

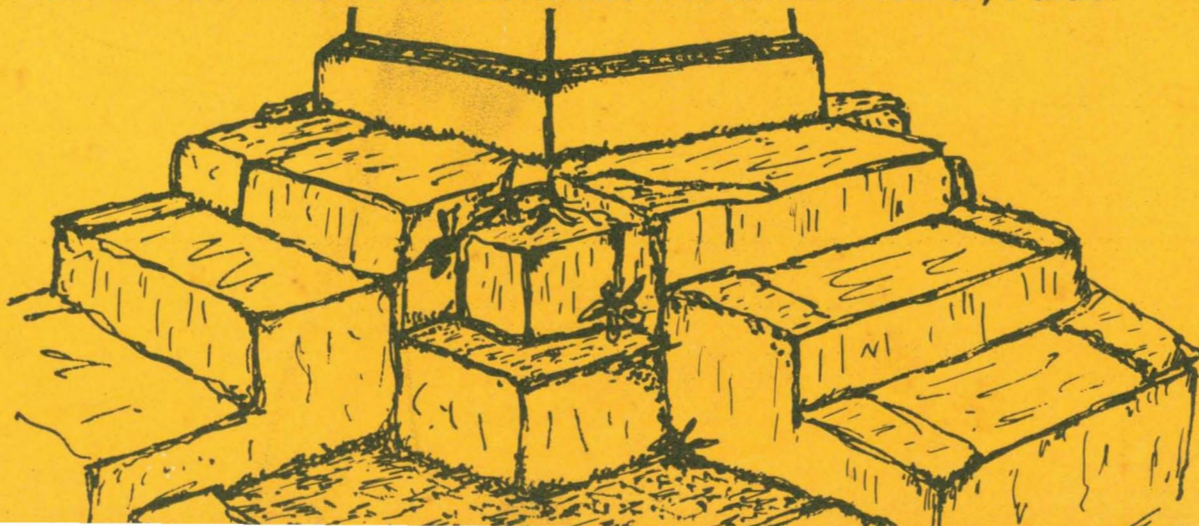
# MicronesianReporter

FIRST QUARTER 1979

*Japanese School authorities'  
Code of Ethics impressed  
upon Micronesian students  
are summed up in the  
following words:*



*These words were imprinted on brass plates in Chinese characters  
on the four sides of this monument located in Koror, Palau.*





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# MicronesianReporter

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# This Quarter's Worth

Our lead article for this quarter's issue is "Putting Educational Critiques Into Perspective" by David Ramarui. Ramarui defends the present educational system operating throughout Micronesia which is patterned after the American system of Education. He favors the present system over that of the Japanese educational system which predominated in Micronesia during the Japanese administration. Ramarui writes, "These constant intrusions by external forces into Micronesia in terms of social, economic, political and military exploitation and their impact upon Micronesians are so significantly great that Micronesians must educate, train, develop and prepare themselves to be able to compete with outside intruders if they are to survive and keep up with the pace and momentum of world development and progress."

The Feeding Program in Micronesia has become one of the leading controversial issues. Although it does serve the needs of those people who really need food assistance, the million-dollar program has been opposed by politicians and businessmen because they say that it would create false economy and dependency and also hurts business growth. For this quarter, the magazine presents two articles on the feeding program: "Feeding The Multitude In Micronesia" by Liz Udui and "Report On The Needy Family Program On Moen" by four Xavier students. Mrs. Udui's article covers the entire history of the feeding program in the T.T., and the Xavier students talk specifically about Truk. However both

articles have interesting and relevant points to offer to the readers.

In this day and age when a lot of people are concerned about preserving the world environment, Bob Owen's article, "A Conservation Program For The Trust Territory" should be interesting reading material.

Dwight Heine's "Reminiscence" should touch your imagination. Recalling the old time stories, and relating it to an audience takes an good and skilled narrator to accomplish, and Heine is just the man.

And to those who are interested in the political and economic development throughout last year, "1978 Retrospective" by Sam & Liz should give you the shot in the arm.

In the area of poetry, Anne Udui is sharing with us another round of her poems, and Val has also put in his share, not wanting to be left out.

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## Who's Who

...in this issue of the Reporter

**David Ramarui** is the Director, Bureau of Education of the Trust Territory Government at the Headquarters, a post he has held for the last six years. He first came to Saipan in 1971 to assume the position as Deputy Director of Education. Ramarui holds a Bachelor Degree in Anthropology from the University of Hawaii, and has been involved in TT education system as far back as 1946. He has been Palau Senator to the Congress of Micronesia (1967-1970); and also was Palau Education Administrator (1962-68) among other important public positions.

**Elizabeth Udui** is Chief, Foreign Investment, Economic Division, Bureau of Resources. Mrs. Udui has been contributing articles over the past several years to this magazine and she is a member of its Editorial Board.

**John S. De Leon, Henry C. Bualuay, Albon J. Jelkan and Anthony N. Oiterong** are graduating seniors at Xavier High School on Moen, Truk. The students at this Jesuit run school have been producing outstanding written materials for their school project. Like their fellow Xavierites before them, the four young scholars have accomplished excellent work that the other students throughout Micronesia will be proud to read.

**Dwight Heine** is a special consultant to the High Commissioner. A prominent and jovial Micronesian patriarch, Heine hails from the Marshalls, and has represented the Trust Territory Government at countless international meetings and conferences in South Pacific nations and other places. He holds an honorary doctorate degree in Humanities from Oakland City College in Indiana. Heine is also member of the Editorial Board of the Micronesian Reporter.

**Robert P. Owen** has just retired after some 30 years dedicated to the Trust Territory Government as Chief Conservationist. He first arrived in Micronesia in 1949, and after spending some times in the Marshalls and on Guam, he made Palau his prominent station first as Entomologist, and later Chief Conservationist.

**Samuel F. McPhetres** is associated with the Division of Political Affairs, Bureau of Public Affairs, as a researcher for Education for Self-Government. He was formerly Peace Corps staff in Ivory Coast, Somalia & Truk; school teacher in Alaska and at one time worked for the Trust Territory Department of Education. McPhetres is a member of the Editorial Board of this magazine.

**Anne M. Udui** was on Saipan recently and was able to share with us some of her poetry. A freshman at Mid-Pacific Institute in Honolulu, Anne writes her poems during her free time. The magazine looks forward to publish more of her works in the future.

**Val Sengebau** is an Assistant Editor of the Micronesian Reporter.



# PUTTING EDUCATIONAL CRITIQUES INTO PERSPECTIVE

Numerous articles, papers, critiques and books have been written on Micronesia many of which touch on the theme of the current educational scene and pose a question that casts doubt on appropriateness of the system itself and relevancy of its programs to meeting the expressed Micronesian national prioritized needs. In general, a given author would plot his or her theme based on the premise that Micronesia is culturally less advanced, economically limited, technologically unsophisticated and even geographically remote so as to infer that an American oriented system of education is not suitable for the mass of its youth. He or she views Micronesia in isolation rather than as a part of the world community and argues that its remoteness would not warrant adopting American modeled systems of education and its programs.

Within this context some authors assert that the present system over-exposing Micronesians to American modeled quantitative or mass education would tend, it is argued, to produce many frustrated educated Micronesians simply because there are not that many job opportunities available in their home islands that would provide them salaried employment after graduation.

勤勞 正直 從順 厚恩

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*by David Ramarui*

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This view characterizes a misconception assuming existence of an inherent correlation between "frustration" and "education with no job" This is a sheer fallacy because many of the most frustrated youths who become nuisances to the society are amongst those drop-outs or pushed-outs from school. Frustration is a psychological state of mind common to all human beings caused by such circumstances that negate one's gratification of achieving what is desired. Today both educated and non-educated individuals are equally exposed to and subjected to the impact of the ever changing society. If a genuine education is assumed to make a person able to think better, then the educated individuals have a better chance to adjust and survive in the modern society than the unfortunate ones who did not have the opportunity for or were denied adequate education.

Because of the above noted misconception some authors would conversely purport that the purpose of education for Micronesia would at best be to train a limited number of students at the secondary school level and even a lesser number at the college level so as to produce fewer professionals or skilled individuals with the objective of filling the limited jobs available or anticipated to be available in Micronesia in the future as opposed to mass or universal secondary education and open educational opportunities for college bound students. And for those who would pursue higher education the emphasis, these authors would argue, should be primarily on agriculture and fishing and other related vocational areas over the fields of liberal arts or humanities. Many authors would use such an expression as, *qualitative education for a selected few potentials vs. quantitative education for mass mediocrity*. This again is a grave misconception in that smallness of enrollment has no inherent bearing on quality of education nor is mediocrity akin to quantity or mass of enrollment.

I feel what such an author would perceive, as though being an accurate assessment of Micronesia's societies, their cultural configurations and their needs, may be only a reflection of his subconsciously culturally biased mode of thinking and assessing of a reality.

Based on the above generalization, I would challenge such an author as passing subjective judgments, without hard evidence, highly critical of the present educational system in Micronesia as he might argue being a mere unplanned replica of the American system and thus he sees its program as though being not conducive to Micronesia's needs and development.

Yet within this purview most authors have literary skills and are able to manipulate and synthesize some

facts with their personal observations and/or impressions and eloquently present a description of Micronesia with a seeming precision based on which to make their own evaluations and draw conclusions on the matter of relevancy of Micronesia's existing educational system and its programs. Most authors are usually silent on the fact that Micronesia is no longer as isolated from the rest of the world community, as many people choose to think, but in reality it is an integral part of it. To illustrate my point here I shall quote from Mr. Dwight Heine's article entitled, "CULTURAL - PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN MICRONESIA" . . . "There have been many studies made about Micronesian cultural development, preservation and restoration. The emphasis has been on 'what was' and hardly anything on 'what is', that is, the cultures as we see them today. Culture is not static; it keeps changing with time . . . Micronesian cultures can be summed up as follows:

- (a) Micronesia
- (b) Micro. + Spain
- (c) Micro. + Spain + Germany
- (d) Micro. + Spain + Germany + Japan
- (e) Micro. + Spain + Germany + Japan + U.S.A."

(MICRONESIAN REPORTER, Fourth Quarter 1977, pp. 13 and 17.)

It should be noted that throughout the course of history not only have there been new elements and values added to Micronesian cultures but there have also been substantial elimination and/or subtraction of certain institutions, customs, and practices that have become obsolete or artifacts that are valuable only as museum pieces serving as material evidences of the past and are kept for preservation of the history of past traditions.

Micronesians are affected by external forces intruding into Micronesia at a pace and with the degree difficult for them to control and conversely they cannot escape from a certain degree of outward movement, involvement, and/or participation in modern world affairs. These constant intrusions by external forces into Micronesia in terms of social, economic, political and military exploitation and their impact upon Micronesians is so significantly great that Micronesians must educate, train, develop, and prepare themselves to be able to cope with the impact of such external forces befalling their lives and be able to compete with outside intruders if they are to survive and to keep up with pace and momentum of world development and progress. Perhaps it is more appropriate to say that human interaction amongst



Micronesia's peoples and/or between Micronesians and outsiders can be deemed an inevitable natural phenomenon.

Cultural development is an evolutionary process attributed to certain internal or spontaneous growth factors as well as acculturation through diffusion and assimilation. There are, of course, other factors that may intervene to counter-balance the assimilation and prevent absorption of one culture in the other. But all in all, changes are inevitable.

Without focusing on these very real phenomena any basis or premise for a treatise on Micronesia by any writer could be deemed only a partial truth which leads to an incomplete assessment and distorted conclusion.

I might cite some of the prevailing expressions which I find myself not comfortable with as they are either ill-defined or may be mere expressions of hindsight on the part of given authors. The following are such expressions: Why over-educate Micronesians; Educating the individuals is a privilege for the individuals, not a basic human right which cannot be denied; Controlled number of Micronesians to train in selected fields for Micronesia's national priority needs, "... Wholesale mass education ... What we've done is created a lot of frustrated young men and women, and caused the highest suicide rate in the world ... Micronesia brain drain," (PDN December 4, 1978-P. 19), etc. These expressions, in my opinion, are ambiguous. The term education is used without first being defined. The terms education and training are confused as though they were contextually synonymous.

The Micronesia Board of Education defines education as the growth and development of the whole human person and that learning is a life-long continuous process. With this general definition of education I would venture to challenge the above expressions as reflection of a misconception of the term education and how it applies to Micronesians as people. Micronesians are just as "... capable of learning, assimilating, reflecting and experiencing the full realization of human growth in all fields of human endeavor as well as all men everywhere." (*MICRONESIAN REPORTER*, First Quarter 1972, p. 12).

In view of the foregoing critique, I would like now to present, perhaps through Micronesia's culturally biased eyes, my views, observations and position on the subject of the educational system in Micronesia under two consecutive foreign administrations, the Japanese and the American and to compare and contrast their programs and practices we Micronesians have experienced and their impact upon us. I would also like

to reflect on what I view as an expression of education for Micronesians, its goals and objectives and strategies and approaches whereby these goals and objectives are accomplished.

