bility of the project and Mr Etpison’s integrity. Once again a president of Belau was having major problems that generated talk of corrupt activities and impeachment.

Youth suicide has been relatively rare in Belau compared to Chuuk (Truk) and the Marshall Islands. However, during a six-month period three youths under twenty years of age (two males and one female) committed suicide. All of them were adopted and had experienced some emotional trauma. According to Dr Polloi, Belau’s mental health specialist, the incidence of child abuse, divorce, alcoholism, and family feuding has increased. Roles for youth, especially males, have eroded and they have little to absorb their energies except occasional sport activity. Most people are deeply concerned about these issues.

Economically, Belau did well during the period under review. For the first time since self-government in 1981, the government finished the fiscal year without a deficit. The private sector boomed, especially in local construction and tourism. In 1989 more than 26,000 tourists came to Belau, nearly half from Japan. The rush of visitors accelerated small business development, especially in diving, hotel, video shops, restaurants, and transport. Another 4000 people visited Belau for business and employment. Some 13 percent of the total population are foreign workers with valid work permits. Most are from the Philippines and work in construction, restaurants, and as domestic helpers. Concern for the cultural changes that significant numbers of Philippine residents could bring to Belau pales in comparison with the explosive events in its political arena.

DONALD R. SHUSTER

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

On 9 January 1990, Lorenzo I. Guerrero was sworn in as governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, after easily defeating the Democratic candidate, Froilan T. Tenorio, in the elections of 4 November 1989. Guerrero’s running mate, Benjamin T. Manglona helped to assure victory by carrying a majority of the Rota vote for the Republicans. Tenorio may have lost votes because of his plans to privatize many government services and centralize the elementary school system on Saipan.

After the elections, Senators Jose P. Mafnas and Jose Inos both claimed the position of president of the Senate. Inos took the podium alongside Mafnas during the swearing-in ceremony, causing a scuffle during which Inos was shoved down the podium steps by Mafnas supporters and thrown to the ground. The incident was covered by the local cable television station and received wide coverage in the press. Mafnas took Inos to court, but Inos was eventually declared the legitimate president.

The proposed referendum on the covenant establishing the commonwealth did not eventuate. Then Governor Pedro P. Tenorio kept it off the November ballot by arguing that satisfactory progress had been made to resolve differences with the United
The determination that citizens of the freely associated states (Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia) could freely enter the Northern Marianas and be counted as local hires added a new element to the already difficult issue of alien labor. Growing numbers of workers from places like Chuuk (Truk) and Pohnpei are not counted at the port of entry, can bring their families, and are frequently not provided housing by their employers. Furthermore, there is no reciprocity between the Northern Marianas and the freely associated states, and citizens of the Northern Marianas, as US citizens, are not free to enter and do business in the freely associated states. Legislation introduced in April 1990 would require citizens of the freely associated states to register upon entering the Northern Marianas, and should help planners assess the scope of the problem and its implications for the delivery of social services. During the April 1990 “902” discussions, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas sought federal impact funds to compensate for the services provided to citizens of the freely associated states.

The growing alien population has not only caused resentment among the local population, but has put considerable strain on public utilities. The electric power problems of 1988–89 were largely solved by the installation of new generators, but sewerage and water problems increased during the year under review. By the middle of 1990 the utilities commission was allowing 1.7 million gallons of raw sewage per day to be dumped in the Saipan lagoon, and was looking for money to upgrade the whole system. Some communities on Saipan were receiving only one hour of water a day. New wells have been dug and pipes strung around the island, but the demand continues to grow. Furthermore, much of the water must be treated before consumption, and purifying water has become a growing industry.

During the November 1989 elections, the people of Tinian passed a controversial law permitting the establishment of up to five casinos, each to be accompanied by a three-hundred-room hotel. The earliest a casino could be in operation would be five years, and a commonwealth-wide referendum could put a stop to the development in the interim. But if the plans proceed, Tinian’s population of less than 2000 will be swamped by an influx of more than 3750 workers, almost all the necessary infrastructure will have to be provided, and yakuza involvement cannot be ruled out.

Land values on Tinian skyrocketed after the law was approved. By April, close to fifty families had reportedly received more than a million dollars each from land sales. Among those who cashed in were educators, many of whom simply walked off their underpaid teaching jobs. The schools were forced to operate with the assistance of teaching aides for the balance of the school year. Many students whose families had become rich overnight
began to question the value of continuing their studies.

Discussions based on Article 902 of the covenant got underway again in early April 1990. Tim Glidden, special assistant to the secretary of the Interior, was the US representative to the talks, and Lieutenant Governor Benjamin Manglona headed the commonwealth team. Both sides agreed that there had been significant progress on the issues, which included internal self-government, the impact of migration from the freely associated states, exclusive economic zones, and the jurisdiction of federal agencies and laws. Glidden returned to Washington with some twelve agreements and jointly drafted statements for the White House. The remaining major issue concerns the applicability in the Northern Marianas of the "territorial clause" of the US Constitution, which gives Congress the right to govern US territories almost directly. It appears that the issue will be resolved in the courts.

The delegation from the Northern Marianas appeared at the United Nations Trusteeship Council session in May 1990, repeating their contention of 1989 that the trusteeship agreement had not been officially terminated and still applied to the commonwealth. They urged the council not to terminate until certain conditions had been met, and sought permanent access to the council to assure US compliance with the provisions of the covenant. The council, in turn, repeated its earlier recommendation that differences should be resolved through the bilateral provisions of the status agreement with the United States.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an opinion during the year that Article XII of the commonwealth constitution (restricting land ownership to persons of Northern Marianas descent) was not unconstitutional. The newly created commonwealth Supreme Court was pleased with this decision, but disputed the federal court's jurisdiction to hear land cases. The general uncertainty over land transactions, especially those involving persons of non-Marianas descent, had a chilling effect on new investment in the islands during 1989-90.

SAMUEL F. MCPHETRES

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

On the third anniversary of the implementation of its Compact of Free Association with the United States, the government of the Federated States of Micronesia moved into an impressive new nine-building complex in Palikir, Pohnpei. At the dedication ceremony on 3 November 1989, speakers offered glowing words about the unity of the federation. President John R. Haglelgam said that the new capital represents the "living symbol of our common wish to live together in peace and harmony as a unified and independent nation," while Congress Speaker Jack Fritz spoke of reaffirming "our earlier commitment to come together and unite as one people under one government." Fritz prayed that the "deliberations and decisions" of the fourteen-member national Congress "will be worthy of our fine new surroundings." For two days, Micronesians from the four scattered and culturally distinct