructure to proceed along that line.

REPORTER: Do you think the TTPI can become "self-reliant" economically by 1981?

JOHNSTON: I doubt it by 1981. I recall that Harrison Loesch (an official of the Department of the Interior in Washington) was asked that question in a congressional hearing some five years ago, and neither he nor I would agree that the area could be completely self-sustaining within five years. I think the negotiations between Ambassador Williams and the Joint Committee on Future Status have taken into account that there will be some United States subsidy after that date, or any other date when the trusteeship is terminated.

REPORTER: There has been the Micronesian Comprehensive Development Plan now being conducted in the Trust Territory. Do you think this plan is realistic and can be carried out in the TTPI?

JOHNSTON: I have not seen the final plan yet, and I would hesitate to pre-judge it. I would say that I feel that Dr. Robert J. Trusk (the General Manager of the Micronesian Comprehensive Development Plan) and those who work with him are very well qualified individuals. I am very impressed with the sincerity and the knowledge of those in the Congress of Micronesia who are dealing with the plan, and I feel sure that by the end of the special session of the Congress this year, a good plan will have been adopted.

REPORTER: Speaking about the Decentralization Plan now being underway in the TTPI, can the Office of the High Commissioner perform effectively especially in an area like Micronesia while his departments are functionally and physically decentralized to the districts as described by DOTA?

JOHNSTON: That is a hard thing to say. The whole decentralization plan has—I believe—been somewhat misunderstood in some areas and I am not clear in my own mind just exactly what is intended. I don't believe that a department head on Saipan could properly manage an entire division which was located in the Marshalls or in Palau. But that is not to say that some government functions in their entirety can't be located in the various districts and located there in a very practical manner. I think that this is something that requires a great deal of study both in Micronesia and in Washington. I am sure that at the time the plan is put into effect, it will be one which has a reasonable chance of working.

REPORTER: What are the advantages and disadvantages of moving the TTPI Headquarters from Saipan to one of the districts?

JOHNSTON: The only disadvantage that I can see is that you have to construct a new headquarters complex physically to replace the one you have. It seems to me that it is non-realistic to expect the Headquarters of the Trust Territory to remain in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, which is not under the jurisdiction of the central Trust Territory Headquarters government anymore. I feel that the capital will undoubtedly, in the very near future, be moved to one of the other districts. I recall very clearly that members of the Congress of Micronesia who went with us to the most recent budget hearings in Washington assured the Congress of the United States that a decision on the location of the capital will definitely be forthcoming in the upcoming special session of the Congress, which will be held probably this July.

REPORTER: The Northern Mariana Islands have become a commonwealth of the United States of America. What should be the relationship between the High Commissioner and the Resident Commissioner?

JOHNSTON: It should be a very close one. Many months ago, before the actual administrative separation took place, a great deal of work was done by an ad hoc committee headed by Mr. Coleman to draw up a memorandum of agreement between the Resident Commissioner and the High Commissioner. I am sure that this memorandum of agreement will be amended and refined from time to time, and I would expect that the working relationship would be a very close and very friendly one.

REPORTER: How do you view Ambassador Williams' approach to the Micronesian status negotiations? For example, during your administration, we saw the Congress of Micronesia reject the offer of Commonwealth in 1970 from the United States. Less than two years later, we saw the United States change its policy on the unity of Micronesia and began separate status talks with the Marianas District. We realize you were in no way connected with the status talks. Do you, nevertheless, have any observations on this crucial matter since it has had an adverse effect on the unity in Micronesia?

JOHNSTON: In the first place, I am not sure that we have reached the point in time that we should admit or should stipulate that it has had an adverse effect on the unity on the rest of Micronesia. A constitution was drafted and signed by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention on November 8, 1975, proving (what some people said could not happen) that Micronesians could draft a document which could hold them together. I don't think any of us should take a pessimistic attitude. We should continue to be optimistic until such time as voters in every district of Micronesia have had a chance to vote on their proposed constitution. Remember this—that in the unofficial referendum we conducted in July 1975, overwhelmingly the people of Micronesia said they were in favor of Micronesian unity, and I believe they still are. I hope everyone would avoid pre-judging the situation until they have had a chance to vote on the Constitution. You are entirely correct in saying that at no time did I participate in the status negotiations. Only once a member of the Executive Branch, the Honorable Dwight Heine, was allowed to sit in at one session as an observer

but not as a participant. So because of the fact that the Executive Branch of the Trust Territory Government has been totally removed from the status negotiations, I have not commented on their progress from time to time and do not feel that I would – so long as I am still the High Commissioner. I may in the years to come feel free to comment on them, but at the present time, I think that is the subject on which Senator Lazarus Salii and Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams and others could comment far better than I could.

REPORTER: You mentioned about the upcoming plebiscite on the Constitution for the Federated States of Micronesia by the people of Micronesia. Do you have a date in mind that would be most feasible for the upcoming referendum on the Constitution?

JOHNSTON: Originally, immediately after the Constitution was drawn up, there seemed to be a desire to have the vote as early as this coming November election. But the date I have heard most often discussed is in July of 1977. The bill, which authorized the Constitutional Convention, requires the High Commissioner to set the date and the date has not yet been set.

REPORTER: For the past six or seven years you have appeared before the United Nations Trusteeship Council on Micronesia's behalf. How effective do you feel that Council is as an instrument for change in the TTPI?

JOHNSTON: I have now appeared seven consecutive years before the United Nations Trusteeship Council, and I think I and the Micronesians who have appeared with me have learned a great deal by having these discussions for two to three weeks each year with the members of the Council. All of us have learned things from the Visiting Missions that have come through the Trust Territory. In that way, I think the United Nations, by its individual nations, making constructive suggestions, has been important. It is important to remember that the United States is the Administering Authority and the United Nations Trusteeship Council as such does not have any administrative responsibilities in the Trust Territory. Their job is to suggest and make constructive criticism. I think in this respect they have been extremely helpful to us, and I am sure that they will continue to be.

REPORTER: At your swearing-in ceremony as High Commissioner by then Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel in May 1969, you said "this is your government." Former Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton later said "Micronesians would make the decisions." Later the same year, Morton issued a Secretarial Order establishing the return of public lands in opposition to the stand taken by the Congress of Micronesia. Many Micronesians believe that Interior secretaries and their promises were "pre-empted" by higher authorities in Washington. Is this assumption correct?

JOHNSTON: Starting in 1969, there was created an Under-Secretaries Council, which consisted of the under secretaries (the "number two" men) in the Interior, State, and Defense Departments. As far as I know, this group still participates jointly in the policy decisions pertaining to Micronesia. However, the Interior Department is the department that has the statutory responsibility for the overall supervision of the work of the High Commissioner and the Executive Branch of the Trust Territory Government. As for the specific action of the Secretarial Order being amended with respect to land return, that was highly controversial. I did sit as an observer at the meetings in Honolulu in December 1974. Many of the districts favored the return of public lands through the Secretarial Order. Three of the districts sent delegations in favor of the Secretarial Order being issued and three of them were against it. Some members of the Congress were even in favor of it, although the official position of the Congress was against it. This was a very highly controversial issue. Some

people felt that there was a tremendous desire on the part of the Micronesian people to immediately have the public lands returned. Obviously it was not quite that much of a rush because to the best of my knowledge, only the Marianas have taken the steps to actually have the public lands returned. In the other districts, the legislation to enable the districts to receive the lands are still pending at one stage or another. At least there has not been any rush in the districts to take back the public lands.

REPORTER: Many important people in the Trust Territory Government, including yourself, recently announced their desire to leave the government to work in other areas. Why is it that all of a sudden these very important people have decided to leave the government to work in other places?

JOHNSTON: I think it would be a different reason on the part of each individual person. In my case, for example, I am not really leaving the area completely. I am and will be ever mindful that the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is one of PATA's thirty three active government members. Mike Ashman, Trust Territory Chief of Tourism, is a member of the Board of Directors of PATA, the decision-making body of the organization. I will be visiting this part of the Pacific relatively frequently and will continue to work in the Pacific area. The reason I accepted the position

is the fact that it was a very challenging one that would keep me working in the area I love best, which is the Pacific. For example, I don't believe that I would have accepted a similar position to try and promote tourism to Europe and South America. The Pacific is the area where I have lived almost all my adult life, and it is the area I feel I know and can best promote. Various other people are leaving for various other reasons. You must remember that for several years now we have been very rapidly "phasing out" the American establishment in Micronesia, and that many people who have served (and served well) in various important capacities have more than adequately trained Micronesians to take their places. As Micronesians take over, Americans move out. I think it has been a logical step and that—as I have said at the start of this interview—it is tremendously important that qualified Micronesians do take over their own government as quickly as possible.

REPORTER: Your administration came under criticism several months ago in the U.S. Congress for fiscal management problems. Would you clarify any misunderstanding regarding the fiscal management of the TTPI Administration?

JOHNSTON: Well, I wish I could, in a very few words, clarify any misunderstanding. Before I came to Micronesia, High Commissioner (William) Norwood and his staff had composed a letter to the Interior Department requesting that steps be taken to provide a new financial management system for the Trust Territory. They realized the need for it. I supported this request during the first month I was in Micronesia, and throughout a long period of time we sought to have it implemented. The Interior Department approved a contract with a professional accounting firm. A manual was drawn up. Then through various changes in personnel in Interior, they kept "taking a look at it". At one point, the Office of Management and Budget refused to send to the Congress of the United States a request for re-programming some $172,000 to institute the system. Finally, many years later, we prevailed upon Mr. (Stanley) Carpenter, who was then the Director of the Office of Territorial Affairs, to allow us to start implementing the system and he did send Mr. Garrett and Mr. Linderman out here to get it started. As you know, the system is now being implemented. I think it will be a good thing for the TTPI and it is something that we have sought for a long time. As for criticism, I have recently found in some things that Captain Gordon Findley left behind when he left the Trust Territory Guam Liaison Office, a poem that is

very apropos to the situation. It is something about "I am not allowed to run the train or even ring the bell, but when the damn thing jumps the track, just guess who catches hell . . . " This has been—I feel—the most difficult part of my seven years in Micronesia, coping and fighting against all of this misinformation that has been spread in the public print by disgruntled people who had no real basis for their charges but just made them anyway. Some people have made the accusation over the past few years that our administration has been resistant to change, that it has been one that would not take helpful suggestions. Actually we in the Executive Branch have been perfectly willing at all times to accept constructive suggestions—whether they came from the Congress of Micronesia, the Congress of the United States, the Comptroller on Guam, the Department of the Interior, or the United Nations. Whenever there have been helpful constructive suggestions, we have tried to implement them. We don't say that we have all the answers; we never contended that. We have made mistakes like any group of humans would make. But I subscribe to the statement made many years ago by the great philosopher Aristotle who said that there is one sure way to avoid criticism, that is to say nothing, to do nothing, and to be nothing. I don't think that description will be at all characteristic of our administration of the Trust Territory during the past seven years.

REPORTER: Shortly after the Congress of Micronesia was established in 1965, many people in Micronesia thought that "if you are connected with the Executive Branch, you are not a Micronesian." Do you find this sort of thinking true today in Micronesia?

JOHNSTON: No, I don't think it is true anymore. I did detect a feeling of that nature, and it was quite a shock to me when I first became aware of it. Of course, at that time there were no Micronesian cabinet members and there were no Micronesian District Administrators. But now there are. I think the people who have chosen to work in the Executive Branch and the people who have chosen to be elected to the Congress of Micronesia have a very healthy respect for each other. They reserve the right to disagree with each other, to argue with each other, to have different positions on various issues, but I think everyone realizes that Micronesians in the Executive Branch are also making great contributions to the future of this area along with those in the Legislative Branch.

REPORTER: What has been your relationship with the Congress of Micronesia? Have you been satisfied with its progress? And at what stage

would you say they are now in their development?

JOHNSTON: Unquestionably, the Congress of Micronesia has developed into a mature decision-making body. I have said many times that I would match the Congress of Micronesia against any state legislature in the United States and in many respects against the Congress of the United States. When I first came here, it seemed to me a bill had one of two fates: it was either discussed in a committee or in a group and then no one ever heard of it again, or it was unanimously passed on the floor of the Congress. Now the Congress has a full and open debate on all important legislation, and far from every vote is unanimous. A great many issues have "no" votes or abstentions recorded and some pass, while others fail to pass. To me, the Congress of Micronesia is a body of which all citizens of Micronesia can justifiably be proud. That is not to say that I have always agreed with them. It is not to say that they have always agreed with me and my staff. But I think the working relationship between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch in the Trust Territory Government has been a very healthy and wholesome one—one that has matured throughout the years and I will always remember with a great deal of fondness my relationships with the Congress of Micronesia both collectively and with the members individually.

REPORTER: Speaking about relationship, what is now the relationship between the TTPI and Washington?

JOHNSTON: That is a hard one to answer. I think it varies from day to day. There have been many changes in personnel in the Interior Department in the seven years that I have been the High Commissioner and Mr. Coleman has been the Deputy High Commissioner. There have been four Secretaries of Interior as well as several Acting Secretaries of Interior, and there have been about an equal number of persons occupying the position that is now called the Director of the Office of Territorial Affairs. As personnel changes, policies change. That is true in any free government. I have tried honestly and earnestly to be loyal to whatever administration was operating the Interior Department at any given time. But I will admit—and will make no apology for the fact—that in every critical discussion I have placed the welfare and the future and the well-being of the Micronesian people above all the other considerations. And I feel that this is what a successful High Commissioner or Chief Executive of the Trust Territory Government must do. It seems to me that any fair-minded individual would admit that at the present time the Interior Department exercises a great deal more control over or input into day-to-day decisions in Micronesia than has been true at various times in the past. Whether this is good or bad will have to be viewed historically in perspective. I have been one, for many many years—since long before I came to Micronesia—who believes that decisions are best made by those closest to the constituents on whose behalf the decisions are being made. There are others in both the United States Government and the Government of the Trust Territory who don't agree with that. This was the point that was widely argued in the Constitutional Convention: how strong should your central government be or how strong should your district or local government be. I do feel that the one answer for the people of Micronesia is to proceed in an orderly fashion toward becoming self-governing, so that they can *elect* their own officials and they will have constitutional rights which can be upheld in the courts, rather than being governed by a Secretarial Order which can be changed overnight by one individual. If I left any parting thought with the people of Micronesia, I would urge them to work together seriously and as rapidly as possible to adopt their own form of government and to elect their own top officials.

REPORTER: What do you think about the Constitution for the Federated States of Micronesia?

JOHNSTON: I think it is a remarkable document, considering that it was drawn up by people with different ethnic backgrounds, different cultures, different languages, all meeting together in good faith and drafting a document which can be presented in all of their areas as a possible blueprint for the Federated States of Micronesia. As I said on the day that the Constitutional Convention adjourned, I think the delegates to the Convention did prove that a lot of the critics were wrong by even coming up with a document that the delegates from the various districts could agree upon. It is a rather unusual structure of government, and it is up to the people of Micronesia to decide whether that is a structure of government they feel will be the best one for Micronesia. Remember that any constitution—the Constitution of the United States or anywhere else—can be and probably should be from time to time amended. At least it provides a basic framework and a working document that has now been translated into every vernacular in the Trust Territory and can be given consideration by the voters.

REPORTER: Is the TTPI doing an adequate job of educating the people of Micronesia to understand what is going on in Micronesia including the

Constitution and the Draft Compact? How would you evaluate the Education for Self-Government (ESG) program you helped establish in 1973?

JOHNSTON: First let me say that the ESG program – as spearheaded by Director of Public Affairs Strik Yoma and with the help of all the rest of you in his department, the Congress of Micronesia, and the district governments – has been a very successful program. It has done a great deal of good. It has been well organized and well and impartially conducted. Ever since I came to Micronesia, the problem of political education has been a controversial one. I personally have the feeling that if we continue the program through the year 2000 there will still be those who say "we can't vote yet, we don't have enough political education." Somewhere along the line we have got to collectively decide what is enough and what is too much. I believe – that the people of Micronesia have a great awareness of what their future government should be. And that they do know a great deal about the Constitution and the negotiations on the future status and the other things that will shape their future and their children's future. I feel that we have done a good job. I certainly would not apologize for it in any respect, and I would commend everyone who has worked together to make the ESG program as successful as we get closer to the date of voting on the Constitution.

REPORTER: What about the educational system we have today in Micronesia, is it adequate to meet the needs of the people?

JOHNSTON: I don't really believe it is, yet. I think it has made great strides. If you remember when I came here, only a small percentage of the students in some of the eastern districts who graduated from the eighth grade and wanted to attend the high school could not attend high school because of not enough classrooms, teachers, facilities; and we had to "screen" students and deny some of them the right to a secondary education. We don't have to do that anymore. We have almost reached the point where every young person in Micronesia can get a good general or vocational education. I think that is definitely a step forward. We have made progress in teaching English as a second language. We have made progress in adapting the curricula in Mathematics and Science to the Micronesian situation rather than the Mainland United States or anywhere else in the world. In those respects, we have made great progress. It is good for the educational system that it is administered by a Micronesian director of education and that the district directors of education are Micronesians. I personally would like to see the educational system continue to be improved. Far more needs to be done. In the training of teachers, we have upgraded the education of the teachers in the system. This is a program that needs to continue. Eventually we will have an educational system that will in every way compare favorably with others, but we are not there yet.

REPORTER: Mr. High Commissioner, are you planning to write about your experiences of your Administration in Micronesia?

JOHNSTON: That depends upon how much time I have. I am certainly going to be a very busy person in my new position. But I have saved a great many documents, some of them previously unpublished. I have accumulated so many interesting stories and experiences in the past seven years that I might sometime in the foreseeable future write a book or a series of articles about Micronesia. As I thought when I first came out here, this is one of the most fascinating places left in the world today. There is a lot of good about Micronesia that has not been told. I am not a professional author, but it may be that I will put my thoughts in writing at some time. Above all, whether I do or don't put my thoughts in writing, I certainly will be reading what others write about Micronesia. I will be keeping in touch with Micronesia. I hope you will keep me on the lists of those people receiving the *Micronesian Reporter* and *Highlights* so that I can keep up with what is going on here, and I certainly intend to visit the area so often as I can in the future.

HIGH COMMISSIONER
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TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

STRANGERS IN YOUR ISLANDS: TOURISM IN MICRONESIA

by P. F. Kluge

Tourists are coming to Micronesia. They are arriving by the thousands. In a few years, they may be arriving by the tens of thousands.

There was a time when tourists were rare in Micronesia. When a plane landed, you always knew most of the people who got off. There would be other Micronesians. There would be Americans who worked for the Trust Territory government, or there would be Peace Corps Volunteers. In those days, the planes carried a cargo of familiar faces.

If you have been to the airport lately, you know how much things have changed. Very often, you see long lines of strangers passing through Customs and Immigration. Sometimes, there are dozens of Japanese with sun-hats and cameras. Or there are Americans, with fishing rods and diving equipment. Some of these visitors come from as near as Guam. Others come from halfway around the world. More and more often, too, there are special flights which bring nothing but tourists – a whole plane-load of visitors.

The airports are not the only places where you can see signs of change. Remember when the 10-room Kaselehlia Inn was the one and only hotel on Ponape? Now there are nearly ten hotels on Ponape, and there are over 100 rooms available for visitors. Even the small district of Yap has twice as many hotel rooms now as it did a few years ago. This is only the beginning. In almost every district, more hotels are planned. Some are already being constructed. Majuro, for instance, now has only 40 rooms for visitors. But when a new hotel opens near the airport in a few years, there will be more than 50 rooms added.

