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(LAND AGREEMENT REACHED)

WASHINGTON, D.C., NOV. 14 (MNS) ---NEGOTIATORS FOR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENTS ON A QUESTION ON THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LAND IN MICRONESIA, AND HAVE AFFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO MOVE ON TO CONSIDERATION OF THE REMAINING AREAS OF THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION. THE AGREEMENT CAME DURING A CLOSED SESSION BETWEEN THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS HEADED BY SENATOR LAZARUS SALII AND THE UNITED STATES NEGOTIATING DELEGATION HEADED BY AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS IN WASHINGTON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 WASHINGTON TIME.

THE SESSION MARKED THE OPENING OF THE SEVENTH ROUND IN

THE FUTURE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH TECHNICALLY THE TALKS WILL NOT BE OPEN UNTIL WEDNESDAY MORNING WITH A FORMAL PLENARY SESSION. THE LAND QUESTION HAS BEEN AT THE HEART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR MANY MONTHS. IN FACT THE BASIC REASON NO FORMAL NEGOTIATING SESSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR, IS THAT THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION HAVE INSISTED ON RESOLUTION OF THE LAND QUESTION, AND THE U.S. IN TURN, HAS BEEN STUDYING THE PROBLEM AND PREPARING ITS POSITION ON IT WHICH WAS RELEASED LAST WEEK.

IN THAT POSITION THE U.S. BASICALLY AGREES TO TURN CONTROL OF ALL PUBLIC LANDS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY BACK TO THE DISTRICTS, TO BE HELD IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN MINIMUM SAFEGUARDS AND RESTRICTIONS WHICH WERE SPELLED OUT IN THE POLICY PAPER.

FOLLOWING THE TUESDAY ESSSION REPORTERS COULD NOT LEARN WHAT IF ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE POSITION THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION MIGHT HAVE HAD. OR WHETHER THEY WERE SUBSTANTIVE OR MERELY TECHNICAL. NEITHER SENATOR SALII NOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS ANSWERED ANY QUESTION. BOTH AGREED TO STAND BY THE SHORT JOINT STATEMENT THEY RELEASED. THE STATEMENT SAYS " THE JOINT COMMITTEE

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ON FUTURE STATUS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE MICRONESIAN FUTURE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS MET NOVEMBER 13TH AND REACHED AGREEMENTS ON BASIC PRINCIPLES RELATING TO THE TRANSFER OF TITLES TO MICRONESIAN PUBLIC LAND TO THE DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA. BOTH DELEGATION NOTED THAT THEY LOOK FORWARD TO THE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS POLICY, REGARDING THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LAND. THE TWO DELEGATIONS WILL RESUME WORK ON THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WHEN THE SEVENTH ROUND OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN NOVEMBER 14TH WITH A PLENARY SESSION."

THIS IS THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE JOINT STATEMENT: IT WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THE LAND PROBLEM IS RESOLVED. IN ADDITION TO THE TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE WHO WERE PRESENT TUESDAY, A DELEGATION OF LEADERS FROM PALAU DISTRICT IS ALSO IN WASHINGTON AND WERE PRESENT FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS. THIS DELEGATION INCLUDES THE TWO HIGH CHIEFS OF PALAU IBEDUL AND REKLAI, AND THE SPEAKER OF THE PALAU LEGISLATURE ITELBAANG LUII.

SINCE THE AGREEMENT ON BASIC PRINCIPLES ON THE LAND POSITION CAME OUT OF THE MEETING WHICH THEY ATTENDED AND IN

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ADDITION CAME ONLY AFTER THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION HAVE CONSULTED AMONG THEMSELVES, DURING IN THE BREAKS OF THE PROCEEDING, IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE U.S. POLICY ON THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LAND IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE PALAU LEADERS.

THERE IS OPTIMISM HERE IN WASHINGTON THAT WITH THE LAND QUESTION OUT OF THE WAY AT LEAST FOR THE MOST PART, THE NEGOTIATORS WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE RAPIDLY TO CONSIDERATION OF SUCH MATTERS AS FUTURE U.S. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MICRONESIA, TERMINATION OF THE FREE ASSOCIATION RELATIONSHIP, AND TRANSITION STEPS TO SELF GOVERNMENT FOR MICRONESIA. WHETHER THIS MEANS THAT THE SEVENTH ROUND OF STATUS TALKS WILL ALSO BE THE LAST ROUND REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT THERE ARE MANY ON BOTH SIDES WHO ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT IT WILL BE.

