

(ST. PIERRE CHARGE UPHELD)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18 (MNS)---AN INTERIOR DEPARTMENT JUDGE HAS UPHELD THE MAJOR CHARGE BROUGHT ONE YEAR AGO BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AGAINST CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER ROGER L. ST. PIERRE, THAT HE ACCEPTED MONEY FOR WORK PERFORMED IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY. THE JUDGE HAS RECOMMENDED, HOWEVER, THAT ST. PIERRE BE SUSPENDED FOR 90 DAYS RATHER THAN BEING REMOVED FROM HIS JOB.

THE RULING WAS PART OF A 15-PAGE SUMMARY OF THE FACTS IN THE CASE ISSUED IN PORTLAND, OREGON ON APRIL 12 BY ROBERT C. SNASHALL, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS. SNASHALL ALSO FOUND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT SUSTAINED ITS SECOND CHARGE AGAINST ST. PIERRE, THAT HE FAILED TO PROPERLY SUPERVISE AN EMPLOYEE UNDER HIS SUPERVISION, AND DECLARED ST. PIERRE NOT GUILTY OF THE CHARGE.

TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, TO WHOM THE DECISION WAS ADDRESSED, WAS NOT ON SAIPAN THURSDAY AND HAS NOT YET READ THE DECISION. DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN, WHO SIGNED THE APRIL 18, 1973 LETTER TO ST. PIERRE INFORMING HIM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO REMOVE HIM FROM HIS POSITION, SAID THERE WOULD BE NO COMMENT ON THE CASE FROM THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER JOHNSTON'S RETURN TO SAIPAN FRIDAY EVENING.

A KEY FINDING IN THE CASE WAS THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CLEARLY HAS JURISDICTION OVER ST. PIERRE, AND ALL OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT WHETHER ON CONTRACT OR CIVIL SERVICE STATUS. ST. PIERRE HAD ARGUED THAT HE WAS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, NOT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OR OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, AND THAT THEREFORE HE WAS NOT SUBJECT TO INTERIOR DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS. JUDGE SNASHALL FOUND THIS ARGUMENT "UNTENABLE."

ST. PIERRE'S EMPLOYMENT STATUS IS "ABUNDANTLY CLEAR," HE SAID. "THE RECORD IS REplete WITH EVIDENCE OVERWHELMINGLY SUBSTANTIATING THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT HE IS A FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE, EMPLOYED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, AND AS SUCH IS FULLY AMENABLE TO ITS REGULATIONS GOVERNING EMPLOYEE CONDUCT."

THE BASIC FACTS IN THE CASE, PRINCIPALLY THAT ST. PIERRE ACCEPTED \$7,500 FROM A MARSHALLESE WOMAN IN 1969 IN CONNECTION WITH AN ESTATE CASE, WERE NOT AT ISSUE. ST. PIERRE ADMITTED THAT HE ACCEPTED THE MONEY AS A "GIFT." JUDGE SNASHALL INDICATED HE ACCEPTED THIS STATEMENT, AND THEREFORE CHOSE NOT TO CONSIDER FOR PURPOSES OF HIS DECISION THE ARGUMENT ADVANCED BY ST. PIERRE THAT, IF THE MONEY WAS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS A "FEE" AS SUGGESTED, ACCEPTANCE OF IT WAS JUSTIFIED ON THE BASIS OF A STATEMENT ISSUED BY CHIEF JUSTICE FURBER OF THE TT HIGH COURT IN 1963. THE IMPORT OF THAT PRONOUNCEMENT WAS TO ALLOW APPEARANCES IN CIVIL MATTERS NOT INVOLVING THE TT GOVERNMENT BY EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT ON A FEE BASIS. JUDGE SNASHALL FOUND, HOWEVER, THAT JUSTICE FURBER'S PRONOUNCEMENT WAS WITHOUT OFFICIAL FORCE AND DEALT WITH MATTERS OVER WHICH THE TT HIGH COURT HAD NO JURISDICTION.