With only a modest amount of planning tourism has already become the fastest-growing business in Micronesia. Compare what has happened in tourism with what has happened in other businesses. Have copra or scrap metal greatly increased in the last ten years? Are fishing and agriculture much busier than they used to be? Tourism is young. It has a short history in Micronesia. But already it is a fact of life in Micronesia. And if Micronesians have not yet made up their minds about tourism, it is time to decide.

WHY DO TOURISTS COME?

If you spend years and years living on an island, you feel you know all there is to know about that island. You have seen everything a thousand times. Sooner or later, you lose the ability to look at things as if they were new, to see your world through the eyes of a stranger who is looking at your island for the first time. This happens to

If tourism is to be a true partnership between Micronesians and others, even the appearance of a visitor facility should demonstrate a blending of local and foreign styles, designs and materials. Hotels should look like they belong in the island setting of Micronesia.

everyone who has lived many years in the same place. People who live in New York City walk down their streets, and never look up at the tallest buildings in the world. And Micronesians, who have seen the sun sink into their lagoon several thousand times, laugh at New Yorkers who become excited about the colors in the sky at sunset.

A wide gap separates the people who live in a place and the people who visit it. Sometimes they have a hard time understanding each other. Some people in Micronesia are pleased when tourists come. Some are annoyed. And many are puzzled. They ask, why do people come?

There is no one simple answer. Tourists do not all come for the same reason. True, they arrive in groups, stay in the same hotels, eat in the same restaurants, and they visit many of the same places. Still, they are all different people. Each one comes with his own purpose, his own goals, and his own problems.

Some tourists visit Micronesia because of World War II. Many American veterans want to return for a last look at the battlegrounds they fought on more than thirty years ago. On Peleliu and Saipan, they have a chance to spend a few hours walking over ground that once took many weeks, and many lives, to capture. The war also brings many Japanese to Micronesia. Some are here to recover bones, or build peace memorials. Some–a few–were part of the Japanese administration which ruled Micronesia from 1914 to 1944.

As time passes, the generation which remembers World War II will die out. They will be replaced by other kinds of tourists. Already, there are many more Japanese honeymooners than bone-hunters, many more American skin-divers than war-veterans. Before long, scenery and people, not history, will become Micronesia's main attraction. People will come because they want to swim, fish, rest, explore the islands.

Some things are certain. Warm places will always attract people who live in cold places. Small places will always attract people who live in big ones. Villages will always attract people who live in giant cities. Opposites attract. Like all Pacific Islands, Micronesia will continue to lure all kinds of people. As long as Micronesia is different from the rest of the world, people who are searching for something different will find their way here. But is this a good thing or a bad thing? Are tourists a plus or a minus for Micronesia? From looking at the experience of other parts of the world, it seems that tourism can be a nightmare or a dream.

NIGHTMARE

First, let us imagine the worst. Let us picture a Micronesian district where tourism has gone wrong.

Begin with the hotels. These are a row of tall, white buildings located along a fast, well-paved road that has become known as "the strip." The hotels are comfortable, expensive places – so comfortable, so expensive that it took vast amounts of outside money to build them. It also requires large numbers of outside specialists to run them. French cooks prepare meals to be served by Filipino waiters. Japanese barbers cut hair, Guamanians and Koreans play music. Americans run the gambling casino. Not many Micronesians are around the hotel during the day, except for a few people who keep the grass cut and the gardens weeded. By night, there are even fewer Micronesians around, since the meal and drink prices are far beyond what most local people could afford to pay.

When they were built, the hotels were expected to produce lots of money for local people. Things have not worked out that way. The local

Ideal tourism planning makes sure that hotels are not considered to be a fortress in a hostile land. In the restaurant, the menu should include local foods (for tourists) and American foods (for Micronesians). There may not be much entertainment at night, but people like to sit around, drinking and talking. If they wish, visitors can walk into the village with no problem.

government, local businessmen, local workers are all displeased. Though there is a visitors tax and a room tax, these revenues have been offset by the cost of extending paved roads and power lines to the hotel. When you add in the cost of modernizing the airport, expanding the customs and immigration departments, hiring extra policemen to investigate purse-snatchings and hotel-room burglaries, it seems that the district is actually losing money on tourism.

In the early days, there had been hopes that lots of Micronesian businessmen would profit from tourism. Handicrafts, boat-rentals, u-drives, and guided tours were all expected to create opportunities for anybody who was willing to work. But, once again, people have been disappointed.

The first thing to fail was the handicrafts trade. Local artists were overwhelmed by large orders for stickcharts, story boards, mats and baskets. They were all asked to produce ten times more than they could make. A few refused. Some other artists, wanting the money, attempted to fill these large orders, but the quality of their work was awful. So, when you go to the hotel gift shop, you find handicrafts from the Philippines, clothes from Taiwan, chocolate bars from New Zealand. Some of the handicraft items may say "Made in Micronesia," but everyone knows that these things have never been touched by Micronesian hands.

It took a little longer, but the same thing happened with boats and u-drives. After several tour groups had been left stranded, waiting for boats that never came, the hotel management decided that Micronesians were unreliable. They brought in their own tour-buses, their own cars, their own boats, and their own people to run them. As for locally-owned bars and restaurants – forget it. Too many tourists vacations have been ruined by drunks, by fights, by shouts of "haole go home." The hotel managers recommend that guests stay out of town after dark. The local police department agrees with this recommendation.

THE DREAM

When it looked like tourists would be coming to visit our second imaginary district, the people reached a couple of basic decisions. They decided that since tourists were coming to visit Micronesia, it was Micronesia – not Hawaii or Las Vegas – that they wanted to see. They also decided that since the tourists were coming to see Micronesia, they were also expecting to see Micronesians. The third decision was that if tourists were to come, their visits ought to benefit the district's residents. If the guest and the host were not happy with each other, neither one would be happy on his own.

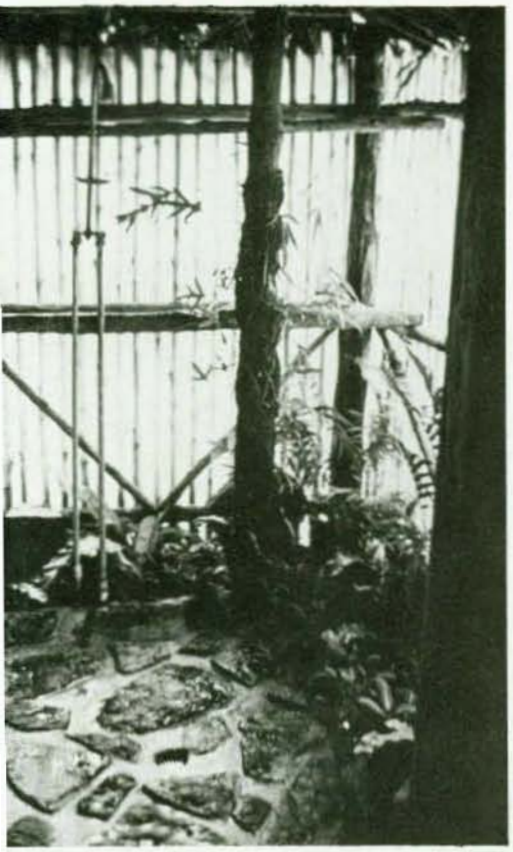
The people of this district knew that hotels were the foundation of tourism. They cost the most to build; they took in the most money. Also, the experience at the hotel would probably determine whether or not a visitor enjoyed a district. It would be hard to hate a hotel and like a district. The hotel was the key.

The people here were no richer than people in any other district. But they knew that it takes more than money to build a hotel. So some people contributed land, some people gave labor, others brought material. From the beginning, the ownership and operation of the hotel was a partnership between Micronesians and outsiders. And it *looked* like a partnership. Though it wasn't as big as hotels in other districts, the hotel was a blend of Micronesian and outside styles and designs. Local materials were used whenever possible.

In this district, the hotel is part of the community. It is not a fortress in a hostile land. In the restaurant, the small menu includes local foods (for tourists) and American foods (for Micronesians). There's not much entertainment at night, but people like to sit around, drinking and talking. If they wish, visitors can walk into the village with no problem.

If you're a guest, you can spend all your time at the hotel. But it is also possible to escape the hotel. Arrangements have been made with magistrates of outlying villages to receive hotel guests, who may stay all day and overnight if they like. In the villages, the tourists can fish, swim, eat local foods, hike, picnic. They can also visit small handicraft shops and watch articles being made.

One of the reasons that tourism does fairly well in this district is that it is not the *only* living part of the economy. There is nothing about



Travel writers, travel agents, and just plain ordinary tourists seem to be captivated by (and willing to pay good money for) the opportunity to take a cold shower in a garden setting.

tourism that makes it the enemy of fishing, agriculture, or any other business. When possible, the hotel people call visitors' attention to these other aspects of the district's economy. They do not want tourism to become the only successful business on the island.

No one is becoming an overnight millionaire in this district, but the hotel is considered a plus, not only by businessmen and book-keepers, but by the whole community. Many guests return here again and again. With every visit, they are less a tourist, more of a friend.

VISITORS . . . OR NO VISITORS

Our dream and nightmare districts are both imaginary. Perhaps the dream is too good to be believed. Perhaps the nightmare is too awful. Yet anyone who lives in Micronesia, or travels through it, must admit that he can find bits and pieces of both visions. Already, tourism in Micronesia is part dream, part nightmare. Before long, one or the other will prevail.

The main characteristic of the "nightmare" district is that the people who lived there had nothing to do with tourism, until it was too late. Then, they decided to oppose it – and, once again, they were too late. They were passive. They had no plan, no program. Tourism was something that happened to them, like a typhoon. They didn't like it, but there wasn't much they could do about it.

The people in the other district did not let tourism happen to them. They decided how they could profit from it, how they could control it. They made tourism work for them.

A district, an island, a village can easily say no to tourism. They can make it difficult, or impossible for visitors to come. Simply by limiting the number of hotel rooms, a district can control its attractiveness to tourists.

But if a district says yes to tourism, it must decide how much tourism it wants, and what kind. It must plan not only to protect itself, but to protect its visitors. It's not enough to ask that outsiders understand and respect Micronesians. Micronesians must understand and respect the people who visit them.

Tourism can be a dream or a nightmare in Micronesia. It is up to Micronesians to decide.

It's hard for Micronesians not to laugh at someone who has spent hundreds, maybe even a thousand dollars or more just to live for a few days in a grass shack. As long as Micronesia is different from the rest of the world, people who are searching for something pleasantly different will find their way here.

NUTRITION: A SOCIAL PROBLEM

by Moises Behar

If it is accepted that the fundamental role of any society is to ensure the well-being of all its members, including their adequate nutrition, then the presence of malnutrition to any significant extent must be interpreted as a failure of that society.

Ever since the eras of hunting and collecting in the history of mankind, one of the main reasons why man organized himself into a society was to ensure an adequate food supply for all its members. The need for an effective social order was even greater when man learned to domesticate animals and cultivate plants to obtain food. Progressively, as he was able to produce, preserve and distribute food more efficiently, larger and more complex societies developed. Originally, most of the time and energy of the working members of these societies was devoted to producing food.

As food production became more efficient, leaving more free time and allowing occupational specialization, the arts and sciences developed – leading to still more complex societies. The small groups of hunters evolved into clans, tribes, villages and states and from these into the large nations with the multinational organizations we know today. In the process, however, one of the original reasons for organized community life – to ensure an adequate food supply for all – seems to have been forgotten.

If it is accepted that the fundamental role of any society is to ensure the well-being of all its members, including their adequate nutrition, then the presence of malnutrition to any significant extent must be interpreted as a failure of that society. This is really the problem we are facing today: that it is the structure of society itself that limits the capabilities of many of its members to obtain their basic needs, including enough and adquate food, because power and the utilization of resources is concentrated in the hands of a minority.

This inequality is well known: it can be illustrated by analyzing land ownership or income distribution among different sectors of the population and is reflected, among other things, in the pattern of food consumption. For instance, it has been estimated that in many developing countries the 20% of the population which has the lowest income has also only one half the per capita energy intake of the top 10%. Obviously, both groups suffer from such a disparity:

"Low income groups inevitably consist of uneducated people with low social status. Many of their children die at an early age from disease and malnutrition, resulting in the need to compensate by bearing a larger number of children," says Dr. Behar.

the former group has less than the minimum required for a healthy life, and the latter has too much and suffers from the consequences of over-nutrition.

These disparities in the nutritional status of different socio-economic classes constitute one of the mechanisms which perpetuates social injustice. Low income groups inevitably consist of uneducated people with low social status. Many of their children die at an early age from disease and malnutrition, resulting in the need to compensate by bearing a larger number of children. Surviving children, living in poor environmental conditions, will suffer from chronic malnutrition and frequent, severe attacks of infectious diseases; they will have inadequate psycho-social stimulation, including mother-child interaction, and as a result their growth and development will be retarded. They will therefore have reduced learning capacity during childhood, and will grow into uneducated adults with very limited opportunities of overcoming their

poverty and improving their social status. From then on, their work performance, and therefore their earning capacity, will be still further reduced by their chronic state of malnutrition, particularly energy deficiency and nutritional anemias and they will become the parents of children destined to the same fate. This unfortunate situation is recognized in an old Japanese saying: "If you are poor you will be stupid".

Studies carried out at the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP) have shown that children of malnourished mothers are already handicapped from birth, as seen by their low birth weight. The problem could not be completely solved by correcting malnutrition in pregnancy because their low birth weight is related not only to the malnutrition of their mothers during pregnancy, but also to the small size of these mothers, which is in itself a manifestation of their childhood malnutrition. At least two generations may therefore be needed to break this vicious circle of parents living in poverty, having children in poverty, who will themselves become parents living in poverty.

On the other hand, in the affluent sections of society, well nourished and educated parents have well nourished and healthier children, who not only have greater opportunities for education but also derive more benefit from it. This situation tends to maintain the existing power structure at the expense of the poorer classes and thus perpetuate social injustice. Seen in this light, malnutrition is not only a consequence of gross inequalities in society, but also a mechanism for maintaining them. The situation can be compared with the way bees organize their society: an individual larva is selected and specially nurtured to become a queen. In the insect world, however, this is an instinctive means of maintaining a pre-established order: in human beings it is an artificial system created and maintained by a distorted development of society which negates the equal rights of all its members. The "ruling classes" have an interest, consciously or unconsciously, in maintaining a system that works so well in their favor, while ignoring the interests and desires of society as a whole.

On the occasions when the privileged members of society have become aware of and concerned by this injustice, their attempts to alleviate it have usually been through welfare based on charity. Where malnutrition is concerned, this has taken the form of establishing programs for treatment and rehabilitation of malnourished children or supplementary feeding

Sample Foods that will furnish an Adequate Diet and their Nutritive Contents. [1]

Food	Am't. in gm	Household Measure	Calories	Protein grams	Calcium mgm	Iron mgm	Thiamin mgm	Vit. C mgm	Vit. A I.U.	Riboflavin mgm	Niacin mgm
Eggs	50	1 medium	81.0	6.4	27.0	1.9	0.05	0	570	0.13	0.67
Mackerel	120	4 oz.	190.0	26.3	312.0	2.6	0.04	0	144	0.42	10.08
Sardines	90	3 oz.	180.0	15.7	342.9	3.7	0.01	0	27	0.27	6.66
Taro, Tuber	150	5 oz.	147.0	2.9	42.0	0.5	0.19	3.0	30	0.06	1.65
Taro, Leaves	75	1 serving	30.0	2.6	57.0	0.8	0.08	23.3	2784	0.21	0.75
Cabbage, (Chinese)	75	1 serving	10.5	1.1	102.0	0.7	0.05	33.7	2100	0.13	0.67
Breadfruit	150	5 oz.	153.0	2.5	49.5	1.8	0.16	43.5	60	0.05	1.35
Coconut, ((Mature)	60	½ coconut	215.4	2.0	12.6	1.2	0.06	1.2	0	0.01	0.12
Coconut Oil	14	1 tbsp.	123.8	–0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banana	90	2 small	79.2	1.1	7.2	0.5	0.04	9.0	432	0.04	0.63
Yam	150	5 oz.	151.5	3.6	30.0	0.9	0.15	13.5	trace	0.06	0.75
			1361.4	64.2	982.2	15.6	0.84	137.2	6147	1.38	23.33
Recommended Dietary Allowance			2680.0	60.0	800.0	10.0	1.0	70.0	5000.0	1.3	17.0

[1] Composition of foods used in Far Eastern Countries. Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Agriculture Handbook No. 34.

programs for those in greatest need. In isolation – and with the relief of orientation usually given to them – these programs are, at best, only palliative measures which do not deal wtih the basic causes of the problem and therefore have no lasting effect. In most cases, on the contrary, they help to maintain the *status quo* while giving a false impression that the problem is being taken care of.

These great disparities in the resources available to different population groups *within* countries also exist at the international level *between* countries, and the same type of social injustice is involved. Some rich and powerful nations enjoy a large share of the earth's resources at the expense of poorer countries, and in dealing with this situation have taken the same paternalistic attitude as the powerful groups within countries. The type of aid provided by the rich nations is most frequently also of a charitable nature, palliative and not directed to correcting the fundamental causes of inequality – on the contrary, helping to perpetuate them. In these dealings between rich and poor nations, the privileged minorities of the poor countries frequently work as allies of the dominating countries, acting as their representatives or instruments to exploit local resources for foreign utilization; of course they also benefit from this exploitation.

"Development Decade" Example

Even when honest international efforts are made to overcome the problems of poverty, malnutrition and all their associated conditions, mistakes are made because not enough consideration is given to the basic principles involved. Two recent examples will serve to illustrate this point – the results of the first "Development Decade" and of the "Green Revolution".

During the 1960s great international efforts were made to accelerate socio-economic development in the poor nations of the world. The main orientation, however, was towards speeding up economic growth, on the assumption that poor social conditions, including malnutrition, are merely consequences of the low economic capacity of the affected countries. These problems, it was believed, would be automatically resolved by an improvement in the national economy as a whole. The gross national product was therefore considered as the main criterion of progress, and inadequate thought was given to ensuring a redistribution of the increased wealth in order to overcome the existing social problems. Experience has shown that the desired economic growth was achieved in many countries, some even surpassing the targets set. Unfortunately, most of the additional national income went to the already rich and dominating groups, making them even wealthier than before, and thereby compounding the existing disparities without bringing significant improvements in the living conditions of the majority of the people – indeed, sometimes there was a deterioration. The same thing was observed at the international level: the rich nations became richer and the poor nations became comparatively poorer. As a result of the growing recognition of the failures of this earlier approach, efforts are now being made to pay more attention in development programs at the national level to a better distribution of resources, services and opportunities. Similarly, at the international level, a new economic order is being planned.

As for the Green Revolution, no one can deny the extraordinary and well-intentioned achievements in agricultural technology which resulted in bigger and better crops of the most important cereals. But again, no consideration was given to the fact that the new techniques could only be applied efficiently by farmers with adequate capabilities, knowledge and resources. The majority of poor small farmers living on subsistence agriculture could not benefit from this new technology. Thus, although the Green Revolution was a help to some countries with an insufficient grain production, it did not produce any significant improvement of the economic capacity, food availability or living conditions of the mass of poor and malnourished people.

