

(MARIANAS TALKS END)

SAIPAN, DEC. 19, (MNS)---THE THIRD ROUND OF MARIANAS STATUS NEGOTIATIONS ENDED ON SCHEDULE LATE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (DEC. 19) WITH A PLENARY SESSION AT SAIPAN'S ROYAL TAGA HOTEL. THE TALKS, BEGUN TWO WEEKS AGO ON DECEMBER 6, ACHIEVED SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS AND WERE MARKED THROUGHOUT BY A SPIRIT OF CORDIALITY AND A MUTUAL DESIRE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, ACCORDING TO SPOKESMEN CLOSE TO THE DELEGATIONS.

A LENGTHY COMMUNIQUE DETAILING THE TOPICS DISCUSSED AND THE AGREEMENTS REACHED WAS TO BE RELEASED FOLLOWING THE PLENARY SESSION, AT WHICH SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, AND AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT NIXON'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, WERE EXPECTED TO MAKE BRIEF CLOSING STATEMENTS.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS AND MOST MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATUS DELEGATION ARE TO LEAVE SAIPAN TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES ON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY. BEFORE THIS ROUND OF TALKS BEGAN IT HAS BEEN AGREED BY BOTH SIDES THAT IT WOULD END ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 19, IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS TO GET BACK HOME BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. THIS SCHEDULE HAS BEEN MET.

THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE NEWS OUT OF THE TALKS THIS TIME. AT MID-POINT A JOINT STATEMENT DID INDICATE THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME DISCUSSING FINANCE, THE NATURE OF THE FUTURE CITIZENSHIP OF RESIDENTS OF THE MARIANAS UNDER THEIR NEW STATUS, AND SEVERAL TECHNICAL PORTIONS OF THE AGREEMENT. LAND AND TRANSITION WERE OTHER MAJOR TOPICS TO BE TAKEN UP IN THE FINAL WEEK.

THE MARIANAS NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN ON SAIPAN IN DECEMBER, 1972. A SECOND ROUND WAS HELD, ALSO ON SAIPAN, IN MAY AND JUNE OF THIS YEAR. THE TALKS ARE SEPARATE FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, WHICH ARE ALSO CONTINUING. THAT SET OF NEGOTIATIONS RECENTLY CONCLUDED A SEVENTH ROUND IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: MNS WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MARIANAS TALKS, AND THUS IT COULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THIS DISPATCH. WE WILL INCLUDE THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE IN THE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, MNS DISPATCH.)

(HICOM'S SHIP LAUNCHING SPEECH)

SAIPAN, DEC. 19, (MNS)---HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON TRAVELLED TO KOREA LAST WEEK TO TAKE PART IN THE LAUNCHING OF THE NEW TRUST TERRITORY VESSEL "MS MICRONESIA PRINCESS." THE NEW SHIP WAS LAUNCHED MONDAY (DEC. 17) IN PUSAN, KOREA.

IN HIS REMARKS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID: "WE IN MICRONESIA HAVE MANY PROJECTS ON WHICH OUR PEOPLE ARE COOPERATING WITH THE PEOPLE OF KOREA IN BUILDING A BETTER SOCIETY. IMPORTANT AND CAPABLE KOREAN COMPANIES ARE HELPING US TO BUILD SCHOOLS, WATER-SEWER SYSTEMS, AND OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ON JALUIT ATOLL AND IN THE DISTRICTS OF YAP, PALAU, AND TRUK. MANY KOREAN CITIZENS ARE WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH OUR PRIVATE BUSINESSES ON SAIPAN AND ON OTHER MAJOR ISLANDS.

"A STRONG BOND OF MARITIME COOPERATION HAS BEEN FURTHER CEMENTED BY A FEW CITIZENS OF KOREA WHO HAVE SERVED FROM TIME TO TIME WITH OUR INTER-ISLAND FLEET. WE ALSO APPRECIATE THE GOOD REPAIR WORK WHICH DAESUN SHIPYARD HAS PERFORMED DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS ON SIX OF OUR TRUST TERRITORY SHIPS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THIS COOPERATIVE EFFORT CONTINUING FOR MANY YEARS TO COME,"

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID.

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THE HICOM EXPLAINED SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW SHIP WHICH IS DESIGNED, EQUIPPED AND CONSTRUCTED SPECIFICALLY TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF TRANSOCEANIC SUPPORT AND INTRA-DISTRICT SERVICE FOR MICRONESIA. THE NEW VESSEL IS THE FIRST TO BE CONSTRUCTED OF A PLANNED SERIES OF EIGHT SHIPS. THE SHIP IS 60 PERCENT COMPLETE, AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE DELIVERED TO THE TRUST TERRITORY WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

IN CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID: "MAY THE FUTURE OPERATIONS OF THE GOOD SHIP "MICRONESIA PRINCESS" AS WELL AS MICRONESIA'S EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA BE LONG AND SUCCESSFUL."
(WATER TRANSPORTATION REVIEW BOARD)

SAIPAN, DEC. 19, (MNS)---THE WATER TRANSPORTATION REVIEW BOARD WILL MEET IN A PRE-HEARING ON DECEMBER 20TH, TO SOLICIT PUBLIC VIEWS AND OPINIONS ON THE SERVICES, RATES AND SHIP SCHEDULES OF TRANSPACIFIC LINES, INCORPORATED.

ACCORDING TO ELIAS OKAMURA, A MEMBER OF THE BOARD REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENT, THE HEARING IS TO FORM AN AGENDA FOR THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY, 1974. ANY INDIVIDUAL OR COMPANY WITH SUGGESTIONS, COMPLIMENTS, COMPLAINTS OR GRIEVANCES CAN EITHER APPEAR AT THE HEARING FOR ORAL PRESENTATION OR SEND THE COMMENTS IN WRITING TO THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, SAIPAN, M.I. 96950.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ADDITION TO OKAMURA ARE CHAIRMAN RALPH BAGLEY OF GUAM, AND WILLIAM PENROSE, GENERAL MANAGER OF TRANSPACIFIC LINES.

THE HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE SENATE CHAMBER, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AT 9:30 A.M. THURSDAY.