

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SETIK BACK FROM BUDGET HEARINGS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 16 (CONGRESS RELEASE) -- THE FATE OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS WHICH ARE PART OF 1974 AND 1975 TRUST TERRITORY BUDGET REQUESTS TO THE U.S. CONGRESS NOW AWAITS FINAL ACTION BY THE CONGRESS, ACCORDING TO REPRESENTATIVE RAY SETIK (TRUK) WHO RETURNED TO SAIPAN FROM WASHINGTON, D.C., MONDAY (APRIL 15). 1974

SETIK, WHO CHAIRS THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING, HAD ACCOMPANIED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO WASHINGTON TO SUPPORT REQUESTS FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS.

THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN NOTED THAT SENATOR BAILEY OLTER, WHO IS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, HAD APPEARED BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS ON MARCH 14 IN SUPPORT OF A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR 1974 WHICH INCLUDED EXTRA MONEY FOR ADDED COSTS TO THE PLANNED PONAPE REFERRAL HOSPITAL AND ALSO ADDED FUEL COSTS FOR OPERATIONS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY.

REPRESENTATIVE SETIK THEN TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS HEARING ON THE SAME REQUEST ON MARCH 28. HE NOTED THAT THE ORIGINAL MONEY REQUESTED BY THE TRUST TERRITORY INCLUDED FUNDS FOR THE PONAPE HOSPITAL, FUEL COST INCREASES, AND ALSO MONEY FOR A SECOND NEW FIELD TRIP SHIP. BUT WHEN BOTH HE AND SENATOR OLTER APPEARED, THEY FOUND THAT THE MONEY FOR THE SHIP HAD BEEN DELETED BY PRESIDENT NIXON'S OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET BEFORE THE APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST WAS SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE SUBCOMMITTEES.

ACCORDING TO SETIK, HE MADE A REQUEST FOR THE SHIP COSTING ABOUT \$1.6 MILLION BEFORE SENATOR BIBLE'S SENATE COMMITTEE, BUT THE RESPONSE FROM BIBLE WAS THAT SUCH AN ITEM DID NOT BELONG IN A SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST WHICH SHOULD BE FOR EMERGENCY AND UNEXPECTED EXPENSES. HE COUNSELED THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN THAT SUCH A REQUEST SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR 1975 APPROPRIATION WHICH WAS DUE TO BE HEARD IN THE HOUSE ON APRIL 2, AND IN THE SENATE ON APRIL 3.

HOWEVER, THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE, ACCORDING TO SETIK, BECAUSE MONEY WHICH WAS INCLUDED IN THE 1975 BUDGET FOR A SHIP, FOR MAKING THE TRUK AIRFIELD LONGER AND FOR OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, HAD BEEN SWITCHED IN WASHINGTON AFTER THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S REVIEW. THIS MONEY, HE SAID, HAD BEEN SHIFTED TO AN ACCELERATED LAND CADASTER PROGRAM AT THE REQUEST OF THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE, THERE WAS NO MONEY FOR A SECOND SHIP IN 1974. AND THERE WAS NO MONEY IN THE 1975 BUDGET EITHER, SINCE IT WAS ALREADY UP TO THE \$69 MILLION CEILING.

"THIS WOULD MEAN," SETIK SAID, "THAT IT MIGHT BE 1976 BEFORE ANOTHER SHIP COULD BE FUNDED, AND ABOUT 1978 BEFORE IT COULD BE DELIVERED. WE WOULD THEN HAVE TO WAIT FOR ABOUT FOUR YEARS FOR A SECOND SHIP TO REPLACE SOME OF THE OLD WORLD WAS II VESSELS WE MUST PUT UP WITH NOW."

HE ADDED THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WERE HOPEFUL THAT A NEW BUDGET CEILING WOULD BE APPROVED FOR 1975 OF \$75 MILLION AND THAT NEW SHIPS AND OTHER PROJECTS COULD BE INCLUDED THIS YEAR IF THAT CAME ABOUT.

"HOWEVER," SETIK NOTED, "EVEN THOUGH THIS HAS THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT THE AMOUNT WILL BE APPROVED BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET."

"THEREFORE," HE RELATED, "WE DECIDED TO MAKE A VERY STRONG REQUEST THAT MONEY FOR THE SHIP BE INCLUDED IN THE 1974

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SUPPLEMENTAL, NOTING THAT THE AMOUNT OF \$1.6 MILLION WHICH WAS STILL AVAILABLE UNDER THE \$60 MILLION CEILING FOR 1974 WAS JUST ENOUGH TO FUND THE SHIP."

