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THE BOARD ALSO VOTED TO REQUEST AMENDMENT OF T.T. PL 4C-78 RELATING TO POLLUTION SO THAT IT WOULD CONFORM TO FEDERAL STANDARDS, AND PROVIDE FOR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES. THIS WOULD GIVE THE IT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD MORE LATITUDE AND JURISDICTION IN ENFORCING LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS AS WELL AS PENALIZING VIOLATORS. MRS. EFFIE SPARLING, LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE BOARD, WAS DESIGNATED TO WORK ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT. (NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: A SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, SENATOR LAZARUS SALII OF PALAU, WAS BEING DISTRIBUTED TO BROADCAST STATIONS IN THE SIX DISTRICTS LAST WEEK. INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE ELIAS THOMAS, ASSISTANT CHIEF, BROADCAST DIVISION; HALVORSEN JOHNNY, ACTING STATION MANAGER, WSZD-PONAPE; BAURINO OINGERANG, NEWS DIRECTOR, WSZB-PALAU; AND GUADALUPE BORJA, INFORMATION SPECIALIST, HEADQUARTERS PUBLIC INFORMATION. MISS BORJA PREPARED THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THE INTERVIEW FOR MNS SUBSCRIBERS.)

SAIPAN FEB 20 (MNS)---AN INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR LAZARUS SALII--WHO HEADS THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA--HAS REVEALED THE TENTATIVE SCHEDULING

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FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS. SALII SAYS THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS ARE TENTATIVELY SET FOR MAY OF THIS YEAR IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE INTERVIEW WAS TAPERECORDED AND DISTRIBUTED TO DISTRICT BROADCAST STATIONS LAST WEEK.

THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS THE MAIN TOPIC COVERED, BUT OTHER AREAS RELATING TO THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.

ACCORDING TO THE SENATOR, THE LAST ROUND OF TALKS AT BARBERS POINT, HAWAII, IN OCTOBER, 1972, ENDED WITH NO NEW AGREEMENTS OTHER THAN THOSE ARRIVED AT THE PREVIOUS TALKS OF JULY, 1972, IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE REASON FOR THIS, EXPLAINED THE SENATOR, IS THAT THE COMMITTEE'S PRESENTATION, CONFUSED THE U.S. DELEGATION, SO THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION HAD NO OTHER COURSE BUT TO GO BACK TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

THUS THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE INCLUDES ONLY TENTATIVE AGREEMENT IN THE AREAS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. REMAINING TO BE DISCUSSED ARE THE MATTERS OF FINANCE AND TERMINATION, SAID THE SENATOR, AND THIS WILL BE ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MAY, 1973, IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THESE QUESTIONS INVOLVE THE MANNER AND

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AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS THE U.S. WILL MAKE TO MICRONESIA IN HER FREE ASSOCIATED RELATIONSHIP WITH MICRONESIA AND THE QUESTION OF HOW AND WHEN THE FREE ASSOCIATED RELATIONSHIP WILL BE TERMINATED.

IN THE AREAS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CONTINUED THE SENATOR, MICRONESIA WILL NOT ESTABLISH A FORMAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT WITH ANY COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE U.S.

SALII THEN WENT ON TO LIST THE FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH HIS COMMITTEE IS PURSUING THE NEGOTIATIONS. THESE PRINCIPLES, RECOGNIZED BY THE U.S., ARE: 1) THAT THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE, AS ANY OTHER PEOPLE ON EARTH, HAVE THE RIGHT OF SOVEREIGNTY; 2) THAT THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DRAFT THEIR OWN CONSTITUTION; 3) THAT THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO ALL LANDS IN MICRONESIA, THAT THESE ISLANDS ARE OUR ISLANDS OURS ALONE; AND 4) THAT THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEVISE THEIR OWN LAWS AND HAVE INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

BASED ON THESE PRINCIPLES, THE COMMITTEE IS NEGOTIATING FIRST FOR A FREE ASSOCIATED STATE FOR MICRONESIA. IF THE U.S. DOES NOT AGREE TO SUCH A STATUS FOR MICRONESIA, THEN THE COMMITTEE WILL NEGOTIATE FOR INDEPENDENCE, SAID SALII.

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SALII SAID, "A FREE ASSOCIATED STATE OCCURS WHEN A BIGGER COUNTRY MAKES AN AGREEMENT WITH A SMALLER COUNTRY, AND THE SMALLER COUNTRY GIVES FAVORED TREATMENT TO THE BIGGER COUNTRY IN RETURN FOR CERTAIN BENEFITS. IN MICRONESIA'S CASE, MICRONESIA WOULD GRANT CERTAIN LAND AREAS TO THE U.S. FOR AMERICAN MILITARY PURPOSES, SINCE THE PRIMARY U.S. INTEREST IN MICRONESIA IS LAND FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. IN ADDITION, THE U.S. WOULD BE THE ONLY COUNTRY WITH WHICH MICRONESIA WOULD ESTABLISH A FORMAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT; MICRONESIA WOULD NOT ENTER AN AGREEMENT WITH A THIRD COUNTRY TO ALLOW THAT COUNTRY TO ENTER MICRONESIA FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. MICRONESIA WOULD DEPEND ON THE U.S. FOR HER DEFENSE.