It has become increasingly evident, therefore, that national economic growth and technology will have a very limited effect, if any, in improving the living conditions of the majority of the population if they do not operate within an adequate social structure. On the other hand, even without great economic capacity and advanced technology, better living conditions are clearly possible for the mass of the people if society is organized to this end.

The Mayans of Guatemala

Even more precise examples can be found in the story of the American Indians after the Spanish conquest, the Mayans of Guatemala, for instance. These people had developed a great civilization, and as far as we can tell from available information they had no serious nutritional problems. Their staple foods, as is still the case today, were corn and beans, supplemented by fruit, vegetables and meat from wild animals, which were abundant. Their agricultural practices would now be considered primitive, but since they had all the land they wanted they were able to

develop an effective system of land rotation, clearing areas of the forest to be used for cultivation for a few years and then moving to another area, thereby maintaining an ecological balance without damaging the land and obtaining all the food they needed. Children were breast fed up to about three years of age or even longer, until they were able to consume the regular family diet without any problem.

Then the Spaniards came, conquered the land, subjugated the people, and used all the best land for cash crops, mainly for export. This agricultural patterns has been maintained to the present day, and is indeed increasing in proportion: what were previously large forest areas in the plains are now producing cotton, sugar, coffee and beef for the rich privileged class and for rich countries. The Indians were left with the marginal mountainous land, and this is all they possess today – if they have any land at all. With the practice of subdividing the family property in each generation as it is handed from father to children, each family now has a very small plot which is insufficient to produce even minimum needs. They are compelled to exploit it to the maximum, even cultivating slopes too steep to maintain agriculture after clearing the forest covering them, since the wood is also needed as fuel for cooking. This has resulted in a rapid erosion of the land: many communities have practically no more usable land and thus have insufficient food. The whole country is suffering from the damage: the erosion in the mountains is resulting in flooding of the rivers in the low-land plains, where intensive commercial agriculture is seriously damaged. But these people are not to blame for the poor agricultural practices – they have to eat. Their diet is still based on corn and beans, but now in insufficient amounts and with very little to supplement it. Fruit and vegetables find their way to markets in the towns, and there are no more wild animals for meat. Poultry, eggs, milk and milk products are too expensive, particularly for those who have practically no cash and are living on subsistence agriculture. Even if they produce some of these foods themselves they will send them to market to bring in badly needed cash. Beef is one of the most important products of the country; it is produced in the rich low-land plains, but only for export, and for the limited internal market of those who can afford it. The influence and social pressures of the dominating western culture is forcing mothers to wean their children at an increasingly early age, and since no milk or other adequate substitute for breast milk is available, severe malnutrition is highly prevalent in small children and the majority of the population lives in a state of chronic under-nutrition which tends to perpetuate the situation.

It can, of course, be argued that the world situation has changed considerably over the centuries, and that there are many new complicating factors present today, among them increasing population pressures in many countries. This does not invalidate the basic principle that malnutrition is primarily a manifestation of social injustice. It is a good sign that these situations are now recognized: the so-called "food crisis" we have been facing during the past years is indeed a recrudescence of a long standing chronic problem which has been with us for centuries. It is an unfortunate commentary on our social and political systems that it apparently required current widespread famines to awaken national and international consciousness to the problems of insufficient and inadequate food for large segments of the world's population. *Acute hunger,* as experienced now by millions of people, is obviously intolerable; *chronic hunger,* or subclinical forms of malnutrition, affecting a much larger proportion of the world's population, should not be underestimated nor should measures to correct it be neglected. It can only be hoped that

"Hunger, as experienced now by millions of people, is obviously intolerable . . . "

today's food crisis, together with the energy crisis and the economic crisis, will have positive effects in the long run. They may force the world to reappraise its political, social and economic structure, and national governments to reassess their purposes and goals. Investments in health, education, nutrition and housing, long considered by conventional economists as giving low or long-term returns are now being considered for higher priority in many countries. It can confidently be expressed that this change in strategy, taking account of people as human beings and not simply as machines or statistics, will lead to improved development policies.

It the presently under-developed countries, where malnutrition and poverty – with all their social consequences – are now widespread, were to redirect and strengthen their efforts to create better living conditions for all their populations, and if the efforts of the international community were oriented to supporting these programs, a better future for mankind could be foreseen. A well nourished population, biologically healthier, as shown by the secular changes observed in many population groups, will be more active socially and better able to contribute effectively to the progress of a country and the well-being of all its people. At the international level, this should result in a more harmonious understanding and cooperation between all the nations of our small planet. A reduction of the great disparities now existing within and between nations should therefore be of benefit to all peoples.

Young maidens of Puluwat, in the outer islands of Truk, performing a traditional dance.

During the recent eighth round of the Micronesian future political status negotiations, the proposed Draft Compact of Free Association was concluded except for one issue which remains to be negotiated: Micronesian control over living and non-living marine resources and Law of the Sea. The following article reflects the great importance the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Law of the Sea places on control of Micronesia's territorial sea.

THE MICRONESIAN SEA: WHO WILL CONTROL IT?

"In the old days, we did not have the 'miles' system to say how far our ocean extends, but if you look as far as you can look, that is how far our boundary extends and that is why we say our boundary extends from the land all the way out to the open sea."

Chief Falawath of Yap,
July 9, 1973, to the
Joint Committee on Future
Status of the Congress of
Micronesia

by Michael Malone

Most of Micronesia's world is ocean.

With over 2,203 small islands scattered throughout 1,600,000 square miles area of the North Pacific the role the sea could play in the economic future of the islands cannot be over-estimated. Since World War II, developed nations of the world have realized that "hard" minerals and petroleum are found in great quantity under the sea. And with new advances in oceanography and geological thinking, it is now possible to search for these undersea riches and worth billions of dollars in something more than a random fashion.

The problem is, of course, who will own these riches?

It was no surprise that the Congress of Micronesia created its Joint Committee on Law of the Sea in 1973 to appraise the issue of ownership of the potential treasures of the sea. The Committee hired a consultant, Frederick Wyle, a prominent San Francisco attorney, and devised a strategy to obtain international recognition of Micronesia's right to expand its boundaries, control its living and non-living marine resources, and obtain assurances that its ocean resources will not be exploited by more advanced nations.

To accomplish this aim, Micronesian delegation headed by then-Senator Andon Amaraich of Truk quietly attended the 3rd United Nations-sponsored Conference on Law of the Sea in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1974 as part of the United States delegation.

The official position of the Micronesian delegation was to obtain exclusive jurisdiction over a 200-mile "economic zone", a position favored by the majority of the 150 nations at the conference, and obtain United States support for this position.

Of immediate concern to the Micronesian delegation was the problem of regulating and harvesting of highly migratory species of fish, like tuna, that abound in Micronesian waters.

An official report of the four-member Micronesian Law of the Sea delegation to the Congress of Micronesia in January 1976, said its instructions were "vigorously carried out" in meetings with U.S. officials both in Washington, D.C., and in Micronesia. But the report also mentioned "fundamental . . . (and) serious conflict . . . " with the U.S. delegation over the issue of jurisdiction over tuna, currently Micronesia's most potentially lucrative resource. Foreign fishing boats, for example, take an estimated $75 million to $100 million worth of living marine resources from Micronesia's waters each year, while a Micronesian

THE TUNA ISSUE

Tuna has been described as the "only living resource of consequence" in the Micronesian sea. The reason is simple: at present $75 million to $100 million worth of fishery resources are exploited in Micronesian waters by foreign nationals each year. When it became known that the United States and other developed nations favored giving coastal and island areas like Micronesia only very limited control over this important resource, Micronesia was forced to seek a voice of its own at the international Law of the Sea Conference.

The Micronesia position favors proposals which will (a) insure that Micronesia has a preferential right to tuna within its economic zone to the full extent of its harvesting capacity, (b) insures that Micronesia will be paid a reasonable fee for tuna caught by foreign vessels within its economic zone, (c) insures that foreign fishing will not interfere with Micronesia's preferential rights, and (d) encourages conservation of tuna to insure perpetuation of the various stocks of fish.

fishing industry is non-existent. The report continued: "The United States and others are proposing that the coastal states (Micronesia included) be given . . . only a very limited special right to tuna found within its zone . . . the gap between the two sides on the tuna question is quite great."

Consequently, before the Caracas meeting adjourned the Micronesian delegation asked for U.S. support to obtain independent observer status for Micronesia at subsequent meetings. The United Nations General Assembly later agreed to this request. At the Fourth U.N. Conference on Law of the Sea in Geneva, Switzerland, and again last May in New York, a delegation headed by Marshalls Representative Charles Domnick represented Micronesia for the first time at an international forum. Such observer status permitted fuller participation, and greater access to other nations represented at the meetings.

And for good reason. The demand for valuable "hard" minerals have doubled in the last 20 years. Experts now predict the value will double again in the next 25 years. The United States now pays billions of dollars annually to foreign governments for minerals and petroleum which the U.S. cannot produce itself. The American mining industry is already strongly urging free access to these non-living mineral resources of the sea to assure the U.S. a supply of strategically important metals now controlled by other governments.

More recently discovered is the potential wealth contained in potato-shaped manganese nodules lying loose on the bottom of most of the world's oceans. The world's largest concentration rests inside a 12-million-square-mile triangle southeast of the Hawaiian Islands where they occur in densities of two pounds per square foot. A single nodule may contain more than 30 different metals: cobalt, nickel, copper and manganese (in that order) with the first three in great demand by steelmakers in forming super alloys.

When a law of the sea treaty is finally drafted, it will give about 150 governments rights to both living and non-living resources in the sea. However, if Micronesia enters into the proposed draft compact of Free Association with the United States, the U.S. then would exercise Micronesia's foreign affairs powers which could hamper Micronesia's control over its ocean resources. Because of this, during the eighth round future political status negotiations, the Congress' Joint Committee on Future Status, advanced the Micronesian position on Law of the Sea. Before the draft compact of Free Association will be considered by the Congress and people of Micronesia, the Micronesian delegation maintained the agreement must first include specific provisions that guarantee full rights and control to Micronesia.

As for now, the eventual outcome of the law of the sea and related future political status negotiations remains to be seen. Hopefully, agreement will soon be concluded to pave the way for the difficult task of making the sea the foundation of Micronesia's economy. As richer advanced nations are eager to take the biggest share of the sea's fish, oil, and mineral resources, poorer, undeveloped nations like Micronesia are determined to see they get a fair share of the catch.

SURFACE DISTRIBUTION OF FERROMANGANESE DEPOSITS ON THE OCEAN FLOOR

Source of data: Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, Columbia University, Palisades, N.Y.

CAN MICRONESIA BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING BY 1981?:

A Question Faced by Micronesia's First Economic Conference

by John S. DelRosario, Jr.

After nearly three decades of trusteeship, Micronesia's first economic conference was held on Moen, Truk, May 5-14.

Jointly sponsored by the Congress of Micronesia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the meeting has been viewed by many as one of the most significant events ever to take place in the Trust Territory.

More than 50 leaders from the five districts, and Kusaie, gathered at the Truk District Legislature to review 15 thick reports prepared by experts from the United Nations that visited the islands in recent months. Conference participants literally sweated through the reports page-by-page in the crowded meeting hall.

It was hard work. The Conference chairman, Rep. Raymond Setik, set a fast pace for the meeting. Some said it was conducted more like an international forum where the head of each district delegation was given the opportunity to present his district's list of priorities. There was little time to beat around the bush; those who attempted to do so were politely told that time was of the essence.

The leaders of the Congress of Micronesia also attended the meeting. In an opening address, Senate President Tosiwo Nakayama and House of Representatives Speaker Bethwel Henry urged delegates to choose to move forward now to develop a good economic foundation for future posterity.

"If it is going to be done, it must be done now," the Congress leaders said.

The Interior Department's Director of the Office of Territorial Affairs, Fred Zeder, told district leaders that during the trusteeship Micronesia has been the subject of more than $5 million worth of feasibility studies.

"Studies are not worth a damn," he declared. His comment drew a round of applause from conferees. "There's $5 million worth of studies at Interior in Washington shelved for good, piling up dust." He said none were ever implemented.

Zeder, a Texas businessman before coming to Interior recently, said he supported the studies prepared by the U.N. experts under the direction of Dr. Robert Trusk, UNDP's Project Manager for Micronesia.

After the formalities of the meeting's opening were concluded, the more than 50 conferees were quickly divided into four working groups to study specific issues and report their findings and recommendations to the entire conference.

The working groups were: the Committee on Government Organization and Administration, chaired by Senator Bailey Olter; Social Sectors, chaired by Congressman Kuniwo Nakamura; Economic Analysis and Finance, chaired by Senator John Mangefel; and, Development Sectors, chaired by Congressman Sasauo Haruo.

The conferees went to work keeping in the back of their minds that

Micronesia's national economy is in serious trouble–there exist serious economic imbalances. For instance, in fiscal year 1975, the private sector and the government spent $25.1 million dollars more than the income of $126.0 million, which was the total value of all goods and services produced. This was possible only because of large transfers from the United States government. It became clear to many that Micronesia does not have a real economy at all.

Furthermore, total imports of $79.5 million dollars exceeded the $17.8 million dollars of exports by $61.7 million dollars. The government spends $71.0 million or 56 percent of the national income. This practice not only drains manpower and capital away from the private sector, but it requires large sums of outside grants. Local taxes amount to only $7.1 million dollars annually or 10 percent of government spending.

But these problems did not discourage the conferees from their work. They came up with sound recommendations as to what must to be done to make Micronesia a self-supporting nation within the next 10 to 15 years.

Briefly, the Committee on Government Organization and Administration was assigned to study the structure and functions of the three levels of government: National, State and Municipal.

It recommended that the present central government should be "reorganized." There was a general consensus that Micronesia should have an administrative system which the Micronesian tax revenues could gradually support. It was recommended that the present headquarters and district governments should be trimmed of excessive costs and unnecessary programs.

Further, it was felt that the various departments at Headquarters, for instance, should be totally or partially decentralized or centralized. The committee recommended that the present Department of Resources and Development should be divided into two separate departments–Department of Natural Resources: Responsible for the development of Marine Resources, Agriculture and Forestry; and, the Department of Economic Development: Responsible for Lands and Surveys, Foreign Investment, Tourism, Trade and Commerce.

It was also recommended that since the Department of Personnel provides purely service function, it should be totally decentralized with present functions in the future being assigned to each of the districts and answerable to the District Administrator.

Participants agreed that the States (district) governments need not be patterned after the central government and that they should be given more power to make major decisions. They felt that in each of the districts, there is a need for stronger municipal governments and that both should be made self-supporting as much as possible.

The Committee on Economic Analysis was assigned to find out what measures should be taken to enable Micronesia to eventually become self-supporting and specifically, how to pay for it. It recommended that greater attention be given to a balanced and equitable economic growth. Priorities in each district be geared more toward income producing development.

It recommended ways to achieve a balanced economy and equitable growth which would involve: Holding down private consumption and encourage savings; increase productive development; hold down the cost of government and increase taxes and user charges; promote import substitution and local production by taxing certain consumer goods, and increase exports; and, redirect the educational system to ensure that the labor force has the skills required to meet planned objectives; and, encourages employment opportunities.

The committee recommended that emphasis should be given to the development of agriculture, marine resources, tourism, transportation; and, the construction of needed infrastructure according to district priorities. It specifically recommended that a tax commission be established to make recommendations to the national and State governments on how best to increase revenues. It was felt that taxes could and should represent at least 10 percent of the expected gross domestic product or total national income within the next several years rather than the 5.5 percent it represents today. This 10% could easily be afforded out of the economy.

The Committee on Economic Analysis and Finance further recommended that the national government should levy and collect graduated personal income and business and import taxes to fund the national legislature and return the remainder to the districts where collected. It was agreed that the national legislature should review and determine the costs of running the national government and that gradually this be funded by local revenues on a program by program basis.

Conferees felt that after a determination of what each State can produce locally, a tax high enough to discourage consumption should be levied on imported items, particularly those items which can be produced locally. And finally, the committee felt that the cost of government should be financed by local resources "to the greatest possible extent."

The Committee on Social Sectors was assigned to study how education, health services, manpower development and housing could be restructured so as to become more self-supporting.

The Committee felt that the present educational system should be restructured so as to help individuals lead meaningful lives within a Micronesian setting. It was agreed that the central government should pay for

SOME OF MICRONESIA'S ECONOMIC POTENTIALS

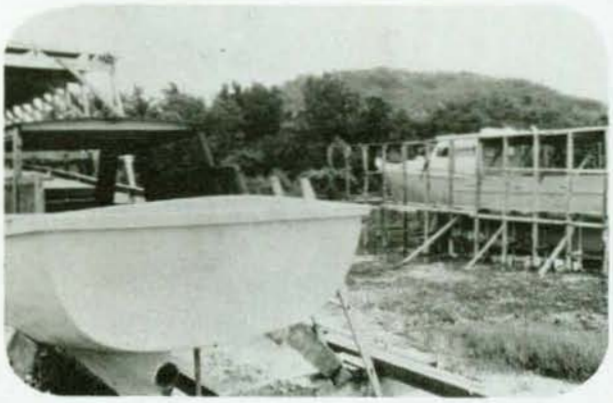
Ponape is expecting to yield 300 tons of polished rice by the end of 1977.

There are about 12,000 tons of copra equivalent of coconuts used domestically in Micronesia per year.

The coconut mill in Palau is capable of handling 140 tons of copra per day.

Palau's Van Camp catches approximately 16,000,000 pounds of skipjack tuna a year.

The Ferro-Cement Boat Building Program – This ferro-cement boat project on Moen, Truk, is providing a new and better design of fishing boats for the district's fleet.



the first eight years of compulsory education and anything beyond that level should be handled by the student or his parents.

The Committee on Social Sectors felt that there is a need to reduce government cost in maintaining the present level of health services. It therefore recommended that by calendar year 1977, a head tax should be implemented at the States level; and, that a graduated income health tax be implemented during the same calendar year.

The Committee felt that each of the districts should establish a commission to handle housing development programs. This commission should develop plans for land use, zoning, and establishing housing standards. It was also recommended that the use of local materials should be encouraged and that federal funding for housing projects should be centralized during the five-year plan.

In the area of Manpower development, participants felt that this should be a district concern and that priorities for training abroad should be centralized. Each district should be responsible for employment and job services and that incentives be given to the private sector with continuous program for their employers.

The next Committee on Development Sectors was given the task of determining how marine resources, agriculture, tourism, agro-industries and livestock, forestry, manufacturing, mineral resources, water resources, public works (infrastructure) and transportation can better contribute to the total economic development plan for Micronesia.

Concerning marine resources, the committee recommended that offshore tuna fisheries requiring major capital investments and significant advances in technology would naturally be export oriented, reef and lagoon fisheries should be geared more toward local consumption. Unexploited and underexploited fisheries resources could create significant income to the small-scale fishermen and therefore, should be investigated and developed as soon as possible by the districts.

In agriculture, specifically livestock and forestry, it was recommended that production should be expanded beyond the subsistence level, step by step, for intra-island, inter-island and for international (export) markets. Much good timber exists that should be harvested instead of using imports.

In the area of tourism, the committee recommended that Micronesia should be developed as a total destination point. The establishment of Pacific Region Airline routes into Micronesia should be promoted. It noted that while tourism is desirable, it should not be developed at the expense of local culture and lifestyle.

