

(STATUS TALKS UPDATE)

WASHINGTON, D.C., NOV. 28 (MNS)---WORKING THROUGH A GOOD SHARE OF THE WEEKEND, MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES AND MICRONESIAN DRAFTING SUB-COMMITTEES HAVE MANAGED TO REDUCE CONSIDERABLY THE DIFFERENCES THAT EXIST BETWEEN THEM ON THE FINANCIAL TITLE ON THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION. MEMBERS OF BOTH DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED THE FEELING MONDAY THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE HERE IN WASHINGTON OVER THE WEEKEND.

"WE'RE CLOSER NOW," SAID REPRESENTATIVE EXPAP SILK, CHAIRMAN OF THE MICRONESIAN DRAFTING SUB-COMMITTEE AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS. "THE FACTS THAT THE

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TALKS ARE CONTINUING MEANS THAT WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS. IF WE WEREN'T, WE WOULDN'T BE TALKING TO EACH OTHER." THE CONGRESSMAN ADDED HOWEVER, THAT THE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MOSTLY IN THE AREA OF LANGUAGE TO BE USED IN THE FINANCIAL PORTION IN THE DRAFT COMPACT. THE TWO SIDES APPARENTLY REMAINED QUITE FAR APART ON THE AMOUNT OF ANNUAL UNITED STATES AID TO BE PLEDGED TO THE FUTURE MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT.

"WE'RE COMING CLOSE IN WORDS BUT NOT IN FIGURES," WAS THE WAY CONGRESSMAN SILK PUT IT. A U.S. DELEGATION MEMBER CONFIRMED THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE SINCE FRIDAY OF LAST WEEK ON THE MONEY QUESTION, WHILE DECLINING TO MAKE SPECIFIC FIGURES. HE INDICATED BOTH SIDES HAVE GIVEN A LITTLE FROM THEIR ORIGINAL PROPOSALS BUT WERE STILL QUITE FAR APART ON FIGURES.

AS THIS SECOND WEEK OF THE SEVENTH ROUND OF TALKS BEGIN HOWEVER, THERE IS NO FEELING OF PASSIVENESS AMONG EITHER SIDE. BOTH SEEM WILLING, INDEED ANXIOUS TO KEEP WORKING EVEN THROUGH THE COMING HOLIDAY WEEKEND IF NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE DRAFT COMPACT.

MEANWHILE, THE MICRONESIAN CONTINGENT IN WASHINGTON CONTINUES TO WAIT ALONG WITH EVERYONE IN THE TRUST TERRITORY

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FOR SOME FINAL WORD ON THE MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES GRANT VETOED, THERE WAS NO WORD MONDAY FROM THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ON THAT. DIRECTOR ALVIN ARNETT IS STILL CONTEMPLATING THE ACTION HE WILL TAKE.

AND FINAL PREPARATIONS WERE BEING MADE MONDAY AFTERNOON WASHINGTON TIME FOR THE SECOND APPEARANCE IN AS MANY WEEKS BEFORE A U.S. CONGRESS COMMITTEE FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY BUDGET PEOPLE. SENATOR ALAN BIBLE'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES IS DUE TO TAKE UP THE TRUST TERRITORY'S SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST SOMETIME TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

(LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE)

SAIPAN, NOV. 28 (MNS)---ACTING DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT EUSEBIO RECHUCHER RETURNED TO THE TRUST TERRITORY LAST WEEK FROM SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, WHERE HE ATTENDED THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC LABOR MINISTERS. RECHUCHER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA (MARIANAS) WHO ACTED AS A CHAIRMAN, REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES DOMNICK (MARSHALLS) AND LEGAL COUNSEL MIKE WHITE.

THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE DREW PARTICIPANTS FROM FOURTEEN SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES AND REGIONS. ACCORDING TO

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RECHUCHER, THERE WERE THREE MAJOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA WHICH WERE DISCUSSED. THE ARE: INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MARITIME INDUSTRY; THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF LABOR DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION ACTIVITIES, TRAINING AND MANPOWER SERVICES.