SETIK SAID THAT BEFORE HIS PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, REPRESENTATIVE JULIA BUTLER HANSEN, HE HANDED HER A LETTER WHICH EXPLAINED THIS POSITION. MRS. HANSEN CONSEQUENTLY READ THE LETTER INTO THE RECORD DURING THE HEARING AND SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS TOO LATE FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO TAKE ACTION, IF THE SENATE COMMITTEE WISHED IT STILL HAD TIME TO INCLUDE THIS IN THE APPROPRIATION. IF THE SENATE DID THIS, SHE RELATED, THE HOUSE COMMITTEE WOULD GO ALONG WITH THE CHANGE.

THE TRUK REPRESENTATIVE SAID HE ALSO SENT A COPY OF HIS LETTER TO SENATOR BIBLE, AND BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT DURING THE HEARING ON FY 1975 IN THE SENATE.

"WHILE WE HAVE NOT HEARD YET THE FATE OF THE MONEY FOR THE SHIP, WE DO KNOW THAT SENATOR BIBLE'S STAFF ASKED FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IT AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT IT CAN BE INCLUDED," SETIK SAID.

REPRESENTATIVE SETIK NOTED THAT SENATOR BIBLE WAS RETIRING FROM THE SENATE AFTER 29 YEARS AND THAT THIS WOULD BE HIS LAST YEAR. SIMILARLY, MRS. HANSEN, WHO CHAIRS THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE, AND MR. WENDELL WYATT A LONG-TIME MEMBER WOULD ALSO NOT RETURN TO THE 94TH CONGRESS. CONSEQUENTLY, HE CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BEFORE BOTH SUBCOMMITTEES THANKING THE CHAIRMEN FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND EFFORTS FOR THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. BOTH CHAIRMEN WERE ALSO PRESENTED WITH GIFTS ON MICRONESIAN HANDICRAFTS, AND ALL WERE GIVEN A STANDING INVITATION TO VISIT MICRONESIA IN THE FUTURE TO MEET THE PEOPLE AND SEE THE ISLANDS.

SETIK SAID THAT LETTERS CONCERNING THE SHIP, AIRFIELD AND OTHER PROGRAMS (SEE FOLLOWING STORY) WERE ALSO GIVEN TO HOUSE MEMBERS BURTON, NEEDS, HANK AND VON PAT, AND TO SENATE MEMBERS JOHNSTON, FOLS AND STEVENS AND THAT HE MET PERSONALLY WITH THEM TO ENLIST THEIR SUPPORT.

HE SAID SENATOR FOLS, FROM HAWAII, WAS VERY HELPFUL AND WROTE A LETTER TO SENATOR BIBLE SUPPORTING THE POSITION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

AS OF TUESDAY, APRIL 16, THERE STILL WAS NO WORD ON THE REQUEST, BUT SETIK SAID HE REMAINED OPTIMISTIC BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT SHOWN BY "OUR FRIENDS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS WHO UNDERSTAND OUR PROBLEMS."

(MORE ON BUDGET HEARINGS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 16 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---ONE OF THE PROBLEMS FACED DURING THE HEARINGS IN WASHINGTON ON THE TRUST TERRITORY'S BUDGET WAS THAT OF SEEKING MONEY FOR PROGRAMS FORMERLY SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. FEDERAL MONEY WHICH WOULD BE TERMINATED AS A RESULT OF REVENUE-SHARING LEGISLATION IN THE U.S., ACCORDING TO REPRESENTATIVE REY SETIK (TRUK), WHO RETURNED TO SAIPAN THIS WEEK FROM THE BUDGET HEARINGS.

SETIK EXPLAINED THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY DOES NOT "SHARE" REVENUE WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT LIKE THE STATES DO. THEREFORE THE EFFECT OF REVENUE-SHARING LEGISLATION IS TO CUT OUT OR ELIMINATE MANY VALUABLE PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES, SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS (USDA FOOD), CONSTRUCTION OF OUTER ISLAND DISPENSARIES AND MANY OTHER PROGRAMS FOR WHICH THE TRUST TERRITORY WAS ELIGIBLE IN THE PAST.

"BECAUSE OF THIS," SETIK NOTED, "WHEN THE AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION FOR 1974 AND 1975 WAS ENACTED AN ADDITIONAL, BUT SEPARATE, \$10 MILLION WAS ADDED ON BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE OF THE U.S. CONGRESS."

THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXTRA MONEY WAS TO CONTINUE THESE PROGRAMS THROUGH THE TRUST TERRITORY APPROPRIATION SINCE THEY COULD NO LONGER BE FUNDED UNDER THE DIFFERENT FEDERAL PROGRAM AREAS.

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HE NOTED THAT IN THE 1974 SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD SUBMITTED A BUDGET WHICH WOULD HAVE PROVIDED \$938,000 UNDER THIS SPECIAL \$10 MILLION FUND.

