



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

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January 10, 1968

Attached listing of events and dates on which significant developments occurred in the area of political advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was prepared in the Headquarters Political Affairs Office.

When the United States made its report to the United Nations Trusteeship Council during the summer of 1949 in conformity with the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement, the United States briefly outlined its plan for the political advancement of the Trust Territory. According to this plan, attention would be focused initially on the development of self-governing municipalities or local government units, then progressively the powers of district bodies would be increased, and finally Territory-wide organs of self-government would be developed in which the indigenous population would play a substantial if not a major part.

While the actions heretofore taken by the Administering Authority indicate considerable flexibility in implementing this plan, the trend of developments in the political advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory does appear to have proceeded along the line of this general approach.

Although it is not expected that all of the events and dates listed in the attached would be wholly useful to everyone's purpose, they are nevertheless included largely for future reference purposes.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNMENT

IN THE

TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

1945
August
&
September
The United States Navy was in control of much of the area of the Japanese Mandated Islands when fighting ceased in 1945 and within the next few months had occupied the areas previously bypassed. By two memoranda originated by the Secretary of the Navy and approved by the President in August and September, 1945, the Navy had been assured of temporary administration of the Mandated Islands. By these the President had delegated interim authority for the area to the Secretary of the Navy. The Secretary of the Navy immediately redelegated this authority to the Chief of Naval Operations and the latter, in turn, passed his authority to the Commander in Chief Pacific and Pacific Ocean Areas.

1947
April
The Naval Military Government of the Mandated Islands was further implemented by an Interim Directive approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff on April 11, 1947.

Under this directive, the Military Government was charged, among other things, with the responsibility of protecting the rights and fundamental freedoms of the native population without discrimination as to race, sex, language or religion. The body of laws

which were in force during Military Government administration were referred to as the Interim Regulations.

1947
May While the establishment of a court system for the area under the Military Government was directed on November 18, 1946, no action was taken in the area of self-government until May, 1947. Under a directive issued by the Military Government on May 28, 1947, all Military Government Units were directed to establish municipal governments which would cover all communities within the jurisdiction of the Unit.

1947
July 1 The Municipality of Saipan has the distinction of having been the first local government unit to have been chartered pursuant to the directive issued by the United States Military Government on May 28, 1947. Its charter, adopted unanimously by the people on July 1, 1947, provided for a four-year term chief executive and a high council of eleven members elected for a one-year term.

1947
July 4 The Palau Congress had its first meeting in Koror on July 4, following a convention in May which was held for the purpose of organizing the Palau Congress.

The Palau Congress, a unicameral body, was the only district-wide advisory body to have been established under the authority of the United States Military Government prior to the approval of the Trusteeship Agreement by the United States on July 18, 1947.

1947
July 18 The Trusteeship Agreement for the Pacific Islands went into force following authorization by the United States Congress (PL 204 or H.J.R. 233, 80th Congress) for the President to approve the agreement on behalf of the United States, thus placing the former Japanese Mandated Islands under United Nations trusteeship with the United States as administering authority. On the same day the President by Executive Order No. 9875 terminated the Military Government for the former Japanese Mandated Islands and delegated the responsibility for the civil administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, on an interim basis, to the Secretary of the Navy.

Also on July 18, the President commissioned the Commander in Chief of Pacific and Commander in Chief United States Pacific Fleet, United States Navy, as High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In the absence of an organic act for the Trust Territory and the resultant lack of a constitutional basis for legislative government, the High Commissioner was vested with all powers of government except in the matters of (1) confirming of death sentence and (2) modifying decisions of the Trust Territory Court of Appeals. The two functions were expressly reserved to the Secretary of the Navy.

Upon assuming the duties of High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands following ratification of the

the Trusteeship Agreement, the first High Commissioner immediately on July 18, 1947, issued Proclamation No. 1 whereby he officially assumed all powers of government and jurisdiction in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

1950
June Although the Marshall Islands Congress, a bicameral body consisting of the House of Iroij and the House of Assembly, was proclaimed as an advisory body to the Civil Administrator on November 17, 1949, its establishment was not approved by the military High Commissioner until June, 1950, and the first session of the Marshalls Congress was opened on July 4, 1950.