IN RETURN, CONTINUED SALII, THE U.S. WOULD PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS TECHNICAL AID AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO MICRONESIA.

THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IN THIS TYPE OF POLITICAL AGREEMENT, EMPHASIZED SALII, IS THAT AT SOME POINT IN THE RELATIONSHIP, ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE PARTNERS CAN TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT WHEN ONE NO LONGER NEEDS THE OTHER.

ON THE OTHER HAND, INDEPENDENCE FOR MICRONESIA WOULD MEAN THAT MICRONESIA WOULD BE A FULLY SOVEREIGN NATION WHEREBY SHE
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WOULD HAVE NO FORMAL GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES
OTHER THAN TREATIES WHICH EQUAL GOVERNMENTS ENTER, EXPLAINED SALII.
REGARDING THE AMERICAN MILITARY USE OF LAND IN MICRONESIA,
SALII STATED THAT FOUR THINGS MUST BE CONSIDERED WHENEVER THERE
IS MILITARY PRESENCE IN A COUNTRY. ONE, THAT CERTAIN LANDS
WOULD BE INACCESSIBLE TO MICRONESIANS. TWO, THE CONSIDERATION OF

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THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE MILITARY ON OUR ISLAND COMMUNITY. THIRD, THE CONSIDERATION OF THE KINDS OF MILITARY DEVICES THAT WOULD BE BROUGHT IN, AND LASTLY, THE CONSIDERATION OF THE FACT THAT MICRONESIA-MAKES ITSELF A POSSIBLE TARGET IF THE U.S. MAKES WAR WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY. SALII DECLARED THAT IF THE THE UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS OF MILITARY PRESENCE IN MICRONESIA CAN BE ELIMINATED, THERE SHOULD BE NO CAUSE FOR HARDSHIPS FOR MICRONESIANS BECAUSE OF AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE.

WHEN ASKED THE REASON FOR THE PALAUAN LEADERS' DECLARATION OF NOVEMBER, 1972, THAT THE AMERICAN MILITARY WAS NOT WELCOME IN PALAU, SALII ANSWERED THAT THE PALAUAN LEADERS ARE DEMANDING THE RETURN OF ALL LANDS IN PALAU TO THE PEOPLE. ONCE THESE LANDS, WHICH INCLUDE MILITARY RETENTION LANDS AND OTHER AREAS, ARE RETURNED, THE LEADERS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE, WILL LISTEN TO THE U.S. REQUEST FOR MILITARY LANDS AND THEN CAN NEGOTIATE.

WHEN ASKED WHETHER MICRONESIANS CAN DRAFT THEIR OWN CONSTITUTION, SALII ANSWERED THAT THERE IS NOBODY BETTER QUALIFIED TO DRAFT THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION THAN THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES. A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL

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IS NOW PENDING IN THIS SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, ADDED SALII.

REGARDING THE SEPARATE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS BY THE MARIANAS, SALII SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE MARIANAS HAVE BEGUN THEIR SEPARATE TALKS WITH THE U.S., HIS COMMITTEE IS NEGOTIATING FOR THE ENTIRE TERRITORY, INCLUDING THE MARIANAS, BECAUSE THE LAW REQUIRES IT.

ON THE QUESTION OF HOW THE U.N. VISITING MISSION, WHICH IS CURRENTLY TRAVELLING THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY, WILL AFFECT HIS COMMITTEE'S NEGOTIATIONS, SALII SAID THAT THE VISITING MISSION TRIPS TO THE TRUST TERRITORY HAVE ALWAYS RESULTED IN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL ON HOW MICRONESIA CAN PROGRESS FURTHER IN HER EFFORTS TOWARDS SELF-DETERMINATION AND THIS YEAR'S TRIP WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PRESENT SIMILAR RECOMMENDATIONS.

AS FAR AS THE TIMETABLE FOR THE ENDING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, SALII SAID THAT NO TIMETABLE CAN BE SET FOR SUCH A SERIOUS MATTER AS DECIDING THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF OUR ISLANDS. HOWEVER, THE SOONER THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION CAN BE COMPLETED, THE BETTER FOR ALL CONCERNED--MICRONESIA AS WELL AS THE U.S. ONCE THE COMPACT IS COMPLETED, THE COMMITTEE WILL PRESENT THE DOCUMENT

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TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. IT WILL THEREAFTER BE PRESENTED TO THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE, EXPLAINED SALII, AND IF THE PEOPLE DO NOT APPROVE THE DRAFT COMPACT, THE COMMITTEE WILL THEN NEGOTIATE WITH THE U.S. FOR INDEPENDENCE.

THE SENATOR'S FINAL STATEMENT IN THE INTERVIEW WAS THE FOLLOWING. HE SAID, "ON AN ISSUE AS PROFOUND AS OUR FUTURE, WE HAVE TO BE SURE OF WHAT WE WANT. I ASK MICRONESIANS, ON BEHALF OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, TO BE PATIENT, TO GIVE US THEIR SUPPORT IN THE FORM OF SUGGESTIONS ON OUR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS AND ON OTHER RELATED MATTERS. AND FINALLY, I ASK THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA TO UNDERSTAND THAT NEGOTIATING FOR MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS IS A DIFFICULT TASK."
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