Concerning infrastructure, the committee views it essential that each district make roads, docks, chill boxes and other needed facilities available to the farmers. It recommended that field trip ships to the outer-islands be made more on a regular basis to encourage farmers to increase their production.

In terms of small-scale manufacturing industries, conference members recommended that this be encouraged and based on locally available raw materials. It was further recommended that food processing for local products should be encouraged. The committee considered it essential utilities such as water systems be made self-paying by increasing consumer charges immediately. It felt that the operation and maintenance of water supply systems should be organized on sound business principles.

In the area of transportation, it was agreed that a need exists to develop an adequate marine, land and air transportation system for Micronesia, primarily controlled by Micronesians which would serve the national interest and permit the desired direction of development.

In 1975, 66,640 tourists entered the T.T. and spent $4.9 million here.

At the conclusion of the ten-day conference, participants agreed that a balanced economic development plan for Micronesia and for each district should be formulated and followed. It was also generally agreed that Micronesia should shift from its present consumption-oriented economy to a production-oriented economy geared to that of prodution of import substitution goods and to gradually increase the export capacity of Micronesia. If anything, the conferees have become more aware that time is of the essence–the termination date of the trusteeship by about 1981 and there has still been virtually no economic development in Micronesia.

There was also the general feeling among conferees following the meeting that such a conference–to put together Micronesia's own economic plan–should have been done "long time ago."

The presiding officers of the Congress of Micronesia–Nakayama and Henry–said in a radio interview after the conference that they now "have better hopes for Micronesia's economic future" under the present plan since it is "The Micronesian plan which involved leaders from all districts."

At this writing, the recommendations on all the areas considered in the Truk meeting are being written into the so-called Indicative Plan for Micronesia. That plan will be presented to the Sixth Congress of Micronesia's Second Special Session July 19 in Ponape for consideration. The recommendations provide UNDP and COM experts a comprehensive framework to put together the national and district goals and plans to build the economy of each district and of Micronesia as a whole.

"UNDP — what it is and what it does."

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the United Nation's major arm and the world's largest channel for international technical cooperation. It assists developing countries like Micronesia to provide for their own people the essentials of a decent life – including adequate nutrition, housing, employment, earnings, education, health care, consumer goods and public services.

UNDP came into existence in 1965. Working with nearly every government around the world and with 22 international Agencies, UNDP helps support some 7,600 development projects in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, parts of Europe and including Micronesia. Though they involve a broad spectrum of activities, all their projects focus on one basic target–the fuller and better use of available natural resources and human talents and energies.

Its involvement in Micronesia came at the request of the Congress of Micronesia a few years ago. Since then, UNDP has brought several experts into Micronesia to study specifically how Micronesia will become a more self-supporting nation. Its experts have visited each district, including Kusaie, collecting information in an effort to identify problem areas. Their findings, in addition to the recommendations which came out of the May 5th to 14th COM/UNDP sponsored conference will be used to draw up Micronesia's Indicative Plan.

THE 1976 ESSAY CONTEST

theme:

The Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia

November 8, 1975, will go down in the history of Micronesia as an important date. On that day, the proposed Constitution for the Federated States of Micronesia was signed on Saipan by the more than 50 delegates to the Micronesian Constitutional Convention. Although a date has yet to be set, a referendum will take place throughout Micronesia to either approve or disapprove the draft Constitution. Because of the importance of this document for Micronesia, it was selected to be the subject for this year's Education for Self-Government (ESG) Essay Contest.

The contest was divided into two parts. One part was for high school students to write directly on the Constitution (Category A), and another was for college students, teachers and people in education (Category B). Besides writing directly on the Constitution, the latter group was also given the opportunity to display their talents at developing a curriculum with the Constitution as the subject matter.

Among selected topics that students, teachers and people in education were given to write on were: "An Analysis of Any Article in the Constitution", "A Statement of What the Constitution Means", "An Analysis of the Possible Effects the Constitution Might Have on Life in Micronesia if It is Approved" and an option, "Why I Should Teach the Constitution, What Particularly Should Be Taught and a Description of How the Subject Ought to be Taught".

Of the entries that were submitted, two essays from each catergory were selected district winners and sent to Saipan for the final selection of territory-wide winners.

On March 23, 1975, a panel of judges which included Victorio Uherbelau, Gerald Craddock, John Perkins, Carl Heine, Francisco Uludong, Derson Ramon and Valentine Sengebau announced John M. Silk of Assumption High School and Johnson Ittu of Alpena Community College grand prize winners for the high school and post high school categories respectively.

Nineteen-year-old Silk whose essay entitled "Traditional Rights Vs. The Cultural Revolution" wrote: "Part of the cultural revolution is an undeniable impulse toward a true and better democratic government. Article V is a road block to this impulse . . . Our future government will never look bright to us unless we solve the existing conflict between out traditional rights and this cultural revolution." Twenty-one-year-old Ittu wrote: "Micronesia is being hurled into the twentieth century at an astounding rate. She will face many new and difficult problems and I believe that the Constitution will be a guide in solving the problems we will face in our metamorphosis into a free and strong paradise nation."

An unfortunate delay in announcing the contest outside of Micronesia resulted in a few entries submitted under the second category for post high school students and others. On the other hand, the number of high school entries was good and because of the amount of time that was made available, the panel felt that these showed deep thought and more preparation.

Other territory-wide winners were: Cindy Siren, Jersey Satak and Norma Sumang, second, third, and fourth prize respectively for the first category; and A. Sweep Katlong, Vicente C. Camacho and Matheus Lokopwe, second, third, and fourth prize respectively for the second category.

Prizes were given to the winners; two prizes of $25.00 each for the two best essays from each category in each district. The Trust Territory-wide winners' prizes are as follows: Grand Prize, $100.00; Second Prize, $50.00; Third Prize, $30.00; and Fourth Prize, $20.00.

In congratulating the winners, Strik Yoma, chairman of the Education for Self-Government program, expressed the hope that their interest in the proposed Constitution is "only the first step" of participation in the decision making facing the Trust Territory. In a letter written to all winners, Yoma stated: "The hard work and careful thinking evident in your essay is proof enough that we can look forward with confidence that our people are aware of what is happening and preparing themselves for the future. The interests of students and teachers at all levels of Micronesian education is extremely important if we are to successfully cope with the changes of the future."

All the Trust Territory-wide winning essays under Category A and the first and second winning essays under Category B are printed in the following pages in their entirety. The third and fourth winning essays under Category B plus the rest of the district winning essays are printed in excerpts.

The following Micronesian students were the district winners:

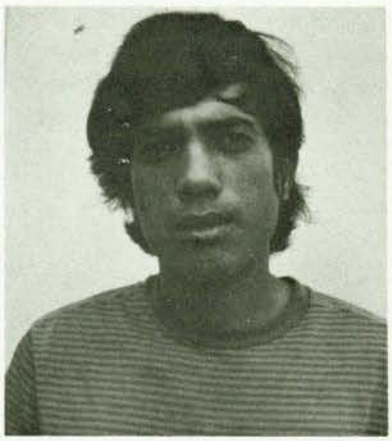
Category A (High School)

Marianas	*Cecilia T. Lizama* *Cindy Yvonne Siren*
Marshalls	*(Trust Territory Grand Prized Winner) John M. Silk* *Dorothy Kabua*
Palau	*Dorine Inabo* *Norma Sumang*
Ponape	*Martin Jano* *Helbert Alfred*
Truk	*Urubano Sony* *Jersey Satak*
Yap	*Jackson M. Henry*

Category B (College and People in Education)

Ponape	*(Trust Territory Grand Prized Winner) Johnson Ittu* *Memoryna Johnny*
Truk	*Matheus Lokopwe* *Abram Rold*
Marshalls	*A. Sweep Katlong*
Marianas	*Vicente C. Camacho*

TRADITIONAL RIGHTS Versus THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN MICRONESIA -- by John M. Silk



One must not let his feelings and thoughts be sold at the market place. It is with this intention that I am writing this essay. The importance of Article V of the proposed Constitution for the Federated States of Micronesia, cannot be calculated without a review of our history, a history that has undergone and still is undergoing a cultural revolution.

The cultural revolution can be traced back hundreds of years ago, to the moment when we had our first contact with the outside world. The full impact of this revolution has not been felt until recent years. In the fall of 1974, there was the challenge of a few intellectual Marshallese against some of our chiefs and leaders, an effort to dominate the long unchallenged political scene in the Marshalls District, a political scene that had been long considered unique and unchallengeable, because of the status of the people in it. This challenge alone, although was not successful, changed our outlook at this scene, replacing it with a clear conclusion that a new era in politics has emerged and is quickly penetrating our inner circles, pushing a new cultural outlook ahead. The changing life-style of the young people in regard to clothing, the songs they sing, and their stubborn insistence on being recognized by the adult society, are yet other clear indications of the growing impact of this cultural revolution.

With all of these indications and the strenuous 1974 campaigning in the Marshalls, the already present question, concerning the role of traditional leaders in our political system, is confronting us more than ever before and demanding to be answered. It is fitting, therefore, that it should come into full focus during these years of great importance to our country.

Section one of Article V has given us a clear answer to the question of the role of traditional leaders in our political system. However, it is most unfortunate that the answer it gives is contrary to our ideals, beliefs and aspirations toward a democratic government.

We all understand that to have a true democratic government, power must be retained and exercised by the people, either directly or indirectly through a system of representation. If we are to have people representing the majority of us, then there should be a fair election for those individual representatives. It is difficult to insure that a fair campaign and election will prevail, where two people of different status are involved. We find this very true today. In looking at the Congressional election in the Marshalls District, I have acquired a strong feeling that during that election, most voters were not judging the candidates on the issues but rather on the social status of the candidates themselves. This is a danger which can lead people from some of the most basic rights—rights to choose and to elect whom they please. When a traditional leader's name is among those in the ballot, most people of his island will vote for him no matter what he stands for. They are compelled to vote for him out of fear of losing their lands or losing his favor in them, which is very essential in the Marshalls and perhaps the whole of Micronesia. In a situation like this, can we not assume that voters were being forced "indirectly" to vote for people they would not have otherwise voted for? At the same time, can we deny that some of their basic rights have been denied?

Aside from a fair campaign and election, these is also the danger that one might take advantage of the other, because of the social status between them. This is something that we must watch out for, and the only way to make sure that it doesn't happen is to avoid sheltering these two species of different status under the same roof, especially at these times when Micronesia is just beginning to form its fundamental and structural foundation. The prejudices and corruptions of a coaltion form of government, especially of a cat and mouse form, will be too much a burden for Micronesia to bear.

It is my opinion, therefore, that we must not let our traditional leaders have a free hand in politics, either at national or at state level. We must not allow them a free hand in public services involving political decisions as they have today. Instead, they should be reserved to function as traditional leaders in their respective villages.

Part of the cultural revolution is an undesirable impulse toward a true and better democratic government. Article V is a road block to this impulse and beyond the road blocks lies our new cultural outlook. Shaping a political system is the heaviest responsibility weighing upon the rising generation of Micronesians. It is my conviction, therefore, that for one to construct a system, one must weigh the values of the past and to compare them with the expectations of the future. I boldly proclaim to you, that our future government will never look bright to us, unless we solve the existing conflict between our traditional Rights and this cultural Revolution.

OUR PARCHMENT OF PEACE —— by Cindy Y. Siren

Observing the Micronesian Islands, they are peaceful as the wind blows the palms to and fro. The beaches glisten in harmony with the bright blue sky, centered with the warm sun. However, hidden and unobserved by the exotic essence of these tropical islands, is the strategy and the struggle to exist.

The several thousand people who inhabit these islands are progressing from their ancient worlds of Chiefs and Nobles to an age where a precise and trustworthy ruling body is compulsory.

Micronesia which is composed of six districts – Marianas, Palau, Truk, Ponape, Yap and the Marshalls, is separated by the blue ocean of the Pacific. Each of these districts are similar in very basic ways. There exists a bond of brotherhood which sustains the people through periods of instability and depression.

Micronesia has been nursed by her Godmother, the United States. Through supervision and through a period of effort and determination, the people of Micronesia have taken a step forward. Though difficulty will persist, Micronesia will gradually swim deep waters. She has begun with a step towards self-supporting, thus establishing the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Constitution marks a great event in every Micronesian's life, though it may not be too evident. We, the Micronesians, are now proud to say we have a constitution of our own. A feeling of pride and assurance now lives within me, personally as a citizen of Micronesia. I am proud of our leaders who successfully guided the people into a world of glorification, devoted to our native soil. We have now within us the sense of accomplishment and confidence.

The Constitution will serve as a communication basis understood by all. It will serve as "OUR PARCHMENT OF PEACE." We will be led safely by the principles of democracy, devoted to freedom and equality.

The Constitution was undoubtedly intended for the benefit of everyone, old and young, but there is a sad side of the great achievement. I personally sympathize with our elders. Unaware of much of what has occurred, they will find with a shock that our "Micronesian World" has shattered. Their rules and regulations will be looked upon as relics of the past with no other significance.

It is difficult and almost impossible to take on a modern role and, meanwhile, cling to our native cultures. The older Micronesian generation has always been protected by the thick and strong shell of culture and custom. As the cloud of modernization hovers over Micronesia, it slowly chips the protective shell away, only leaving a fine thin layer. This fragile layer, at anytime, will crack into a million pieces leaving our "old folks" in a stage of confusion.

I feel a great love for Micronesia for we are unique. As the last of our original culture is shattered, I will join with "true" Micronesians in mourning. I will weep for the cultures that our ancestors have fought to sustain, and shed tears of joy for the new world we will enter as Citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia.

A STATEMENT OF WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO THE WRITER PERSONALLY

OUR PARCHMENT OF PEACE

QUESTION OF UNITY IN MICRONESIA

A STATEMENT OF WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO THE WRITER PERSONALLY

—— by Jersey Satak

To create a government is not an easy thing to do. The delegates who represent our six districts knew definitely what they did not want before they wrote our newly drafted Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia. They also knew definitely that they did not want a strong government to be established in our country. The delegates wanted certainly to keep our six districts as they were. On the other hand, they knew all too well that our present government in Micronesia today has been a miserable failure, and that our Congress of Micronesia has too little power to carry out its business.

The Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia based on democratic principles means a government in which the power rests in the people. If we, the citizens of Micronesia, ratify the newly drafted Constitution for our country, we will be the ones to hold the power of the government without any foreign interference. The Constitution defends us from advantages of foreigners. Also, if we adopt it as the foundation of our government, there will be many changes to expect in life in Micronesia. In fact, the power of the government would be under the control of any citizen of Micronesia, not the outsiders who only wanted to take advantage of our land.

First of all, the newly drafted Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia gives us the power of our government and provides equal rights among the citizens of Micronesia to participate in the government. It also establishes justice, insures domestic tranquility, provides for the common defense, promotes the general welfare and secures the blessing of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.

No nation can be strong without justice under law for all. That means Micronesia would not be strong without a Constitution. The newly drafted Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia is a supreme law for this country. Without laws there would be no peace to our districts. Each district would be alone or apart from its neighbors. The people would not have any loyalty to anything other than their immediate circle of family and friends. The strong people would take advantage of the weaker ones. No one could go about in peace and safety. In other words, without our newly drafted Constitution, we will be at the mercy of foreign countries.

Fellow Micronesians, just look back to the time our country suffered from foreign countries — the Spanish, the German, and the Japanese. Why did we have this serious problem? Aren't we human beings? I am not only mad at the influence of these foreigners, but thankful to them because they taught us some lessons. When it is time to ratify the newly drafted Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, we should be influenced to say "yes" and adopt it as the foundation for our new government to promote peace and to give us equal rights.

in the next quarter

Daniel C. Smith, a former Peace Corps volunteer in Micronesia, offers an article titled "A Year of Cable TV in the Marshalls", his assessment of the recently-introduced cable television in the Marshall Islands. Dan, who authored the Reporter's cover story, "Television in the Marianas" (First Quarter, 1974), begins his new article: "Some neighborhood children press up to the windows and others creep in the door. Bolder adults bring folding chairs and urchins are shhs'd into silence as Majuro settles down to watch another night of cable TV. This ritual was a year old in March 1976."

Robert Klitzkie writes about "United States Policy Regarding Foreign Investment in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands". A member of the law firm of Brooks & Klitzkie, P.C. on Guam, Klitzkie says this about his article: "You will notice that the paper indicates that the first foreign investment law was a part of the Trust Territory Code of 1952. It was in 1970 that the Foreign Investor's Business Permit Act became law."

These and other contributions from our far-flung correspondents will be **in the next quarter.**

QUESTION OF UNITY IN MICRONESIA — by Norma Sumang

In parts of Micronesia, there is an outcry for national unity, while in others, an outcry for separatism. The big question we are facing is which of these two destinies is the goal we truly need. We are all aware that the present time is the most crucial state as well as the most confusing and complicated position, political-wise. We must choose which of the two questions is going to benefit Micronesia.

The Preamble of the Constitution of Micronesia beautifully expresses the desire for national unity, but is there actual unity in the Constitution as a whole? I got a feeling that the Preamble and the Articles do not have a binding relationship. For instance, the Preamble strongly stresses the desire for national unity; the Articles give the impression of too much districtal isolation.

Because of the contradiction between the Preamble and the Articles, I do not believe that Micronesian unity is the ultimate goal at this time, and I base my belief on the impression I derived from the draft of the Constitution. (Again, as I've mentioned earlier, there does not seem to be an actual binding relationship between the Preamble and the Articles).

I believe that the strength of national unity does not lie in the opportunities or facilities that appear to make them invincible; it is not found in their boasted greatness. Rather, it is measured by the fidelity with which we fulfill our purpose.

It is known that the people make the government. They strengthen the government by supporting it with their cooperation and sacrifices. If the Constitution, which is a foundation of a national government, does not reflect that one main desire or goal of a nation, and the people do not express a certain goal, how can a national government succeed?

As a Micronesian all my life, I've known of the existence of the great moral controversy between the districts' natives. This is caused by our differences in ethnical and cultural backgrounds. There will be consequences and drastic difficulty in expressing oneself, one's beliefs, as well as presenting ourselves if we unite. Would we be able to overcome these differences by the mere beautifully expressed words in the Constitution? It is evident that the success or failure of national unity is intimately connected with the moral controversy. Therefore, unity, as I suppose is the prime desire, is a much greater and complicated question than we assume.

MICRONESIA'S METAMORPHOSIS —— by Johnson Ittu

Let us consider the possible effects the Constitution might have on life in Micronesia if it is approved in the referendum. To do this, it is necessary for us to look at the American Constitution and its influence upon the American people. Having examined the success of their Constitution, in both present and past situations, I strongly believe we, the people of Micronesia, should express an intense desire to have our own Constitution.

The Constitution, if adopted, would serve as a catalyst to set in motion the process of unification. It would unite the people by establishing a basic common governing document which all would understand and live by. Unity among the people would strengthen the government of Micronesia. People will become more organized, more independent, more self-realized, more understanding and more responsible for their own government. We, the people of Micronesia, by adopting the Constitution, will stand up proudly and defend our own islands against the threats of outside powers.