1951
June Although there exists no official record of the formal establishment of the Yap Islands Council of Magistrates, it had been in existence for a number of years prior to the time the Interior Department assumed responsibility in 1951, and both the former Naval Administration and the present Interior Administration have been consulting with the Yap Council of Magistrates in matters affecting the Yap Islands. The Yap Advisory Council of Magistrates is comprised of the elected Magistrates and their appointed secretaries.

1951
June By Executive Order No. 10265 signed by the President on June 29, 1951, the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was transferred from the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of the Interior. With the transfer from a military to civilian agency, a civilian High Commissioner was also appointed

by the President on January 8, 1951.

Upon taking over the duties of High Commissioner, the first civilian High Commissioner issued on July 1, 1951, Proclamation No. 2, reaffirming the continuation of those Interior Rules and Regulations established under the Department of the Navy not in conflict with the Trusteeship Agreement and other higher laws.

1951
August To further implement the provisions of Executive Order No. 10265 of June 29, 1951, and in recognition of the fact that the Congress of the United States had yet to enact organic legislation for a government of the Trust Territory, the Secretary of Interior issued Order No. 2658, thus defining the extent and nature of the authority of the High Commissioner and outlining the procedures for conduct of relations with other agencies of the Federal Government. This Order also established an independent Judiciary.

1952
October In October, 1952, a convocation of the Magistrates of all municipalities in Truk District was held on Moen. This exploratory meeting resulted a year later in the establishment of a "District Council of Magistrates," an advisory committee to the District Administrator.

1952
November By Executive Order No. 10408 signed by the President on November 10, 1952, the portion of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which includes the islands of Tinian and Saipan was detached from

the rest of the Trust Territory and placed under the Secretary of the Navy.

1952
May The Ponape Island Congress, a bicameral body consisting of the Nobles' and People's Houses, was chartered by the High Commissioner as an advisory body to the District Administrator in May, 1952, and held its first organized session under the charter just granted on May 12, 1952.

1952
December On December 22, 1952, the High Commissioner by Executive Order No. 32 promulgated the first Code of Laws for the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Since Article 7 of the Trusteeship Agreement requires the administering authority to guarantee to the inhabitants of the Trust Territory basic freedoms subject only to the requirements of public order and security, the Bill of Rights contained in the Code promulgated in 1952 spelled out in detail those fundamental rights which shall be guaranteed to the inhabitants subject only to the requirements of public order and security. Section 4 of the Bill of Rights reads in part, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law"

1954
June By the Act of June 30, 1954, the United States Congress in effect provided an "interim organic legislation" for the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Although the act of 1954 did not expressly provide for such government, Section 1 (a) of the Act reads, "Until Congress shall further provide for the

government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, all executive, legislative, and judicial authority necessary for the civil administration of the Trust Territory shall continue to be vested in such person or persons and shall be exercised in such a manner and through such agency or agencies as the President of the United States may direct or authorize."

1955 The "Olbiil er Kelulau," successor to the less formally consti-
January tuted Palau Congress, which dated back to 1947, was a unicameral
body and was chartered by the High Commissioner in January, 1955.
All resolutions not in conflict with district orders and higher
laws became law for the district unless disapproved by the High
Commissioner within 180 days after formal transmittal. Although
hereditary chiefs of the municipalities and the two High Chiefs
of Palau also sat in the "Olbiil er Kelulau," only the elected
representatives could vote on measures.

1955 Although the original charter of the Municipality of Saipan
May came into existence on July 1, 1947, or several weeks before
the Trusteeship Agreement was ratified by the United States
Government on July 18, 1947, important amendments were made to
this basic document on May 15, 1955, setting forth the duties
and responsibilities of the executive branch as well as establishing
procedures for future elections.

1955 The Municipality of Tinian was officially established when the
July municipal charter was signed on July 26, 1955, by the Commander

in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet who exercised legislative and executive authority for the area on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy pursuant to Executive Order No. 10470.

1956
March A major step in extension of powers of district congresses was provided by the amendment to Section 20 of the Trust Territory Code promulgated on March 27, 1956. This amendment specified among other things that when acts of duly chartered legislative bodies were approved by the High Commissioner or otherwise confirmed as law as may be provided by the charter, these acts would have the full force and effect of law if not in conflict with higher laws.

1956
March By Charter signed and approved by the High Commissioner on March 30, 1956, the Kolonia Town Government, a sub-section of Net Municipality in the Ponape District, was established as a political sub-division. The Charter created an advisory council to the District Administrator to advise in matters involving the residents and affairs of Kolonia Town. The Charter also established procedures in conducting relations with the Municipality of Net.

