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TELEGRAM

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ACTION INT-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 EA-11 PM-06 CIAE-00 INR-06 NSAE-00
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COM-08 RSR-01 /104 W

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USNAVINSERVO GUAM
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
COMTWELVE-SANFRAN CALIF
SEC STATE
HQ USARBCO-MACHINATO/TTPI-LNO
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>Heel</u>	DATE <u>FEB. 26 1997</u>
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or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____	

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COMCBPAC
NAVFACENGCOM HDQTRS
PACDIVNAVFACENGCOM
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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/MOT ADDEES PASS INFO
CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION

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COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA OSN.
(CONGRESS OPENS PONAPE SESSION)

PONAPE, AUGUST 14, (MNS)---ONCE AGAIN, FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS, THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS IN SESSION. THE GAVELS CAME DOWN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE SHORTLY AFTER FIVE P.M. MONDAY (AUGUST 24), TO MARK THE OPENING OF A 20-DAY SPECIAL SESSION, THE FIFTH THAT HAS BEEN HELD SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE CONGRESS, AND THE SECOND FOR THE FOURTH CONGRESS.

THE SCENE OF THIS SESSION IS THE CAMPUS OF THE PONAPE ISLANDS

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CENTRAL SCHOOL (PICS), IN KOLONIA, PONAPE, THE FIRST TIME THE CONGRESS HAS EVER MET IN THE PONAPE DISTRICT. THUS IT WAS WITH A SPECIAL FEELING OF PRIDE THAT HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY OF PONAPE DELIVERED HIS OPENING REMARKS IN THE HOUSE.

"IT IS WITH A SENSE OF DOUBLE HONOR THAT I PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WITH THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA HERE IN PONAPE DISTRICT," SPEAKER HENRY SAID. "I SAY DOUBLE, BECAUSE AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS IT IS AN HONOR TO MYSELF AND TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE FOR HAVING BEEN INVITED TO HAVE OUR SESSION IN THIS DISTRICT. AND IT IS ALSO VERY MUCH A PLEASURE FOR ME AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOST DISTRICT, TO WELCOME MY COLLEAGUES TO PONAPE."

SPEAKER HENRY CALLED ATTENTION TO SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ITEMS FACING THE CONGRESS DURING THIS SESSION. AS DID HIS COLLEAGUE IN THE SENATE, PRESIDENT AMATA KABUA OF THE MARSHALLS. BOTH MEN HIGHLIGHTED PARTICULARLY THE PRESENCE ON THE AGENDA OF MATTERS RELATING TO FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS.

PRESIDENT KABUA CALLED FOR A FULL AND OPEN DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS ISSUE, AND POINTED OUT THE OBLIGATION WHICH THE CONGRESS HAS TO KEEP THE PEOPLE FULLY INFORMED ON ALL ASPECTS OF ITS NEGOTIATIONS

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TO SEEK A NEW POLITICAL STATUS.

SPEAKER HENRY, NOTING THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE STATUS QUESTION IS ALMOST SETTLED, STATED THAT ON THE CONTRARY HE FEELS MICRONESIA IS NOW "JUST BEGINNING," IN TERMS OF THE ACTUAL

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FORMATION OF HER NEW GOVERNMENT.

THE OPENING SESSIONS WERE TAKEN UP LARGELY WITH THE TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES OF OPENING DAY. THE SENATE AND HOUSE EACH SENT A DELEGATION OF THREE MEMBERS TO INFORM THE OTHER OF ITS READINESS TO TRANSACT BUSINESS, AND SIMILAR DELEGATIONS ALSO CALLED ON HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON IN HIS OFFICE ON THE PICS CAMPUS. IN THE SENATE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR FOR TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, STANLEY S. CARPENTER, WAS IN ATTENDANCE AND WAS INTRODUCED.

THERE WERE ALSO INTRODUCTIONS IN BOTH HOUSES OF LOCAL PONAPE LEADERS FROM SEVERAL MUNICIPALITIES. AND BOTH INSIDE THE SMALL CLASSROOMS THAT ARE SERVING AS MEETING CHAMBERS, AND OUTSIDE ON THE GRASS LOOKING IN THE WINDOWS. DOZENS OF PONAPE CITIZENS WITNESSED THE HISTORIC OPENING DAY OF PONAPE'S FIRST CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SESSION.

THE TONE AND THE MOOD OF THIS SPECIAL SESSION WERE WELL STATED IN THE SENATE BY PONAPE SENATOR BAILEY OLTER. IN A SPEECH OF

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WELCOME, SENATOR OLTER SPOKE OF THE TREMENDOUS WEIGHT OF RESPONSIBILITY WHICH EACH MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS IS BEGINNING TO FEEL, THE WEIGHT OF THE CHALLENGE OF PROVIDING THE POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS FOR THE RELATIONSHIP OF OUR PEOPLE TO THEMSELVES, TO OTHER PEOPLES IN THE GREATER PACIFIC COMMUNITY, AND TO THE WORLD...

"WHAT WE DO IN THIS CONGRESS WILL DETERMINE THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE AND OUR CHILDREN WILL LIVE," HE CONTINUED. "NO GREATER RESPONSIBILITY CAN BE PLACED ON ANY LEGISLATIVE BODY...THE WEIGHT OF OUR BURDEN WILL BE LESS FOR EACH OF US IF WE ARE HUMBLE, ANALYTICAL, AND RATIONAL. THE BURDEN WILL BE LIGHTER IF WE ACT BOLDLY, YET IN HARMONY AND COOPERATION FOR THE COLLECTIVE GOOD. I KNOW WE CAN ACT IN THIS MANNER, FOR WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THESE QUALITIES IN OUR PREVIOUS SESSIONS," SAID SENATOR BAILEY OLTER.

THERE WAS A SMALL AMOUNT OF LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS CONDUCTED DURING THE MONDAY OPENING SESSIONS. IN BOTH HOUSES A NUMBER OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS WERE OFFERED FOR ACTION.

IN THE SENATE, A BILL ESTABLISHING THE INCENTIVITY FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE IN THE TRUST TERRITORY WAS INTRODUCED (SB 225), AS WELL AS A MEASURE CALLING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES

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OF THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION (SB 226), AND ONE THAT WOULD PROVIDE
FOR THE TAKING OF AN OFFICIAL CENSUS IN 1973 IN THE TT (SB 228).

IN THE HOUSE, TWO BILLS AND TWO JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED.
ONE BILL WOULD APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BUSINESS
ADVISORY PROGRAM IN THE TT (HB 255), AND THE OTHER IS A SMALL AP-
PROPRIATION MEASURE TO TAKE CARE OF A NUMBER OF RELATIVELY MINOR
ITEMS OF FUNDING NEEDED TO COMPLETE CERTAIN PROJECTS IN THE TT (HB
256). THE JOINT RESOLUTIONS INCLUDE ONE CALLING FOR TWO ADDITIONAL
CIVIC ACTION TEAMS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, AND THE TRADITIONAL JOINT
RESOLUTIONS WHICH CALLS FOR A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS AND WHICH
INVITES HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON TO SPEAK.

THAT SESSION IS TENTATIVELY SET FOR 10:00 A.M. WEDNESDAY, WITH
BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE ADJOURNED UNTIL THAT TIME TUESDAY MORNING,
WHEN EACH WILL HOLD A REGULAR WORKING SESSION.

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