"THIS REQUEST WAS CUT OUT BY THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (OMB)," HE SAID, "BECAUSE IT IS CONSIDERED AS A "CONGRESSIONAL ADD-ON," IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS NOT A PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT BE SUPPORTED, AND WAS DELETED BEFORE IT REACHED THE U.S. CONGRESS.

THE SAME WAS TRUE WITH THE 1975 BUDGET WHICH HAD AN AMENDMENT OF SOME \$2.7 MILLION FOR THE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES, SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS, AND NEW DISPENSARIES. ALL OF THIS WOULD HAVE COME OUT OF THE \$10 MILLION FOR 1975 WHICH WAS AUTHORIZED.

"THIS REQUEST MET THE SAME FATE AS THE ONE FOR 1974. THE OMB CUT IT OUT AND IT DID NOT APPEAR IN THE BUDGET BEFORE THE HOUSE AND SENATE," SETIK SAID. "CONSEQUENTLY, IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE AND SENATE I MADE A STRONG REQUEST TO HAVE THESE FUNDS INCLUDED AND ALSO INCLUDED THIS IN THE LETTERS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE."

SETIK SAID IT WOULD BE "IRONIC IF THE TRUST TERRITORY DID NOT RECEIVE THE FUNDS REQUESTED SINCE WE HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SPEND \$10 MILLION EACH FOR 1974 AND 1975, YET OUR REQUEST IS ONLY FOR A LITTLE OVER \$3 MILLION FOR BOTH YEARS."

WHETHER THESE FUNDS, TOO, WILL BE APPROPRIATED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS IS STILL UNCERTAIN AND IT IS NOT KNOWN EXACTLY WHEN WORD WILL BE RECEIVED AS TO THEIR FINAL DISPOSITION.

AT PRESENT CONGRESSMAN SETIK IS ON SAIPAN WITH SENATOR OLTER. THEY AND REPRESENTATIVE EKPAP SILK OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING WILL MEET THIS WEEK WITH MEMBERS OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAM AND BUDGET OFFICE TO FORMULATE JUSTIFICATIONS FOR POSSIBLE NEW AUTHORIZATION CEILINGS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1975, 1976 AND 1977.

(AGRIHAN PATIENT RESCUED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 16 (HNS)---A SAIPAN-BOUND JAPANESE SHIP, THE "PONAPE MARU," WAS DIVERTED TO THE ISLAND OF AGRIHAN, ABOUT 300 MILES NORTH OF SAIPAN, MONDAY MORNING (APRIL 15) TO PICK UP A SICK MAN, ACCORDING TO A NEWS REPORT ON KJQR RADIO. THE 39 YEAR OLD PATIENT, INGENSIO SAURES, WAS REPORTED TO BE COMPLAINING OF BACK AND STOMACH ACHES. THE PATIENT WAS ADMITTED AT DR. TORRES HOSPITAL.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, THERE HAD BEEN ONE PREVIOUS ATTEMPT TO DIVERT A JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL TO PICK UP THE PATIENT BUT THE SHIP WAS UNABLE TO DO SO. THE PONAPE MARU WAS ABOUT 200 MILES NORTH OF AGRIHAN ENROUTE TO SAIPAN FROM JAPAN WHEN THE MESSAGE WAS RELAYED TO HER BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR.

THE PATIENT WAS TRANSPORTED TO THE SHIP BY A BOAT AND BROUGHT TO SAIPAN MONDAY EVENING. THE PONAPE MARU IS OWNED BY THE DAINA SHIPPING LINE.

(DR. COOPER APPOINTMENT)

SAIPAN, APRIL 16 (HNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, DR. MASAO KUNIMAI, ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. CECILIA COOPER, A MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST, TO THE DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH.

DR. COOPER COMES TO THE TT FROM SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS WHERE SHE WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES AT SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE FROM 1972 TO 1974. SHE ALSO WORKED FOR A TIME AS A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST AT THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN HAWAII.

DR. COOPER HOLDS A PH.D. DEGREE IN COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY FROM BOSTON UNIVERSITY AND A MASTER DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, HER NEW RESPONSIBILITIES WILL INCLUDE

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SETTING UP MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY. SHE WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROGRAMS TO PREVENT ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSES IN THE TT, AND IN ADDITION WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY.