The Constitution would provide us with a basic form of government with which to govern ourselves and contribute to our quests for a paradise life. No longer would Micronesia be dependent upon outside powers to handle her internal and external affairs. The Constitution would provide for the different levels of government, such as national, state and local, and define their powers. It would provide for the creation of a legislative body whose duties would be to impose taxes, issue and regulate currency, regulate banking, provide for the national postal system, acquire and govern new territory, regulate natural resources, establish a national public service system, ratify treaties, regulate immigration, regulate navigation and shipping, impeach and remove the President, Vice-President and Justices of the Supreme Court, define major crimes and prescribe penalties, and override the Presidential veto. It would provide Congress and States with powers to appropriate public funds to borrow money, to promote education and health, and to establish systems of social security and public welfare.

Although the Constitution would protect the function of a traditional leader as recognized by custom, it would not provide him with more rights and freedoms than the other people. The Constitution would ensure equality for the people by guaranteeing every person certain inalienable rights, such as freedom of association, petition, religion, and peaceable assembly, the right of every person to life, liberty, property, race, language, social status, etc. It guarantees fair procedure for all persons accused of crimes such as protection against unreasonable search and seizure, compulsory self-incrimination and excessive bail. Equality among people would rid them of their hostility toward each other and strengthen the people of a nation if it is to survive.

The Constitution would provide for every person eighteen years or older, who is a citizen of Micronesia, to vote in a national election. The voice of the people would be heard by the government of, for and by the people. The younger voting age would encourage interest in affairs of government at an earlier age and help to combat the disease of apathy which could become prevalent in our nation.

The Constitution, if approved in the referendum, will have many effects on life in Micronesia and, I believe, these effects which I have written down will be desirable. First of all, it will unite the people – united we stand, divided we fall. It will provide Micronesia with her own basic outline for self-government. It is only through governing ourselves that we can ever hope to achieve the kind of life we desire. It will create equality among people and strengthen the brotherhood which will support our nation in order to survive. It will give citizens the right to vote in a national election. Only if the voice of the people is heard, can we hope to have a government of, for, and by the people. It will give us the chance to stand up and guard our own paradise islands from the threats of outside powers. With this Constitution, we can preserve the heritage of the past and protect the promise of the future.

Micronesia is being hurled into the twentieth century at an astounding rate. She will face many new and difficult problems; and I believe that the Constitution will be a guide in solving the problems we will face in our metamorphosis into a free and strong paradise nation.

UNITED WE STAND —— by A. Sweep Katlong

The U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, usually called Micronesia, consists of more than 2,100 tropical islands scattered over an ocean area with a great distance between them. These islands are located just above the equator, half way between Japan and Australia in the Western Pacific. There are three major island groups; only 96 are inhabited with more than 107,000 people and 11 different major languages and customs. The Mariana Islands, one of the major island groups, appears to favor separation from Micronesia. Palau District, another island group, has its own Political Status Commission and it may cause separation. The third major island group, the Marshalls, has already taken steps of negotiation with its people toward separation from Micronesia. These are all preparations before the Trusteeship Agreement is terminated but no one knows really what our future Micronesia will be. Micronesia is facing a question now that is always asked among the people. How can Micronesia be united as a whole with these different manners, situations and aspects? This is one of the so called fundamental questions, but there are also answers that can solve such a question. Micronesia is just like those other nations that had difficulties when they formed their governments. But at last, they found solutions and successfully organized their governments. Their nations are now well developed and well known throughout the world. It is quite true that it is too impossible for Micronesia to have uniform customs and so forth. The important thing will be that Micronesia should remain in the same power of government as well as economy, health and education. If we look back at the history of the rich and powerful nations of today, we will see how hard they established and met problems to have new governments. When a few states of America formed their new government a hundred years ago, people were representing different languages and customs, but they were only concerned about a uniformed government. Now the United States is the richest and most powerful country in the world with the same form of government established a hundred years ago without destroying the different customs of its people. If the fifty states and their various important natural resources would not have been united and formed a government, there would not be a strong and a popular United States of America now. This is true, too, of all rich nations in the world today.

President Abraham Lincoln of the United States of America told all Americans in his popular speech many years ago: "United we stand, divided we fall." This wise president was really concerned about the future of his people and his country. He confided to his people not to separate among each other in order to have a strong country. Everybody can realize now that all the things the president had predicted are realistic to all Americans who are living today and even tomorrow. To establish a permanent government is not an easy job. It is difficult and significant. Drafting a constitution might be the first step to form a new government, but the people must understand what it is and how it will affect them before they ratify it. Micronesia has already met this step when the elected delegates chatted together last summer and drafted a constitution. It is a constitution which is similar to the United States' Constitution which most people in Micronesia favor and strongly feel that it is the only suitable type of government for Micronesia. There are different philosophies and thoughts among our leaders in Micronesia about the unity of Micronesia. As we all know, the leaders play the strongest part in leading the people toward self-government with either unity or separation. People in Micronesia often hear from their leaders about the advantages and disadvantages of the unity of Micronesia, while the process of translation of the constitution into eleven major languages is being taken in Micronesia. We might also be aware that everything on earth has its own advantages and disadvantages. Micronesia has been under four flags. Each of these flags had a variety of goals and objectives to promote Micronesia politically, economically, socially, and educationally. As it stands now, Micronesia has just begun to sprout with these things but very limited because of economic reasons. Since we, the Micronesians, depend totally on U.S. resources, it is better for us to share as we always did rather than separate. Suppose the Administering Authority closed its hands from Micronesia and each district in Micronesia has only one particular natural resource which won't satisfy its people, how could our people be satisfied? They won't, unless we share all things we have together as it has been part of our custom for many centuries. We still remember the proverb that our grandparents told us generation by generation when they said, "Share what ever small food you have with love." If the people of Micronesia affix the constitution during the upcoming referendum, it means there will be good effects on life in Micronesia. Micronesia is an underdeveloped

nation with very limited people who have been educated in some of the human skills which are important. Therefore, this is one of the advantages of unity as a whole, to share different ideas and experiences among each other before going into other steps of separation. It is true that there will be advantages and disadvantages with the unity of Micronesia.

But if we weigh these two sides it will be heavier on the side of having advantages with unity than separation. We will promote ourselves in education and health by sharing our knowledge and skills with others. We will promote ourselves in economy by sharing our different natural resources. We will promote our political development by sharing with knowledgeable and capable persons within Micronesia. We can promote Micronesia in everything in unity rather than do it alone. Our grandparents also said, "There is strength in many." These words were true during the ancient time and even today. If there weren't many men to accompany our sluggish canoes during ancient time, our ancestors' expedition to Micronesia would not have been successful. If there were a few people in Micronesia, there would be no nation on the whole world which could recognize Micronesia as a human place. There are many people in Micronesia who feel anxious and frightened about their beloved languages and customs if they would disappear as long as the unity of Micronesia will exist. Well, this is probably not true as it does not appear in the constitution. Everything will remain the same except we will only have to have an official language used to understand our conversations as well as in public occasions. Let us be aware that if there are parts in the constitution that won't satisfy and suit the people, there will be still time to make amendments as it happens to all constitutions in the world. There are also people in Micronesia, who are having the same kind of feeling if the leaders of the new government won't come from their own native land. This is probably true now and even forever around the world. As God created all men, he created us the same but with different talents, and told us to apply all these important talents among each other. Having future leaders of our new government from different parts in Micronesia will not be a real problem. No matter who you are and where you are from as long as any of us have the talent to lead and the people recognize him then that is fine. Let us not forget that not all men were born to be winners or leaders. All Micronesian citizens must be conscious to determine now what type of government should Micronesia have for the future. Basically, if we want to determine among ourselves what type of government should Micronesia have, let us not be concerned, firstly, about the name of our government. Let us be concerned of the type of government that won't let Micronesia starve and thirst. Let us be concerned of the type of government that will imporve Micronesia quickly with health and knowledge. Let us also be concerned about the government that will also promote Micronesia politically and socially. If our new government called the Federated States of Micronesia has all these things, we are sure that this is the government which the people in Micronesia are seeking for the unity of Micronesia. As a teacher, I feel strongly that the constitution should be taught in vernacular to all in Micronesia. No matter how it is to be taught, and what grade level it is to be taught, as long as the students understand what it is all about and how it will affect all the people in Micronesia then that is great. It is quite certain that everything we do today will benefit our beloved youngsters and their future. Again, I conclude by saying, "We are still young to separate, and there are many big sharks in our big ocean awaiting to swallow any of us who are falling."

TT CATEGORY B WINNERS (Excerpts)

. . . As to the unsettled question of unity in Micronesia, a question on which has haunted all leaders of this growing nation for the past decade, I remain strong in my belief that what more is unity. Isn't that unity when the delegates from each district sat down and wrote the constitution? Isn't this unity at all? If not, what is the definition acceptable under the circumstances surrounding the nature of our present status. To me, ladies and gentlemen, this is unity for Micronesia, despite the apparent but seemingly obvious fact that the one or a couple of delegates from my district failed to actively participate in the signing and the drawing of the constitution. Their missing signatures in the finalized document attests to this. But I respect their wishes as unity also calls for respect of each other's desires. Vicente C. Camacho (Third Prize Winner), Marianas, Maunaolu College, Hawaii

. . . I am convinced that our lives under the future government will not be seriously affected unlike what others have predicted. The Congress of Micronesia has taken many steps to develop our economical structure before we achieve self-government, such as development of fishing and agricultural industry and stimulation of foreign investments in Micronesia.

In our future government, Micronesians will become real Micronesian natives and it is the right time we start depending mostly on our local production. On the other hand, we should start easing our dependence on the United States for its support. If we have to follow the intention of our Constitution as prepared by its forefathers, we must work for ourselves and respect our original way of living as our ancestors behaved in supporting themselves to survive. Matheus Lokopwe (Fourth Prize Winner), Truk, University of Guam

The following are excerpts taken from the district winning essays:

CATEGORY A

At last, we have taken the long step toward self-sovereignty. Our identity is no longer an illusion that people only whisper about in the darkness of anxiety. It is now a vivid picture set to vindicate the existence of a race. The renewal of our identity is a great achievement. It's the one great leap toward our long wished picture.

The Constitution restores to every individual his right and pride as a Micronesian. It has recaptured a whole race of the people to a new start, a new role to take up as part of the world's community.
—— Urubano Sony, Truk, Truk High School, Honorable Mention

Micronesia, I think, with its diverse peoples, customs and cultures, needs a relationship that is based more on human bond and friendship instead of a one great Law of the Land.
——Dorine Inabo, Palau, Palau High School, Honorable Mention

Theoretically, the Constitution should provide the most democratic form of government for the Micronesian people in modern times. But by its nature, it shall take away the very traditional powers that is vested in the Micronesian custom of the "royal" council . . . The Constitution may not be a bad move at all, for it has helped us Micronesians to wake up and consider this big step that we have taken.
—— Dorothy Kabua, Majuro, Assumption High School

The mingling of two cultures bring about an improvement. In fact, what a society calls an improvement or a development is merely the favorable outcome of the mingling of their culture with other peoples' culture. All these should make the Constitution a great and favored piece of material.
—— Cecelia T. Lizama, Saipan, Mt. Carmel High School

Micronesia had long hoped to attain self-sufficiency but that could not be authentic with an unstable economy. However, with our Constitution, we shall have a centralized government which will give a common political entity to all districts and unity will inevitably be achieved. Unity will strengthen us, but it doesn't necessarily mean united culture and customs. It requires that we are governed under one Constitution with common laws, legal entity, inter-district trade and communications. Then with unity, each district can utilize and share their economic potentials to maintain a powerful economy and deplete our dependence on the United States.
—— Jackson M. Henry, Yap, Xavier High School

It is a fact that our islands are separated with great distances. But it is logical to say that such separation is essential for it is an indication of progress. It means that we will go out and seek different support from different parts of the world for our country. Although we have differences in languages and cultures, these are natural gifts given to us. For if nature forbids differences on us, we would be boring and not attractive to other nations.
—— Martin Jano, Ponape, Ponape Islands Central School (PICS)

CATEGORY B

From what I have seen in the Constitution, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands will become the Federated States of Micronesia. There will be many changes in the government of Micronesia. I think it is better for the Micronesians to change from under the government of the United States and manage their own government. Micronesia is just a small group of small islands, but it has enough natural resources to use in running its own government.
—— Memoryna Johnny, Truk, Community College of Micronesia

THIS IS AN ACCOUNT OF THE IGO–169, one of the Japanese submarines sunk in the Truk Lagoon during World War II. Written by a former Trust Territory Chief of Marine Resources Division, the following account offers a description of the role of IGO–169 during the war, how it was sunk, and the effort that has been taken to salvage it since it sank in February 1944.

A Revisit to the Submarine I-169

by
Christopher K. Mitchell

The day broke clear with willowy wisps of clouds fashioned from angel's hair strewn on the pale blue sky. A gentle wind of three to four knots whipped a slight froth on the saphire-clear water.

On Natsushima (Dublon), the vast contingent of Japanese military personnel and the few Trukese, who had not been forceably moved elsewhere, awoke and began another leisurely day preparing food, repairing equipment and surveying the horizon for multitudes of black specks which appeared and sounded like swarms of mosquitos when they first appeared in the field glasses, but which loomed into attack squadrons of American B-29s upon close approach and which stung and inflicted a daily growing number of casualties and destruction on the remnants of Japan's mighty Fourth Imperial Fleet. These attacks had been intermittent but unceasing since the middle of February 1944, and had already sunk more than 40 large cargo and transport vessels and a myriad of smaller vessels to the floor of one of the world's largest enclosed lagoons and perhaps its best protected natural harbor. A lookout perched atop Mount Tonoman on Dublon scanned the lagoon and beyond with his field glasses. North-northwest of his lookout and 2,800 meters away lay the submarine IGO–169 beginning to awake to the new day. Men hustled on her deck cleaning and hoisting her flags. Her Captain, Lt. Senior Grade, Shigeo Shinohara and 25 of his crewmen boarded a small launch that drew along side and departed for Dublon to collect provisions.

The sun rose slowly but intrepidly making the interior of the I–169 a sweat-box. The maintenance men topside baked in the early sun's reflection off the mirror-like sea against the dark hull. They frequently dipped a bucket in the clear lagoon with which to splash over their faces thereby temporarily reducing the heat. Time dragged on.

Scattered around Dublon were a dwindling number of I–169's sister ships along with a meager complement of cargo and merchant ships. Two months earlier, the proud Yamato and Musashi, the largest battleships ever built, with their complement of destroyers, cruisers and escorts had departed Truk due to an expected raid. Less than a week after their departure, carrier-based fighters screamed out of the northeast and within two days they were able to crush most of this bastion, leaving but remnants of the proud fleet. Nevertheless, repair efforts continued but daily raids of B-29s based on Ulithi made surface facilities useless and drove most activities underground.

As the air-raid siren sounded at 10:15 midmorning, the ship literally buzzed with activity. Men stopped the minor repair that they were doing and began a frenzied scramble down the hatches into the interior of the war machine. The few sailors that were ashore on Dublon gathering breadfruit, coconuts, water, parts and other provisions were forgotten, or at least overlooked in the hum of activity. Finally, the deck was cleared. Down in the engine room, orders were given to submerge. Hatches were closed and secured and the submarine began exchanging the air in its ballast tanks for sea water. They had been told to dive to 100 feet and the descent had begun.

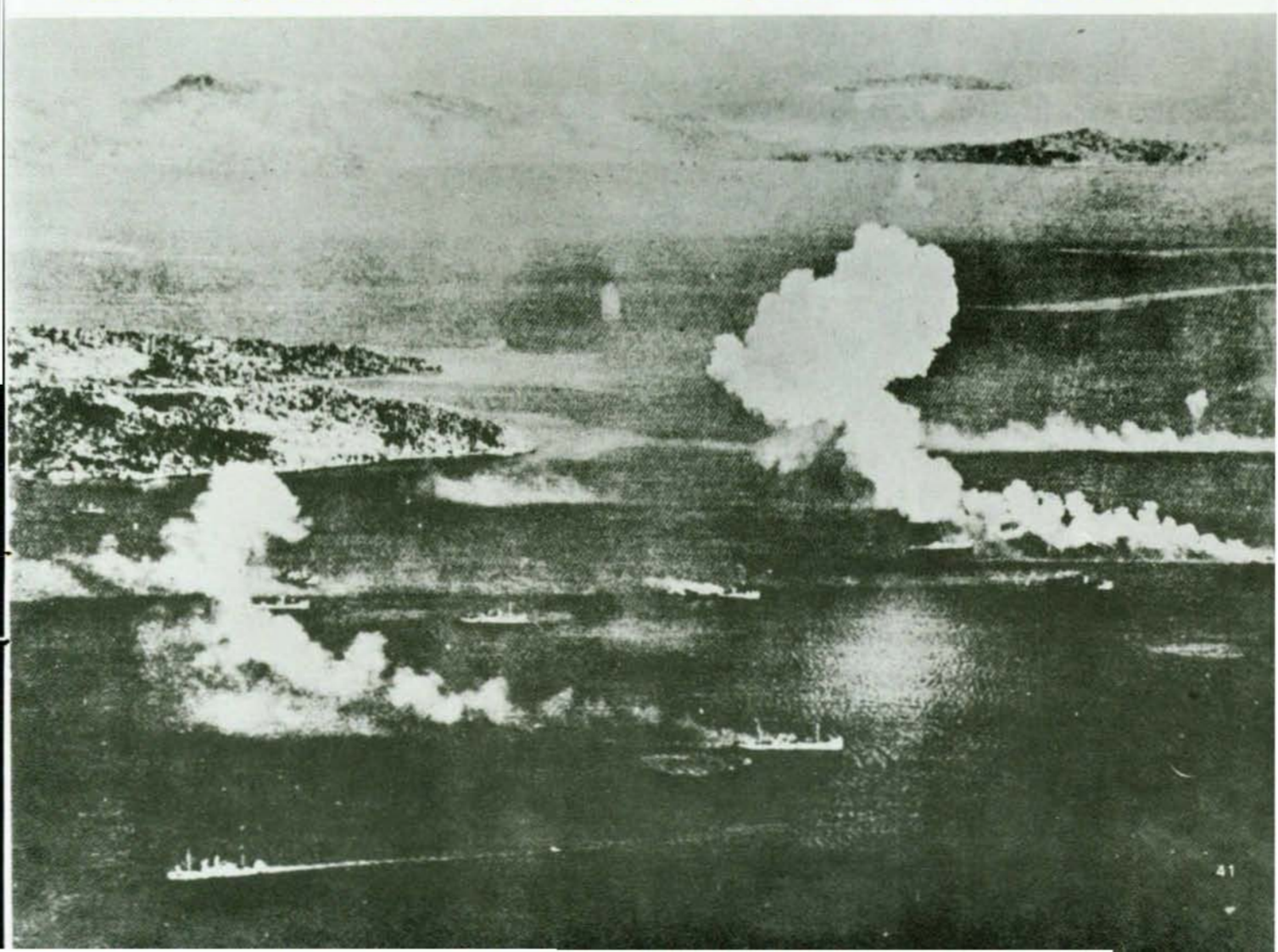
Already though, Allied bombers were approaching quickly from the west. Just as the Rising Sun perched upon a pole on the conning tower slipped below the light chop of the waves, the first bombs were dropped and slight shock waves rocked the submarine. As she began her descent, problems were immediately apparent. She was descending more rapidly than expected and the first reports were reaching the control room via radio contact, water was entering the sub from a hatch area. Had she received a direct hit? That was virtually impossible as no explosion had been felt. Nevertheless, in but a short time, the entire aft part of the bridge was

filled with sea water. All fore and aft hatches were secured during the confusion to stop further encroachment of the sea upon the dryness of the interior. In but a few minutes the sub settled on the bottom listing 30° to port in 110-140 feet of water.

