

By Montie Protrasio
Daily News Staff Writer

Mr. Dominic Renda, President of Continental Air Lines said in an interview Saturday morning, during his latest trip around Micronesia, that he thought the Civil Aeronautic Boards announcement of a decision on the certification of Continental Air Micronesia as a Pacific carrier was "imminent," and would be announced "any day now."

The case, which has been pending three years since the

first CAB hearings were held, has reportedly been centered on a dispute between Pan American Air Lines and Continental over which line will be finally authorized to provide services for certain Pacific routes involving the Trust Territory and virtually all of Melanesia and Polynesia.

Going briefly into the history of the CAB hearings, Renda said the first hearings on the case were held in 1968, after which the CAB Examiner recommended private rights for Air Micronesia/Continental which extended down to American Samoa, Tahiti, Tonga, New Caledonia, and almost all of Melanesia and Polynesia.

In 1970, the CAB Board sent their recommendations to the President, a step necessary because it is an international route requiring Presidential approval, their recommendations were not made public at that time, and Renda said he had no knowledge what they were except for some speculations written up in trade paper.

A year ago on July 16, said Renda, the President apparently dissatisfied, returned the case to the CAB with instructions to review their recommendations, taking into consideration the

views of the Interior, Defense, Transportation, State, and Justice Departments because of their interests in the area. Renda said the irony of the matter, in view of the time involved, was that the President had said the case should be expedited.

So CAB held more hearings, this time in a closed Executive session, with representatives of the concerned departments filing briefs on their positions and additional testimony from the Trust Territory High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary of Interior.

With the same examiner still on the case, recommendations were again made and resubmitted to the CAB Board. That was in the fall of 1970, said Renda, and nothing official had been heard on the case since that time.

Renda said Saturday that he knew that the concerned executive departments had taken a position of endorsing C/AM, and that in view of the order to expedite he "would think the matter had been concluded by the Board and must now be in the hands of the President."

"I am optimistic for our chances of being authorized certification said Renda, who

rather pointedly added that the principal involved in the matter was Continental's record of performance for the past three years-not only the

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Hilton Topped Off

A topping-off ceremony and a champagne breakfast were held yesterday morning at the Guam Hilton Hotel in Tamuning.

Among the honored guests who attended the ceremony and breakfast were Governor Camacho, Speaker Ramirez, and the Board of Directors of the Pacific Area Travel Association.

Governor Camacho officiated the topping-off ceremony. He also in a way helped with the construction work when he, using a trowel, finished covering up a specially prepared cavity in the hotel building into which he and other guests had placed certain mementos.

The 252 room Guam Hilton will open in early 1972 under the management of Manfred Toennes.

Within the hotel complex there will be two restaurants, the Galleon Grill with a Spanish ship atmosphere and another restaurant with a Micronesian atmosphere. Two bars, the Tree

Bar located by the pool and Banca Bar, will also be part of the hotel.

Other features of the Hilton will include air-conditioned class rooms, a duty shopping center, airline office, rent-a-car services, travel agency, a beauty parlor, a barber shop and a 300 capacity ballroom.

A stylized symbol of a bird will be the logo of the Guam Hilton. The bird was a popular symbol for the Micronesians who relied on the seabirds ago for navigation, thus symbol means safe homeward and an unerring true course.

The Guam Hilton is the in the Hilton International Corporation and is the second located in the Pacific.

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Letter From Gachong

Dear Mr. Editor:

It seems to be touch and go on the Mainland now as to whether the unemployed can out-number the people on strike.

Gachong

Budweiser.
King of Beers

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