THE CONFERENCE'S JOINT COMMUNIQUE SAID IN PART CONCERNING THE MARITIME INDUSTRY: "THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF DEVELOPMENTS IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AND THE CONFERENCE EXPRESSED CONCERN AT THE EFFECT OF SOME TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES IN THIS INDUSTRY IN THE REGION. THE ECONOMIES OF THE ISLANDS AND THE WELFARE OF THEIR PEOPLE DEPENDS ON RELIABLE SHIPPING FACILITIES AT REASONABLE FREIGHT CHARGES. INCREASES IN THESE CHARGES ADVERSELY AFFECTED BOTH THE COST OF IMPORTS AND THE INCOME FROM EXPORTS."

THE COMMUNIQUE ADDED: "THE PARTICIPANTS ALSO AGREED TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON LEGISLATIVE CHANGES AND ON OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LABOUR FIELD. THERE WAS ALSO CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION OF THE DESIRABILITY OF COLLECTING

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LABOR STATISTICS WHICH WERE ESSENTIAL TO THE WORK OF LABOR ADMINISTRATION."

THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF PADIFIC LABOR MINISTERS WILL BE HELD IN NEW ZEALAND, THE COMMUNIQUE POINTED OUT.

NOTE TO NEWS DIRECTORS: THE FOLLOWING NEWS RELEASE SHOULD BE BROADCAST WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS IN ORDER TO EDUCATE AND PREPARE THE PEOPLE OF THE IT FOR APPEARANCE OF THE COMET KOHOUTEK IN LATE DECEMBER THROUGH MID-JANUARY.

ACCORDING TO ECENT REPORTS OF ASTRONOMERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, A NEW COMET, KOHOUTEK, HAS BEEN DISCOVERED AND PROMISES TO BE THE MOST SPECTACULAR COMET OF THIS CENTURY. THE COMET WILL BE VISIBLE DURING LATE DECEMBER AND UNTIL MID-JANUARY AS IT SWEEPS ACROSS THE MORNING AND EVENING SKIES. KOHOUTEK WILL PROBABLY BE SEEN BY EVERYONE IN THE WORLD AND MAY BECOME MORE PRILLIANT THEN ANY STAR EVER OBSERVED WITH THE NAKED EYE. THIS COMET WAS DISCOVERED BY DR. LUBOS KOHOUTEK OF HANBERG, GERMANY, ON MARCH 7, 1973, AND MAY NOT APPEAR AGAIN FOR OVER 75,000 YEARS.

SCIENTISTS BELIEVE COMETS CONSIST OF FROZEN GASES THAT TRAVEL AROUND THE SUN. A COMET CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS--A NUCLEUS, A HEAD OR COMA, AND A TAIL. THE NUCLEUS IS THE CENTER STAR-LIKE PART OF THE COMET. THE HEAD OR COMA SURRENDS THE NUCLEUS AND MAY BE FROM 30,000 TO 100,000 MILES WIDE.

THE BRIGHT STREAK THAT TRAILS BEHIND THE COMET, OR ITS TAIL, MAY BE UP TO 200 MILLION MILES LONG--TWICE THE DISTANCE OF THE EARTH FROM THE SUN. THE TAIL IS ALWAYS DIRECTED AWAY FROM THE SUN AND IS LONGEST WHEN THE NUCLEUS IS NEAREST THE SUN.

PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD MAY OBSERVE THIS BRILLIANT COMET BEFORE SUNRISE OR AFTER SUNSET. IN DECEMBER KOHOUTEK WILL BE VISIBLE IN THE EASTERN SKY, APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE. DURING THE LATTER PART OF DECEMBER AND DURING THE FIRST HALT OF JANUARY, THE COMET WILL BE VISIBLE IN THE WESTERN SKY SHORTLY AFTER SUNSET.

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SINCE THE COMET WILL BE VERY BRIGHT AT THIS TIME AND FAR FROM THE GLARE OF THE SUN, THIS WILL BE THE BEST TIME TO OBSERVE THIS OBJECT WITH ITS BLAZING TAIL THAT WILL STRETCH ACROSS ONE-QUARTER OF THE EVENING SKIES AND GLOW BRILLIANTLY IN THE DARKNESS. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THIS COMET WILL BE THE BRIGHTEST IN THIS CENTURY AND CERTAINLY BRIGHTER THAN HALLEY'S COMET THAT APPEARED IN 1910.

SCIENTISTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD ARE MAKING DETAILED STUDIES OF THE NATURE OF THE COMET FROM THE GROUND, FROM AIRPLANES, AND FROM EARTH SATELLITES. A GROUP OF U.S. SKYLAB ASTRONAUTS WILL ALSO OBSERVE THE COMET.

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