1956
August In August of 1956 the first meeting of the Inter-District Advisory Committee to the High Commissioner was held in the Trust Territory Headquarters in Guam. Delegates, representing all the districts, were chosen by district congresses, councils and other representative groups.

The establishment of the Inter-District Advisory Committee represented a major step in promoting territory-wide consciousness.

- 1956 Although the Yap Council of Magistrates continued to function as an advisory body, it was renamed the Yap Islands Council in 1956 and its organization and functions were better defined.
- 1957 By memorandum dated April 11, 1957, to all District Administrators, April the High Commissioner's Office outlined a program to charter local communities with a view to providing them the legal basis for performing certain functions of local government. In setting forth the purpose of the program the memorandum stated in part "... it is anticipated that immediate action will be initiated to charter those municipalities that are sufficiently advanced politically to assume obligations and discharge responsibilities of local government under the terms of the charter"
- 1957 Following the issuance of the April 11, 1957, memorandum from July the Office of the High Commissioner pertaining to the establishment of local government, the Municipality of Madolenihmw in the Ponape District was granted a charter by the High Commissioner on July 25, 1957, thus establishing officially the Municipality of Madolenihmw as a local government unit.
- 1957 The Municipality of Moen in the Truk District received its charter July on July 26, 1957.
- 1957 The Municipality of Koror in the Palau District was chartered August as a local government unit on August 26, 1957.
- 1957 Following the patterns of the Koror, Moen and Madolenihmw Municipal August Charters, the Municipality of Sokehs in the Ponape District was

granted a local government charter on August 26, 1957.

1957 A unicameral district-wide Congress for the Truk District was
August established in August, 1957. The Congress, subject to the
 approval of the District Administrator and the High Commissioner,
 was empowered to enact laws not in conflict with the laws of the
 Trust Territory and other higher laws.

1957 The Municipality of Rota was granted a charter on October
October 28, 1957.

1957 On November 14, 1957, the Municipality of Uh in the Ponape
November District was chartered by the High Commissioner.

1958 Kwajele in Municipality in the Marshall Islands District received
March its charter on March 20, 1958.

1958 The Municipality of Aimeliik in the Palau District was chartered
April on April 2, 1958.

1958 Kiti Municipality in the Ponape District was chartered on May 2,
May 1958.

1958 Fefan Municipality in the Truk District was chartered on July 2,
July 1958.

1958 Ngaraard Municipality in the Palau District was chartered on
July July 9, 1958.

1958 Ngaremlengui Municipality in the Palau District was granted a
July local government charter on July 9, 1958.

1958 Ngardmau Municipality in Palau was granted a local government
July charter on July 15, 1958.

1958 Angaur Municipality in Palau was chartered on July 15, 1958.
July

1958 Although the Ponape Island Congress, a bicameral advisory body
July consisting of representatives from the five municipalities of
Ponape Island proper, had been functioning as an advisory body
to the District Administrator since 1952, it was dissolved in
September, 1958, and an unicameral district-wide body was estab-
lished in its place by the High Commissioner. The new body is
vested with the legislative powers for the whole district. The
charter establishing the new district-wide body was approved and
signed by the High Commissioner on July 16, 1958.

1958 Darrit, Uliga, Dalap Municipality in the Marshall Islands District
August was granted a charter on August 15, 1958.

1958 Peleliu Municipality in the Palau District was granted a local
October government charter on October 8, 1958.

1958 Kayangel Municipality in the Palau District was chartered on
October October 8, 1958.

1958 The Municipality of Ngarhelong in the Palau District received its
October charter on October 14, 1958.

1958 Tobi Municipality in the Palau District was granted a local
November government charter on November 4, 1958.

1958 Ngiwal Municipality in the Palau District was chartered on
November November 26, 1958.

1958 Melekeiok Municipality of Palau District was granted a charter
November on November 26, 1958.

1958 The Marshall Islands Congress, formerly a bicameral body com-
Decem- posed of a House of Iroi (Nobles) and a House of Assembly
ber (elected representatives), met in joint session in September, 1958,
and voted for the adoption of a new constitution establishing a
unicameral legislative body. Although the new constitution (charter)
was approved by the High Commissioner on December 8, 1958, it did
not come into effect until the 1959 session. The new body is
vested with the legislative powers for the whole district.

