

(STATUS TALKS OPEN).

SAIPAN, DEC. 6 (MNS)---THE THIRD ROUND IN THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, HEADED BY SENATOR EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN, AND THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT NIXON'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, OPENED FORMALLY ON SAIPAN THURSDAY (DEC. 6) AT THE ROYAL TAGA HOTEL. BOTH SENATOR PANGELINAN AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS MADE OPENING STATEMENTS.

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ABOUT 50 SPECTATORS ATTENDED THE OPENING PLENARY SESSION, INCLUDING TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON AND MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET, MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF, MAYOR VICENTE D. SABLAN OF SAIPAN, AND SEVERAL OTHER DIGNITARIES.

SENATOR PANGELINAN CHAIRED THE MEETING AS THE HOST FOR THIS SESSION OF THE TALKS, BUT HE GAVE AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS THE COURTESY OF SPEAKING FIRST. FOLLOWING THE INTRODUCTION OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION AND EXPRESSIONS OF PLEASURE AT ONCE AGAIN BEING BACK ON SAIPAN, THE AMBASSADOR MADE THE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

"LAST YEAR WE CAME TO SAIPAN TO BEGIN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS YEAR WE HAVE COME TO THE MARIANAS TWICE TO CONTINUE THE EFFORT. NEXT YEAR, HOPEFULLY, WE WILL RETURN TO FINISH THE JOB.

"AS WE PROCEED, I BELIEVE THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO REVIEW WHY WE ARE HERE AND WHAT ARE OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES. I BELIEVE THAT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO REMEMBER AT THE OUTSET THAT THE AMERICAN DELEGATION IS HERE AT YOUR INVITATION, AND AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE OFT-REPEATED REQUEST OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, THROUGH THEIR MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND THEIR DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, FOR SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS AND A SEPARATE STATUS.

WE ARE HERE TO PURSUE THE ATTAINMENT OF A FUTURE STATUS WHICH YOU HAVE ASKED FOR---AND THAT IS POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

"WE ARE HERE TO ATTEMPT TO ACCOMODATE THESE EXPRESSED WISHES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A COMMONWEALTH AGREEMENT, WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR MAXIMUM INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE LARGER AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM.

"WE ARE HERE TO WORK TOWARD UNDERSTANDINGS THAT WILL MEAN IN THE FUTURE THAT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS UNDER ITS OWN CONSTITUTION WILL ELECT ITS OWN EXECUTIVES AND ITS OWN LEGISLATURE AND WILL HAVE ITS OWN JUDICIARY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL JUSTICE.

"WE ARE HERE TO WORK WITH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT IN THE FUTURE INDIVIDUAL CIVIL RIGHTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE GUARANTEED AND PROTECTED AND THAT THERE WILL BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL.

"WE ARE HERE TO FIND WAYS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT YOUR OWN CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND IDENTITY. UNDER A NEW STATUS WE WISH TO GIVE THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ALSO THE RIGHT TO BECOME AMERICAN CITIZENS IF THEY SO DESIRE.

"WE ARE HERE TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE ECONOMIC NEEDS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS, TO REACH AGREEMENT ON HOW BEST THE UNITED STATES CAN ASSIST IN RAISING STANDARDS OF LIVING AND HOW BEST THE UNITED STATES CAN CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR LONG RANGE GOALS OF ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

"WE ARE HERE TO BRING ASSURANCES THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO PROVIDE YOUR NEW GOVERNMENT WITH BASIC BUDGETARY SUPPORT TO MEET THE COST OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND OTHER ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES. LIKEWISE, WE WILL BE PROPOSING THE EXTENSION OF LONG TERM, LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND UNDER THE STATUS WHICH YOU HAVE INDICATED IS YOUR FIRST PREFERENCE, YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A WIDE RANGE OF UNITED STATES FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES RANGING FROM DISASTER RELIEF TO "HEAD START" TYPE PROGRAMS.