Let me show in the following table the analysis of most apparent contrasts in philosophical implications and practices between Japanese oriented education in Micronesia for Micronesians and the American educational model modified and adopted by Micronesians and their results:

#### JAPANESE MODEL

1. Control system
2. 3 years compulsory and 2 years optional attendance
3. 26 native public schools throughout the mandate System in 1940 (26 years of Japanese Administration)
4. No college education was available for Micronesians. (No Micronesian professionals)
5. Completely segregated school system in Micronesia
6. Drilling & memorizing methods of teaching and learning
7. Imposed decision from the top
8. Passive obedience and acceptance
9. No library for Micronesian schools

#### AMERICAN MODEL

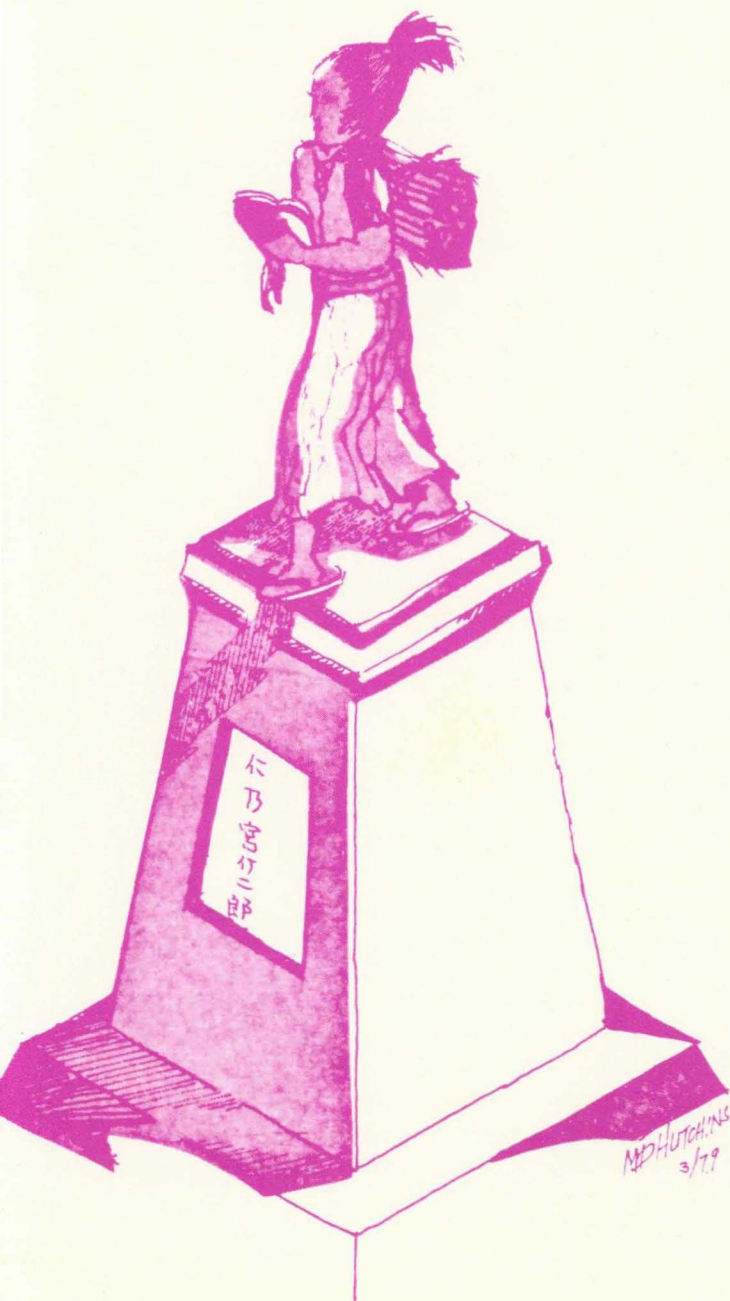
1. Open system
2. 8 years compulsory and 4 years universal attendance
3. 247 public and non-public elementary schools, 30 public and non-public high schools and 3 post-secondary schools in the TTPI in 1976 (30 years of U.S. Administration)
4. 3,000 plus Micronesian post-secondary students are in attendance abroad in 1978. (Hundreds graduated in previous years including many professionals and skills technicians in various fields)
5. Integrated school system within and outside Micronesia
6. Creative & discovering methods of learning and reflective thinking process
7. Participation in decision making
8. Debate, reason and rhetoric
9. Most high schools have libraries



Perhaps the only comparable aspect of the two systems is in the areas of curriculum contents which include the learning of skills in literacy, science, computation, arts and vocational programs except differing in level and intensity.

One outstanding expression on the Code of Ethics impressed upon Micronesians by the Japanese school authorities may be summed up in four words as follows:

1. Industriousness (Diligence)
2. Honesty
3. Obedience
4. Obligation (Indebtedness)



These words were not just verbalized but they were even written on a tangible solid monument. Near the gate of the then Koror public school for native children there was erected a concrete column monument and on the four phases of it these four words were written in gold plated brass in Chinese characters.

Just before students entered classrooms every morning (year 1937) they were assembled and recited these words in unison. They were made to memorize them and understand their intended meanings for them to know. The real subtle implications, of course, were that Micronesians work hard and diligently, be honest, obedient and feel obligated to their Japanese superiors. Attempting to reason with teachers or to offer explanations or, sometimes, to alibi, were considered by the Japanese as acts of disobedience which Micronesians were told and warned to avoid. In contrast to the symbolic monument for Micresian children another monument was erected near the gate of a typical Japanese elementary school in Koror. It was a statue depicting a Japanese legendary school boy named Ninomiya Kinjiro carrying firewood on his back and holding a book in his hands in a reading posture. It signified the virtue of more reading and more self-study as the Japanese children were so encouraged.

One of our instructors in vocational school in Koror (year 1939) illustrating his way of teaching made this statement, "You guys, I beat you and pound you and I mold you and make good men out of you. You hate me now, but you will appreciate it later". He then made the following analogy, "It is like a samurai (Japanese warrior) making a sword — he takes a piece of iron, heats it and tempers it over the fire, pounds it repeatedly with a hammer, molds it and cures it in cold water and makes a steel sword out of it". This was primarily an expression of indoctrinating process and not an educating process. Under this condition Micronesians were passive listeners rather than active participations. One may wonder if Micronesians were successful products of the system or perhaps partly victims of it. Low level of literacy, lack of adequate technical skills, and absence of professionalism among Micronesians then coupled with the feeling instilled in their minds as being inferior and as second rate citizens in their own lands well verify the latter to be the case.

Now under the American administration, let me repeat what I said years ago which I firmly believe still valid. "In contrast with the previous administration, the American administration introduced... democracy;... that carries with it the conceptual virtues of individual freedom, rights, self-advancement and... that education is an



inseparable component of democracy to help nurture man's intellectual growth and to foster his knowledge, understanding, ability and his sense of responsibility as a unique individual in his society". (*MICRONESIAN REPORTER*, First Quarter 1976, p. 15). "Education is for a total growth of a person including academic discipline, character building, manual and technical skills development and moral and spiritual development . . . Real education makes a man able to think, imagine, create, appreciate and perpetuate meaningful life for himself and for his society". (*MICRONESIAN REPORTER*, First Quarter 1977, p. 10).

The Micronesia Board of Education in its deliberation and through its wisdom put forward the following goals of education for Micronesia:

#### The Goals of Education for Micronesia

The Micronesia Board of Education defines the Goals of Education for Micronesia as follows:

1. To assist each person to recognize and actualize his or her own potentials for physical, mental, moral, domestic, and civic activities in order to live to the fullest a dignified, meaningful, and worthwhile life.
2. To develop in all individuals a deep sense of esteem for and pride in their own cultural heritage as well as a genuine appreciation and respect for the different cultures and customs of their fellow Micronesian citizens.
3. To develop in all persons self-understanding, self-acceptance, self-respect, self-discipline, and personal responsibility which will commit each to the welfare of family, community, and territory.
4. To make available to all citizens learning experiences relevant to a Micronesian setting and suited to each one's capabilities and interests which will enable them to develop and will motivate them to use productive skills that are both personally rewarding and useful to society.
5. To assist all citizens to develop basic literacy and computational skills.
6. To develop in all citizens the ability to understand and to make wise choices concerning the changing social, political, economic, and environmental situations of their communities, their islands, and their nation.
7. To develop in the citizens of Micronesia an awareness and an understanding of their place and role as a nation in the larger world community so as to enable them to participate freely in its affairs.

8. To foster among the people of Micronesia strong bonds of unity through an awareness of the common elements and the interdependence which they share.

Adopted by the Micronesia Board of Education,  
May 24, 1976

Approved by the Acting High Commissioner,  
November 23, 1976

Although these goals were printed and published at a much later date they are indeed the expressed conclusion and reiteration of those words the board has long been deliberating ever since its creation.

It is my strong belief that a sound philosophy of education for Micronesia should be one that sets the bases whereby Micronesians are fully assisted and guided by the eight goals so as to achieve development of each and every person as a whole human person as previously noted. The strategy and approach would be to keep examining and improving curriculums and their delivery, provide training for teachers, open more opportunities for Micronesians to pursue higher education at home and abroad, provide better counseling so as to help individuals able to pursue courses in fields of their inclinations, aspirations and where their talents lie for their eventual success.

Any attempt to limit educational opportunity is not a solution to national development of Micronesia. Rather it is an indication of hindsight inhibiting the development of individuals and leads to creating a gap between elites and the mass ignorants and allows exploitation of the mass by a few. At the worst, the mass of Micronesians could not be able to compete with and protect themselves from internal foes as well as external forces intruding into Micronesia as we all know have happened in the past centuries and particularly during the last sixty years and now at an almost uncontrollable pace and magnitude. This kind of happening is particularly phenomenal in Hawaii and Guam. The Northern Marianas are now experiencing such rapid changes. The changes and their effects upon island people are not absent in the Marshalls, Palau and the central Carolines and they are rapidly increasing.

In today's world man is continually competing with his fellow man, environment, time, and natural as well as incidental changes. And man by nature possesses enormous potentials and talents that can and must be unfolded and fully realized. Micronesians as peoples are no different — they fall within the realm of this reality.



It is also a recognized fact that institutionalized system of education is that universally most accepted effective avenue open to facilitate the growth and development of individual persons by way of providing necessary disciplines. Thus the adoption of an American educational model is one step toward that goal since Micronesia traditionally did not have her own model. This model, as well as any model so adopted, calls for changes, adjustments, and improvement toward achieving the expressed goals of education for Micronesia.

We must not be blinded by any other suggested nebulous pattern that stagnates and inhibits progress of Micronesia's societies in the name of preserving the past traditions confining Micronesians from exposure to the metropolitan world. A well educated citizenry and also to blend new desirable elements from other cultures to their own so as to enrich their culture and tradition.

It is evident beyond doubt that the educational opportunities accorded Micronesians by the American administration has paved the way for development of Micronesia's most precious natural resource, her people. After all, is it not the human resource or the manpower that develops other resources and generates economy and fosters the social welfare of a society?

Micronesia does not have a surplus of well educated people. Even if we had innumerable educated Micronesians they should be regarded as assets of the society.



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# Feeding the Multitude in Micronesia

by *Elizabeth Udui*

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I have always been fascinated by the story in the Bible where Christ fed the multitude by the Sea of Galilee with an infinite number of loaves and fishes. How miraculous it must have seemed to the outer islanders of Micronesia when the first shiny cans of food from the USDA commodity distribution program arrived in the remote islands where they had been scratching an existence from small taro patches and scanty reefs.

Institutions (schools and hospitals) in Micronesia received USDA commodities sporadically from the early 1960's to about 1975 when the School Lunch Act was extended to the schools of Micronesia. The estimated value of the commodities distributed under the earlier program was about \$1 million per year; under the School Lunch Program, about \$2 million.

The extension of the Needy Family Assistance Program, the controversial

"feeding" program, came about because in 1970 and 1971, the people of Kili Island in the Marshalls were experiencing a period of drought and a food shortage. This was of special concern to the Trust Territory Administration as the people had originally been residents of Bikini Island and were relocated to Kili during the period of the atomic bomb tests in 1945-47. A \$10,000 revolving fund had been made available for the islanders to procure supplies from the field trip vessels. This did not prove to be a workable solution to the problem of feeding the Kili Islanders due to problems in administering such a large sum of money equitably. So in October 1971, at the request of the Kili people, and with the strong support of the High Commissioner (then Edward E. Johnston), the USDA Needy Family Feeding Program began and eligible families of Kili began receiving the food.

In order for the people of Kili to become eligible for this program, a State Plan had to be prepared as for all Federal Programs. This State Plan, by Federal regulations, had to cover the entire Territory, so at that point the entire Territory became eligible for the family feeding program. However, it was not then the intent of the Administration to extend the programs elsewhere in the Territory.

Meanwhile, representatives of the Northern Marianas Government heard about the feeding program and requested that it be extended to the Northern Marianas. The reasons behind this were that typhoons and heavy rains had consistently damaged crops and there were nutritional deficiencies in the population, especially in children. Later nutrition studies bore these findings out.

In 1972, the Needy Family Donated Food Program was extended to



the Northern Marianas. The program started off with about 25% of the total number of families signed up. According to most recent figures, about 10,000 residents of the Northern Marianas or about 80% of its population now receive this free USDA food. Critics of the Northern Marianas program say that some of the food which does not suit local tastes is fed to the pigs. They also remark that the food program has allowed an expansion of social occasions such as fiestas, wedding parties, etc., so that it is hard for a non-USDA recipient to reciprocate and entertain at the same level.

In 1970, a big impetus was given to obtaining food commodities for Micronesia, when the U.S. National School Lunch Act was extended to the Territory. Under this program, the Territory became eligible for a range of other food programs. These included the School Lunch Program, Child Care and Nutrition, School Breakfast, Food Services Equipment, Nutrition Education and Training, Summer Food Services Program for Children, and Women's, Infants and Children Supplemental Food Program.

In another program, the Nutrition Program for the Elderly, about 13,600 participate in lunch programs at neighborhood centers to demonstrate better nutrition. The food for the lunches comes from USDA commodities.