1959 Ngatpang Municipality of Palau District was chartered on January 7,
January 1959.

1959 Nghesar Municipality of Palau District received its local govern-
January ment charter on January 7, 1959.

1959 On January 28, 1959, the Municipality of Dublon in the Truk
January District was granted a charter.

1959 On February 3, 1959, the Municipality of Sonsorol in Palau Dis-
February trict was granted a local government charter.

1959
February On February 9, 1959, a charter establishing the Yap Islands Congress was approved and signed by the High Commissioner. The Congress, a unicameral body, has the power to enact resolutions to provide for and maintain the welfare of the residents of Yap. Resolutions duly adopted and approved have the force and effect of law within the Yap Islands proper.

With the establishment of the Yap Islands Congress, the Yap Islands Council now functions exclusively as an advisory body composed of the elected Magistrates of the ten municipalities of the Yap Islands and the appointed secretaries.

1959
March On March 10, 1959, the Municipality of Pingelap in the Ponape District was chartered.

1959
March Although the Kusaie Council had been functioning as an advisory body to the District Administrator or his Representative when one was in residence on Kusaie, it was not legally established as part of a local government unit until March, 1959, when a charter was granted by the High Commissioner to the Municipality of Kusaie Island.

1959
March On March 20, 1959, a charter establishing the Municipality of Mokil as a local government in the Ponape District was signed by the High Commissioner.

1959
April On April 7, 1959, the Municipality of Ngatik in the Ponape District was granted a charter as a local government unit.

1959 Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands District received its
June charter as a local government unit on June 19, 1959.

1959 Tol Municipality in the Truk District received its charter on
November November 4, 1959.

1960 Jaluit Municipality in the Marshall Islands District received
January its charter on January 5, 1960.

1960 Namorik Municipality in the Marshalls was chartered on January 5,
January 1960.

1960 Udot Municipality in the Truk District was chartered on January 7,
January 1960.

1960 Rongelap Atoll was chartered as a local government unit on
February February 1, 1960.

1960 Pata Municipality in the Truk District received its charter
May on May 23, 1960.

1960 Nukuoro Municipality in the Ponape District was chartered
May on May 23, 1960.

1960 Kapingamarnagi Municipality in the Ponape District received its
May charter on May 23, 1960.

1960 Polle Municipality in the Truk District was chartered on October 27,
October 1960.

1961 Uman Municipality in the Truk District received its charter
April on April 7, 1961.

1961 The Inter-District Advisory Committee to the High Commissioner
Septem- had advanced step by step since its establishment in 1956. In
ber 1958 the delegates voted to institute a policy of having members
elected for holdover terms so that each district delegation would
have one member who was in attendance at the previous year's meeting,
thus providing continuity to the Advisory Committee. At the 1959
meeting, a social sub-committee was elected to meet during the
year to investigate specific social problems. An economic sub-
committee was elected in 1960, and a political sub-committee was
elected in 1961. The 1961 conference resulted in a number of
important recommendations and one of these was a proposal to
change the Inter-District Advisory Committee to the Council of
Micronesia. This proposal was approved by the High Commissioner
on September 15, 1961, and the former Inter-District Advisory
Committee was reconstituted as the Council of Micronesia.

1962 The Municipality of Nama in the Truk District was chartered on
May May 7, 1962.

1962 On May 7, 1962, President Kennedy pursuant to the Act of June 30,
May 1954, issued Executive Order No. 11021. This Executive Order
superseded Executive Order Nos. 10265 of June 29, 1951; 10408 of
November 10, 1952; and 10470 of July 17, 1953; and further placed
in the Secretary of the Interior the responsibility for the

administration of civil government in all of the Trust Territory, including all executive, legislative and judicial authority necessary for the administration of the Trust Territory subject to such policies as the President may from time to time prescribe and other higher laws.

1962
July In the summer of 1962 the United States Congress amended Section 2 of the Act of June 30, 1954, and raised the Trust Territory appropriation ceiling from \$7,500,000.00 to \$15,000,000.00 for Fiscal Year 1963 and to \$17,500,000.00 for the following fiscal year and thereafter.

1962
December With the transfer of the Administering Authority Headquarters from Guam to Saipan and the amalgamation of the former Rota and Saipan Districts into the Mariana Islands District pursuant to Executive Order No. 11021 of May 8, 1962, a charter convention was called during the week of December 17, 1962, to draft a charter for the Mariana Islands District Legislature.