After the raid, an all-clear signal was given but the sub failed to surface. Soon thereafter, a diver was sent down to investigate. There were responses to his hammer signals from four out of the five hatches, all except the conning tower. The assumption was made then that the amount of water that had entered the ship was slight. A 30 ton crane was mobilized with haste and work was begun to hoist the bow of the vessel from the forward torpedo tubes. At 3:30 p.m. of the following day, the cable broke while the sub was being raised, thus indicating that the amount of water estimated to have entered was greater than expected. Holes for air supply were opened, and air was pumped in to blow the ballast tanks. Now there was a response signal from but the aft torpedo-tube compartment. Those inside could not make out the frantic code hammered on the vessel which told them to open the air valves to the ballast tanks. At 11:30 p.m. all answers from inside ceased and the attempt to rescue the crew alive was stopped. Nevertheless, further attempts were made to raise the ship, but due to the unceasing air raids and due to the lack of adequate support facilities and life saving equipment, the task was unsuccessful. The work was afterward continued by divers in order to determine the cause of the sinking and to recover the bodies inside the ship. About one and one-half months were spent in salvage efforts and 13 bodies were brought up.

From the investigations of these divers after the sinking, it was determined that the upper valve of the storm ventilation tube in the aft part of the bridge was open about 80mm. It is believed that they forgot to close the valve when submerging, or that they opened the valve by mistake (assuming the valve was closed when the ship began to surface), and water flooded the ship. It is believed that even though the

This U.S. Navy photo shows the bombing of the Truk Lagoon in February of 1944: Dublon Island is on the left with Moen in the background. This bombing sank large numbers of Japanese ships within the Truk Lagoon and fatally weakened the Japanese Fleet in the Central Pacific.



watertight compartment doors within the ship were closed, the ship could not surface because the control room was flooded.

After it was determined that raising the boat was impossible, the hull was blown up by means of depth charges, but was not completely destroyed.

The I–169 was abandoned, but not forgotten.

The I–169 was built at the Mitsubishi Shipyard in Kobe, and was launched September 28, 1935.

She was a Kaigun-type submarine, one of the largest types built during the period. This submarine with a surface displacement of 1785 tons and 2440 tons submerged displacement was 331 foot draft. Her twin diesel engines had an output of 4,500 BHP which propelled her at 23 knots on the surface and 9 knots submerged. She was reported to have radius of 14,000 nautical miles with a speed of 10 knots on the surface.

She has eight torpedo tubes, four in the bow and four in the stern which fired oxygen fuel-driven torpedoes.

Her anti-aircraft and anti-shipping armament was composed of one 100mm dual-purpose gun and one 13mm anti-aircraft machine gun.

When the Pacific war broke out, I–169 was deployed in Hawaii just outside the entrance to Pearl Harbor with her sister ships of the Third Submarine, Flotilla.

During the December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor attack, some of her sister ships were destroyed by the U.S. anti-submarine forces. During this raid the I–169 was caught in a anti-submarine barrier constructed by the harbor defense forces of the U.S. Navy. Only after nearly fifty hours of struggling was she able to free herself from the barrier cables and she returned to the frontier operations base at Kwajalein, in the Marshall Islands. Early in 1942, the I–169 made a reconnaissance patrol of Midway. From late May to early June 1942, her Twelveth Submarine Squadron was deployed in the eastern waters off Midway in order to intercept and/or to obtain intelligence data on the U.S. Fleet. No contact was made.

In the summer of that year, the submarine squadron patrolled the eastern waters off Australia where she sank a merchant ship, of 9,227 tons, the SS Tinegara. Late in the summer she returned to Sasebo, in Japan, to replenish her complement of crew men. In February 1943, she was sent to the Northern Pacific Theater and operated in those waters for about six months. She spent her shore time at Kiska and Attu in the Aleutian chain. On June 10, 1943 on her way to Horonobe she was attacked by an enemy ship but managed to evade through the thick blanket of North Pacific fog. When Attu was reoccupied by the U.S. Forces and Japanese troops were evacuated from Kiska, the I–169 returned south and was deployed around the Solomons and New Guinea for several months.

When the U.S. Forces initiated the invasion of the Gilberts, Japanese Naval Headquarters ordered all submarine available to concentrate on the nearby waters. I–169 made a forced transit from an area about 300 miles southwest of Hawaii to this theater of operations. But as submarine activities against naval forces on the high seas was difficult, no action was encountered.

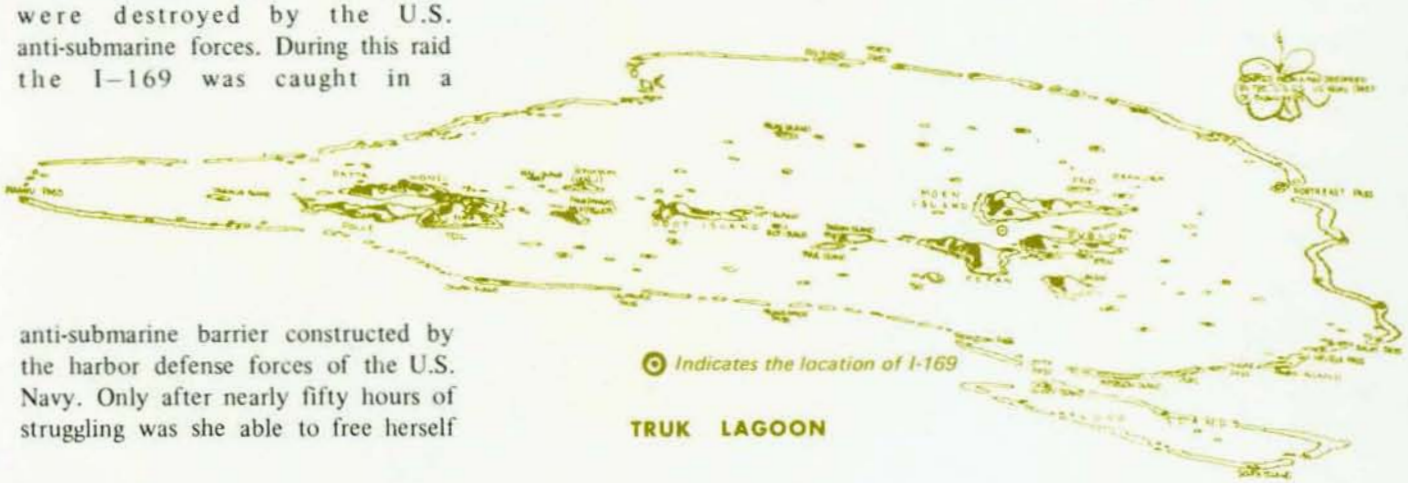
The American westward invasion in the Central Pacific progressed and increased in strength with time pushing the entire Japanese effort further toward the Carolines. The Japanese gradually lost control of the Marshalls chain. On April 4, 1944, when the U.S. Carrier Force conducted an air raid on the Japanese Naval advance base at Truk, all the submarines at the anchorage were ordered to the bottom to avoid the bombing attack. They all made emergency dives from their anchorage.

When the I–169 made the stationary dive, some of her crew members were ashore. She failed to achieve a complete watertight closure and one compartment was unintentionally flooded. When the air raid was over, she was unable to surface with the other submarines. Seventy-seven crew members were lost along with the submarine.

Thereafter, the Japanese Navy could not refloat the submarine because of the continued bombing raids by the U.S. Forces.

The I–169 was abandoned.

The war continued in the Pacific theater for another year but along with the I–169, over 66 other major transport vessels, scores of smaller vessels, planes and other military supplies lay in the quiet, azure blue water of Truk Lagoon.



TRUK LAGOON

After the war, most of the loss were forgotten by the majority of Americans, Trukese, and Japanese as all concentrated energies and thoughts on the rebuilding of their lives.

Those that had lost sons, fathers, brothers or friends aboard the multitude of sleeping craft and wreckage of the war still remembered the pain, the heartbreak and the destruction of those two months. As time passed, even these forgot. In the homes of the many relatives, photographs and small mementos were all that was left to remind the living of their loss.

One of the people who did not forget was Ko Maki of Hidachi City, Japan. Maki-san had been in Dublon during World War II and had lost a number of friends on the sunken craft. He, in fact, had been part of the salvage crew that had tried to raise the sleeping I–169 without success. He frequently thought of those days with sorrow. He had the desire to, someday, bring home his comrades.

As Japan rebounded economically, industrially and socially, a plan was formed in in Maki-san's mind. He felt that as Japan regained her economic power, then further efforts to retreive his deceased naval comrades might be realized.

In the late 1960s, when Japan had such a large trade balance, he approached the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Government of Japan with the proposal that they make an effort to return to Truk and remove the sailors from the multitude of vessels and especially the submarine I–169. The Ministry was receptive and eventually received Government financial support of ¥3,000,000 specifically for the submarine salvage portion.

In October 1972, a party from the Ministry visited Micronesia and Truk for the removal of human remains from various islands grave sites. At that time, they presented a proposal to the High Commissioner and the Truk District Administrator to return the following year to remove the human remains from the submarine. The proposal called for small scale dynamitting and electric cutting tools to gain access to the vessel which had been sealed for nearly 30 years.

Through appropriate government channels, the feelings of the Truk District were forwarded to the Japanese.

In the past few years, Truk had spawned a growing tourism industry based upon scuba diving on the sunken fleet. An original misunderstanding of the potential wealth of the wrecks had allowed salvage and treasure hunting to deplete many of the artifacts. This, coupled with the fact that many of the sunken ships still carried viable ammunition, depth charges, torpedoes, fuel, etc., led the Truk District Legislature in 1971 to create the Truk District Historical Monument (the sunken Fourth Fleet) which forbid salvage, treasure hunting, disturbance and/or alteration of any of the vessels, aircraft, or parts thereof.

It was believed by Truk authorities that the salvage of the submarine's crew members remains could be done without dynamite and/or electric cutting tools. This then was passed on to the Ministry of Health and Welfare as the required conditions for the proposed project.

I had the opportunity to visit Japan in January 1973. During this trip, I showed the concerned government officials a film depicting scuba divers entering the submarine and the relatively easy access to the human remains without resorting to drastic and potentially dangerous salvage operations. I think this was the turning point, even though they still claimed their disbelief that a successful salvage could be completed without their originally proposed drastic methods.

In June of 1973, an additional party of Japanese arrived in Truk with two master divers from Fukada Salvage Company of Tokyo. Fukada had been selected to actually undertake the salvage portion of the project. They, along with divers from Marine Resources and Development and myself, made exploratory dives on the I–169 to check access, siltation, etc. Samples of

Three Japanese divers having a final meeting before going down to explore the dark and murky engine room of the submarine. The Fukuda Salvage Company had six of Japan's top professional divers at the job, the oldest of whom was twenty-seven years old and who was not even born yet at the time the sub went down to its watery grave.

silt from inside the submarine were taken to be analyzed to determine the detriment to the environment if the silt were airlifted from the submarine and cast to the will of the tides and currents. Would large areas of coral and reef be suffocated by the silt or its possibly toxic bearing materials? This was a question to be answered. Meetings were held with the District Administrator, his staff and the Japanese to outline the proposed salvage operation and to determine methods acceptable to all parties.

In mid August 1973, the Trust Territory Public Affairs Director, the Japanese Graves Commission Liaison, the Truk District Administrator, the Trust Territory Diving Officer, Representatives of Fukada Salvage Co., and officials of the Japanese Health & Welfare Ministry met in Guam to hash out the final agreement.

Upon the completion of the negotiations, the Futami Maru No. 6 sailed from Yokohama with its complete crew and salvage gear and arrived in Truk on August 31, 1973.

In the meantime, representatives of four news media agencies or companies arrived in Truk to record the historic events which were to unfold. Two television companies from Japan were represented along with the Micronesian News Service and one American underwater filming team.

It was explained to these recorders of history that the project was of first priority, not their activities and therefore for safety's-sake, certain restrictions were placed on their activities and secondly, since Truk wished to use this opportunity to advertize Truk's underwater beauty, copies of all resulting films must be supplied to the Government of the Trust Territory.

By noon of September first, the efficient crew of the Futami had offloaded the support equipment onto the Truk District LCU and both had moved out in the Dublon/Moen channel to the site of the sinking of the I–169. Four two-ton anchors were splayed out at the corners of the site to firmly anchor the LCU over the submarine, and the recovery project finally became a reality.

The rest is history, the project was concluded without mishap, and the hatches welded shut. The remains of numerous Japanese sailors and number of personal mementos and artifacts were recovered. Over twenty-five relatives of the deceased crewmen of the I–169 were brought to Truk and upon completion of the recovery, they represented the Japanese people at the funeral fire and cremation ceremony.

The ashes were repatriated to Japan and interred in Tokyo at Chidorigafuchi, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where remains of Japanese soldiers and sailors from the entire Pacific Theater lie in peace and serenity, surrounded by a garden of cherry trees.

A few of the relics from the I–169 were given to Chidorigafuchi and Yasakuni Jinja, another war history shrine in Tokyo and to the families of the crewmen. Some were recovered and retained by the Truk District Administration for preservation and display in a future museum; but the balance and bulk lie in 140 feet of water between Moen and Dublon in the rusting and twisted cigar-shaped hulk of IGO–169. These await those scuba divers so inclined to re-visit the site of her sinking to remind all of the horrors of war and the beauty and serenity of peace.

A diver goes down to the submarine (I-169) under the watchful eyes of a security officer. The submarine lies about 130 feet of water directly below this LCU. The Truk lagoon holds a dual fascination: the natural world of coral and fish counterbalanced with the wreckage of the Japanese fleet, an estimated 60 vessels, on the floor of the lagoon. These relics have been declared a monument and salvage and souvenir taking are prohibited by law.

Thirty years after her sinking in March 1974, the I–169 took another victim. An American scuba diver stationed at Kwajalein diving on the submarine found the forward hatch welding broken open. He and another diver entered the darkened hull and in the murky interior he was unable to locate the exit.

In frantic efforts to force his way towards the lightened exterior, he found himself jammed and gradually exhausted his air supply. Approximately an hour later, his body was recovered–another death, hopefully the last, was victim to the I–169.

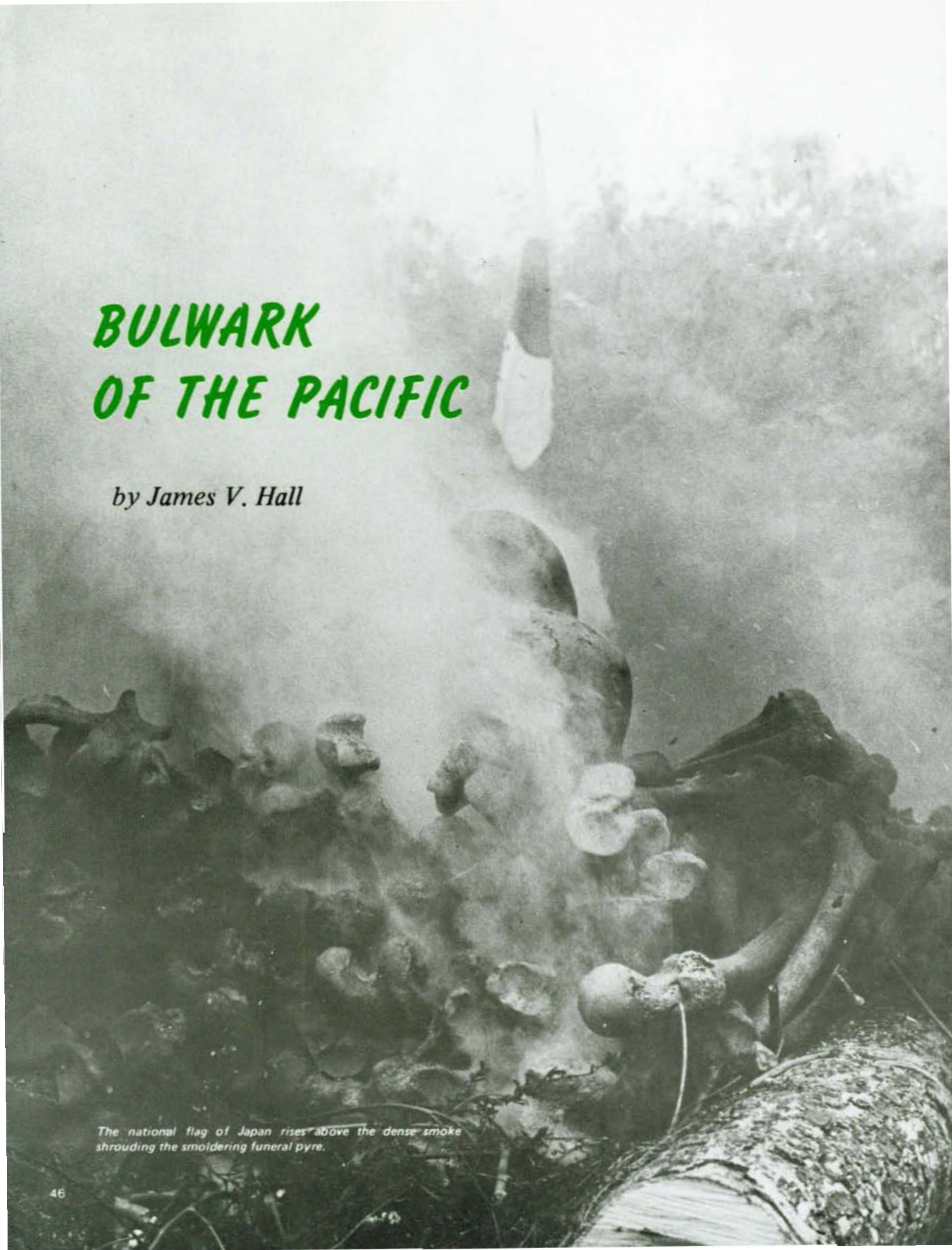
On September 22, 1973, the remains of the men of the Japanese Submarine IGO-169 were cremated in Truk and forwarded to Japan for proper burial. Former Trust Territory High Commissioner Edward E. Johnston sent the following message to Truk during the ceremony: "I am very gratified that, at long last, the remains of the men of IGO-169 are returning to their homeland to their proper final resting place. The origins of the conflict which they met their fate are now only dim memories of a generation that took part in it, and they should not be reviewed here. What we should try to perpetuate is the spirit of cooperation that took place here in the Truk Lagoon between Americans, Japanese, and Micronesians who worked side by side on a job that entailed grave risks everywhere along the way."

Some of the remains recovered by divers inside the submarine during the first two days of the operation. Shown here are bones, parts of a pair of shoes, and a piece of board with a submarine base address in Japan during the war written on it.

A Japanese diver showing a Japanese flute music book. Except for the extensive damage on the covers and the binder, the music book was still in surprisingly good condition after close to twenty-nine years underwater.

BULWARK OF THE PACIFIC

by James V. Hall



The national flag of Japan rises above the dense smoke shrouding the smoldering funeral pyre.