(BUDGET HEARINGS BEGINS)

WASHINGTON, D.C., NOV. 14 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY WENT BEFORE A COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TUESDAY TO ARGUE FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF AN \$8.2 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE TERRITORIAL BUDGET FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR. THE HOUSE APPROPRIATION'S SUB-COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES IS CHAIRED BY CONGRESSWOMAN

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JULIA BUTLER HANSEN OF WASHINGTON. MOST OF THE EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE WERE PRESENT AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER DURING THE COURSE OF THE TWO-HOUR TESTIMONY BY THE TRUST TERRITORY.

HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS STANLEY S. CARPENTER, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING RAYMOND SETIK OF TRUK, HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY OF PONAPE, SENATOR LAZARUS SALII OF PALAU, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, AND JAMES WILSON, U.S. DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, ALL MADE STATEMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE OR ANSWERED QUESTION ABOUT THE BUDGET REQUEST.

THE HICOM NOTED THAT OF THE AMOUNT REQUESTED \$6.9 MILLION IS FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR ADDITIONAL FACILITIES IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, TRANSPORTATION, POWER AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. A TOTAL OF JUST OVER \$1.1 MILLION IS REQUESTED FOR CONTINUATION OF HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND IN TRUK DISTRICT. FOUR AND HALF MILLION DOLLARS IS ASKED TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED 116 BED PONAPE REFERRAL HOSPITAL. ANOTHER \$150,000 IS SOUGHT FOR DESIGN WORK ON A NEW HOSPITAL FOR YAP DISTRICT.

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ACCELERATED PLANNING OF NEW HARBOR AND AIRFIELD FACILITIES IN KUSAIE, IN PONAPE DISTRICT IS CITED AS A PRESSING NEED AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS IN REQUESTED FOR THAT. IN ADDITION THE HICOM SAID THE REQUEST INCLUDES \$300,000 FOR THE PURCHASE AND THE INSTALLATION OF AN ADDITIONAL 750 KILOWATT GENERATOR IN YAP AS WELL AS FOR A MODEST ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF DISTRIBUTION LINES IN THAT DISTRICT. CONTINUED FUNDING OF BIKINI REHABILITATION PROGRAM IS ALSO ASKED IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$330,000.

THREE OTHER MAJOR ITEMS ARE INCLUDED IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST OVER THE ABOVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS. THERE IS \$100,000 FOR AN ACCELERATED PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR SELF-

GOVERNMENT IN MICRONESIA. THIS MONEY WOULD BE USED TO HIRE SPECIAL CONSULTANTS, PURCHASED ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, HIRE SPECIAL TRANSLATORS AND PROVIDE TRAVEL MONEY FOR THE STAFF OF THIS PROGRAM. THE HICOM TESTIFIED THAT THE PROGRAM WILL RUN FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS AND AN ADDITIONAL \$100,000 WOULD PROBABLY BE INCLUDED IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET REQUEST FOR CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE PROGRAM.

A SECOND NON-CIP ITEM INVOLVES THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM OF LAND SURVEY OF PUBLIC LAND IN MICRONESIA ANNOUNCED RECENTLY AS PART OF THE UNITED STATES POLICY STATEMENT AGREEING TO RETURN CONTROL OF PUBLIC LAND IN MICRONESIA TO THE DISTRICT. EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN NEEDED TO BEGIN THAT THREE-YEAR PROGRAM.

FINALLY, THE SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST INCLUDES \$450,000 AS THE UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THE COST OF A MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WHICH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR AT ITS NEXT SESSION IN JANUARY. SENATOR SALII TOLD THE COMMITTEE THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD PROVIDE ANY DIFFERENCE NEEDED BETWEEN THE AMOUNT PROVIDED BY THE U.S. AND THE ACTUAL COST OF THE CONVENTION WHICH IS,

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ESTIMATED TO COST AS HIGH AS THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION DOLLARS

IN ADDITION SUPPORTING THE BASIC SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST, CONGRESSMAN SETIK ALSO ARGUED IN FAVOR OF AN ADDITIONAL FIVE MILLION DOLLARS IN FUNDING. POINTING OUT THAT A CEILING OF \$60 MILLION IS AUTHORIZED FOR TRUST TERRITORY FUNDING BY THE U.S. CONGRESS, CONGRESSMAN SETIK SAID, "THE BUDGET FOR FY 1974 EVEN WITH THESE SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST DOES NOT ADD UP TO \$60 MILLION BUT ONLY TO \$56 MILLION WHICH INCLUDES \$1 MILLION FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND. I WOULD LIKE THEREFORE TO ASK THIS COMMITTEE NOT FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL OF \$8 MILLION BUT AN AMOUNT OF \$13 MILLION RIGHT UP TO THE CEILING AUTHORIZED."