"AS WE TAKE UP THESE TALKS IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT AND COMFORTING TO REMEMBER THAT WE WILL BE BUILDING ON FOUNDATIONS AND PRELIMINARY UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED LAST MAY AND JUNE ABOUT THE ESSENTIAL POLITICAL NATURE OF THE NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND THE UNITED STATES. WE CAN NOW TURN FROM GENERAL PRINCIPLES TO MORE TECHNICAL SPECIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS. THIS WILL INVOLVE A REVIEW OF SOME REMAINING POLITICAL STATUS QUESTIONS OF A LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL NATURE, A DEEPER AND FULLER EXPLORATION OF ECONOMIC NEEDS AND SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS, AND A FURTHER DISCUSSION OF LAND QUESTIONS INCLUDING THE DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC LAND, LAND ALIENATION AND THE SATISFACTION OF UNITED STATES LAND REQUIREMENTS.

"WE WILL ALSO BE SUGGESTING THAT SOME OF OUR TIME OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS BE SPENT ON THE SUBJECT OF TRANSITION. IF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ARE TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARD A NEW STATUS PROGRESSIVELY AND IN A TIMELY WAY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO BEGIN PLANNING NOW. THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO EXPLORE WITH YOU IN DETAIL HOW IT CAN APPROPRIATELY ASSIST IN THIS EFFORT. IT IS OUR ASSUMPTION THAT UNITED STATES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE NECESSARY FOR BOTH THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION STAGES OF YOUR MAJOR STEPS TOWARD FULL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND WE EXPECT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU IN THESE TALKS THE CHARACTER AND LEVEL OF OUR SUPPORT.

"AS WE OPEN THESE TALKS WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT FURTHER PROGRESS WILL BE MADE IN THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD. WE ARE HERE AS FRIENDS AND NOT AS ADVERSARIES. WE SHARE IN COMMON A GREAT CHALLENGE. A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO FASHION A NEW AND LASTING POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND THE UNITED STATES--ONE WHICH WILL SERVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF YOUR PEOPLE AND ONE THAT WILL BE ENTERED INTO FREELY AS A TRUE EXPRESSION OF THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

"IN CONCLUSION, LET ME SAY THAT WE APPRECIATE THAT OUR TALKS HAVE BEEN MARKED BY GOOD WILL AND UNINTERRUPTED PROGRESS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER STEADY ADVANCEMENT TOWARD OUR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE, YET THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THAT THE PACE OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE SET ESSENTIALLY BY THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AND THEIR LEADERS.

"FINALLY, IN CLOSING, I BRING TO YOU ALL GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FROM YOUR MANY FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES IN BOTH OUR EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT."

SENATOR PANGELINAN THEN PRESENTED HIS PREPARED, OPENING STATEMENT, AFTER INTRODUCING THE MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION. THE SENATOR SAID:

"THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ARE PROUD OF THE PROGRESS WHICH THE TWO DELEGATIONS HAVE MADE IN ONLY A SINGLE YEAR. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF LAST JUNE 4, 1973--REFLECTING THREE WEEKS OF INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS--HAS PROVIDED A CLEAR AND SOLID FOUNDATION FOR OUR FURTHER DELIBERATIONS. SPEAKING FOR THE COMMISSION AND THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS THIRD SESSION OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS WILL SHOW EVEN

GREATER PROGRESS TOWARD OUR MUTUAL GOAL--A SECURE AND ENDURING PLACE IN THE AMERICAN POLITICAL FAMILY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS.

"SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS. WE ARE WELL AWARE THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE UNLESS THE STATUS AGREEMENT WHICH WE NEGOTIATE IS APPROVED BY THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND THE PEOPLE IN A REFERENDUM. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS SUPPORT THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY MADE. OUR MOST RECENT PUBLIC DISCUSSION WITH THE PEOPLE WAS ONLY THREE DAYS AGO, WHEN THE COMMISSION MET WITH THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN FOR A FULL AND FRANK DISCUSSION OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE U.S. PROPOSALS REGARDING LAND ON TINIAN. AFTER THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCLUDED, THE COMMISSION PLANS TO UNDERTAKE A SERIES OF SIMILAR MEETINGS IN THE VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES AND VILLAGES OF THE MARIANAS.

"AS BEFORE, MUCH WORK HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN PREPARATION FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS. SOME OF THIS WORK HAS BEEN HELPED BY THE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED BY THE PARTIES PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF LAST JUNE 4. AS WE GET CLOSER TO SPECIFIC FINAL AGREEMENTS, WE BELIEVE THAT THESE WORKING GROUPS WILL BECOME EVEN MORE IMPORTANT. IN ADDITION, THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION HAVE BEEN MEETING CONTINUOUSLY FOR THE PAST TEN DAYS IN PREPARATION FOR THE SESSION.