The Trust Territory Administration agreed to accept the National School Lunch Program, with the concurrence of policy makers in Washington who saw the program as a means to stimulate local agricultural development. Funds for the purchases of commodities for the school lunch programs were to be made available to the districts and they were supposed to purchase local agriculture and marine products. What sounded fine in theory, failed in practice. As there was limited local production, no marketing system, and no coordination of farm activities, the concept proved unworkable. Before the

farmers had a chance to gear up to produce for the program, imported food was being purchased from local sources—a real windfall for storekeepers but a sad disappointment to those who had hoped to see local agriculture stimulated.

The National School Lunch Program includes child nutrition programs such as school breakfast, school lunch and child care nutrition (directed toward pre-school children). This latter program had been in effect since 1966. The purpose of these programs was to improve the general health and diet of the child population. It was felt that if children began learning about the value of a balanced diet at an early age and received a nutritious diet in the lunch room, they would become aware of what good nutrition is. Some surveys have indicated that Micronesian children may have protein and vitamin deficiencies but there has been no definitive study to date.

Not much criticism of the school feeding programs has been voiced; they are popular and available to both public and private schools. There is some evidence that school attendance has increased since the program began. In the case of the private schools, administrative costs are lower, reflected in lower tuition charges. What complaints have ensued have been those such as the argument that parents should be responsible for feeding their own children. The school feeding programs, it is said, will allow a parent to sell a drinking coconut to the school and profit from it instead of giving the coconut directly to the child to meet his needs. One wonders if some of these criticisms are voiced by the "have" portion of the population and that the "have nots" are perfectly satisfied with the chance to earn some extra cash and to receive the food.

Ancillary Child Nutrition Programs for which the Territory is eligible and has received some assistance include the special summer food services program

for children, food services equipment assistance, and the nutrition education and training program.

In 1976, it was proposed to institute a program called "Women's, Infants and Children's Supplemental Feeding Program. As the elderly were already receiving food under the aging program, school children from the lunch program, and entire families from USDA commodities, cynics criticized this new program and said that it would result in Micronesians being fed "from womb to tomb". The Women's, Infants and Children's Supplemental Feeding Program was not implemented on order of the High Commissioner.

Controversy over the food programs intensified beginning after Typhoon Pamela hit Truk and part of Yap in 1976. The needy family program was extended to the outer islands of Truk District in 1977 as a result of a Truk Agriculture Department survey to determine the extent of devastation. Some of the outer islanders were to receive the food for 6 months, some for one year and some for three years. Two outer islands in Yap District which had been struck by the same typhoon were also extended the food at their request.

As the food started to be distributed to the Truk outer islanders, the people of the Truk lagoon islands which had also been struck by Typhoon Pamela, but not as severely, questioned why they were not also receiving this food. In a formal letter requesting extension of the food program to the entire Truk District, the District Administrator stated: "Our need for food outweighs any other circumstantial factor, be it political or social." On June 15, 1978, the request was approved and every eligible person in Truk or about 100% of the population, began to receive USDA commodities.

How had the other districts reacted to the needy family food program being extended to the entire Marianas and Truk regions? In 1976, the Palau Legislature roundly defeated a resolution seeking extension of the



family feeding program. In October 1978, the Ponape District Legislature and some Chiefs from Kosrae asked that the program be extended to their districts. These requests were denied by the High Commissioner under the containment of federal programs policy in November. In October 1978, the program was extended to the Kwajalein Atoll.

As the food programs had been gradually extended to the Trust Territory, using eligibility standards, which, although considerably below those applicable in the United States, still allowed a great majority of the population to be recipients, negotiations with the United States regarding the future political status of the Trust Territory, including the amounts of direct economic assistance which would be extended to it, were underway. By 1978, it became clear that the United States had made a firm offer to give each of the three future governments (Palau, Marshalls and the Federated States of Micronesia) a flat cash grant from which nearly all their requirements would be funded. Under this offer, the United States did not contemplate continuing any federal programs except the FAA, the Weather Service and the Postal Service. U.S. negotiators stated that federal programs could be continued "as the Micronesians themselves might wish to pay for out of their cash grants." This possibility was recognized by the Congress of Micronesia as early as November 1977 when a report on "Organization and Administration of the Central Executive Branch in Micronesia during the Transition" stated that while there was debate on the pros and cons of federal programs, "their continuation after the end of the Trusteeship is highly problematical." The report went on to state that it was entirely foreseeable that "some of these programs—perhaps many of them—may be discontinued in the near future."

The entire attention of the Congress of Micronesia, the Trust

Territory administration, Washington officials, local district governments, and the press became focused on the feeding program toward the end of 1978, as the conflict between economic desires and political realities became apparent. The pros and cons of the program were widely discussed and personal confrontations became heated. As Lazarus Salii, Administrator of Development Services put it in an early November message to the Chairman of the Education, Health, and Social Matters Committee of the Interim Congress of the Federated States, "It appears to me that the matter of Federal food programs has been blown up out of proportion by recent news items and spotlighting of the program in the Interim Congress." He added at a later date about the controversy, "it seemed as if the whole government suddenly became irrational over the whole matter."

In early 1978, the High Commissioner's Office, in conjunction with Federal program staff and in consultation with the Office of Territories of the Department of the Interior, began a review of all Federal programs. The intent of this review, was that federal programs which distribute commodities and services which do not contribute to the Micronesians' ability to become economically self-sufficient should not be encouraged.

The extension of the family food program to Truk, combined with the school lunch program, made the Trust Territory the single largest recipient of food commodities from USDA sources. In the United States, food stamps were issued to needy families, not commodities. The Department of Agriculture became concerned about the sharp increase in the funding request for the Needy Family Feeding Program brought about by the inclusion of Truk as it had not planned for this size program expansion in its FY 1979 budget and this concern was voiced to the Department of the Interior.

The High Commissioner's federal program review culminated in a November 17, 1978 policy which stated that no new federal programs would be sought, no present ones expanded and that every attempt would be made to phase out marginal or low priority programs before the termination of the Trusteeship. High Commissioner Winkel reaffirmed this policy to the political status entities of the Marshalls, Palau and the Federal States in January 1979. He stated "by the time of the termination of the Trusteeship, if not prior to that time, virtually all, if not all, federal programs will have been terminated . . . this policy . . . applies as much, if not more in some respects to that general category of programs which have been known as 'feeding programs'."

Thus, the High Commissioner's consistent actions in November and again in January 1979 denying the request of the Ponape District Legislature for the extension of the needy family food program to that district.

While federal programs were under review by the Administration, several members of the Congress of Micronesia made speeches against the food program. Most outspoken was Petrus Tun, Senator from Yap who is also Chairman of the Transition Committee of the Micronesian Commission on Future Political Status and Transition. Senator Tun's speeches, were given at the January 1978 session of the Congress of Micronesia. Basic to his position was the feeling that Micronesians should begin to look toward an austerity program under their new form of government. He felt that Micronesia had gotten used to federal programs which it could no longer afford. He stated most emphatically that "Where a real need does not exist, an artificial one should not be created." Other criticisms that Tun leveled at the food program included:

—government should not feed the people directly



—the program leads people to develop a taste for imported food

—the fear that “everyone in Micronesia, young or old, male or female, with or without income will be eligible to be fed by the United States under some sort of federal program or other”

—the food program discourages development of commercial farming

In November 1978, Rep. Sasao Haruo from Truk gave a speech against the program citing certain hidden costs which he saw as follows:

1. cost of programs which may have to be assumed from the direct grants after the termination of the Trusteeship

2. cost of local productivity—program discourages local people from growing their own food

3. cost in number of businesses that will go bankrupt

4. cost of reduced revenues to government because of decline in business sector

5. overall cost in self reliance

6. cost because of greater unemployment and social problems

Another leading apponent of the food program was Rep. Kikuo Apis from Ponape. He felt that “free” feeding programs would produce greater dependency on handouts and less self-reliance by Micronesians. Rep. Apis joined the Ponape Acting Governor and the District Agriculturist in strong opposition to the food program being extended to Ponape. The Ponape District Agriculturist James Hiyane summed up their position: “There is no one starving or suffering from acute malnutrition on Ponape. The district can virtually become self-sufficient in food crops and provide each man, woman and child with a wealth of sustenance.”

Rep. Apis became so concerned about the food program that he introduced a critical resolution in the Interim Congress of Micronesia in October 1978. Like many other resolutions of the Congress, it condemned while praising. In essence

the resolution praised the administrator of the food services program, Mr. George Bussell, while recommending that “he be promoted to a position of higher responsibility outside the Trust Territory.”

Resio Moses, Administrator of Community Services, who holds overall responsibility for the program, responded that “If the intent of the resolution is to be a congressional indictment against the feeding program, then it should deal with the subject matter itself and be directed at higher authorities responsible for government policy formulation with respect to feeding programs.” Moses cited the Administrator as a “capable program person administering a politically unpopular program.” Many program administrators have commented that administration of any program in Micronesia is difficult due to geography and the lack of a common basis or a uniform criteria to apply across the board to the various districts.

In any event, Mr. Bussell resigned his position in January 1979.

All members of the Congress of Micronesia were not against the food programs, however. A plea for its continuation was voiced by Sen. Bossy of Truk. “I know that these feeding programs are not the best approach, but I know that there is the need on the part of many people for food assistance. It is not being produced and distributed by ourselves, for whatever reason, and until we do it, I cannot take away what my people have.” Senator Bossy’s point may be well taken as Truk’s per capita income declined \$200 a head from 1975 to 1977.

Senator Ambilos Ieshi of Ponape also sounded a cautionary note, saying that “Ponapeans have requested USDA food.” This feeling was expressed by others who felt that the question of the food programs should be decided by the State (district) legislatures. One government administrator stated that he saw the requests from the districts as a sign of “greater political awareness” and

a finer degree of concern for the welfare aspects of society.”

Proponents of the food program believe that a balanced and nutritious diet should be provided for Micronesians. They cited nutrition surveys which indicated that imported food is poorly selected and distribution of food within the family is based on age and position, not need for growth. Poor sanitation levels lead to intestinal parasites and various types of gastroenteritis causing dehydration, especially in children. Good nutrition is of vital importance to the future of society, because the mental and physical health of future citizens is in large part determined by good nutrition during childhood. Deficiencies in child nutrition resulting in the poor general health of the population in later years is a heavy price for a community to pay.

In addition, proponents felt that the food programs do not hinder the Micronesian people from becoming self-reliant as the intent of the program is to provide food for those who cannot obtain the minimum amount of food required for their own subsistence. Rather they felt that the food program would expand available cash, as income otherwise spent on food would be diverted to savings or to the purchase of other items such as building materials.

Proponents also felt that the program would not have an adverse effect on farming, as Micronesians would still prefer their traditional food over imports. Opponents stated that the “free” food would change eating habits to prefer imported food. Both opinions have largely been refuted by a study of the diet of the Pacific Islanders by Dr. T. Fitzgerald, an anthropologist. He states in a recent article in the SOUTH PACIFIC BULLETIN that the traditional diet in most areas of the Pacific already “has been largely abandoned in favor of imported foods.”

Proponents of the program also stated that the distribution of food would not have any detrimental effect on traditional family and social



relationships. They held that many basic social services have been made available by the government over the past years with little or not effect on traditional life styles. This argument, however, does not recognize the special place which food holds in Micronesian traditional life.

As a result of the High Commissioner's November 1978 decision to contain federal programs, the food programs which were to be expanded in 1979 were either held at

Trust Territory to calculate the actual cost of the food, as according to Mr. Moses, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has never provided an absolute figure. Nevertheless, while the Trust Territory does not pay for this food directly, of course, some one, somewhere, eventually pays and the food is an expense to the U.S. Government.

In review, the needy family food program for the Trust Territory remains at the FY 1978 level and a solution to

could be a combination of local demands, pressures from the Interim Congress of Micronesia and the Micronesia Commission on Political Status and Transition, seeming incongruity of extending the program to an agricultural island like Ponape, U.S. Department of Agriculture budget limitations, and personalities.

The effects of the family feeding program on Micronesians and their economy have not been studied in depth and the whole debate within

PROGRAM TITLE	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80	FY 81	RECOMMENDATION
Special Summer Program	\$ 18,549	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	already terminated in October 1978
Nutrition Education & Training	0	75,000	75,000	75,000	continue to FY 81 at FY 79 level
National School Lunch Act	2,000,784	2,000,784	1,000,000	1,000,000	Districts to recommend continuation or termination; 50% reduction in FYs 80 & 81; CNMI to be excluded from this consideration
School Breakfast	408,305	408,305	0	0	eliminate program at the end of FY 79, except CNMI
Child Care & Nutrition	161,273	161,273	0	0	terminate end of FY 79, except CNMI
Non-Food Assistance	73,176	56,000	56,000	56,000	continue to FY 81 at FY 79 level
State Administrative & Operating Expenses	127,500	127,500	65,000	65,000	should decline proportionately to program reduction
Needy Family Feeding Program *					to be maintained at FY 78 level, except for the Kwajalein Atoll's inclusion and to remain under TTPI's active review
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,789,587</b>	<b>\$2,828,862</b>	<b>\$1,196,000</b>	<b>\$1,196,000</b>	

\* Of the \$327,595 cost of administering the program, \$75,000 is a direct USDA grant which is calculated in the sum total of the feeding programs. The balance is obtained from fees collected from reduced price meals.

the same level, eliminated completely, or decreased. The following chart shows the status of the programs in 1978, with the projected decreases. In the case of the Needy Family Feeding Program, the Trust Territory was not charged an amount for the food and its administrators state that administrative costs amount to about \$300,000 annually. As of January 1979, 65,400 persons were being fed under this program, including the Northern Marianas. There has been no way for the

emergencies, especially typhoons which strike the islands from time to time or for instances when islands can not produce enough to feed their populations.

