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ADDEES PASS INFO
CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
USCAR FOR TTPI LNO
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA/OSN
(ISLEY AGREEMENT SIGNED)

SAIPAN, MAY 10, (MNS)---A JOINT-USE AGREEMENT FOR SAIPAN'S ISLEY AIRFIELD WAS OFFICIALLY SIGNED TUESDAY (MAY 9) ON SAIPAN. THE AGREEMENT, BETWEEN THE U.S. MILITARY AND TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, OPENS THE WAY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO BEGIN MAJOR REHABILITATION WORK ON THE OLD BOMBER STRIP. PLANS CALL FOR ISLEY TO EVENTUALLY BECOME THE PRINCIPLE COMMERCIAL AIRPORT

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FOR SAIPAN, WITH THE PRESENTLY-USED KOBLER FIELD TO BE ABANDONED.

ISLEY FIELD WAS TURNED INTO A B-29 BOMBER BASE BY THE U.S. FOLLOWING THE CAPTURE OF SAIPAN DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. IT HAS BEEN THE SITE OF A SMALL JAPANESE FIGHTER STRIP, BUT THE AMERICANS, IN A MAJOR CONSTRUCTION OPERATION, TURNED THE FIELD ALMOST OVERNIGHT INTO A COMPLEX OF TWO, 8,700 FOOT RUNWAYS AND ADJACENT TAXIWAYS AND PARKING AREAS. THE BASE WAS ONE OF TWO DEVELOPED AT THE SOUTH END OF SAIPAN BY THE U.S. MILITARY, THE OTHER BEING KOBLER, WHICH IS A SINGLE, 7,000 FOOT RUNWAY ORIGINALLY BUILT AS A FIGHTER STRIP.

IN 1949 THE MILITARY PHASED ISLEY FIELD OUT OF USE, AND OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS THE AREA HAS SLOWLY REVERTED BACK TO THE JUNGLE. MOST OF THE PAVED AREAS ARE OVERGROWN NOW, BUT THE TWO RUNWAYS REMAIN REMARKABLY CLEAR AND ONE WOULD BE USED AS THE BASE FOR THE NEW AIRPORT RUNWAY, WHICH UNDER PRESENT PLANS WOULD BE EXTENDED TO AN ULTIMATE LENGTH OF 10,600 FEET. THIS WOULD GIVE SAIPAN AN AIRPORT CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE LARGEST COMMERCIAL AND MILITARY PLANES.

THE AGREEMENT SIGNED THIS WEEK IS A MODIFICATION OF THE ORIGINAL "USE AND OCCUPANCY AGREEMENT" DATED JULY 9, 1944. IT

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WILL PERMIT THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES, AS CO-TENANTS, TO USE JOINTLY THE ISLEY FIELD FACILITIES FOR

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MILITARY, CIVILIAN, COMMERCIAL AIR CARRIER AND/OR GENERAL AVIATION SERVICE OPERATIONS AND FOR RELATED COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

A PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON SAIPAN NEXT MONTH TO CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE ISLEY FIELD REHABILITATION PROJECT. THIS IS A NECESSARY STEP IF THE GOVERNMENT IS TO OBTAIN U.S. FEDERAL AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION FUNDS TO AIDE IN FINANCING THE WORK. THE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS APPEAR TO BE MINIMAL, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT PREPARED BY THE RALPH M. PARSONS COMPANY OF HONOLULU AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE REPORT IS THAT THE MAJOR IMPACT ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT WILL BE THE LOSS OF TANGAN-TANGAN. OTHERWISE, THERE IS LITTLE OF AGRICULTURAL VALUE WITHIN THE AREA PROPOSED FOR THE NEW AIRPORT, NOR ARE THERE ANY MAJOR HISTORICAL SITES, FARMS OR VILLAGES. THOSE ACCESS ROADS TO SUCH PLACES AS OBYAN BEACH AND THE ANCIENT OBYAN CHAMORRO SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE CLOSED WILL BE COMPENSATED FOR BY OPENING UP NEW ROADS.

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THE REPORT SAYS "THE REDEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVATION OF ISLEY FIELD WILL ALLOW SAIPAN TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE AIR TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY THROUGH THE YEAR 1990. THE REMOVAL OF AIR TRAFFIC FROM KOBLER AIRFIELD TO ISLEY FIELD WILL REDUCE NOISE LEVELS NEAR THE HEAVIER POPULATED AREA OF SAIPAN." AND THE REPORT POINTS OUT THE ALMOST SELF-EVIDENT IMPACT THE PROGRAM WILL HAVE ON SAIPAN'S FASTEST GROWING INDUSTRY, TOURISM.