(MADRIGAL SINGERS TOUR TRUK)

TRUK, APRIL 16 (MNS)---THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM MADRIGAL SINGERS AND ITS 17 PIECE STAGE BAND ENTERTAINED LAST WEEK IN TRUK AND PONAPE DISTRICTS. ACCORDING TO TRUK PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER MOHA RUBEN, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE SINGERS AND THE BAND MEMBERS HAVE PERFORMED IN THESE TWO DISTRICTS. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP, ACCORDING TO ITS DIRECTOR FRANKLIN SABLEN, "IS TO GIVE OUR KIDS A CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE AND AT THE SAME TIME EXPOSE THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA TO OUR MUSIC."

THE TWO MUSICAL GROUPS TRAVEL THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA UNDER A GRANT FROM THE INSULAR ARTS COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL PAYS HALF OF THE TRAVEL COST, AND THE STUDENTS IN THE GROUPS MATCH THOSE FUNDS IN KIND BY GIVING CONCERTS IN GUAM, RUBEN REPORTS. THE INSULAR ARTS COUNCIL IS PART OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS, A PROGRAM EXTENDED TO GUAM EXPAND ALL THE ARTS TO THE TRUST TERRITORY.

SABLEN HAS BEEN VERY INTERESTED IN MADRIGAL SINGERS SINCE THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MADRIGAL SINGERS CAME TO GUAM IN 1968. "I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY THEIR PROFESSIONALISM," HE SAID, "AND AFTER THEIR VISIT I REALLY PUSHED THE GUAM MADRIGAL SINGERS. SABLEN AND BOB SLETVOLD, STAGE BAND DIRECTOR, WERE VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THEIR VISIT. SLETVOLD SAID, "GIVE KEN WILLIAMS A LOT OF CREDIT. HE DID A GREAT JOB OF SETTING UP IN TRUK." WILLIAMS IS A SCIENCE SPECIALIST IN TRUK DISTRICT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

NEXT YEAR IN JANUARY, THE MADRIGAL SINGERS AND STAGE BAND PLANS TO PERFORM IN YAP AND PALAU DISTRICT, RUBEN REPORTS.

(AIR FORCE RECEIVES MYSTERIOUS GIFTS)

GUAM, APRIL 16 (MNS)---THE AIR FORCE ON GUAM IS TRYING TO SOLVE A MYSTERY, AND HAS ASKED THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY TO HELP.

MEMBERS OF THE 54TH WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON RECEIVED TWO BOXES OF MICRONESIAN HANDICRAFT ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO FROM THE PEOPLE OF ONE OF THE ISLANDS IN THE TT, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE. ACCORDING TO FIRST LIEUTENANT KEITH D. HAWKINS, THE SQUADRON INFORMATION OFFICER, THE GIFTS ARRIVED IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY, AND HIS MEN HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TRACE EXACTLY WHERE THEY CAME FROM.

"THE NAVY FLEW THEM IN TO AGANA NAVAL AIR STATION HERE ON GUAM, AND THE CARGO TRAFFIC PEOPLE AT NAVY WERE UNABLE TO TELL US WHERE THE BOXES CAME FROM," LT. HAWKINS EXPLAINS. "WE THINK THE GIFTS CAME FROM NOKIL (IN PONAPE DISTRICT), BECAUSE OUR COMMANDER, COLONEL LEO B. RICE, RECOGNIZED HANDWRITING ON ONE OF THE BOXES THAT HE THINKS BELONGED TO ONE OF OUR CREWMEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN CHRISTMAS DROP 1972. THE CREWMEMBER WAS ON A FLIGHT THAT DROPPED PACKAGES ON NOKIL. WE WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT WHERE THE GIFTS CAME FROM SO WE CAN ATTEMPT TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS TO THE PEOPLE, AND TO EXPRESS TO THEM OUR DISAPPOINTMENT IN NOT BEING ABLE TO CONDUCT CHRISTMAS DROP 1972." HAWKINS POINTS OUT THAT THE RECENT FUEL CRISIS DRASTICALLY REDUCED OPERATIONS AT THE SQUADRON AND UNFORTUNATELY CHRISTMAS DROP WAS INCLUDED IN THE CUTBACK.

THE GIFTS THEMSELVES, INCLUDING HARBERS, SHELL NECKLACES, ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS AND OTHER HANDMADE ITEMS, HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SQUADRON, WHO WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN GATHERING, WRAPPING AND PACKAGING THE ITEMS

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INCLUDED IN THE CHRISTMAS DROP OF 1972. "THEY WERE SICERELY THRILLED AND AT THE SAME TIME DEEPLY TOUCHED WITH THE GIFTS," SAY LT. HAWKINS. BUT OF COURSE, THEY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW PRECISELY WHOM TO THANK.

SO LT. HAWKINS HAS ASKED THAT ANYONE IN THE TT WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE TWO GIFTS BOXES WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THEIR ORIGIN CONTACT HIM AT THE 54TH WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON ON GUAM.

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