It is evident that the decision to contain all Federal programs and to eliminate marginal ones was primarily due to the concern that stopping all federal programs abruptly at the end of the Trusteeship would be politically and socially disruptive. That the food program became especially singled out

Micronesia on the issue was structured on opinion and emotion. The final decision to contain federal programs was based on political considerations and not the economic realities with which Micronesians must live. The effects of the reduction in federal programs may be long lasting but ultimately the Micronesians will adjust to their new status with the same adaptability they have shown to new ideas and situations for the past century.



# Report on the Needy Family Program on Moen

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## INTRODUCTION

In October 1978, a federal feeding program that supplies free food to families incapable of supporting themselves financially was extended from the outer islands to all the lagoon islands in Truk. The "Needy Family Program", as it was called, has been a controversial subject in Truk and throughout the Trust Territory; groups of people had formed in support of and in opposition to the program's goals. The controversy stimulated our curiosity to inquire more into this program and investigate its causes and effects. Our principal goal in this research project was to detect the effects of this program's extension on the different areas of the Moen community: businesses selling food, copra production, farming and fishing, and the family budget and nutrition of people residing on Moen.

In order to obtain significant information regarding the impact of the program, its background and description

as well as the feelings and opinions of families and people toward the program, we conducted direct interviews with religious leaders, congressmen from Truk, and persons from the District Administration, Truk District Legislature, Food Service Office, Department of Education, and Public Health. We also interviewed the owners and managers of various stores. Twenty-six people were interviewed in addition to members of 32 families. Questionnaires used for interviewing families were designed to find out how their situation had changed since the beginning of the program in relation to their finances, use of money, farming and fishing patterns, eating habits and nutrition.

Our study was confined to Moen, the district center of Truk, because it is where the Truk District Legislature, District Administration, major stores, and copra corporations are situated. It is the core of commerce, political activity, and entertainment. Thus, different groups of people from the outer islands sections and the other islands in the lagoon have been migrating here for some time in hopes of finding employment opportunities, money, and entertainment. Lately, they have also come to gain easy access to the Needy Family Program allotments, since the food always arrives late at their home islands at times of distribution.

## BACKGROUND

In the year 1971, typhoon Amy ravaged the islands of Truk. A year after, although it was clear that Truk was able to restore its local production, a request was made by the outer islands for the Needy Family Program to operate on their home islands. To back up this request, two reasons were given:

first, the FDAA (Federal Disaster Assistance Administration) had stopped assisting them with typhoon relief goods; secondly, a majority of concerned Trukese leaders felt that the outer islanders had not yet recovered from the typhoon's disaster. Thus, the outer islanders, with the support of the concerned Trukese leaders, requested the program for the purpose of continued relief. The Trukese people who were involved in the request were the DistAd, legislators, congressmen from Truk, magistrates, and ordinary people. Finally, in 1975, the Needy Family program legislation was introduced by the High Commissioner to the outer islands of Truk. Between the years 1975 and 1977, the people of the lagoon islands requested the High Commissioner to make a proposal asking that the program be extended to their islands. The proposal was made, sent to Washington, received by the Secretary of Interior, and approved.



In 1977, the first shipment of Needy Family Program food left San Francisco, but did not arrive in Truk as scheduled. It was in early October of 1978 before it finally arrived at Truk. Upon arrival of the shipment, the first distribution took place on Moen.

The Needy Family Program was designed especially for the poor, disabled, and needy families here in Truk. As of now, however, it is an "Everybody's Family Program", as Micronesians would say. In fact, everyone in Truk was declared eligible, and all are benefiting from it. The reason for this was that the rules and regulations for eligibility and qualification for the program were ignored; they were never applied to the Trukese people.

Forty-one thousand applications from Truk for the program were filed at Headquarters, Saipan, although the population of Truk is approximately only 36,000 people. Where did the other 5,000 applicants come from? The answer to this question is rather obvious. A certain number of people were double-enrolled in the program, and so are receiving additional or extra allotments.

To operate, this program requires a total of \$93,626 the sum that was set aside for the Needy Family Program budget for Fiscal year 1978. This budget does not include the cost of food itself and the freight charges; however, are part of the U.S. donations. The breakdown of the budget is shown below.

Personnel	\$33,175
Equipment	25,500
Building and repair	18,000
Freight and handling charges	14,000
Others	2,951

Fourteen people are employed in this program and until recently were under the supervision of Dr. George A. Bussell, formerly the Food Service Officer of the program, who resided at Saipan, Headquarters. Nine of the

people employed under the program are warehouse workers; three are assistants to the Food Coordinators, and the remaining two are the Food Coordinators. The warehouse workers earn only 86¢ an hour, while the Food Coordinators earn \$4.65 an hour.

### FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In October of 1978, following the arrival of the first shipment, the first distribution took place. At the time of the distribution, Moen got its share first, followed by the other islands. This has been the case ever since then. Here on Moen, at times of distribution, the NFP allotments are divided up, brought to and unloaded at each village. Subsequently, it becomes the responsibility of the magistrate of each village to carry out the distribution under the authorized procedures. Lists of recipients and the amount of food to be received by a particular recipient are provided by the Food Service Office on Moen. The lists make it easy for the magistrates to know the amount of food each individual or family would receive. However, for the recipient to be able to get his share, he must submit his application number. Upon receiving their NFP share, those with cars would load their food and take it home, while those who live close to the distribution area usually take their share by hand. All the people would have gotten their share within two days.

The kinds of food that the program hands out to the people are mostly polished rice, bleached flour, corned beef, shortening, chicken, corn, orange juice, powdered eggs, butter evaporated milk, and corn syrup.

Due to some difficulties involved in recovering records of NFP commodity shipments, we were only able to obtain information on ten shipments out of the original eleven shipments. Thus, the estimated total quantity of commodities that were shipped into Moen from October up to the present are only based on ten shipments instead of

eleven. The total quantity is shown below.

Rice	4,845,250 lbs.
Flour	800,000 lbs.
Powdered eggs	278,928 lbs.
Corned beef	8,701 cases
Shortening	3,908 cases
Chicken	3,460 cases
Corn	7,092 cases
Butter	3,880 cases
Orange juice	13,939 cases
Corn Syrup	593 cases
Evaporated milk	6,498 cases
Dehydrated potatoes	165 cases

### EFFECTS ON FAMILIES

In order to obtain some essential information regarding the impact of the program on families residing on Moen, our group interviewed 32 families from four different villages: Iras, Mechitiw, Nebukos, and Mwan. The questions asked were to find out how the families lived in terms of finance, family budget, spendings and savings, farming and fishing patterns, eating habits and nutrition (kinds of food they ate and are eating now), and how they spent their money before and after the beginning of the program.

The 32 families interviewed were broken down into three different groups: the high income group, the middle income group, and the low income group. The high income group comprised three families, each with an average weekly income of \$259, and an average of eight family members and three persons working. These families have an average per capita weekly income of \$29. The middle income group consisted of 13 families each with an average weekly income of \$118, and an average of 12 family members and two persons working. These families have an average per capita weekly income of \$9. The low income group consisted of 16 families altogether, each with an average weekly income of \$32, and an average of 13 family members and one person working. These families have an average per capita weekly income of \$2.



The high income group, with an average per capita weekly income of \$29 and its small family size, included only three families. One of the three families has no land to farm; the other two have land but did not farm. Before the feeding program, they went fishing only once a week on the average, for fishing was viewed as a semi-recreational activity. Moreover, due to the sufficient fishing equipment they had, they did not have to worry about fishing everyday or every other day. The reason why these families did not farm or fish a lot is that they were always capable of buying food from stores, markets, and fishing coops. In fact, a good amount of their money was spent on imported food. The food purchased is not only for themselves, but some of it is given out to their poor and disabled relatives. Money, usually ranging from \$10 to \$20 per week, was also given to needy relatives. As for protein consumption each person in this group consumed between 8-11 pounds of meat per week without undergoing any meatless days at all. They are rather capable of supporting themselves buying their food from stores rather than producing it on land or sea.

The NFP has had little impact on these high income families. The program did not have any effect on their fishing habits or protein consumption; such things still remain the same. It did have some effect on the families' spending, however. Since these families are also getting free food from the program, despite their high average weekly income, they now save some money. Their savings are not great, however, because they still buy a considerable amount of food from stores to supplement the NFP food. Some of the money saved is spent for other things such as fancy clothes, soap, perfumes and cologne, tape-recorders, cassettes and, of course, movies.

The middle income group, 13 of the 32 families interviewed, had an average weekly income of \$118 for each family. These families spent about half

of their money on imported food. There are three landless families in this group that never farmed. At times, if necessary, those who own land and are farming, would go out to their farms and obtain some local products to supplement the food purchased from stores, since they are expected to share with their relatives. Fishing and farming have been two means of reducing the large amount of money spent for food. Farming and fishing are both carried out between 1-3 days a week, or an average of two days a week. Prior to the extension of the program, a person in these families consumed 4-5 pounds of meat or fish per week.

Subsequent to the effective date of the NFP's extension, there have been some recent changes in the fishing and farming patterns, and in the spending habits of these families. Each person in this group of families now consumes 5-6 pounds of meat per week, since free meat is provided by the feeding program. The families now no longer put much effort in farming and fishing, as compared with before; fishing and farming have gone down from 1-3 days a week to 1-2 days, and each is now done an average of 1½ days a week. It is obvious that these families are reducing the amount of time that was once spent on fishing and farming. At the same time, these families are eating better and getting more meat now than before. The meat consumption has gone up slightly from 4-5 pounds to 5-6 pounds per week.

The low income group, 16 of the 32 families interviewed, were put in this category, because each family had only an average weekly income of \$32, and a per capita income of \$2 weekly average. The main rule here was "sweat before you eat". A father of a family in this group would get up in the morning and contemplate how to get food for the day. The money he had was not enough to enable him to go to the store, and so, he depended very much on the land, sea, and relatives for food. Three families in this group, who did not have

any land to farm, survived mainly by depending on their fortunate relatives. As a rule, however, this group spent most of their time fishing and farming. Fishing was carried out anywhere between 2-5 days a week. Farming was carried out between 1-5 days a week. Due to the difficulties in acquiring and preparing local products and because of their comparatively low income, these families experienced real hunger. Usually the food acquired was not enough to last a whole week. People in this group only consumed 1-2 pounds of meat a week. Salaries and gifts from relatives were spent on food and necessary items such as clothes and kerosene for stoves. Generally, they had to do without meat the lack of sufficient fishing equipment, and the little money they earned.

Now that the program is operating on Moen, a burden was lifted from their shoulders and the tensions they used to have were eased a bit. They now have food waiting for them when they return from fishing or farming. The food from the program is eaten when the local food is not yet prepared, since the preparation of local food requires a lot of work and time. Farming patterns are almost what they were before, but fishing has dropped from 2-5 days a week to 1-3 days, an average drop of two days a week. Meanwhile, the protein consumption of person in this group has gone up from 1-2 pounds to between 3-5 pounds per week. The meat obtained from the program is only used to supplement the protein they get from the sea and store.

## EFFECTS ON BUSINESSES

The NFP's extension has been harmful to the stores on Moen. During the course of our research, we obtained some information on four stores, all of which have been affected very much in terms of general sales income and food sales income. The two stores which were selling imported foods, Susumu and D & Sons, altogether grossed about



\$104,000 monthly from January to September 1978, but after the NFP took effect, the two stores showed a combined average income of \$35,000. In income from general sales, the three stores, Susumu, Stop 'N' Shop, and T & S Mart, grossed about \$289,000 a month between January to September, but their average income for October and November, after the program began, was \$257,000. The month of December was excluded because it had always been the time when the Trukese people are producing copra to earn some money for their Christmas spending and also the time when money is pouring into stores. It is clear from this data that the food sales and general sales income have now dropped since the program started.

TABLE I

Name of Stores	1978 monthly average income on food		percent decrease
	January-September	October-November	
Susumu Store	\$102,786	\$34,276	67%
D & Sons Store	1,535	757	51%
Total	\$104,321	\$35,033	67%

TABLE II

Name of Stores	average monthly income in general		percent decrease
	January-September	October-November	
Susumu Store	\$140,111	\$122,000	13%
Stop 'N' Shop	108,845	101,481	7%
T & S Mart	40,609	34,297	16%
Total	\$289,565	\$257,778	12%

Along the same lines, we were provided with some information concerning rice sales from three stores: Susumu Store, Maxi-Mart, and D & Sons. The estimated total rice sales from these three stores was about 4,200 bags monthly from January to September 1978. Rice itself was one of the major sources of profit for these stores. After the NFP took effect; however, the estimated rice sales rate was cut down to 475 bags monthly from October to December. The figures that are shown in TABLE III come from the sale of 50 pounds sacks of rice alone.

TABLE III

Name of Stores	estimated rice (50#) sales rate monthly	
	January-September	October-December
Susumu Store	3,000 bags	385 bags
Maxi-Mart	1,000 bags	70 bags
D & Sons Store	200 bags	30 bags
Total	4,200 bags	475 bags

The Maxi-Mart, Susumu, and D & Sons stores have been seriously hurt, and now the owner of Maxi-Mart and the manager of D & Sons stores are planning to make arrangements with a person in Ponape to ship some of their rice there. The money expected from this will not completely compensate for the actual amount of money they lost on food sales; however, it will bring their income up considerably. For Susumu Store, we were not able to obtain any information on how they will compensate for the money lost.

Earlier in this paper, you have also noticed that Stop 'N' Shop, one of the largest stores on Moen, has been affected by the program. Right now the sale of meat is becoming the means of recovering the income that has been lost. From information we obtained, meat like turkey and chicken are being ordered in larger quantity and rapidly sold out. About 351 cases, or a total of 13,216 pounds, were sold in the month of February alone.