"ONE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE SINCE OUR LAST SESSION IS THE U.S. POLICY STATEMENT ON THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS. ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE, THE COMMISSION WISHES TO COMMEND THE UNITED STATES FOR ISSUING THIS STATEMENT AND PROMISING TO HONOR ITS LONG-STANDING COMMITMENTS TO RETURN THE PUBLIC LANDS TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. THE COMMISSION WILL MAKE A PROPOSAL DURING THESE NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT ACHIEVING THE PROMPT TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS IN THE MARIANAS TO THE PEOPLE. IN SOME RESPECTS, WE WILL NEED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. DELEGATION IN THIS PROJECT AND WE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL AID OUR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT THE U.S. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

"OUR AGENDA FOR THIS SESSION WILL INCLUDE THAT FAMILIAR QUARTET OF TOPICS--POLITICAL STATUS, FINANCIAL SUPPORT, LAND AND MILITARY NEEDS, AND TRANSITION. ON SOME OF THESE SUBJECTS, THE COMMISSION HAS PROPOSALS; ON OTHERS WE EXPECT THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN SUBMITTING PROPOSALS OR RESPONSES TO POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY ADVANCED BY THE COMMISSION. WHICHEVER IS THE CASE, THE COMMISSION IS COMMITTED, AS ALWAYS, TO FREE AND OPEN DISCUSSION AIMED AT MAKING AS MUCH PROGRESS AS IS POSSIBLE IN THE VERY SHORT TIME--TWO WEEKS--WHICH WE HAVE AVAILABLE FOR THIS SESSION. WHERE SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS ARE POSSIBLE, THE COMMISSION IS PREPARED TO TRY TO ARRIVE AT THEM. WHERE COMPLICATED SUBJECTS ARE INVOLVED AND THE NECESSARY STAFF WORK HAS NOT BEEN DONE, IT MAY BE WISE TO SETTLE FOR MORE GENERAL AGREEMENTS AND A JOINT DETERMINATION TO WORK TOGETHER DURING THE RECESS SO THAT WE CAN MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS AT OUR NEXT SESSION OF NEGOTIATIONS.

"WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF OUR DISCUSSIONS OF SPECIFIC ISSUES, YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION REMAIN FIRM IN THEIR CONVICTION THAT WE ARE ENGAGED IN AN HISTORIC JOINT VENTURE. LET THERE BE NO DOUBT IN YOUR MINDS REGARDING THE ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS FACE THEIR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. AND IT

IS WITH THAT SPIRIT--MR. AMBASSADOR--THAT WE WELCOME YOU HERE TODAY AND LOOK FORWARD TO THESE NEGOTIATIONS."

FOLLOWING A LUNCHEON AT THE HOTEL, THE TWO DELEGATIONS IMMEDIATELY MOVED INTO AN AFTERNOON WORKING SESSION AT THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CHALAN KANOA. THE TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE ON OR BEFORE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19. (MANGAFEL ON STATUS TALKS)

YAP, DEC. 6, (MNS)---SENATOR JOHN MANGAFEL OF YAP DISTRICT FEELS THAT IN HIS WORDS, "NOTHING" WAS ACCOMPLISHED AT THE MOST RECENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS. THE SENATOR, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, COMMENTED ON THE TALKS DURING AN INTERVIEW AT HIS COLONIA OFFICE THIS WEEK BY YAP PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER WILFRED GARONGFEL.

"I AM VERY UPSET ABOUT THE SEVENTH ROUND OF TALKS," HE SAID, EXPLAINING THAT HE FEELS THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES THAT IT IS NEGOTIATING FOR THE FUTURE STATUS OF ONLY FIVE DISTRICTS RATHER THAN ALL SIX IS NOT RIGHT.

"ONLY THE LEADERS IN THE MARIANAS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR OPINION ON SEPARATION, BUT THIS IS NOT YET OFFICIAL--AND THIS SHOULD NOT GIVE THE U.S. THE NOTION THAT THE MARIANAS BE EXCLUDED FROM THE TALKS," SAID SENATOR MANGAFEL. HE ADDED THAT IT IS A "PRE-JUDGEMENT" FOR THE U.S. AT THIS POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DECIDE TO EXCLUDE THE MARIANAS.