SETIK SAID WITH THE ADDITIONAL FUND, THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PALAU BRIDGE BETWEEN KOROR AND BABELTHUAP COULD BE ASSURED. BIDS FOR THIS BRIDGE WERE CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THE AMOUNT PRESENTLY BUDGETED. ADDITIONAL SHIPS COULD BE CONSTRUCTED FOR INTER-ISLAND SERVICE. A BADLY NEEDED ADDITIONAL GENERATOR COULD BE PROVIDED FOR THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN AND A FLEET OF NEW BUSES COULD BE PURCHASE TO REPLACE THE SCHOOL BUSES PRESENTLY IN USE ON SAIPAN WHICH SETIK DESCRIBED AS "BEYOND REPAIR." CONTINUING TO USE THE PRESENT BUSES, HE ADDED IS A "VIRTUAL

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INVITATION TO DISASTER."

IN HIS STATEMENT JAMES WILSON POINTED OUT THAT THE REQUEST IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND THE LAND SURVEY PROGRAM ARE DIPLOMATIC COMMITMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONNECTION WITH THE FUTURE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS AND HE URGED ESPECIALLY THAT THE COMMITTEE TO ACT FAVORABLY UPON THEM.

COMMENTING ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION REQUEST IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SENATOR SALII SAID THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS PRESENTLY LAYING THE GROUND WORK FOR THIS CONVENTION, WHICH HE ESTIMATED COULD BE HELD OR AT LEAST BEGUN WITHIN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR PROVIDED THE CONGRESS PASSES THE LEGISLATION AT ITS NEXT SESSION ON JANUARY ON SAIPAN. ASKED IF THIS MEANS THAT THE CURRENT STATUS NEGOTIATIONS ARE NEAR THEIR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION THE SENATOR FROM PALAU REPLIED THAT HE IS VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THAT.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE IS JUST ONE OF TWO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES BEFORE WHICH THE TRUST TERRITORY SPOKESMAN WILL APPEAR THIS MONTH TO ARGUE FOR THEIR SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION. THE SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS ARE EXPECTED TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON ON NOVEMBER 20TH.

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(TRUK OIL SHORTAGE)

TRUK, NOV. 14 (MNS)---WHILE THE WORLD AT LARGE WRESTLES WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS AND SHORTAGES OF OIL AND GAS SUPPLIES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST, THE DISTRICT CENTER AT MOEN IN TRUK THIS WEEK IS FACING ITS OWN MINI-CRISIS BROUGHT ON BY A MIX-UP IN DELIVERY ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, SEVERELY RESTRICTING THE USE OF ELECTRICITY AND OTHER FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICT CENTER. DANIS SAID THAT AS OF FRIDAY, ONLY FOUR DRUMS OF LUBRICATING OIL REMAINED IN GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES, ABOUT ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF THE DEMAND AT MOEN'S POWER PLANT FOR ONE WEEK.

EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, TWO OF THE FIVE POWER GENERATORS ON MOEN WERE SHUT DOWN AND THE DIRECTIVE CALLED FOR OTHER MEASURES TO CONSERVE POWER. THE DIRECTIVE SAID:

EXCEPT FOR THE OPERATING ROOM AT THE HOSPITAL, ALL AIR CONDITIONER UNITS IN GOVERNMENT FACILITIES WERE TO BE TURNED OFF.

ALL LIGHTS IN SHOPS, OFFICES, STORES AND SCHOOLS MUST BE TURNED OFF AFTER WORKING HOURS.

POWER USAGE AT HOMES MUST BE CURTAILED TO THE ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS.

USE OF VEHICLES, HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND OFFICE MACHINES MUST BE CURTAILED TO THE MINIMUM.

EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES ON OTHER VERY ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS, USE OF BOAT TRANSPORTATION IS SUSPENDED. (LUBRICATING OIL IS USED IN FUEL MIXTURE FOR OUTBOARD MOTORS.)