The copra production is another story, however. The NFP has not affected the copra production on Moen. Out of three copra purchasers, Susumu Store, T & S Mart, and TTC (Truk Trading Company), two showed an increase in their monthly average income from copra, even after the effective date of the NFP. Susumu Store had decreased mainly because it lacked the money at hand to purchase the copra from people since the UMDA (United Micronesian Development Association) Office in Saipan was delayed in sending its profits from the copra export sales. However, the increase in the other two businesses

comes from a steady increase in the prices of copra and, of course, the Christmas rush.

TABLE IV

Name of Business	monthly average income on copra production		percent increase
	July-September	October-November	
Susumu Store	\$14,167	\$10,000	-29%
T.T.C.	9,632	16,204	+41%
T & S Mart	2,371	2,703	+13%
Total	\$26,170	\$28,907	+10%

Direct interviews were conducted with owners and managers of the businesses selling foods. What information we obtained from them was given as owners and managers of the businesses and not as respected citizens of Truk. Their opinions about the extension was negative. In fact, all are hoping to have it stopped. Said one, "As a private and respected citizen of Truk, I am for the program, but as a businessman who is concerned with his business' development, I am not for the program". Most of the businessmen are now arguing that their businesses are losing more than twenty percent of their food sales income.

They further argue that with this decrease in food sales, Truk District Legislature will lose a considerable amount of money collected from the tax revenues on sale and importation of food. Moreover, they maintain that Truk needs the money to aid the economic development of the district, especially since the sale and importation of liquor has been banned. They feel that although the copra production was not affected by the program, it is quite impossible for it to make up for the lose. Thus, they have indicated that they strongly disagree with the program, not only because of the negative effects it has had on their businesses, but also on the tax revenues for the Truk District Legislature.



## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY REACTIONS

In order to obtain some information concerning the people's reactions and opinions regarding the program, we interviewed some families and 21 other people. The questions asked were to find out how the people lived after the beginning of the program and what they felt about the program's extension.

A majority of these people favored the program. The low income group especially stated that the extension of the program was a wise resolution. They said it was the problem of lacking land to farm, money, and sufficient fishing equipment that had made them live a miserable life. The program, they said, has slowed them down in asking for money or food from their relatives.

Most of the other families stated that since there is usually more work involved in the preparation of local food, time is saved by the use of convenient imported food. These imported foods may be especially important to those who are employed away from home. Families lacking refrigeration facilities find that imported canned goods far outlast perishable local food, although methods for preserving local food do exist.

Some ladies especially stated that the program helps in orienting or getting their children acquainted with a proper diet and healthy food. Public Health workers approved of this and added that since eggs, milk, and orange juice are given out by the program, the children from the poor families will not be malnourished. In fact, one of them said that the number of malnourished children had decreased already. As another put it, "Before the Needy Family Program, there were many malnourished children on Moen, but now there are fewer, because eggs, milk, and orange juice are served by this program".

We learned during our interviews that not everyone agrees that the program is good for Truk. Some stated

that it was wrong for the people to say that they needed the program badly when they are pretty much capable of supporting themselves locally. A Trukese leader even stated that it is destroying the Indicative Development Plan for Truk, and that the Trukese people will not be able to keep up with the plan of economic self-development. He further explained that since the program is a gift from Uncle Sam, the people's taste will be affected when it terminates.

Public Health stated that the program contradicts its own education efforts. It has been trying to convince people that local food is more nutritious than the imported foods. The reason given was that imported canned foods lose most of their nutrition value when they undergo the manufacturing process.

One person gave two interesting reasons to support his view point: "It would be wise if the people take the food freely and at the same time farm and fish, so that when the program terminates, they can fall back on their local food". In addition, he stated that the people who favor the program might use it as a basis for deciding whom to vote for as a senator to the Federated States of Micronesia. He may be right, because the people interviewed who are in favor of the program stated that they would vote for the supporter of the program. If this is true, then the program has had some effects on the people's means of deciding on a nominee or a candidate campaigning.

## CONCLUSION

We have noticed that there are groups of people who are in favor of the program's goals, while others are in opposition to them. On the social level, we have gathered that a few of the religious leaders and some Trukese political leaders have firmly opposed the extension of the program, while a vast majority of the Trukese people have expressed approbation for it.

As we have seen, the extension of the program has been hurting Truk's commercial development. Businesses which were selling imported goods have lost considerable income. Most businessmen have strongly showed disagreement with the program's extension because of its effects on their general merchandise and imported food sales. Copra production, however, has increased despite the feeding program.

Word has already circulated that the program will be terminated in September 1979. If it terminates at this date, what does the future hold for those favoring it? Will they be able to fall back on their local nourishment? Or, will they seek a substitute for it? The Truk District Legislature, Moen Municipal Council, and ordinary Trukese people do not have the power to prevent the termination of the program; that power is vested in the Secretary of the Interior and the U.S. Congress. Nothing can be done by Trukese if the decision is made to terminate the program.

From our study, we found that as a result of the program's extension, there have been some improvements in the poor, disabled, and needy families' nutrition and protein consumption. Moreover, it has helped them save some money for other things. Some families, especially the poorer ones, had been going without meat 2-5 days a week; now they only have to do without it one or two days a week. The money that these families got from their relatives for food is now saved for other things such as clothes and kerosene for stoves. However, the families who were categorized above the poor level were not affected very much in their eating habits and protein consumption. Although these families might be expected to have saved a great amount of money since they obtain free food from the program, they still buy a considerable amount of food to supplement the ones the NFP gives out.



# Reminiscence

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*by Dwight Heine*

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As the Trusteeship is rapidly coming to an end, Micronesians, especially those in their fifties and older, are reminiscing about the thirty-five years of belonging to the United Nations in general and the United States (the administering authority) in particular and making comparisons about the different governments they have lived under for a period of about one-hundred years.

The Marshallese people do not go beyond the German time, because Spain never made here presence known in their islands, she stopped in Ponape. When people reminisce, they, more often than not, want to touch on the highlights of what was good, pleasant and humorous. This is very true in the case of what Micronesian people experienced during World War II. They touch very little on death, fear, hunger, thirst and deprivation and if they mention them at all they will relate them in a humorous fashion. The only time they mention the preceeding with emotions is when they make their war claims. To give an example, when the mandated islands (present Trust Territory) were bombed in 1942 for the first time by the American navy, there were about three hundred Marshallese killed the first day and one Japanese wounded in Jaluit Atoll, the District Center under the German and the Japanese administration. The Japanese casualty was among those who were on duty so he did not get inside the bomb shelters. The Marshallese had never seen the effect of bombing and in spite of repeated instructions to get inside the bomb shelters during air raids, they kept standing outside to watch the American planes as they had never seen any before. They were not quite convinced that the machine gunners of the planes could shoot accurately from above and the "eggs" they dropped were quite lethal.

The survivors learned a lesson, but the three-hundred some casualties never learned, they perished. After the "all clear" siren sounded, the Marshallese "seinendan" (something like our young adult Corp) were called out to clear up the mess. Bloody cadavers were piled on top of each other, awaiting a Sampan to take them to another islet to be buried in a common grave. It was a rainy day and they had to wait for the rain to stop. When the rain finally stopped, they hauled the bodies away on carts to the Sampan that was tied up to the wharf. It was almost dark when they reached the bottom of the pile. At this point, a bloody, naked, body jumped up and started running aimlessly around. The brave Seinendan and the courageous Japanese too, ran in every direction with speed that would have won them Olympic Gold Medals. When relating this story today everyone will burst out laughing! Is this a case of a sadistic sense of humor? Or, is it a way to lessen the pain which comes with memory?

During the War the writer was on Ebon Atoll in the Marshalls, his home. He worked digging phosphate for a Japanese Company named Nantaku. Work began before sunrise and ended after sunset. Japanese and Okinawan laborers set the example. The Japanese divided up the labor force into four-man teams, two men to dig and the other two to fill and to push the heavy cart to the warehouses where the phosphate was stored for eventual shipment to Japan. In November of 1943 the Americans started to bomb every atoll, island and islet in the Marshalls. Every ship, schooner and anything else afloat was bombed, machine gunned, and in a matter of days, there was nothing left bobbing in the lagoons. Digging phosphate came to a halt. The thirty-some Japanese and Okinawans employees of



Nantaku (the Phosphate Company), the half-a-dozen Japanese businessmen and the two civilian government officials got together and devised a plan in which they divided up all the able bodied males on Ebon Atoll into teams of five Marshallese each, supervised by two Japanese, to act as watchmen for American aircrafts, surface crafts and submarines. Each team was on a twelve-hour shift. They also picked about a dozen Marshallese "volunteers" to fight along side the Japanese in case the Americans landed on Ebon. They trained them in the techniques of putting out fires in case the Americans dropped incendiary bombs. They also drilled them and showed them how to fire a rifle. After this group of youngmen mastered what they had been taught, the Japanese rikusendai (marines) about five of them who manned the radio station of Ebon, gave each of them a home-made spear and took the rifles away from them.

Almost daily, a Marshallese style house would be constructed from native materials, then the Japanese marine sergeant would instruct them in the techniques of putting out fire. Each "fireman" was given a shovel with which, on command, he would run to the beach (about 2,000 yards away) get a shovel full of sand, run back to the burning native hut and throw the sand on it. The number of people with shovelsful of sand, plus the distance they covered from the beach to the burning hut, would take about 30 minutes to put out the fire. After a month of this silly, repetitious exercise, a member of the fire brigade got disgusted, and on one occasion, when the command was given to run to the beach to get sand, he remained behind and beat the fire with his shovel. When the firemen returned from the beach with the shovels full of sands and with the marine sergeant urging them on with his: one, two, one; two, sing-song, the fire was out. The Japanese marine sergeant was quite chagrined when he did not see any fire. "What happened?" "I put it out by beating the fire with my shovel." "You stupid native, how do you expect to learn how to put out fire when you do not wait for me to show you how?" "Give me your shovel, I'll give you the same treatment you gave the fire." There have always been a lot of spectators; men, women and children and the presence of these onlookers seemed to add something more to the enthusiasm of the performers. The writer could not sit straight for a couple of days afterwards but the fire drills were discontinued. In retelling the story today, everyone who remembers will laugh about those "funny" old days.

The surveillance for "enemy" activities became intensified from December of 1943 until March of 1944. What the people of Ebon Atoll were not aware

of at that time was that the Gilberts and later Kwajalein and Majuro were already in the hands of the Americans.

During the month of February 1944, the writer was told by the Japanese marine sergeant that he could not go home at night to be with his family, there was more need for him at the radio station and he must stay there all the time. He pleaded with him to allow him to get food for his wife and son and the two dozen or so children and old people who lived with them during this period. Home was six miles away from the main island of Ebon where the people normally resided. The main island was bombed and strafed daily rendering it very unsafe. The sergeant gave his permission. Everyday, along with many other youngmen, the writer carried his daily load of about 200 lbs. of breadfruit, taro or other types of native foods covering the six miles distance to where his family was staying. After he put down his burden he did not tarry too long as he had to be back at the station before sundown. Vitality of youth and good health made this daily chore of Ebon young men easy. This routine went on for about two months.

One day in March 1944, something strange happened which made the people very suspicious. The Japanese seemed to have acquired new personalities; they became very polite, they smiled a lot, they laughed often, and their general patterns of behaviour changed radically. About seven o'clock that evening the writer asked the marine sergeant for permission to visit his family to say, "good-bye". The sergeant's face turned red and while shouting expletives and other abusive words he rained blow after blow on the writer's face, head, ears and elsewhere in his body wherever his whims directed his fists.

He asked, "why do you want to go now?" He was answered, "Because, from tomorrow on I will stay here until told otherwise, I have already arranged with a friend to take food to my family." He stared at him for a long time then said, "All right, but make sure and be back before dawn." "Thank you," the writer said, then departed.

All night long everybody sat up and talked. The topics of discussion were inconsequential, nobody dared touch upon what was foremost in their minds, "What will the Japanese do to us from here on?" Complete ignorance of what was going on from day to day during war time is very disconcerting. Especially, since those who treated us like enemies had all the radios and all the weapons. Marshallese were warned that if anyone of them turned traitor and went over to the American side, his family, his friends and relatives will be dealt with in an "appropriate" manner. In



Jaluit, Mille, Wotje and Maloelap Atolls, hundreds of Marshallese met their fate by decapitation or machine gun bullets. In desperation, man may forget fear and not care about what will happen to his own person, but will refrain from doing anything that may jeopardize the safety of his loved ones.

It was in this perplexed state of mind that the writer walked back to his post. Half way down on his journey back, he saw a man in the distance running toward him. When they met, the man in an agitated, nervous voice, asked him: "Where are you going?" Without waiting for an answer he ordered him, "Go back", and while still speechless he warned him, "The Japanese will kill you!" Then he pointed to the silhouettes between two islets, "see those, they are American ships." In the early hours they did not look like ships, but they had to be ships because there were not that many islets in the atoll. So the man was asked how he knew that those were American ships and how did he know that they were not just passing by. He answered that three Marshallese youngmen accompanying the Americans from Kwajalein came ashore in a rubber boat at Toka Island (located at the Northern part of the Atoll), that they had a written document in both Japanese and English languages with them, which demanded that the Japanese on Ebon surrendered. The Americans gave them until one o'clock p.m. to decide.

By one o'clock the white flag to signify surrender did not go up, so by five minutes past one the first salvo from a destroyer went off. All the other ships followed suit with their guns, machine guns and rockets and did not let up for about thirty minutes while the amphibious tanks and other amphibian troop carriers raced to the shore. The Japanese had already moved from the radio station where they all assembled early in the morning to another part, a narrow strip of land where it would be easy for them to see the marines approaching. They could have moved on to where the Marshallese were staying but fortunately an LCI (Landing Craft Infantry) had entered the lagoon in the morning and prevented the Japanese from moving further down. There was also a plane flying overhead to watch for any enemy movements.