"I will leave my bones on Saipan as a bulwark of the Pacific" . . . Gen. Yoshitsugu Saito (July 6, 1944)

On a quiet sunny Thursday afternoon in December 1975, a tall fuming tower of black smoke rose out of the jungly thicket at Marpi Point, Saipan. At the site of a former Japanese fighter strip now overgrown with tangan-tangan, an immense bonfire was blazing furiously in a stiff breeze.

Placed reverently on top of this crackling pile of green logs were the skeletal remains of 1,228 Japanese soldiers, casualties of a war which ended for them long ago in the summer of 1944. Now widows and orphans wept quietly as Buddhist priests chanted their monotonal prayers – a final send-off for brave warriors whose gray-white bones had lain still in the quiet jungle since death had taken them three decades ago.

This saga of tragic and heroic death began on a day in December 1943, when President Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill conferred in Cairo, Egypt, to consider various plans to prosecute the war against Japan. The tide had turned. The Allies were on the offensive. The two leaders made a momentous decision, one which was to profoundly affect the outcome of the war – the decision to seize the "Japanese Marianas" during the next year of fighting in the Pacific.

An amphibious assault on and capture of those vital islands was the central part of Adm. Ernest J. King's "Granite Plan" to move boldly through the central Pacific to place the industrial targets of Japan within range of the newly developed B-29 bombers. The operation was so successful that the capture of the Marianas was called by some "the decisive battle of the Pacific War." Thirteen months after the capture of the Marianas by the Allied forces, the Enola Gay lifted off a Tinian airstrip on its historic mission and headed for the city of Hiroshima. The war was over.

The heroic story of "bloody Saipan" has been told many times by its survivors in the veteran's halls of America. But for Japan, there were few survivors to spin their tales. The tragedy of that bitter struggle still dwells deep in the subconscious of the Japanese nation. For them, it was a sacred moment of honor and sacrifice in the face of certain defeat.

On the morning of June 15, 1944, after several days of intense naval and air bombardment, the sea off the western coast of Saipan was a checkerboard of ships. The sun rising over Mt. Tagpochau limned the powerful Task Force 58 against the gray horizon. In addition to the dozens of warships that had wreaked such terrible destruction on the towns, villages and military installations, there were 110 naval transport vessels of which 37 were troop transports. At the crack of dawn they discharged a total of 719 amphibious tractors and tanks crossing the reef, landing on the beaches at precisely 0840 hours.

The defending troops observing this massive armada must have felt at once that Japan's thirty year domination of the Marianas was soon to come to a tragic end.

When the "guns of August" had roared across the continent of Europe in 1914, the Japanese Empire declared war on Germany and moved quickly against the German held islands of Micronesia – islands which were lightly defended and used for only commercial and business enterprises. In less than two months all the islands, including Saipan, were in Japanese hands.

In 1920 the League of Nations gave Japan a mandate over the Micronesian islands and she soon began to develop them as economic colonies. Sugar cane, sweet potatoes, cotton and coffee were then grown on Saipan. The Japanese civilian population grew from a few hundred in 1920 to almost 30,000 in 1943. Okinawans and Koreans were imported to build the labor force. Garapan village grew into a miniature Japanese city replete with sugar mills, tea houses, restaurants, theaters, shops, pagodas, a hospital and a crematorium. When news of the defeat of the Imperial forces in the Marshalls and Gilberts reached Saipan a number of Japanese, perhaps 3000 to 5000, mostly women and children, were evacuated to their homeland.

On the day that the U.S. Marines stormed the beaches at Susupe and Chalan Kanoa, there were 25,469 Japanese soldiers and 6,160 sailors waiting for them in trenches and pillboxes along the shoreline and in reserve deep in the hills and forests. In addition there were perhaps 20 to 25,000 Japanese civilians fearfully awaiting the assault in caves and amid the rubble of their former homes. Within a few weeks, less than a thousand soldiers and only 13,000 Japanese civilians would still be alive.

Task Force 58 had complete control of the air and sea surrounding Saipan. U.S. submarines had taken a fearsome toll of ships attempting to resupply the beleaguered garrison. Over 4700 of the Japanese troops on Saipan were stragglers, survivors of troopship sinkings who had arrived on Saipan without arms or equipment and had been formed into special companies for the defense of Saipan.

Facing them were three well armed and well supplied American divisions. The Marine 2nd and 4th, comprised of 66,779 men and the Army's 27th

Division of 21,119 men. Despite determined opposition the landings were successful and the Japanese troops began to fall back.

A few days, later, a desperate radio message was sent from Tokyo.

"Because the fate of the Japanese Empire depends on the result of your operation, inspire the spirit of the officers and men and to the very end continue to destroy the enemy gallantly and persistently; thus alleviate the anxiety of our Emperor."

The proud response from the Japanese Chief of Staff was terse: "Have received your honorable Imperial words and we are grateful for the boundless magnanimity of the Imperial favor. By becoming the bulwark of the Pacific with 10,000 deaths we hope to requite the Imperial favor."

His estimate of the final toll proved optimistic.

The American troops cut across the southern end of the island and then turned northward. Retreating before the onslaught were not only the remnants of the Japanese units but much of Japanese civilian population as well driven by an intense fear of the invaders. Years of strident propaganda had done its work all too well. With the image of baby-butchering, woman-raping fiends implanted in their minds, the women, children and elderly fled to the mountain caves in the northernmost end of the island, confused and terrified, trapped between the "American devils" and the boundless ocean.

The noose was tightening. With his artillery and tanks destroyed, with ammunition, food and water running out, with the staggering losses of men and equipment, Commanding General Yoshitsugu Saito issued his final order at six in the morning on the 6th of July:

"I am addressing the officers and men of the Imperial Army on Saipan.

"For more than twenty days since the American Devils attacked, the officers, men and civilians employees of the Imperial Army and Navy on this island have fought well and bravely. Everywhere they have demonstrated the honor and glory of the Imperial Forces. I expected that every man would do his duty.

"Heaven has not given us an opportunity. We have not been able to utilize fully the terrain. We have fought in unison up to the present time but now we have no materials with which to fight and our artillery for attack has been completely destroyed. Our comrades have fallen one after another. Despite the bitterness of defeat, we pledge, 'Seven lives to repay our country.'

"The barbarous attack of the enemy is being continued. Even though the enemy has occupied only a corner of Saipan, we are dying without avail under the violent shelling and bombing. Whether we attack or whether we stay where we are, there is only death. However, in death there is life. We must utilize this opportunity to exalt true Japanese manhood. I will advance with those who remain to deliver still another blow to the American Devils, and leave my bones on Saipan as a bulwark of the Pacific.

"As it says in the 'Senjinkum' (Battle Ethics), 'I will never suffer the disgrace of being taken alive,' and I will offer up the courage of my soul and calmly rejoice in living by the eternal principle.'

"Here I pray with you for the eternal life of the Emperor and the welfare of the country and I advance to seek out the enemy. Follow me!"

The ragged troops, poorly equipped, some with only knives and bayonets tied to poles responded in a furious banzai charge down the Tanapag plains. It was slaughter. After the counter attack had spent its course, 4,311 Japanese bodies lay dead in the area. But the worst was yet to come.

General Saito had obeyed the Japanese code of honor and committed seppuku; thus joining the Emperor's eternal legions. Leaderless and panicked, numerous soldiers and civilians began hurling themselves from the high cliffs of Marpi point, some tumbling down the sheer cliffs into the jungle thickets below, others falling upon the rocks and into the ocean and others just wading out into the deep surf to be drowned.

Civilians leaped in traditional oyaku-shinju (parents-children death pact) order with older children shoving the younger ones to their death, the father pushing the mother and stepping backwards off the rugged cliffs to the rocks and water below. Japanese officers decapitated their men with their ceremonial swords and ended their own lives with a bullet into the brain.

Despite the continued American pleas for surrender broadcast from LCIs off shore and from speakers along the ridges, the pledge of death before dishonor was being carried out. A few souls were saved by American boats which plowed through a sea red with blood and cluttered with corpses. The actual number who died in this horrible fashion is unknown but their bones are still being recovered today.

Japanese having a moment of prayer at the Banzai Cliff, Saipan, for the Japanese who leaped over the cliff to their death during World War II.

During the 1960s, the Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare requested permission to collect and repatriate to Japan the cremated bones of the Japanese nationals who died in the Marianas. Japanese records indicate that as many as 55,000 perished in these islands during those last frantic weeks in the battles for Saipan, Tinian and Rota. The vast majority of the fatalities, around 45,000, were on Saipan.

Most of these remains are located in the jungles, in caves, or in shallow unmarked burial sites and are in fragments, with many of the bones already having disintegrated. Since the last stand of the Japanese garrison was in the Marpi area, that has been the major collection site, particularly along the bases of Suicide Cliff and Banzai Cliff (inland and off the coast respectively) where the Japanese, soldiers and civilians, had leaped over those precipices to their death.

The negotiations between the Trust Territory Government and Japan began in 1967 and culminated with an approval to proceed in 1968. A bone collecting mission has returned to Saipan every year since that time, generally in the fall. Although these bone collecting missions are sponsored by the Government of Japan, as required by the agreement, the actual collectors are members of the Japan Bereaved Families Association (NIHON IZOKU KAI) and the Student Volunteer Collectors (SEINEN DAN) with a few representatives from the Marianas Veterans Association and such other associations as one comprised of volunteer mountain climbers. Their role

A peace memorial at the Suicide Cliff, Saipan. A great number of Japanese—men, women, and children—leaped over the Suicide and Banzai cliffs to their death during WWII.

is especially useful since many of the remains are in caves along the sides of sheer cliffs. The Marianas Veterans Association also refer to themselves as the "Water-Bearing Association" as their members bring symbolic containers of water from Japan to pour over memorial and gravesites. They say that this is because the greatest hardship suffered by them and their dying comrades during the final days of the battle was a severe shortage of drinking water and this symbolic pouring of water brings comfort and solace to the souls of the deceased.

Suicide Cliff, Saipan

The bones that are collected are then cremated in huge funeral pyres; the ashes boxed in 18-inch square cartons wrapped in white cloth and then very reverently repatriated to Japan. Early in the spring the ashes are ceremoniously interred at the CHIDORI–GAFUCHI Shrine (the equivalent of the U.S. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier) located near the famous YASUKUNI Shrine in Tokyo. However, identifiable remains are cremated in separate pyres and the ashes are delivered to the surviving family members in Japan.

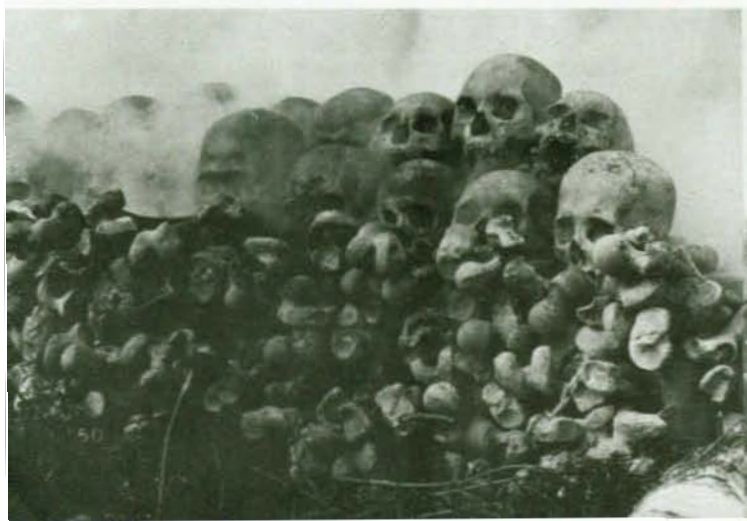
This particular cremation contains the bones representing 1228 Japanese dead. Officials estimate that the bones of still another 10,000 soldiers are still recoverable on Saipan and Tinian.

The cremated bones are returned to Japan to be interred at the Japanese Tomb of the Unknown soldier near the famous Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo.

Just over one half of the suspected remains, or approximately 28,000 have been collected to date. It is problematical how many will ever be recovered. Many of the remains have been washed away into the ocean and others have totally disintegrated and will never be found. Still others remain sealed forever by tons of rocks in deep caves, bulldozed or dynamited closed by advancing American troops after the soldiers within refused to come out. The Japanese Government believes that there are still 10,000 remains still uncollected and recoverable on Saipan and Tinian.

A persistent concern of the Government of Japan is information relating to mass graves. *Life* magazine in May 1946, published photographs of a mass burial site somewhere in the vicinity of the Tanapag plains, the

Bone collecting expeditions are usually guided by veterans of those final bloody days of fighting on Saipan. The veteran on the left, wearing WWII vintage leg wrappings, is one of only 138 remaining survivors of the battles in the Marianas.



scene of the futile Banzai charge launched by General Saito on July 6, 1944. Those old photographs indicate that several thousand remains were buried in deep bulldozed trenches and covered over. The actual site has never been located although the general area has been fairly well ascertained.

Early efforts in locating this mass grave led to the discovery of several scores of bodies who were buried where they died in the slit trenches near Tanapag Village. Some of the remains still had swords in their hands; fragments of bones were found "frozen" to remnants of rifles and pistols; and one was found with his rifle still pressed against his cheek just below his shattered forehead.

A recent test digging in Achugai, just north of Tanapag Village, turned up a considerable number of bones and many now believe that this may be the long sought-after mass burial site. After a ritual ceremony of purification and sanctification, a locally leased bulldozer and crew began exploratory digging at this site on November 2, 1974. During the first day, approximately 96 human remains were exhumed as well as a large quantity of unexploded ordnance, especially hand grenades, bullets and artillery shells. A strong odor of death permeated the excavated area indicating to the members of the mission that there was indeed a large burial ground on the farmland. However, in the days that followed, the tropical rains cascaded down, turning the area into a quagmire. Attempts to continue digging had to be abandoned as the bones collecting mission had to complete the rest of its work and return to Japan. Renewed excavation attempts at Achugai will certainly be attempted in the future.

Dramatic monuments rise serenely above and below the rugged cliffs of Marpi and speak of "our posterities and the tragic futility of war, with . . . sincere hope that everlasting peace and friendship may prevail amongst all mankind."

And everywhere around them, like Carl Sandburg's "Grass", the tangan-tangan covers all.

Student volunteer collectors, representing schools, family bereavement associations, prefectures or other groups, prepare the offerings table. Many of these gifts for the dead were consumed in the blazing pyre.

BOS'N BILL AND THE SAIPAN FROG-MEN

by Dirk A. Ballendorf

Frogmen loading from an APD at Saipan preparing to go over the reef on D-day minus one on their initial mission

"Anyone who says they weren't scared . . . well . . . to my mind simply isn't being truthful", said Dr. William Rhodes recently as he recalled events in his life some thirty years ago. Sitting calmly at his desk in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania where he works for the Office of Higher Education, he occasionally smiled as he recollected the Saipan holocaust he was a part of in June 1944. His smiles belied the sobriety of his remembrances: almost as if he cannot yet believe that it actually happened and that he was in it then. Dr. Rhodes, then known among his fellows as "Bos'n Bill", was a charter member of that WW II specialized service known as the underwater demolition teams. Shortened to UDT in Navy jargon, most people remember the groups as "the frogmen". Developed and trained-for in the typical WW II hurry-up fashion, Saipan was the "maiden Pacific battle" for the frogmen, and Bill Rhodes of UDT No.7 was among the first to help sweep the lagoon on Saipan's west coast on D-Day minus one.

"We felt safer in the water than in any other place", he replied when I asked him how one reacted as seemingly a sitting duck in the face of a hail of firepower. "When we were in boats we were targets, but in the water we could always dive under for safety." The frogmen soon learned that they could stop bullets around two feet down underwater without getting hurt. Some of the men actually caught the bullets in their hands and kept them for souvenirs. The frogmen were a curious lot in those pre-Cousteavan days when wet suits were simply Navy-issue swim trunks and the Voit Company made fins and masks that were so hard they had to be rubbed with emery cloth to soften them. "The Japanese had better gear then we had", recalled Rhodes, "they had developed theirs for pearl diving. During the invasion we found some of it in the Saipan warehouses and we would see how much better designed and better made it was than ours."

Just about everything was new and curious about the UDTs at Saipan; everyone was learning. The need for the frogmen had become clear six months earlier at Tarawa where the Marines suffered heavy losses in the lagoon where they were bogged down and made easy targets. Coming over a reef with large numbers of men and equipment was a pretty complicated business and required all sorts of new technologies.One problem was to open paths over the reefs and through the lagoons which were sufficiently wide and free of obstructions such as coral heads, man-made blockages and mines. "Robot boats" with explosives on them were sent in at Tarawa to clear the way, but these didn't work well. Some even got out of control and turned back toward the American landing force. In the end it was clear that, if the job was to be done right, real people would have to do it. It was then that the Underwater Demolition Teams were conceived.

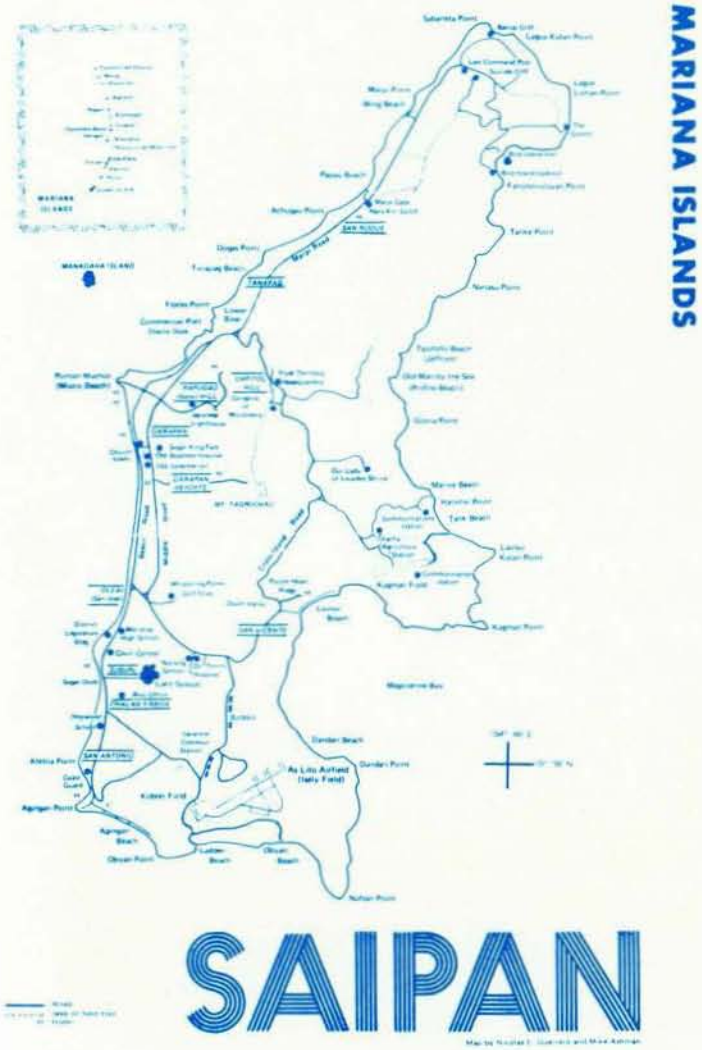
"I was in the SeaBees and was stationed at Camp Perry, Virginia in 1943 when the call went out for volunteers to join the new UDTs," Rhodes recollected. "Most of the first UDTs came from the SeaBees. As I remember it the announcement was put up on the bulletin board in the latrine and went something like this: 'those not afraid of water, knew how to swim, and who had some experience with explosives.' Well, I was raised in Williamsburg, Pennsylvania where we had limestone quarries. I worked in them during the summers and learned a lot about explosives. Then too, I could swim. So I joined up. I guess the reason was that I felt qualified, I wanted to help, and I like the water. I never did develop the hatred for the Japanese that many others did and had no compulsion to come face to face with a Japanese soldier and shoot him. Being in the UDTs I figured I wouldn't have to pull the trigger but could still do my part."