ASKED ABOUT THE FINANCIAL PART OF THE DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AND THE FACT THAT THE U.S. DID NOT AGREE TO THE MICRONESIAN PROPOSAL ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT, SENATOR MANGAFEL SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD EARLIER SEEMED IN AGREEMENT ON THE FIGURE OF ROUGHLY 120 MILLION DOLLARS IN ANNUAL SUPPORT, BUT CHANGED THEIR POSITION IN WASHINGTON. HE STATED THAT IT IS NOW UP TO THE U.S. TO FIGURE OUT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY IT WISHES TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUTURE MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT SAID IT SHOULD BE "A FIGURE SOMEWHAT CLOSER TO OUR FIGURE." THE YAPSESE LAWMAKER ADDED THAT HE IS HOPEFUL A NEW U.S. PROPOSAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING PRIOR TO THE START OF THE 1974 SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

SENATOR MANGAFEL HAS LONG BEEN A SUPPORTER OF THE CONCEPT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR MICRONESIA, BUT HE HAS LATELY BECOME MORE CRITICAL OF THE WAY IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN CONDUCTING THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

(MAS MAULEG TO BE SCRAPPED)

SAIPAN, DEC. 6, (MNS)---OFFICIALS OF TRANSPACIFIC LINES, INC. ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK ON SAIPAN THAT THE M/S MAS MAULEG, THE SMALLEST VESSEL IN THE TRANSPAC FLEET, HAS BEEN SOLD FOR SCRAP TO A TAIWAN COMPANY. THE SHIP IS PRESENTLY COMPLETING HER FINAL VOYAGE IN PONAPE DISTRICT, AND WILL SAIL TO TAIWAN VIA SAIPAN WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

GENERAL MANAGER WILLIAM PENROSE SAID COSTS INVOLVED IN REPAIRING THE MAS MAULEG TO A CONDITION THAT WOULD PERMIT HER CONTINUED COMMERCIAL USE WERE TOO HIGH, AND TRANSPAC FOUND IT WAS BETTER OFF FINANCIALLY TO SELL THE SHIP AS SCRAP METAL. HE SAID THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY AUTHORIZED THE SALE AT ITS LAST MEETING, FOR ANY AMOUNT ABOVE THE APPROXIMATELY \$55,000 PRESENTLY OWED BY TRANSPAC ON THE SHIP, WHICH IT WAS PURCHASING FROM SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY.

PENROSE SAID THE SHIP HAS BEEN SOLD FOR \$120,000 AS SCRAP, GIVING TRANSPAC A SIZEABLE PROFIT ON THE TRANSACTION.

THE 900-TON MAS MAULEG WAS CONSTRUCTED IN JAPAN IN 1954, AND ORIGINALLY NAMED THE NAHA MARU. SHE WAS PURCHASED BY SAIPAN

SHIPPING COMPANY IN 1969, RE-NAMED THE MAS MAULEG, AND PUT INTO SERVICE BETWEEN SAIPAN AND GUAM PRIMARILY WITH OCCASIONAL RUNS TO OTHER DISTRICTS. TRANSPAC, WHICH ACQUIRED THE SHIP IN 1970, HAS BEEN USING HER TO SERVE THE PORTS OF KUSAIE AND EBeye ON REGULAR RUNS BETWEEN PONAPE AND MAJURO.

PENROSE STATED THAT THE TWO NEWLY ACQUIRED TRANSPAC SHIPS, THE M/S MUSKINGUM AND M/S HERKIMER, WILL TAKE UP THE SERVICE TO KUSAIE AND EBeye. HE INDICATED THAT WHILE PASSENGER SERVICE WITH THESE SHIPS MAY SUFFER SOMEWHAT, CARGO SERVICE SHOULD IMPROVE CONSIDERABLY WITH THEIR INCREASED CAPACITY AND ABILITY TO HANDLE CONTAINERS.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(ATALIG FAVORS PRICE CONTROL)

SAIPAN, DEC. 6. (CONGRESS RELEASE) --- CONGRESSMAN FELIPE

Q. ATALIG OF THE MARIANAS EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN THIS WEEK OVER THE RECENT PRICE INCREASE ON GASOLINE IMPOSED BY LOCAL GAS STATION OWNERS ON SAIPAN.