By about three o'clock in the afternoon, the U.S. marines ran into the Japanese and in a matter of minutes they killed them all. Two U.S. marines were also killed. At this point many Marshallese men arrived at the scene of the battle. They wanted to see how the fight was going on because the bullets from the U.S. marines machine guns were hitting the trees where the Marshallese were hiding underground in the bomb shelters.

The marines did not treat the first group of Marshallese gently when they first arrived. They were still mad about the two U.S. marines whose lives were lost through treachery. Two Japanese were standing in the middle of the road holding two white flags, pretending to surrender while others in the bushes with their rifles ready, shot them when they came into view to accept the "surrender". The marines kept the Marshallese with them but allowed one to return to tell the other Marshallese to report immediately if they knew the whereabouts of the other four Japanese whose bodies were not among the dead.

A second group of Marshallese men went to meet the U.S. marines. This time they decided to go only in shorts and no towels tied around their heads. It was important to lessen the suspicion of the trigger happy U.S. marines. Two large baskets of coconuts were also taken along as gifts to the thirsty fighting Americans. Subsequent events proved that they appreciated the gifts. One marine said, while with closed eyes he emptied his coconut, "Hey fellas, let's pretend these are beers."

The second group of Marshallese arrived at the scene about thirty minutes later, they came in single file, led by the writer. He was telling jokes. Thinking about them later, they were not very funny but at the time everyone laughed to conceal his nervousness. After a little while the writer did not hear anymore laughter so he turned his head to find out what had happened. He felt something cold and sharp poking his right cheek. He tried his left and the same thing happened. He immediately threw up his hands without urging. At this point marines from behind trees, rocks, bushes, etc. materialized with their rifles pointed at the marching group of Marshallese young men. Some of the marines came to the road and in kneeling position aimed their guns while an officer waved at the Marshallese to come to where he was standing. The marines pulled the basket of coconuts off their shoulders probably to look for handgrenades. After they were satisfied that there were no booby traps they told the Marshallese to stay where they were while they set off dynamite further down the road, preparing the hard rocky ground for digging a common grave for the thirty-odd dead bodies. The Marshallese volunteered to help dig the grave. They worked fast since all of them had had a lot of training digging phosphate rocks for a period of about four years. This voluntary work established a good measure of rapport between the marines and the Marshallese young men.

It was dark when the burial was completed. The marines fed the Marshallese K-rations before they sent them away, but this time not to where they normally



stayed, but to long-abandoned church on the main island as it was dangerous to walk around in the dark. The writer was told to go back to the other side and warn the Marshallese to stay put where they were. He was also instructed to find out from the people about the four missing Japanese. One was captured later in the vicinity before dark. Only three were still missing. Before everyone was sent away they made them eat first. The Marshallese were amazed at the packs of K-rations. They contained everything, not only food, but cigarettes, matches, pills for purifying drinking water and even toilet papers!" "What smart people, no wonder they are winning the war."

The following morning, the marines arrived at the place where the Marshallese people were staying. They told them that they have not seen the other three Japanese. Toward evening the three were captured on two separate islets. All three turn out to be Okinawans, a married couple and a single man. There were also two small Japanese children, brother and sister, who were given away to a Marshallese woman who was a friend of the Japanese couple. They took them away from her and later word circulated that they had been sent to Honolulu. The two dead marines were buried in an old

cemetery where two of the early American Protestant missionaries were buried.

After the American warships departed to Kwajalein, the Ebon people got together to divide the foods donated by a Navy Military Government Officer in behalf of the U.S. Navy. Proclamations signed by Admiral Nimitz in both English and Japanese were left behind and the Magistrate of Ebon was told to have them translated into Marshallese. This was the first task performed by the writer to the Marshallese new masters.

A few weeks later, an LCI (Landing Craft Infantry) came to Ebon with doctors and other Navy officers on board, with the assignment to organize a civilian administration and to get the economy of the islands back on its feet. A Navy officer told the writer that he had instructions to get him back to Kwajalein to work for the U.S. Navy, but he added, "That is, if you want to." The incident of the sharp points of the two bayonets that made contact with the cheeks of the writer was still fresh in his memory. The correct answer was, "Yes". That is the genesis of his working for the U.S. Government from thirty-five years ago to March this year, 1979.



# *A Conservation Program for the Trust Territory*

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*by Robert P. Owen*

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## INTRODUCTION

A conservation program for the Trust Territory should accomplish the protection and regulated use of the natural resources of the Trust Territory. These natural resources include the land, the air, the sea and the plants and animals associated with them. All of the items of this natural resource system are in a dynamic state of inter-relationships. Man's existence and well being in the Trust Territory is dependent on these resources and these relationships. Man himself is a part of this system.

This total system is called an ecosystem. The study of the relationship of plants and animals (man included) and the physical environment is called ecology. Man, by virtue of his intelligence, size and large numbers is capable of drastically affecting or disrupting the operation of the ecosystem either for his benefit or harm, depending on how he uses the natural resources or manipulates the various organic and physical factors in the ecosystem. The production of food and the harvest of minerals and other useful substances from the land and the sea are a necessary and beneficial use of natural resources. However, if the process of harvesting and using these natural resources results in a disruption of the ecosystem, harmful effects may ensue which far outweigh whatever useful results may have resulted from the activity involved.

Water pollution, soil erosion, insect pest invasion, the spread of human disease and the disappearance of useful natural resources are all a result of a misuse and misunderstanding of the ecosystem and the resources and dynamic factors involved.

Within the Trust Territory there have already been serious humanly caused disruptions in the ecosystem which have been and are presently detrimental to the people of the Trust Territory. Some of these detrimental processes are still going on, and in some cases accelerating. The present and future well being, happiness and progress of the people of the Trust Territory are dependent on a conservation program which will serve as a watchdog over all aspects of the ecosystem and man's use of the natural resources and manipulation of the factors affecting the ecosystem. In some cases a full or at least partial rehabilitation of the environment can be accomplished where damage has already been done.

## THE PROBLEMS

Environmental problems are common the world over. The Trust Territory shares many of these world problems and has some special ones of its own. Air pollution is one of the serious problems elsewhere in the world which has not yet and is not likely to affect the Trust Territory. The tremendous air space over the minuscule land area involved, the lack of air pollutant industrial activities, and the small number of internal combustion engines for the air space involved, are all factors which preclude any present or future air pollution in the Trust Territory unless we eventually become victims of a world-wide air pollution produced elsewhere.

Water pollution definitely is a present and increasing problem in several parts of the Trust Territory. This involves both the fresh and marine water environments. Pollution of fresh water swamps, lakes, rivers and wells from the improper handling of sewage and garbage presently exists. Pollution of enclosed marine lagoon waters is approaching serious proportions in several parts of the Trust Territory. This marine pollution is being caused by improper sewage disposal, garbage disposal, fish processing plant refuse disposal, ship waste or excess fuel disposal, and oil and other waste disposal from power generating plants and public works shops, and the leaking of shore-side fuel storage tanks. Massive spills from oil tankers either passing through Micronesia or docked in Trust Territory ports is an ever growing threat to our marine environment. We are completely unprepared to handle such catastrophies.



Future marine lagoon pollution is being caused by the washing of mud from quarried rock and the runoff of silt laden waters from soil erosion areas including areas of agricultural operations, areas suffering from the results of wildfires and areas of heavy construction and land movement activities, particularly airport, highway and dam projects. The pollution of lagoon waters, depending on the pollutants and intensity of pollution, kills both economic and subsistence marine life organisms and their food chains down through the microscopic plankton. When the pollutant is sewage or garbage the results are unsightliness, foul odors, living human disease organisms which can affect human beings directly or concentrate in forms of marine life which are harvested for human consumption.

A further possible effect from the dumping of sewage, even treated sewage, in the lagoon waters, in the addition of so much organic material to the waters that a change in the ecological balance of the waters is effected, oftentimes to the detriment of the total lagoon water environment. Lagoon pollution also affects or prohibits the recreational and aesthetic utilization of the lagoon waters..

The non-lagoon marine waters of the Trust Territory are so vast that their pollution by any activities carried on in the Trust Territory is unlikely in the foreseeable future. However, a world-wide pollution of the oceans from industrial and atomic wastes could eventually affect the Trust Territory oceanic waters and the useable resources therein. Whatever pollution of the oceanic waters is countenanced, insignificant as it might be, would be a factor in the world-wide pollution of the oceans.

A particularly serious marine conservation problem in the Trust Territory is the use of explosives and poisons for the purpose of taking fish. When fish are taken by this means, not only the desired species and sizes of fish are killed but also practically everything else in the effected waters is killed including smaller fish, molluscs, corals, plankton and other marine organisms. Many of these organisms are a part of the basic food chain which results in the economically desirable fishes and shell fish. The result is an underwater desert which is very slow to recover its destroyed productivity. No one explosion or poisoning destroys any great quantity of underwater area but the persistent and expanding use of these fishing methods eventually leaves large areas of the reefs and lagoon floors essentially dead and unproductive. Where corals have been killed an ideal breeding ground for crown-of-thorn starfish is created which can lead to a starfish epidemic which can expand and destroy corals far beyond the area of original dynamite or poison

destruction of the living coral. Dynamiting and poisoning for fish in the Trust Territory persists in spite of laws prohibiting these practices. The dynamiting is done mostly with powder taken from World War II ammunition though some dynamite as such is secured from other sources, usually by theft. Most fish poisoning is done with clorox and other related chlorine compounds which are readily available in retail stores. A small but decreasing amount of fish poison is made from native plants. So far other chemicals, particularly certain insecticides which are very efficient killers of marine organisms, have been little used for fishing but it is expected that their use will increase.

The taking of lagoon and reef fish by conventional and presently legitimate methods for sport, as bait fish for the skipjack industry, as subsistence food or for sale, as presently practiced, does not appear to be causing any ecological unbalances. However, no one can be certain of this and some desirable fish species seem to be getting scarce. Some control over species caught, or a restriction on some types of fishing, like the use of small mesh nets, may have to be considered in order that the valuable food fishes can be harvested at their highest possible annual yield. Fish catch, sale and export statistics by species should be gathered regularly and ecological and life history studies carried out as a basis for regulation or determining whether or not regulation is necessary.

The taking of certain shellfish for commercial sale and export without restriction is presently being practiced in the Trust Territory and is most likely depleting these resources to a point far below their optimum productivity. The principal items involved in this trade are mangrove crabs, spiny lobsters and tridacna clams (both for meat and shells). Recent massive taking of Tridacna clam meat for Asian markets by alien poachers and by Trust Territory citizens using foreign fishermen is seriously depleting this valuable resource. A prohibition on their export and a restriction on their capture based on ecological and life history studies are needed.

Sea shells in general, are apparently inexhaustably abundant in most parts of the Trust Territory and are presently collected without restriction by residents and tourists as curios, and for sale outside of the Trust Territory. This will inevitably result, if it has not already done so, in a growing scarcity of some of the larger, more beautiful and rare shells in the area. We do not know how most of these shells fit into the ecological system and whether or not damage is being done. Only ecological studies can determine these questions. We do know that the large and beautiful



Triton's trumpet shell is a voracious predator and probably a control factor on the pest crown-of-thorns starfish and should therefore be completely protected.

The very rare and interesting marine mammal known as the dugong has been hunted almost to extinction in Palau (the only place it exists in Micronesia). Present laws give it complete legal protection, though poaching continues.

Sea turtles exist in most parts of the Trust Territory and are the subject of conservation laws limiting the seasons, places and sizes in which they can be taken. However, these laws are largely ignored or laxly enforced so that subsistence and commercial turtle production is far below its potential.

Soil erosion is a persistent and growing problem in the Trust Territory. Aside from the water pollution problems which result from soil erosion, and which have already been mentioned, the principal damage from soil erosion is the loss of the valuable and meager top soil in the affected areas thus reducing or eliminating the economic and subsistence agriculture potentials. In severely affected areas the rehabilitation of such land becomes practically an impossibility. The principal causes of soil erosion are the use of improper agricultural practices including non-contour cultivation, and the persistent use of fire for land clearing.

Wildfires, as such, cause far more damage than just setting the stage for soil erosion. The fires destroy the valuable moisture holding humus covering the top soil. The fires, which in the Trust Territory mostly originate in grasslands, are of sufficient intensity that they always manage to encroach on adjacent forests lands destroying a percentage of the forest each time which thereafter becomes grassland and of little use for either forestry or agriculture. The wildfires also sweep over whatever cultivated areas are in their paths, oftentimes causing severe agricultural crop losses. Ground nesting birds also perish in these wildfires. Wildfires are usually started by human beings for purposes of land clearing, exposing salvageable metal or explosives, or are simply maliciously set by people who like to watch fires.

The destruction of the natural vegetative cover on the islands of the Trust Territory has been going on for at least the past one hundred years and continues today. Some of this has been necessary and justifiable for purposes of producing food and for creating the living space and support facilities needed by the human population. However, a great deal of this land use has been poorly conceived. Land best suited for agriculture has been used for other less appropriate purposes. Land poorly suited for food crop agriculture has been cleared and used for agriculture only to be abandoned

when this fact became evident, to grow up in brush and grassland which is periodically reduced to practically bare soil by wildfires. Highway and other large construction projects have been based almost entirely on engineering principles without consideration of the rest of the environment. Innumerable examples could be given where the principles of best land use have not been employed or even considered. Some means for enforcing the best land use with environmental considerations must be incorporated into land use planning for the future, particularly for government or so-called public lands.