"THE MAJOR IMPACT ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT WILL BE THE INCREASED NUMBER OF TOURISTS VISITING SAIPAN," THE REPORT SAYS. THE NEW ISLEY FIELD FACILITIES WILL ALLOW A PEAK OF 240 PASSENGERS AN HOUR TO BE COMFORTABLY HANDLED. THE REPORT NOTES THAT IN 1971, JUST UNDER SEVENTY THOUSAND PASSENGERS WERE MOVED THROUGH KOBLER FIELD, ALONG WITH NEARLY A MILLION TONS OF AIR CARGO. BY 1975 THIS IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 221,000 PASSENGERS, AND TWO AND A HALF MILLION TONS OF CARGO, AND BY 1985 TO MORE THAN 600,000 PASSENGERS AND 15 MILLION TONS OF CARGO.

THE ISLEY FIELD REHABILITATION WORK IS TO BE DONE IN FOUR PHASES. WORK UNDER PHASE ONE, WHICH INCLUDES THE CLEARING AND IMPROVING OF ACCESS ROADS, IS ALREADY UNDER WAY. SLATED FOR

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NEXT FISCAL YEAR IS REHABILITATION OF ONE OF THE RUNWAYS, WHICH
WILL BE USED AS AN INTERIM RUNWAY WHILE THE OTHER RUNWAY IS
RECONSTRUCTED AS THE PERMANENT STRIP. INSTALLATION OF A
BOUNDARY FENCE, AND CONSTRUCTION OF APRONS, TAXIWAYS AND A
DRAINAGE SYSTEM ARE ALL SLATED FOR STAGE ONE OF PHASE ONE.
STATE TWO OF THIS PHASE WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW
PASSENGER TERMINAL, AND THE REHABILITATION OF ONE OF THE OLD

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JAPANESE BUILDINGS AT THE LOCATION FOR USE AS OFFICE SPACE.
AT THE END OF THIS PORTION OF THE WORK, IN ABOUT TWO YEARS, THE
FIELD WOULD BE READY FOR USE.

PHASES TWO, THREE AND FOUR INCLUDED ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WORK, INSTALLATION OF LIGHTS AND NAVIGATIONAL AIDES, PAVING
OF ACCESS ROADS, AND EVENTUAL EXTENSION OF THE PERMANENT RUNWAY
TO 10,600 FEET.

(MARIANAS SPECIAL SESSION)

SAIPAN, MAY 10 (MNS) --- MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
FRANCISCO C. ADA HAS ISSUED A PROCLAMATION CALLING FOR A
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE. THE SESSION WILL
BEGIN AT 10:00 A.M. FRIDAY (MAY 12), AND WILL END NO LATER THAN
10:00 P.M. FRIDAY, MAY 19.

THE PURPOSE OF THE SESSION IS TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION
TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE
MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT, A GROUP WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR CONDUCTING THE SEPARATE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S.
THAT WERE RECENTLY AGREED TO BY U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN
WILLIAMS. THE SPECIAL SESSION WAS REQUESTED BY DISTRICT
POLITICAL LEADERS BECAUSE THE NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF THE

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LEGISLATURE WOULD NOT BE UNTIL AUGUST. IT IS UNDERSTOOD
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARIANAS LEADERSHIP HOPE TO ATTEND THE

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UPCOMING MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL IN NEW YORK WITH THEIR STATUS COMMISSION ALREADY PROVIDED FOR AND APPROVED. THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL HOLDS ITS ANNUAL MEETING BEGINNING LATE THIS MONTH.

DISTAD ADA SIGNED THE SPECIAL SESSION PROCLAMATION IN A CEREMONY IN HIS OFFICE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (MAY 10), WITNESSED BY PRESIDENT VICENTE N. SANTOS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE.

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS; FROM TIME TO TIME DURING THE PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS WE HAVE HAD MNS STORIES WHICH WERE ATTRIBUTED TO EITHER WSZO RADIO IN THE MARSHALLS, OR KJOR IN THE MARIANS. THESE TWO STATIONS APPEAR TO BE DEVELOPING COMPETENT, AGGRESSIVE LOCAL REPORTING TEAMS WHICH ARE DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB OF COVERING EVENTS IN THEIR DISTRICTS. MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE APPRECIATES RECEIVING STORIES FROM THE LOCAL RADIO STATIONS, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE THE OTHER STATIONS, WHICH HAVE NOT SENT US ANY REPORTS, TO DO SO. STORIES MAY BE SENT TO MNS BY DISPATCH, OR IMPORTANT EVENTS

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MAY BE TELEPHONED. BY SENDING MNS REPORTS ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT YOU WILL NOT ONLY BE HELPING US, YOU WILL BE HELPING YOUR FELLOW BROADCASTERS IN THE OTHER DISTRICTS BY KEEPING THEM AND THEIR LISTENING AUDIENCES INFORMED. SO LET US HEAR FROM YOU...AND TWO WSZO AND KJOR, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.)

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