THE MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN SAID THAT THE RECENT PRICE-HIKE INVOLVES 17-CENTS MORE PROFIT FOR GAS STATION OWNERS AND IT APPEARS THAT THE INCREASE WAS MERELY A PROFIT-MAKING VENTURE AND NOT NECESSARILY A MOVE TO CONSERVE FUEL. HE SAID HE LEARNED FROM MOBIL OIL OFFICIALS THAT THE COMPANY HAS NOT INCREASED ITS PRICE AT ALL AND THEREFORE CONDEMNS THE PRICE-HIKE OF GASOLINE BY GAS STATION OWNERS.

CONGRESSMAN ATALIG STATED THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA OUGHT TO CONSIDER PROPOSED LEGISLATION RELATING TO PRICE CONTROL. HE SAID IT APPEARS TO HIM THAT OFTEN DURING AN EMERGENCY OR WHEN THE ISLAND IS RUNNING SHORT OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS, THE CONSUMERS ARE CHEATED BECAUSE MERCHANTS SIMPLY JACK-UP THEIR PRICES WITH LITTLE REGARD TO WHETHER OR NOT PEOPLE WILL SUFFER FROM SUDDEN AND UNJUSTIFIED PRICE INCREASES.

ATALIG LABELED THE RECENT PRICE INCREASE ON GASOLINE "TRICKING THE CONSUMERS" AND SAID HE IS HOPEFUL THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS WILL PUSH FOR THE ENACTMENT OF A PRICE CONTROL LAW. HE CONCLUDED THAT A PRICE CONTROL LAW IS SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION AND ITS APPROVAL BY CONGRESS IN ITS UPCOMING REGULAR SESSION IN JANUARY IS A MUST.

(OAKEY RETURNS)

SAIPAN, DEC. 6, (MNS) --- TRUST TERRITORY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION JOSEPH OAKEY HAS RETURNED FROM AN EXTENSIVE TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES, WHERE HE ATTENDED THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEF STATE SCHOOL OFFICERS (CCSSO) IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO. OAKEY ALSO CONDUCTED OTHER BUSINESS AT THE U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION IN WASHINGTON, D.C. VISITED THE FORD FOUNDATION IN NEW YORK AND THE FAR WEST EDUCATIONAL LABORATORY IN SAN FRANCISCO, WHERE HE ARRANGED FOR TWO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MICRONESIAN EDUCATORS.

WHILE AT THE CCSSO MEETING, THE DEPUTY EDUCATION DIRECTOR JOINED WITH LEADERS FROM OTHER TERRITORIES TO REQUEST THAT THE CCSSO STAFF IN WASHINGTON CREATE A TASK FORCE THAT WILL PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE UNIQUE PROBLEMS OF THE TERRITORIES, AND TO NEGOTIATE FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR SOME FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

THE CHIEF SCHOOL OFFICERS MEET ANNUALLY TO DISCUSS EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS OF NATIONAL INTEREST AND TO PROMULGATE POLICIES TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

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OAKLEY'S OTHER MEETINGS WERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEKING FUNDS TO EXPAND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY. HIS EFFORTS IN THESE AREAS WILL RESULT IN SEVERAL NEW PROGRAMS FOR MICRONESIA'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN THE FUTURE, A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: THE FOLLOWING STORY IS PART THREE OF A FOUR-PART NEWS RELEASE FROM THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ON MICRONESIA'S HEALTH AND EDUCATION NEEDS. THE INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPHS ARE STAFF WRITTEN AND WERE NOT PART OF THE ORIGINAL NEWS RELEASE. PART ONE AND PART TWO RAN IN THE DECEMBER 4 AND 5 MNS DISPATCHES, AND THE FINAL PART WILL BE TRANSMITTED ON DECEMBER 7.)

(JOINT TASK FORCE REPORTS ON MICRONESIA)

WASHINGTON, DEC. 6, (INTERIOR DEPARTMENT RELEASE)---A JOINT TASK FORCE OF THE INTERIOR AND HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE DEPARTMENTS WHICH BEGAN A STUDY OF PRIORITY PROBLEMS IN HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE TRUST TERRITORY IN SEPTEMBER, 1972, RECENTLY SUBMITTED ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO SECRETARY OF INTERIOR ROGERS C. B. MORTON AND TO NEW SECRETARY CASPER W. WEINBERGER.