1963
January On January 7, 1963, the Mariana Islands District Legislature Charter was finally signed into law by the High Commissioner. A special feature of the Charter granted to the Marianas Legislature pertains to the provision on procedure for enacting district laws. Unlike those charters granted previously where the District Administrator and the High Commissioner had a period of 180 days to act on measures submitted for their approval and disapproval action, the new Charter provided the High Commissioner

with thirty (30) days to take action. If a thirty-day period elapsed after the receipt of a measure by the High Commissioner and no approval or disapproval action had been taken, the act would become law as if it were approved and signed by him.

1963
February The Municipality of Airai in the Palau District was chartered on February 18, 1963.
ary

1963
April Following a meeting of the "Olbiil er Kelulau era Belau" on April 9, 1963, in which, by unanimous vote, it requested a revision of its charter, the High Commissioner approved and signed into law a new charter for the Palau District on July 25, 1963. The effect of the new charter was to establish the legislative authority for the Palau District in the Palau Legislature and further define procedures and powers of the new Legislature.

1963
October Responding to the request of the Ponape District Congress for a revision of its 1958 Charter, the High Commissioner on October 17, 1963, approved a new charter establishing the Ponape District Legislature. The new charter established the legislative authority for the whole Ponape District in the Ponape District Legislature.

1963
September The Truk District Congress was also reconstituted as the Truk District Legislature through a new Charter granted by the High Commissioner on September 25, 1963. Powers and procedures established by the new Charter are substantially the same as those of the Marianas, Palau and Ponape Districts' Charters.

Basically, the charters granted to all four districts (Palau, Ponape, Marianas, and Truk) better define the legislative responsibilities of the district legislative bodies and clearly establish the legislative authority of the district governments.

1963 The period of November 12 through 21, 1963, marked the historic November fourth session of the Council of Micronesia.

Not only was this fourth session a significant one for the reason that this was to be the last time that the Council should meet as an advisory body, but also because during this session, the Administering Authority representatives presented to the Council for its consideration and recommendation a draft proposal for the creation of a bona fide legislative body for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

During this session important suggestions were made by the Council of Micronesia and these suggestions were subsequently incorporated into the Secretarial Order which was issued by the Department of the Interior the following year.

1964 Because of the unwieldy size of its membership, the Marshall Islands Congress took action to correct the situation and an amendment was proposed by the Congress during its 1963 session. January With the approval of the amendment by the High Commissioner in January, 1964, the size of the Marshalls Congress membership was reduced, manner of representation further defined, and the date for the next reapportionment set.

1964
January By the authority vested in the President of the United States by the Act of June 30, 1954, and delegated to the Secretary of the Interior by Executive Order No. 11021 of May 7, 1962 the Secretary issued Interior Order No. 2876 on January 30, 1964, establishing and delineating the powers of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

1964
September The most important event which occurred during the year in the area of self-government and political development in Micronesia was the promulgation of Order No. 2882 on September 28, 1964, by the Secretary of the Interior.

Secretarial Order No. 2882 amended Order No. 2876 and established the legislative authority for the government of the Trust Territory in the bicameral Congress of Micronesia.

The promulgation of Order No. 2882 marked the culmination of several years of work on the part of the Administering Authority in promoting political development at the territorial level.

1965
May Although the Town of Kolonia in the Ponape District was officially established as a political sub-division of Net Municipality in March, 1956, it was formally constituted as a separate local government unit when its request for a new charter was approved and signed by the High Commissioner on May 17, 1965. The granting of a charter to Kolonia Town brought the total number of chartered local government units to 45 out of 115 local municipalities in the Trust Territory.

1965 Although Order No. 2882 establishing the Congress of Micronesia
July was issued by the Secretary of the Interior on September 28, 1964,
the formal transfer of legislative authority from the High Commissioner to the newly established Congress of Micronesia did not occur until July 12, 1965, when the Congress first convened.

1967 During its First Session, the 90th Congress of the United States
May amended the Act of June 30, 1954, as amended, by providing a
higher appropriation ceiling for the Trust Territory for Fiscal
Years 1968 and 1969, and by placing in the President of the United
States the appointment of the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands by and with the advice and consent of the United States Senate. The President approved Public Law 90-16 on May 10, 1967.