There is a relatively heavy rainfall over most of the Trust Territory. However, because of the past removal of the original forest and other vegetative cover in some areas this water is subject to a rapid runoff rather than being held by the forests and other vegetative cover and thus being available during drier seasons. Reforestation of many of these areas is needed and the present further destruction of the vegetative cover stopped. The harvest of commercial timber can be carried out providing good forestry principles are observed. Most cutting of forests on public lands is presently uncontrolled. Watershed and forests areas should be set aside as such by official action and their use closely controlled.

Because of the isolation of the islands of the Trust Territory, a unique and scientifically interesting fauna and flora has developed on the islands and in the lagoons and reefs around the island. In the total environmental picture each and every one of these thousands of species of plants and animals has its own function. Most of these ecological relationships are not presently understood but there has been enough experience to know that the total loss of any species can have bizarre and unexpected consequences. Some bird species have become extinct in the Trust Territory and others are close to it. Every reasonable effort should be made to save the endangered species and prevent others from getting into the same situation. The uncontrolled shooting of wild birds must be stopped. Legislation for the protection of individual species of plants and animals may be indicated in some situations but in most cases this must be buttressed by habitat protection and preservation.

The habitat and environmental requirements of many birds, animals and plants are restricted and a destruction of their particular habitat will mean that the particular plants and animals that must be associated with that habitat will also disappear. The individual protection of the species involved will be of no avail. For this reason and others, wildlife preserves,



national parks and underwater parks must be established in all parts of the Trust Territory.

Assuming that commercial agriculture is going to be greatly expanded in the Trust Territory, a part of that expansion will be a greatly increased use of insecticides, fungicides and weedicides. The environmental side effects of the use of these chemicals can be damaging to disastrous. In these agricultural programs every effort must be made to assure that these environmental side effects are avoided or minimized. The substitution of cultural practices and biological controls for the suppression of plant and animal pests should be used wherever possible rather than chemical control. When chemical control is used, the use of non-polluting and non-residual chemicals should be favored.

The accidental or intentional introduction of exotic plants and animals into the Trust Territory is another factor of vital concern in a conservation program. Ecological balances are of necessity upset by such introductions. Many of these introductions are necessary in the production of subsistence and economic food crops and food animals. As long as such introductions can be confined to specific controlled agricultural areas no great ecological upset or environmental change results. However, such introduced plants and animals frequently escape from controlled cultivated situations and serious consequences result. Most of the insect pests in the Trust Territory attacking agricultural crops and animals as well as native vegetation including valuable forest tree are accidental introductions from other parts of the world. Although such pests are usually accidental introductions, the Giant African Snail, a major pest in the Trust Territory, is an intentional introduction. There is a constant desire on the part of the public to bring various exotic species of plants and animals for a variety of reasons including ornamental plants for aesthetic reasons, game birds and animals for hunting, birds for their songs and beauty and a bewildering variety of all sorts of animals as pets. Each one of these proposed introductions must be closely scrutinized with the idea of evaluating their impact on the total environment. The world is full of examples of the apparent well intentioned introduction of plants and animals which have proven sad mistakes after it is too late to do anything about it. Some examples are the introduction of rabbits and cactus into Australia, the mongoose and guava into Hawaii and the Giant African Snail into Micronesia.

Although mining is not presently being carried out anywhere in the Trust Territory, the presence of phosphate and bauxite deposits in the Trust Territory

could lead to the economic exploitation of these resources. Other exploitable minerals may be found in the Trust Territory including underwater deposits. When and if it is decided that it is commercially feasible to mine these resources every precaution must be taken to assure that the marine and terrestrial environments in and adjacent to the effected areas are not destroyed or unduly damaged. Such considerations were not observed in previous phosphate and bauxite strip mining in the Trust Territory and environmental damage caused by this mining continues to exist today with a very slow recovery rate. Dredging for coral rubble and sand for roads and construction and rock quarrying for the same purpose, is being carried on in the Trust Territory at the present time. Again, environmental considerations are being largely ignored and this must be corrected. In spite of past and present abuses to the environment in the Trust Territory, there still exist many areas of outstanding beauty. For the mental health, pleasure and recreation of the residents of Micronesia, these areas must be protected and damaged areas rehabilitated. The increased living standards and modern way of life being adopted by the Micronesians and other residents of the Trust Territory, however, is spawning an increasing unsightliness and proliferation of disease carrying insect habitats through the uncontrolled littering of the environment with the waste of modern living. Paper containers, plastic containers, and bottles, cans, and abandoned vehicles are becoming an unwanted sight all over Micronesia — both on the land and in the lagoon and reef waters. Many of the modern packaging materials are very slow to deteriorate. Control over this situation both for public health and aesthetic reasons is badly needed. The Trust Territory is presently basing great economic hopes on tourism. The natural beauties of Micronesia are not going to attract tourists if uncontrolled littering presents the same kind of polluted environment that the tourists had come to Micronesia to avoid.

Historic and archeological sites and artifacts abound throughout the Trust Territory. These cultural natural resources are for the most part completely neglected. Tree roots are forcing apart and destroying the great stone architectural ruins of Nan-Madol in Ponape. Fires and vandalism are scarring and defacing the stone pillars and foundations of the ancient stone men's meeting house in northern Babelthup. Cave paintings on limestone walls are flaking away and being lost in Palau when there are means by which these could be saved. World War II battle sites and monuments are overgrown with jungle. Remaining ancient adze blades, mortars and pestles, pottery



bowls, wood carvings and other artifacts are free for the picking and increasing quantities are being carried out of the Trust Territory rather than being kept in museums within the Trust Territory. This situation obviously needs correction.

### THE PRESENT SITUATION

In spite of the gloomy picture generated by the above listing of the conservation problems of the Trust Territory, this must be modified by a listing of the positive actions that have and are being taken in the Trust Territory in furtherance of conservation.

Water pollution problems are being recognized. Under-construction sewage disposal systems including treatment plants should solve some of the major marine water pollution problems resulting from sewage in and around the district centers of the Trust Territory. It remains to be seen whether or not treated sewage dumped into the lagoon waters will affect the ecology of the waters.

Port regulations prohibit the dumping of bunker oil in Trust Territory harbors but this regulation is sometimes ignored and penalties rarely exercised.

Over the years, the recognition that conservation problems exist has resulted in the promulgation of a variety of laws, regulations and district orders aimed at solving some of the problems. In the Code of the Trust Territory there are laws prohibiting the use of dynamite and poisons for fishing and laws regarding the taking of trochus shell, pearl shell and turtles. There is also a code law concerning the setting of wildfires. There are an assortment of district orders and district legislature laws relating to the taking of trochus, hunting of birds, deer hunting and on other subjects. In some cases, though the intent of the laws is good, the way the laws have been written make them difficult to enforce and obtain court convictions for violations. Furthermore, such conservation laws as exist, with exceptions to be noted below, are for the most part expected to be enforced by the existing normal police forces of the Trust Territory. For every one hundred fish dynamiting and poisoning incidents, perhaps one culprit is apprehended and his chances of getting off with a suspended sentence or insignificant fine are good. The police, in their normal activities, which are usually in urban areas, are simply not available to apprehend most conservation law violators. Nevertheless, at least in some parts of the Trust Territory, when conservation law violations are brought to the attention of the police, they will make an attempt to apprehend the violators.

In 1975 the Congress of Micronesia passed an Endangered Species Act. Subsequently a list of endangered species in the Trust Territory has been issued under the Act and some law enforcement and other requirements of the Act have been undertaken.

The Trust Territory Plant and Animal Quarantine Laws administered by the Division of Agriculture have been effective during the past twenty seven years in preventing the introduction and spread of exotic animals and plants which could cause ecological upsets in the Trust Territory, as well as serving their primary purpose of preventing the entry and spread of insects and diseases which could attack the subsistence and economic agriculture of the Trust Territory.

The Forestry Section of the Division of Agriculture has accomplished a small amount of reforestation and is carrying out experiments which are aimed at determining how the extensive sterile savannah grasslands of the Trust Territory can be reclaimed. They have also carried out a considerable extension program in Palau and Ponape in promoting good forestry practices including an emphasis on conservation principles.

A Trust Territory Environmental Protection Board administered by the Department of Public Health has been operating for several years. Their principal thrust has been towards improving the quality of public water supplies, preventing water pollution, both fresh water and marine, and the regulating of sewage and solid waste disposal.

The Conservation Section of the Division of Agriculture has been in operation since 1971. Though based in Palau at the Trust Territory Biology Laboratory, the Section is responsible for conservation in all of the Trust Territory. No funds have ever been appropriated for establishing staffed conservation units in the other districts of the Trust Territory. Nevertheless, when travel funds are available, the Chief Conservationist has been able to travel to other parts of the Trust Territory to give lectures to school groups and other organizations on Trust Territory conservation matters and confer with District Administrators, District Attorneys, Police and agricultural and marine resources personnel on conservation law enforcement methods and problems. Other conservation information has also been distributed to the districts in the form of memoranda, reports, publications and radio broadcasts. In Palau an active conservation law enforcement program has been carried out within the limitations of personnel, boats, engines, vehicles and the fuel to operate them. Ecological and biological studies have been carried out on mangrove swamps, lagoon water pollution,



medicinal plants, limnology, herpetology, marine biology, ornithology, and endangered species. Scientific publications have resulted from some of this work. Resource collections have been made of birds, plants, molluscs, and echinoderms. The most complete published literature collection in the Trust Territory on the natural resources of Micronesia has been assembled at the Biology Laboratory, as well as other pertinent literature on ecology, conservation programming, and educational methods. To date, the effectiveness of the past and existing conservation programs is difficult to assess. There is certainly now a far greater awareness of the need for conservation in the Trust Territory both among the general populace and among the government administrators and legislators than there was a few years ago. Some conservation is now being taught in the public school systems. The dugong or sea cow which was once almost extinct is now making a noticeable recovery. Fish dynamiting and poisoning and turtle and game bird poaching appear to be declining, at least in Palau.

Outside scientists and scientific institutions are almost continuously carrying out scientific investigations in the Trust Territory, principally in the biological sciences, and many of these investigations are either conservation oriented or are of value in carrying out conservation programs. An active correspondence and cooperation with other scientists, institutions including universities, U.S. federal and foreign conservation agencies and other conservation organizations is carried out with the aim of improving the effectiveness of the Trust Territory conservation program.

The Congress of Micronesia has created an Historic Sites Commission which has come up with and is implementing a series of recommendations concerning the preservation of historic and archeological sites. One active museum exists in the Trust Territory in the Palau Islands. This museum, which is supported principally by funds from the Palau Legislature, is engaged in the preservation of historical documents and the collection, preservation and display of archeological artifacts and natural history specimens among other activities.

Palau District has set aside one small marine and terrestrial wildlife preserve in the Palau Islands. A botanical park has also been established on Koror in the Palau Islands. Now that the so-called public lands of the Trust Territory have been turned over to the individual districts the climate appears favorable for the creation of national or district parks, wildlife preserves, district forests, and watersheds. When and if

this can be accomplished, the conservation picture for the Trust Territory should brighten.

Last but not least, it should be mentioned that certain traditional Micronesian conservation practices are still in effect in some parts of the Trust Territory. These include restricted fishing areas, and the setting aside of certain small islands as preserves where turtles, turtle eggs, sea birds and sea bird eggs can be taken only at certain times and in certain quantities. These traditional conservation practices are declining in effectiveness as the traditional values and authority are disappearing.

### ACTION NEEDED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

The existing conservation problems mentioned above, the planned accelerated programs in agriculture, marine resources, tourism, economic development with outside capital, the possible establishment of a major oil superport in Palau, and the changing life style of the Micronesian people, all portend a greatly increasing impact on the environment of the Trust Territory. It is necessary to initiate an accelerated and expanded conservation program in the Trust Territory in order to solve present problems and forestall the appearance of new problems..

Conservation units should be established in all districts, at least to the extent that conservation law enforcement problems can be handled. Depending on the size of the districts, this would involve employing from two to four or five conservation personnel for each district. These can all be Micronesians providing some training program can be organized for them. Conservation programs, including day to day decisions, must be based on biological knowledge, and therefore trained biologists must be at the core of any conservation organization. Fortunately Peace Corps volunteers are still available to do this kind of work and train Micronesians at the same time, so no hiring of additional expatriates needs to be considered. Although a great deal of biological knowledge about Micronesia has been accumulated, specific problems will have to be solved by professional biologists. Although there are Micronesians who have these basic educational qualifications, no funding has ever been approved to allow one of them to understudy the Chief Conservationist so that he or she could learn the specialized work involved and then replace the present expatriate chief. This should be done.

Conservation in the Trust Territory should not be administratively a part of the Department of Marine Resources. This organization is legitimately involved in the exploitation of the resources of the Trust Territory. A conservation organization must be



separate from the exploiting agencies in order to properly do its work. Otherwise, serious conflicts of interest are bound to occur to the detriment of all concerned. Practically all the countries of the world, and states in the United States, have separate conservation organizations such as departments or divisions of the environment, or conservation, or ecology or natural resources not subject to administrative direction from agriculture, marine resources or other resource impacting organizations. Conservation in the Trust Territory should have at least division status within the Department of Resources and Development. The work of a conservation organization involves not only cooperation with, but also the monitoring of agriculture, marine resources, public works, tourism and other agencies impacting on the environment.

The conservation program should be concerned with work in the following general categories:

- Law enforcement
- Preparation of legislation
- Ecological research
- Publicity and Education
- Establishment of biological and geological resources collections
- Environmental rehabilitation

Although the ultimate success of a conservation program must come through the understanding and cooperation of the public at large, the time it will take to educate the citizens of the Trust Territory in the value and importance of conservation will be many years. In the meantime, laws and regulations protecting our natural resources and environment must be enforced or there will be little left to save by the time the public understands and is willing to give their wholehearted support to a conservation program. Therefore, conservation agents must be trained for conservation law enforcement and deputized with law enforcement authority. Existing police forces in the Trust Territory are inadequate for this work both because they lack the specialized training a conservation agent must have, and because they are not, for the most part, stationed or operating in the areas where most conservation law violations occur.