THE REPORT IS IN FOUR PARTS, ONE BY EACH OF THREE SUB-COMMITTEES THAT STUDIED NEEDS IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES, AND ONE CONCERNING SANITATION FACILITIES PREPARED BY TWO EXPERTS FROM THE U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE THAT STUDIED MICRONESIA'S NEEDS IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION:

THE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT IDENTIFIED MICRONESIAN-WIDE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL NEEDS. IT RECOMMENDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE REVIEW THOSE NEEDS WHEN CONSIDERING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL REVENUE SHARING; THE CONTINUATION OF CATEGORICAL OR STATE FORMULA PROGRAMS, OR THE INCLUSION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS IN CERTAIN PIECES OF LEGISLATION TO HELP MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT.

MAJOR MICRONESIAN-WIDE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IDENTIFIED WERE THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE TRUST TERRITORY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE DISTRICT BOARDS OF EDUCATION; THE NEED FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO DETERMINE LONG TERM EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, AND FOR THE DISTRICT BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH SHORT-TERM AND INTERMEDIATE EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES WHICH WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO CONSTANT CHANGES WITH CHANGES IN PERSONNEL. THE SUBCOMMITTEE ALSO IDENTIFIED THE NEED FOR MANPOWER AND DEVELOPMENT; THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF A MICRONESIAN CURRICULUM; THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIAN-WIDE INSTITUTIONS, AND THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

IN THE AREA OF MANPOWER NEEDS AND DEVELOPMENT, THE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT A MANPOWER ASSESSMENT BE MADE SO THAT FUTURE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COULD BE AWARDED ON THE BASIS OF THE MANPOWER NEEDS. THE REPORT RECOMMENDED THE CONTINUATION OF IN-SERVICE ELEMENTARY TEACHER TRAINING CENTERS IN THE DISTRICTS, AND IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THE DISTRICTS, ALONG WITH PRE-SERVICE TRAINING OF SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA. THERE WAS ALSO AN IDENTIFIABLE NEED FOR TRAINED MICRONESIANS IN THE AREA OF STUDENT GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING FOR THE RESIDENTIAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR MORE TRAINED LIBRARIANS FOR PUBLIC AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

IN THE AREA OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, THE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDED CONTINUATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MICRONESIAN CURRICULA AND EMPHASIS ON VOCATIONAL AND SKILLS TRAINING, BEGINNING AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL. THERE IS ALSO NEED FOR CURRICULA TO ENHANCE NATIONAL UNITY; TO EMPHASIZE TRADITIONAL SKILLS AND CULTURAL VALUES, POLITICAL EDUCATION, AND TO PROVIDE SELF-IDENTIFICATION AS MICRONESIANS. THE NEED FOR A HEALTH EDUCATION CURRICULA WAS ALSO STRESSED AS IT WAS IN THE HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT. BILINGUAL EDUCATION IS ALSO CONSIDERED A NEED. THERE ARE NINE MAJOR LANGUAGES IN MICRONESIA, AND THERE IS NEED TO PRESERVE THE CULTURE THROUGH THE LANGUAGES; YET THERE IS GREAT NEED FOR THE CONTINUATION OF ADULT EDUCATION TRAINING IN THE AREAS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE, VOCATIONAL SKILLS, AND MATH. THERE IS ALSO NEED, BUT A LESSER DEGREE, FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED, AND FOR THE CONTINUATION OF HEAD START OR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS.

THE SECTION ON STRENGTHENING MICRONESIAN-WIDE INSTITUTIONS MADE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION AND INITIATION OF NEW COURSES AT THE MICRONESIAN OCCUPATIONAL CENTER; EXTENDING THE OFFERING AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA, AND APPOINTING A BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO PROVIDE POLICY DIRECTION FOR THE COLLEGE. THERE IS ALSO NEED FOR EXTENDING OFFERINGS AT THE MICRONESIA MARITIME CENTER.

THE PART CONCERNED WITH EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES MADE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL ELEMENTARY CLASSROOMS AND FOR MORE SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF THOSE NOW ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION BEYOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

EACH OF THE SIX ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS HAS SOME SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS WHICH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN THE REPORT AND WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED IN FUTURE PLANNING.

THE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ALSO HAD A SECTION DEALING WITH THE NEED FOR BETTER COORDINATION, COOPERATION, AND COMMUNICATION AMONG HEW, INTERIOR, THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, WHICH HAS BEGUN, AND WHICH NEEDS TO CONTINUE.

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