The initial training for the frogmen was undertaken at Fort Pierce, Florida in early 1944. There the men were told that their work would be difficult and dangerous, and the whole affair was surrounded by the strictest secrecy. These first groups contained 87 enlisted men and 13 officers and were divided into four platoons. Each UDT was composed of one officer and five enlisted men. The teams were self-selected. "There was me, Huck Anderson, Charles Clark, Cal Whipple, and Bill Bennett" recalled Bos'n Bill. "Our commander was Richard Burke." The training at Fort Pierce consisted of all kinds of swimming, maneuvering with eight-man rubber rafts, lots of night work, experimentation with explosives, diving gear, and various weapons. Subsequently, the teams went to Maui, Hawaii, where as Rhodes recalls: "We spent

UDT No.7 at their training grounds on Maui, Hawaii, in 1944 prior to departure for Saipan. Dr. William "Bos'n Bill" Rhodes is eighth from the observer's left on the top row.

approximately six weeks learning about coral, how to be dropped off and picked up, how to line up two objects on shore to aid in keeping on target, how to use a plastic chart strapped to the leg and record observations about coral heads and other obstructions under the water, how to report at debriefing after reconnaissance missions, how to use explosives for different purposes such as blowing channels, destroying mines and obstacles, leveling coral heads, and making smooth fringing reefs."

In late May of 1944 the training was completed and the men boarded old destroyers, the *Gilmer* and the *Brooks,* for their journey to Saipan. They were converted to high-speed transports and were small and very crowded. "I was on the *Brooks"* said Rhodes, "it was a real crate, and later sank at Saipan. It went down so fast that I only had time to get my sea bag. I lost my ukelele." Eighty enlisted men were jammed into the forward fireroom, from which the boilers had been removed. It was hot and uncomfortable. In addition, tons of high explosives were jammed in with the men making their situation even more unbearable. "I slept right on top of plastic explosives," recalled Rhodes, "the sweet smell of them was always with us on the trip out." A dropped match or a single hit by an enemy shell would have sent the whole ship up like a skyrocket.



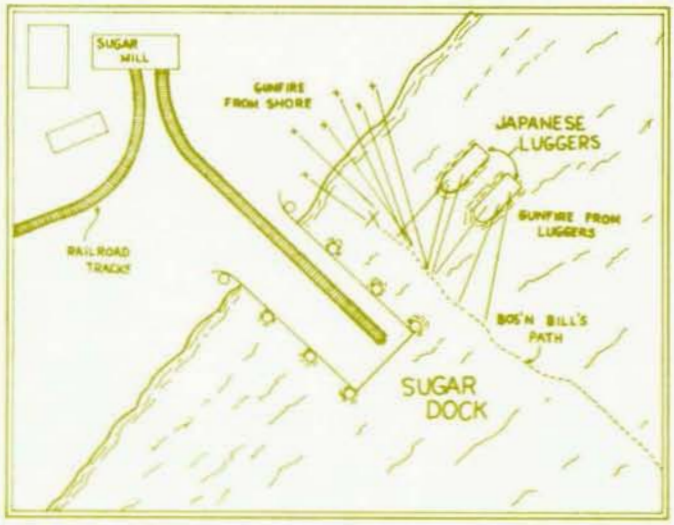
As the *Gilmer* and the *Brooks* approached Saipan on the morning of June 14, the pre-invasion bombardment had already begun. Even though the day was clear and bright with fluffy clouds overhead, the scene in and around the island was a holocaust. Altogether there were some 165 destroyers, about 40 aircraft carriers, 15 battleships, and all sorts of heavy and light cruisers and submarines. Several miles off shore most of the warships turned parallel to the island, but the *Gilmer* and *Brooks* carrying UDTs No.5 and No.7 kept going in closer. As they approached Saipan the other ships fired over them. About a mile outside the barrier reef the UDTs climbed over the sides of the ships into smaller boats. "It felt good to see all those big ships behind us", recalled Rhodes. Suddenly, the sea erupted as the crash of artillery shells fell around them. The Japanese shore batteries opened up. On the *Gilmer* two men were wounded and the battleship *California,* directly behind, took a direct hit.

A hundred yards off the reef the frogmen were dropped off into the water and were on their own to accomplish their sweeping mission. The reef was practically a wall of exploding mortar fire.

The men dived and checked the depth and contour on the ocean side and then made their way over the reef crawling and swimming. In some instances the officers went ahead of the swimmers on "flying matresses" which were rubber rafts with little outboard motors on them. But these were easy targets which the Japanese focused on and they soon sunk several. "I had a slate strapped to my leg" said Rhodes, "and I kept to my path making notations as I went." Things went off pretty much according to plan. As the frogmen approached the beach, Japanese snipers and machine guns joined the mortar fire.

The battered Saipan sugar refinery, present day site of the Mount Carmel Catholic Mission, stood at the north end of Chalan Kanoa. One of its tall stacks, surviving the bombardment, served as a landmark for the narrow channel cutting through the reef.

Rhodes came in at "sugar dock" and drew hails of bullets. Since the frogmen used no scuba gear, they had to come up periodically for air. Slowly Rhodes made his way doing his job; marking coral heads and obstructions, and staying in a straight line toward the



dock. "I'd use the wave-action to roll in and then the undertow to help me out." His area of coverage brought him up to 50 yards from the shore just to the left side of the dock.

Several Japanese barges (luggers) were anchored in the lagoon just south of the channel in front of the town. To the rear of the beaches were the woods full of Japanese snipers and pillboxes which stretched all the way down to the gun emplacements in the rocky cliffs at Saipan's southwest corner.

Aboard were Japanese firing into the water at Rhodes. He had to swim between these and the dock to complete his pattern. While doing this, he brought such a hail of small arms fire from the shore and the luggers as to prompt one recorder of the battle to observe that "probably no one ever had more bullets fired at him at close range, and escaped unscratched."[1] Rhodes is nonchalant about this today as he shrugs and says, "Who could say that for sure?"

With his first day's mission complete, Rhodes made his way back to the reef where he would be picked up by a manned rubber raft. While waiting at a buoy, he was grazed on the chin by a bullet. "It felt like a burn. Boy, did I get away from that buoy. We were much safer in the water. The buoy, you see, was a target. In the water, I was safe."

A frogman being picked up at Saipan after a recon mission on D-day minus one.

Back onboard ship, the UDT men worked all night preparing charts on the reef and the lagoon. Rhodes and the others had learned that there were no mines or man-made barriers at Saipan. The Japanese had simply not prepared any, and in fact, after the battle, it was discovered that many of the shore emplacements and fortifications were incomplete. But the frogmen had also learned from their first day's work that the lagoon was deeper in many places than the aerial photographs had suggested. If tanks and heavy equipment had tried to cross in these places, they would have bogged down. Maps were made to show where these items could get across safely.

"Some of the aerial photographs were really misleading", recalled Rhodes. "For example, some of them showed dark water near the beach below the sugar dock. This was thought to be deep water. We found out that, in fact, it was shallow water with grass and weeds growing in it. Some of the officers were reluctant to believe us. It was a pilot who finally corroborated our findings. He had been shot down over Chalan Kanoa on D minus one but had made his way through the lines and onto the beach. From there he actually swam through the lagoon, over the reef and made it safely to a ship. He had come right through the water with the grass growing in it. They believed us only after he told his story."

Pilots were helpful with the frogmen's recon work in many of the beach areas. Every piece of information was evaluated and used and the more dramatic the circumstances surrounding the delivery of the information, the more credible it seemed. On D minus one, Japanese anti-aircraft batteries brought down a Navy Avenger flying about 3,000 feet over the lagoon above Chalan Kanoa. The pilot, Lt. William Martin, got free of his aircraft and pulled the ripcord on his parachute. The chute opened but was riddled to shreds and Martin plummeted toward the water. He pointed his feet down, hit at an angle in about four feet of water, and sat with a thud on the bottom of the lagoon. He was about a hundred yards out from the beach and a hundred yards north of Susupe Point which would place him in the waterfront area of the present day Royal Taga Hotel. Incredibly he got up and swam away toward the reef pulling his rumpled parachute in tow. Japanese small arms fire was poured at him but he reached the reef unhurt, splashed across it in a crouching run, and dove into the ocean beyond. He then inflated his small sea life boat, rigged his torn chute as a sail, and got to sea where he was picked up.

[1] Say, Harold B., "They Hit the Beach in Swim Trunks", **Saturday Evening Post**, 13 October 1945, Vo. 218, No. 15, pp.14

Back aboard ship, he reported that the lagoon was four to six feet deep and the reef one and a half to two feet underwater with colored pennants marking it every three hundred yards as range finders for mortars.

As a result of the frogmen's work on D minus one, a major change was made in the landing battle order for the following day. The operation plan's tank route, which had been set on the basis of aerial reconnaissance for the extreme north end of the beaches, was switched to the area just north of the sugar dock. The UDTs had discovered–and had corroborated–the fact that there the water was more than two feet shallower. This involved a major tactical change in the landing and battle plan, moving the tank force from the Marines' left flank to the right. The Marine commanders had little choice but to acquiesce to this change given the new, concrete evidence which the frogmen had provided.

With no mines or man-made obstructions to be blasted on D-Day, the UDT officers rode with the Marines in the control landing craft in order to mark the outer boundaries of each beach and guide the waves of Marine amtracs into their allotted lanes. The thundering barrage of the naval armada pounded the beaches. The landing commenced at 0830 hours on 15 June 1944. The gunfire "walked" up the sand through every bit of the Japanese fire.

On the beaches south of the Susupe Point, Rhodes' team No.7 officers guided the fifty foot tank lighters onto a shelving reef which their southern-most crews had explored. The lighters dropped their ramps and the tanks rolled out, splashing through the lagoon shallows and up onto the beach. Farther north on the new tank route north of the sugar dock, UDT officers marked the way with buoys. The lighters came up to the reef and dropped off the tanks which then made their way across the lagoon. There were only several which failed to make it to the shore and today two can still be seen in the lagoon.

D-Day was not a day for the frogmen to be blasting wider channels over the reef. The traffic was too heavy. Ships unloaded supplies onto amtracs and the DUKWs, which proved invaluable for furrying equipment, supplies and men to the shore. "Back on ship we helped carry the wounded men", recalled Rhodes. "There were an awful lot of them. I remember one doctor–a real young fellow just out of medical school. He was good. Had to work around the clock and never complained."

After D-Day the UDTs were constantly in the water for three days blasting open a larger channel. "We worked long and hard", said Rhodes. "We hauled packets of explosives and blew open a large channel." Day and night they laid explosive packs and fired blasts, cutting a path 250 yards long and thirty yards wide and six feet deep through the barrier reef. It took some 105,000 pounds of high explosives to do the job.

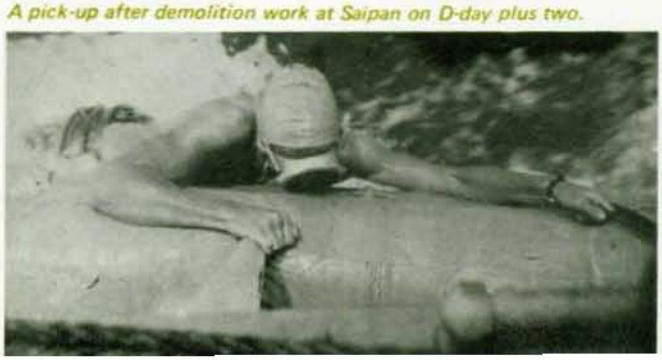
All told there were some 40,000 US troops involved in the landing. The Japanese had some 30,000 defenders. It was a long and fierce battle. At the end, the frogmen counted only a couple of dead and wounded among their ranks. "Our losses were low", said Rhodes, "because we were so specialized and because we had such good cover in the water. It was the fellows on the beach and back on the ships who were in the greatest danger and my hat was always off to them. I used to look back of me as I was in the water headed for the beach and see those big ships. They made me feel good; secure. And they took a pounding."

They took a pounding indeed. Seaman First Class James Fahey, aboard the *USS Montpelier* during the battle recounted that "on Wednesday morning at 2:00 a.m. on June 14 all hands went to battle stations and remained there until 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning June 17." In all that time, the firing on both sides never really ceased. "The men on the five and six inch guns had a rugged time . . . in those hot stuffy mounts and turrets all those days and nights with very little time off for rest. They spent most of the time passing the shells and powder cases into the guns and they had very little to eat. They were dirty from dust and sweat. The deck . . . was covered with their perspiration. If they did lay down to get some rest the concussion and noise from the guns shook them and made sleep impossible. Some of the fellows passed out from exhaustion. They looked like ghosts when it was over."

Bos'n Bill Rhodes and many of his UDT mates did a lot more swimming after Saipan. UDT No.7 went on to Tinian next and subsequently to Peleliu and Okinawa. Bos'n Bill achieved his aim of serving without pulling the trigger. "Some of those fellows were really good swimmers", recollects Rhodes. "In the water all the time and going for long distances alone just for the fun of it. Nobody was afraid of the water."

Dr. William Rhodes doesn't swim much nowadays, but of that Saipan experience, "anyone who says they weren't scared . . . well . . . to my mind simply isn't being truthful."

A pick-up after demolition work at Saipan on D-day plus two.



Three Poems

by Valentine Sengebau

LUUT

Over the years
Little is known
But
Its name sake
and
Its deeming deeds
Lower than "Mengeai" tide.

Returning again home
And boast of the marked fleeting clouds

Kelulau, they proclaim
Even Nemo fully agrees
that
Little is seen
Under honesty
and
Lots is wasted
And claimed actions
Until the Man approves.

Even the illiterates
Recognize the clownings
And the ghost would blush

Beyond the call of duty.
Ever since that cursed time
Lots of non sequitur
And noises have been
Unethical and unenvied.

Not knowing the name
of
Games' goal
More than they
Old traditionals
Call in their shares
Haven they guess
And little did they know
of
Returning again home
wearing
"Squid or 'Luut' uniforms".

THE LAST VISIT

With the eyes of memory
I've read
Your name
On the pages of my mind.
I've traced
Your coveted smiles
Like the colors
Of rainbows.
I see
Your faces
Everywhere.
I meet you
In my sleep.
I talk to you
In my dreams
Of thoughts
Walk by.
I see you
Weaving.
I slowly
Call your name.
As you ebb
Like a lovely
Sunset.
I feel
A lone sea bird
Cries.
Amidst
Of the roaring sea.
I woke up
Find my arms
Crossed over
My heart.
I smile
At you
In my eyes.
And whisper
Your name.
"Thank you
For visiting me
In my sleep."
I have hope.

MIRAGE

Mirror
Mirror on the wall
Who's the greatest
Of us all?
The mirage
The mirror says.
That's outrage
I reply
I've labored
Night and day
With all
My might
To reach
The summit
Of Mount Everest
With no rest
And U don't
Admit
Nor permit
The honor
Mine.
The mirror sighs
U've drunk
The hemlock.
Your tide ebbs
And sand glass
Empties.
You must go
Alone.
Adieu.
U've been seeing
The mirage
Acrosses the seas
Of time.
Only fools
Never learn.

Luut — squid or returning
Mengeai — quarter tide
Kelulau — a traditional decorum in enacting a law or decree in Palau.

Nemo — a Latin word for no one or nobody.

President Ford and representatives of the Marianas and the U.S. governments during the signing of the Covenant at the White House, March 24, 1976.

Eighth round of Micronesian status talks between the Micronesian delegation (facing camera) and the U.S. delegation, Saipan, June 2, 1976.

WASHINGTON--

President Ford signed on March 25, 1976 (March 24, Washington time) a resolution paving the way for the Northern Mariana Islands to become a Commonwealth of the United States of America.

As a Commonwealth, the Pacific Ocean islands will have a local government and a constitution and its people will become United States citizens.

During a White House ceremony in connection with the signing, President Ford said the move shows how strongly America feels about the right of people to decide their own future. He noted that a great majority of the citizens of Northern Marianas had voted last year to bring the islands into a Commonwealth relationship with the United States.

Ambassador Franklin Haydn Williams, the President's Personal Representative to the Micronesian and Marianas Status Negotiations, hosted a reception at the State Department in Washington after the signing.

After the signing, the seventeen-member Marianas delegation returned to Saipan jubilant over achieving their political aspiration, which they had been working so hard to achieve over these years.

A huge celebration commemorating the Covenant signing was held on Saipan April 21. Several dignitaries including newly appointed Resident Commissioner of the Government of the Northern Marianas Erwin D. Canham, Ambassador Williams, Guam's Governor Ricardo Bordallo, and Director of Territorial Affairs Fred M. Zeder were present.

President Ford, although not able to attend the celebration in person, sent this message in a memorandum dated April 16 to the people of the Northern Mariana Islands:

"It is with great pleasure that I ask my personal representative, Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, to present to you a copy of Public Law 94-241, which enacted the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America. History will record that this legislation was the result of more than two years of free negotiations between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States and that the Covenant gives expression to the desire of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands for self-government within the American political system.

"I extend to you my best wishes and congratulate you on your success in achieving the goal for which you have worked so hard. I share your pleasure and welcome you as fellow Americans." Sincerely /s/ Gerald R. Ford.

SAIPAN--

The leadership of the Congress of Micronesia and its Joint Committee on Future Status met with the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations on Saipan May 28-June 1, 1976. On June 2, 1976, the members of the Joint Committee on Future Status and the President's Personal Representative met in a plenary session. The working sessions and the plenary session constituted the eighth round of talks on the future political status of the Caroline and Marshall Islands.

The leadership of the Congress of Micronesia and its Joint Committee on Future Status reaffirmed their position that negotiations should proceed toward the Congress of Micronesia's desired objective, a Compact of Free Association between the United States and a future Federated States of Micronesia. In working sessions, the Congress of Micronesia-Joint Committee on Future Status leadership and the President's Personal Representative reviewed the October 1974 draft Compact of Free Association. Suggested alterations to that draft were then presented to the full JCFS for its consideration. Throughout this review process, the leadership of the Congress and its Joint Committee on Future Status reported to the full Joint Committee on Future Status, to prospective members of the new Commission on Future Status and Transition, and also consulted with several leaders from the various districts and Micronesian members of the Trust Territory Administration.

During this review process both sides confirmed old understandings and reached new understandings and agreement on the basic principles and the text of the draft Compact of Free Association. One of the many agreements confirmed in the eighth round is this: The people of Micronesia, through an exercise of their sovereign right of self-determination, will vest in the United States full responsibility for and authority over the foreign affairs and defense matters of Micronesia. (For full text of the joint communique, see *Highlights*, June 1, 1976.)

Only one single area remains to be resolved before the Compact is put to the Congress and submitted to the Micronesian people in a plebiscite, and that is Micronesia's great and legitimate interest in preserving and protecting Micronesian ocean resources.

Overall, both the U.S. and the Micronesian delegations indicated their agreement with the Compact by initialling its twelve titles and three annexes.