

Air Mike Hopes For Johnston

HONOLULU (MNS)—Continental/Air Micronesia hopes that it will soon be able to resume making stops at Johnston island on its flights from Honolulu to the Marshall Islands.

According to a report by aerospace writer James Cunningham in a recent edition of the Honolulu Advertiser, the Vice-President of Continental, Stanley C. Kennedy, is "confident that the U.S. surgeon general will once again permit us to use (Johnston) Island as a refueling stop," just as soon as the military completes delivery of poison gas from Okinawa to the island.

Air Micronesia was forced to abandon its Johnston Island stops early this year, when it was revealed that Johnston was to be the new storage location for poison gases that have been in military storage on Okinawa. It was felt that shipment and storage of the gas posed a potential health threat to persons on board commercial aircraft.

Since that time, the airline has been using Midway Island as a refueling stop on flights from Honolulu to Kwajalein, but this has added considerable time to the flight since Midway is not on a direct route between the Hawaiian and Marshall Islands. Stops at Johnston are much more convenient for the traveler, and much less expensive for the airline.

There has been no indication from the U.S. government when the stops at Johnston Island will again be permitted. (Friends of Micronesia)