Existing conservation laws in many cases need to be rewritten and presented as new legislation. In some cases this rewriting is necessitated by the fact that the biological facts on which the original laws were written were faulty, and in other cases the laws need to be tightened up legally so violations can be successfully prosecuted and appropriate penalties levied. A great deal of new legislation needs to be written and

presented for passage both by the Congress of Micronesia and the district legislatures. The basic need and biological basis for much of this new legislation is known. Future legislation will be requested on the basis of new situations and the gathering of new knowledge through ecological research.

The causes for some of the environmental deterioration presently going on can only be guessed at. Ecological research by competent biologists will be necessary to bring up the answers from which solutions can be devised. Therefore, staff ecologists should be considered as necessary to the program. In some cases it may be possible to enlist the support and scientific research necessary to solve some of these problems by contacting outside research organizations.

Of importance in the conservation program will be the production of pamphlets, posters, newspaper articles, radio programs, and films explaining conservation and its aims to the public. The development of a conservation curriculum for both the elementary and secondary schools of the Trust Territory should be accomplished.

Environmental rehabilitation can be accomplished in some cases and the conservation program should be in a position either to do the work directly or be able to advise and direct the work if done by some other agency of the government. Such environmental rehabilitation would include reforestation, erosion control projects, and the rehabilitation of devastated underwater areas.

Funding for implementing the above program at its meagerest would require two to three times the budget under which conservation in the Trust Territory is presently operating. Major new expenses would be personnel, boats, engine, vehicles, and fuel for the district conservation units.

Our President and Secretary of the Interior have both committed themselves to strong conservation programs and have already taken actions to fit their words. There should be no doubts that their concern in this matter is limited to the fifty states of the Union, but is also intended to apply to our trusteeship of Micronesia. The Trust Territory government needs a watchdog for the environment with which it has been entrusted. The implementation of an accelerated conservation program as outlined above will supply that need. The environment needs to be cleaned up and protected both for the economic and general well being of the people of the Trust Territory. The Trust Territory can be a beautiful and dynamic part of the world not only for the people of Micronesia but also for the increasing thousands of the citizens of the world who wish to see the tropical Pacific at its best.



# 1978 Retrospective

*by Samuel F. McPhetres and Liz Udui*

A year of decision, a year of dynamic change, a year of 'future-building'. All of these terms, separately and combined can be used to characterize the events of 1978.

Take the first significant of the year, for example. On January 9, the first elected and autonomous government of the Trust Territory was inaugurated in the Northern Marianas. With the assumption of constitutional government in Saipan, an historic landmark was passed for the whole Trust Territory. For the first time, full self-government, with all its promises and problems, was established without any significant checks or controls from Washington. A new era, heralding the assumption of full Commonwealth status in 1981, began and so did the psychological, political and economic realities of the separation of the NMI from the rest of the TT. For some purposes, citizens of the NMI became interim citizens of the United States while citizens of other districts became partial aliens in the NMI.

Closely following the pattern established, movements to separate from the unified balance of the TT were increased by the leadership of the Marshalls and Palau. The net result, based on earlier movements, was the issuance in April from Hilo, Hawaii, of the Eight Principles of Free Association recognizing that Palau and the Marshalls were not represented by the Congress of Micronesia's created Commission on Future Political Status and Transition and would be permitted to negotiate on their own with the United States for political status objectives. The recognition by the United States negotiators and policy makers reinforced efforts in the two separatist districts for the defeat of the proposed Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia, written in 1975, and the creation of autonomous states under their own constitutions.

Amidst charges and counter charges of corruption, unethical practices and other things, a very spirited campaign was carried out early in 1978 by the pro-unity and the pro-separation forces leading to the July 12 referendum on the Constitution.



*Signing of the Covenant of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.*

*Hilo Talk (L-R) Senator Bailey Olter representing the Federated States of Micronesia; Amata Kabua, Marshalls, Roman Tmetuchl, Palau and Ambassador Peter R. Rosenblatt, the President's Personal Representative to the Status Talks.*





Under the watchful eyes of a visiting mission of the United Nations Trusteeship Council, nearly 80% of the registered voters of the six districts turned out on July 12 to cast their ballots in the historic decision to adopt or reject Micronesian unity under the Constitution. Palau and the Marshalls rejected it and Truk, Ponape, Kosrae and Yap adopted it. The results cast the die for the future organization of the islands in the Post Trusteeship period. There will now be four political entities in what will have been the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands: the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Federated States of Micronesia made up of the four central districts, and the Marshalls and Palau, each under their own constitutions.

An additional factor to consider is that the three entities created out of the Federated States, Palau and the Marshalls will be jointly included in a single Compact of Free Association with the United States if the current negotiations maintain their present direction.

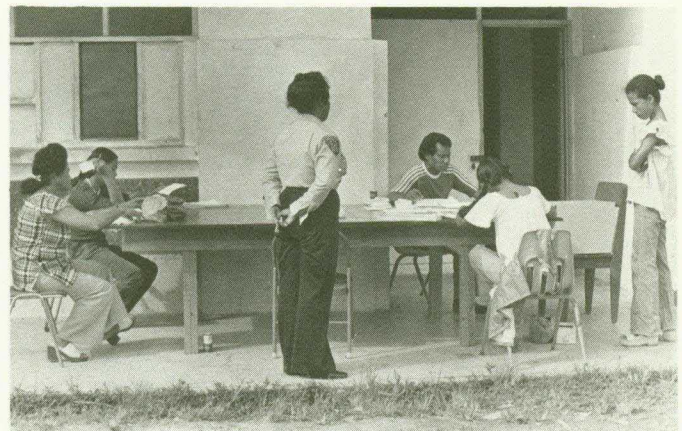
US policy is still to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement with the United Nations no later than 1981 and the process of turning administrative authority over to the fledgling governments has already begun. In September and October, talks were held between the US and the three groups which resulted in the issuance of Secretarial Order 3027 which established legislative and fiscal separation of the three entities, dissolved the Congress of Micronesia and raised the legislatures of the Marshalls and Palau to the status of congressional bodies equal to the former Congress of Micronesia. The congress, now representing only the four central districts was called the Interim Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia until the permanent congress was elected on March 27, 1979. The Order, effective October 1, 1978, granted each legislative body the full power over revenues raised in its jurisdiction, eliminating territory-wide revenue sharing, and to make laws within its jurisdiction. All three bodies began immediate preparations for organizing a governmental structure to assume administrative authorities and responsibilities when an additional secretarial order was issued, sometime in April granting administrative separation and turning over many significant powers to the constitutional governments expected to be in place by May 1979 in the Marshalls and the Federated States.

Late in 1978, the Marshall Islands completed a draft constitution establishing a parliamentary government which went to referendum on March 1, 1979, and was adopted 64%/36%.



*United Nations Observation team in Palau during the July 12 Referendum.*

*July 12 Referendum election taking place in Palau.*



In Palau, in November, an election was held for 38 seats to a Palau Constitutional Convention which began its work on January 28, 1979, a referendum will be held on July 9, 1979.

The work of 1978 set the stage for the developments of 1979 and beyond, leading to the termination of the Trusteeship agreement first established in 1947, by 1981.

At the district level, many significant steps were also made in 1978. In four districts, those which became the Federated States, chartered government was established or set up. In Truk, the first chartered government with an elected governor and lieutenant governor was elected in August with inauguration in September. In Yap and Kosrae, elections were held in November with the inaugurations taking place in the first week of January 1979. Only Ponape made no move to elect their executive or legislative branches under their charter, but it was made effective in 1978 under the district administrator who became the acting governor. Elections were held in March and April.





*Governor Erhart Aten delivering his inaugural address on September 1978.*

1978 was a year of exercise of the democratic process. Elections, a referendum and increased legislative responsibilities marked the course of the year at all levels. This has not been without its problems, of course. A special investigator was called in to clear the results of the constitutional referendum in Palau, the Marshalls status commission called the leadership of the Congress of Micronesia into court over alleged misuse of money appropriated for an education campaign on the FSM Constitution, a Palauan Senator was expelled from the Congress of Micronesia, and representatives of all three Micronesian status groups voiced strong criticism of the US and each other at various times throughout the year. But at the close of 1978 and early in 1979, it appears that most of the hurdles have been crossed and that progress towards preparing a Compact of Free Association is gaining momentum and may be completed in the not too distant future.

1979 will see the installation of 'national' level governments in Palau, the Marshalls and the Federated States, a possible plebescite on Free Association and perhaps even finalization of the plan of action to turn over all major governmental authorities to the new constitutional governments with the High Commissioner retaining only those responsibilities required for accounting of US grant funds, some foreign relations and others falling under his responsibility through the Trusteeship Agreement. The balance of the administrative powers will become the authority of the new governments within their jurisdictions.

And so preparations for full self-government received their greatest encouragement (albeit at the price of Micronesian unity) in 1978. 1979 and the two years following will see even more progress, probably not without occasional setbacks and problems. But, hopefully, the most difficult moments have passed and the time to prepare for the added and important responsibilities of self-government for all the peoples of Micronesia is here. The goal is now known and the timetable set.

### **ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT --- by Liz Udui**

The major economic advancement in 1978 was in inter-district transportation services.

By the end of the year, small community air companies had been licensed in all districts to provide air services within the district. These services, which use small land based planes, provide these communities with local air service and facilities for emergency evacuations.

By the end of the year, inter-island sea transportation was augmented by the placement in service of five 500-ton field trip vessels—one in the Yap/Palau area; two in the Marshalls; two in Truk. These vessels are part of a program to replace seven older field trip vessels. These vessels distribute cargo from district centers to outer islands and are the primary means available for passenger movement and for provision of Government services to outer island residents.

*Small planes serving air services in the districts throughout Micronesia.*





## UNTIL THE END

*Enriched with blinded hope  
 I ask you to be gentle  
 and be patient  
 With the fleeting time  
 Although we both know  
 The epilogue is inevitable.  
 We have delivered the prologue  
 Of our short drama  
 And what remains  
 Is the theme of the main act  
 To be presented on the stage  
 Where you and I are actors  
 And our own audience and critic.  
 We make our own dialogue  
 As we unfold our story  
 From day to day  
 With longing dreams  
 Of stolen glances  
 Of heartaches and tears  
 Of sweet senseless phrases  
 Of heartfelt promises  
 And shared happiness  
 Between two persons  
 Who have learned the truth about life  
 And accepted its predicament  
 Without pity and resentment.*

*Together, we will write  
 The story of our lives  
 Under the tropical sun  
 And canopy of Milky Way  
 Surrounded by emerald and deep blue seas  
 Dotted with a thousand isles  
 Of Micronations.  
 The setting is beautiful  
 And should reflect our story.  
 Should our allotted time arrive  
 And the final scene comes to an end  
 We should bravely face each other  
 And smile even with tears  
 In our eyes.  
 We will embrace and kiss  
 And promise to live in each other's thoughts  
 When we have time to sit down  
 And reflect our story  
 Written in the wind  
 Let us be kind  
 And wish each other well  
 Perhaps in the next cycle of life  
 Things will be different  
 When we meet again.  
 Let us hope in hope.*

VAL SENGEBAU

TWO  
 POEMS

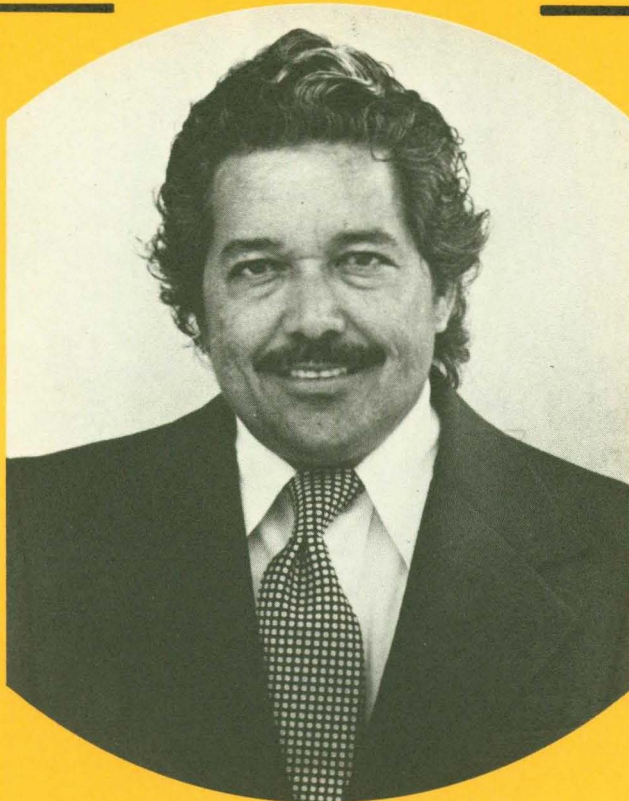
*From cliffs that took a thousand and more lives. I write, I think.  
 Then I write again. I look up  
     at our mountains with foliage so evergreen  
     to the blooming flame trees. My eyes gazes in delight.  
 Swimming in the glassy ocean pools and catching those spiny lobsters,  
     another day has passed,  
 The sun gives out last  
     rays of golden light and  
 As if saying goodbye rests his  
     head against the ocean bed.*

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ANNE UDUI

*We're tired of being  
 pushed around, unable to  
 bear the putting down.  
 We deserve some  
 recognition, but no, no  
     you made us wait,  
 In time, you'll see who suffers  
 Oh no, not us, for you see  
     Haven't you noticed  
 who did separate.*





PONAPE GOVERNOR—LEO FALCAM

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PONAPE LT. GOVERNOR—STRIK YOMA

