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ACTION INT-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 10-12 PM-08 L-03 /043 W

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P 150405Z JAN 73 ZNZ01
FM HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
TO ALDISTAD TERPACIS
LNO GUAM
LNO KWAJ
COMNAVMARIANAS
CINCPAC
CINCPACREPGUAM/TTPI
USNAVINSERVU GUAM
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
COMTWELVE/SAN FRAN CALIFORNIA
SECSTATE
HQ USARBCO-MACHINATO/TTPI-LNO
SEC DEF
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CNO
CHINFO
CINCPACFLT
CINCPACAF
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CGEMPAC
COMCBPAC
NAVFACENGCOM HDQRTS
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UNCLAS (SECTION I OF III)
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA/COMTWELVE/NOT
ADDRES PASS INFO
CANBERRA FOR POL SECTION
COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS
SECSTATE PASS TO DEPT INT/SEC INTERIOR/DASTA OSN
USUN FOR STOWE

Handwritten signatures and initials:
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C/EP

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>B.H. BAAS</u>	DATE <u>3/25/87</u>
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TS AUTH. _____	REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS <input type="checkbox"/>	
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TTPI NO. 036

(STATUS BILLS INTRODUCED)

SAIPAN JANUARY 14 (MNS)---THREE MAJOR BILLS WHICH HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY HAVE AGAIN BEEN OFFERED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

THEY ARE A BILL TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE ON GOVERNMENTAL

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TRANSITION (SB 37); A BILL CALLING FOR A MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (SB 38); AND A BILL TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION ON NATIONAL UNITY (SB 42). ALL THREE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED MONDAY (JAN 15) BY SENATOR LAZARUS SALII (PALAU), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS.

THE BILLS, IN BASICALLY THE SAME FORM, WERE ALSO OFFERED TO THE CONGRESS FOR CONSIDERATION DURING ITS SPECIAL SESSION HELD IN PONAPE DISTRICT IN AUGUST OF LAST YEAR. THE BILLS FAILED TO PASS, FOR WHAT AT THE TIME WERE CITED AS FINANCIAL REASONS. AT THE CLOSE OF THAT SESSION, SENATOR SALII HAD BEEN QUITE CRITICAL OF HIS COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR FAILURE TO APPROVE THESE IMPORTANT MEASURES.

OF THE THREE BILLS, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IS PROBABLY THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL. THE FORMULATION OF A CONSTITUTION FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA IS CONSIDERED TO BE A NECESSARY STEP PRIOR TO TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT.

THE BILL WOULD ESTABLISH THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION AT 48, ONE FROM EACH OF THE SIX DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS AND TWO TO BE SELECTED FROM EACH OF THE 21

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REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS. THE ELECTIONS ARE TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR, WITH THE CONVENTION TO BEGIN IN KOROR, PALAU ON MAY 6, 1974. IT WOULD LAST NO LONGER THAN 90 CALENDAR DAYS.

AS WAS THE CASE IN PONAPE, THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT IS AGAIN INCLUDED IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, AND IN THE

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OTHER BILLS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT SEPARATE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEGUN. LEGAL OPINION SEEMS TO BE THAT THE CONGRESS CANNOT EXCLUDE A DISTRICT FROM SUCH LEGISLATION, EVEN THOUGH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF THAT DISTRICT MIGHT WISH TO BE INCLUDED.

THE BILL ON GOVERNMENTAL TRANSITION WOULD SET UP AN OFFICE, TO BEGIN FUNCTIONING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO WORK TOWARD MAKING THE TRANSITION FROM TRUSTEESHIP TO SOME OTHER FORM OF GOVERNMENT AS SMOOTH AND TROUBLE-FREE AS POSSIBLE. THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES TO ORDER CHANGES IN OR DISCONTINUATION OF CERTAIN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS. THE OFFICE WOULD WORK UNDER THE GENERAL SUPERVISION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

THE COMMISSION ON NATIONAL UNITY WOULD CONSIST OF SIX

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MEMBERS, TWO FROM THE CONGRESS, TWO FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND TWO FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND EACH FROM A DIFFERENT DISTRICT, WHICH WOULD "PROMOTE THE GROWTH OF NATIONAL UNITY IN MICRONESIA." THE COMMISSION WOULD STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CONGRESS AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON METHODS BY WHICH NATIONAL UNITY CAN BE ACHIEVED.

THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO "REVIEW ALL POLICIES, ACTIONS, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE TT GOVERNMENT" TO DETERMINE IF THEY "CONFORM TO THE GOAL OF NATIONAL UNITY."

THE THREE BILLS WERE ASSIGNED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE IS SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH (TRUK)
(SESSIONS ARESHORT)

SAIPAN JANUARY 15(MNS)---FLOOR ACTION WAS MOSTLY ROUTINE AND THE SESSIONS WERE QUITE SHORT IN BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MONDAY (JAN 15), AS THE LAWMAKERS MOVED THROUGH THE EIGHT DAY OF THE 50-DAY SESSION ON SAIPAN.

THE SENATE, IN FACT, ESTABLISHED SOMETHING OF A RECORD

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BY STARTING ITS MORNING SESSION EXACTLY ON TIME. THIS UNUSUAL PROMPTNESS, COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT THE SESSION ONLY LASTED TEN MINUTES, CAUGHT SOME PEOPLE BY SURPRISE, INCLUDING TWO NEWSMEN WHO WERE SEEN IN THE SENATE GALLERY AT ABOUT TEN-FIFTEEN "WAITING FOR THE SESSION TO START."

HIGHLIGHT OF THE SENATE SESSION WAS THE INTRODUCTION OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT PIECES OF LEGISLATION RELATING TO FUTURE STATUS (SEE PREVIOUS STORY). THESE INCLUDE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL, A BILL CREATING A COMMISSION ON NATIONAL UNITY, AND A MEASURE TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL TRANSITION.

OTHER BILLS OFFERED MONDAY IN THE SENATE WOULD: AMEND AND CLARIFY PROVISIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO THE ACCUMULATION OF ANNUAL AND SICK LEAVE BY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (SB 35); APPROPRIATE \$250,000 DOLLARS TO DEFRAY OPERATING EXPENSES OF THE DISTRICT TAX OFFICES (SB 36); CLARIFY THE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY BY THE BOARD OF MARINE INSPECTORS (SB 29); MAKE TWO RESIDENTS OF PALAU DISTRICT ELIGIBLE FOR NATURALIZATION AS CITIZENS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY (SB 40 AND SB 43); ESTABLISH A MICRONESIAN UNITY AWARD, FOR PERSONS WHO DEVELOPE FLUENCY

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