NO ELECTRICAL HOOKUP OF NEW FACILITIES IS AUTHORIZED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

DANIS SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ON SAIPAN HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED. HE ADDED THAT MOBIL OIL MICRONESIA HAD BEEN REMINDED IN SEPTEMBER THAT LUBRICATING OIL SUPPLIES WERE GETTING LOW. IT WAS ASSUMED THAT MOBIL WOULD MAINTAIN THE NECESSARY SUPPLIES, HOWEVER, TWO OR THREE SHIPS HAVE COME TO TRUK SINCE THEN AND NONE OF THEM HAS BROUGHT ANY LUBRICATING OIL.

DANIS SAID SATURDAY THAT MOBIL HAD INDICATED A SHIP WOULD BE AT TRUK ABOUT NOVEMBER 17TH OR 18TH. BUT UNTIL THEN AND UNLESS EMERGENCY SUPPLIES ARRIVE--SEVERE POWER RATIONING WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT.

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(EPB NEWS)

SAIPAN, NOV. 14 (MNS)---IN A LETTER RECEIVED FROM PAUL DEFALCO, REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR REGION IX OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, ADDRESSED TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, HE SAID IN PART "I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOU THAT I AM APPROVING THE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS. FURTHER, I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD AND YOUR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR A FINE JOV OF STANDARDS SETTING AND FOR THEIR EXCELLENT COOPERATION IN WORKING WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN DEVELOPING AND REVISING THE TERRITORY'S STANDARDS. THE STANDARDS ARE GOOD ONES AND WILL PROVE TO BE OF GREAT VALUE IN CONSERVING THE PRESENT HIGH QUALITY OF THESE WATERS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS".

SEBASTIAN ONGESII, ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD SAID: "THE STANDARDS ESSENTIALLY CLASSIFY CERTAIN WATERS ACCORDING TO THEIR BENEFICIAL USES, AND OUTLINE THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES REQUIRED TO ASSURE THAT HIGH WATER QUALITY WILL BE ACHIEVED AND MAINTAINED. DEVELOPMENT OF THE STANDARDS WAS ALSO ONE

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OF THE REQUIREMENTS BEFORE THE TRUST TERRITORY COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL GRANTS".

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENT, THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD AT ITS RECENT MEETING IN PONAPE, EXPRESSED CONCERN AND DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE LONG-NEGLECTED GARBAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY. THE BOARD ADOPTED A RESOLUTION, REQUESTING EACH OF THE SIX DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS AND DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC WORKS TO PLACE HIGH PRIORITY ON THIS PROGRAM IN THEIR ANNUAL BUDGET REQUEST. THE BUDGET SHOULD REFLECT THE NECESSARY STAFF AND EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND GARBAGE COLLECTIONS, BUT ALSO INTO THE MICRONESIAN COMMUNITY AS WELL.

IT FURTHER STATED THAT EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO EXTEND THE PRESENT COLLECTION ROUTE INTO THE VILLAGES AT SOME MINIMAL FEE TO THE HOME OWNERS. DISPOSAL OF THESE WASTES MUST ALSO COMPLY WITH HEALTH STANDARTS.  
(HEALTH SERVICES GRANTS)

SAIPAN, NOV. 14 (MNS)---THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, DR. MASAO KUMANGAI, JIMMY KADA AND DR. ELIUEL PRETRICK ATTENDED

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THE PACIFIC BASIN COUNCIL AND THE REGION ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS OF THE REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAM HAWAII WHICH AS HELD IN HONOLULU ON OCTOBER 31 TO NOVMEBER 2, 1973.

THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES HAS ANNOUNCED THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL MF FUNDS TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY HEALTH ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM AND FOR THE TAINING OF HOSPITAL PERSONNEL TO RUN THE LIMITED CARE FACILITY (HEMODIALYSIS) WHICH IS BEING PLANNED FOR MAJURO HOSPITAL. THE OTOLOGY FUNDING WILL CONTINUE AND THE COUNCIL ALSO APPROVED MORE MONEY FOR CONSULTATION.

A TOTAL OF \$37,493 WAS ALLOCATED FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE HEALTH ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAM. OTHER FUNDS SET UP FOR TRAINING OF A NURSE AND TECHNICIAN FOR THE HEMODIALYSIS PROGRAM WERE ESTIMATED TO BE \$2,500.00.

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