"IN ANY EVENT," SAID THE JUDGE, "SINCE I HAVE FOUND APPELLANT (ST. PIERRE) ACCEPTED THE FUNDS AS A "GIFT" AND NOT AS A "FEE" THE QUESTION IS MOOT AND THAT PORTION OF THE SECOND CHARGE ALTERNATIVELY CHARGING INTER ALIA ACCEPTANCE OF A FEE OR COMPENSATION IS NOT APPLICABLE.

"(ST. PIERRE'S) ACCEPTANCE OF THE GIFT, HOWEVER...CLEARLY FALLS WITHIN THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF PROSCRIBED ACTIVITIES OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SET OUT IN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S REGULATIONS CONCERNING RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT OF EMPLOYEES. THE OFFICIAL POSITION APPELLANT HELD, PERHAPS MORE

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THAN ANY OTHER SINGULAR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POSITION IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, LENDS ITSELF TO THE MOST WIDESPREAD AND INTIMATE APPRAISAL OF THE AMERICAN PRESENCE BY THE CITIZENS OF MICRONESIA. APPELLANT'S ACTIONS WERE CLEARLY SUCH AS TO NOT ONLY CREATE THE APPEARANCE OF BUT ACTUALLY ADVERSELY REFLECT UPON THE INTEGRITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES," SAID JUDGE SNASHALL.

HE THEREFORE CONCLUDED THAT DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ROGER L. ST. PIERRE ARE WARRANTED, BUT THAT HIS REMOVAL WOULD BE TOO SEVERE A PUNISHMENT. "...HIS MANY YEARS OF INDUSTRIOUS EMPLOYMENT AT A JOB OF SUCH OBVIOUS ENORMITY MITIGATES AGAINST ANY SUCH SEVERE ACTION," SAID THE JUDGE. "ADDITIONALLY...IT WOULD APPEAR THE NEED OF HIS EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE WOULD WARRANT HIS CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT, BUT UNDER EXPLICIT DIRECT SUPERVISION AND AUDIT OF BOTH HE AND HIS DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.

"IT IS MY RECOMMENDATION," HE CONCLUDED, "ROGER L. ST. PIERRE BE SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF NINETY (90) DAYS."

(ST. PIERRE DISAGREES WITH DECISION)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18 (MNS)---CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER ROGER ST. PIERRE SAID ON SAIPAN THURSDAY (APRIL 18) THAT HE DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE FINDINGS OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ROBERT SNASHALL, AND FEELS THAT HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN "COMPLETELY EXONERATED."

ST. PIERRE MADE HIS COMMENTS UPON LEARNING OF JUDGE SNASHALL'S RECOMMENDATION THAT HE BE SUSPENDED FROM HIS POSITION FOR 90 DAYS FOR ACCEPTING MONEY FROM A MARSHALLESE WOMAN IN AN ESTATE CASE IN 1969. THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT HAS ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE ST. PIERRE FROM HIS JOB OVER THE INCIDENT, BUT JUDGE SNASHALL FOUND THIS PUNISHMENT TO BE UNJUSTIFIED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

"IT'S A PARTIAL VICTORY-- AT LEAST I'M NOT TERMINATED," SAID ST. PIERRE. "BUT I THINK THE 90 DAYS IS A SOP TO THE GOVERNMENT. THE GUY SHOULD HAVE FOUND ME COMPLETELY INNOCENT."

ST. PIERRE SAID HIS NEXT MOVE IN THE CONTROVERSIAL CASE WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER OR NOT JUDGE SNASHALL'S RECOMMENDATION OF A 90 DAY SUSPENSION IS CARRIED OUT, AND IF SO BY WHOM. "I MUST WAIT AND SEE WHO IS GOING TO IMPLEMENT THIS, AND WHEN, OR EVEN IF THEY DO IMPLEMENT IT," HE SAID. ASKED WHAT HE WILL DO IF HE IS SUSPENDED, HE SAID: "I'M GOING TO APPEAL IT."

THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, WHO HAS FOUGHT A YEAR-LONG BATTLE TO RETAIN THE POSITION HE HAS HELD SINCE 1962, HAS BASED HIS DEFENSE ON THE ARGUMENT THAT HE IS NOT A U.S. FEDERAL EMPLOYEE, AS WELL AS ON THE ARGUMENT THAT IN ACCEPTING THE MONEY HE DID NOTHING IMPROPER, CITING A PRONOUNCEMENT BY FORMER TT HIGH COURT CHIEF JUSTICE FURBER IN SUPPORT OF THIS.

REGARDING THE FORMER ARGUMENT, JUDGE SNASHALL FOUND THAT ST. PIERRE IS "CLEARLY" A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE, A FINDING THAT ST. PIERRE SAID THURSDAY IS "ABSOLUTELY INCORRECT." HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE MAY DECIDE TO TAKE HIS CASE TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION IN AN EFFORT TO COMPLETELY CLEAR HIS NAME IF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RECOMMENDATION IS CARRIED OUT.

ST. PIERRE CONTINUES TO OCCUPY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER IN THE JUDICIARY COMPLEX AT SUSUPE ON SAIPAN, EVEN THOUGH ANOTHER ATTORNEY, LEO MCSHANE, CARRIES THE TITLE ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER AND IS PRESUMABLY ACTING IN PLACE OF ST. PIERRE. MCSHANE, HOWEVER, HAS OFFICE SPACE IN THE TT HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. AT ONE TIME ST. PIERRE WAS OFFICIALLY APPOINTED A "SPECIAL CONSULTANT" TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, BUT HE NEVER TOOK UP ANY SUCH DUTIES AND REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THE APPOINTMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT GAVE ST. PIERRE VIRTUALLY UNLIMITED TIME TO PREPARE FOR AND DEFEND HIS CASE, WHICH WAS HEARD IN PUBLIC HEARINGS ON SAIPAN LAST NOVEMBER.

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(ISLEY FIELD PROGRESS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18 (MNS)---MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA BRIEFED REPORTERS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SCHEDULED TO BE OPEN BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR. ADA TOLD REPORTERS THAT BIDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING WILL BE ADVERTISED NEXT MONTH TO ANY INTERESTED BIDDERS. THE BIDS WILL BE OPENED JUNE THIRD.

AT THIS TIME, ADA SAID THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT HAS MONEY TO CONSTRUCT ONLY THE ARRIVAL BUILDING, THE PARKING LOT (UNPAVED) AND FOR GENERAL SITE WORK. THE DISTAD EXPLAINED THAT THE PROJECT WAS BUDGETED SINCE FISCAL YEAR 1970 FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO REHABILITATE THE WORLD WAR II 8700 FOOT BOMBER STRIP. IT WAS LATER FOUND HOWEVER THAT THE FIELD COULD NOT MEET MINIMUM FAA SPECIFICATIONS WITHOUT MAJOR WORK WHICH WENT FAR BEYOND THE \$2 MILLION BUDGET. THE TT GOVERNMENT THEN APPLIED FOR FAA AID. MOST OF THE FUNDS BUDGETED WILL BE USED ON THE RUNWAY AND ASSOCIATED AREAS, WORK WHICH IS NOW CONTRACTED TO THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTORS.

ACCORDING TO THE DISTAD, AFTER THE CONTRACT HAD BEEN LET \$900,000 OF THE THREE MILLION BUDGETED FOR WAS LEFT, TO FUND A TERMINAL FACILITY WHICH HAD BEEN PRICED AT \$3 MILLION. THE MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR WAS FORCED TO EXPLORE OTHER COMMERCIAL FUNDING. "WE SAW A POSSIBLE REVENUE SOURCE IN A DUTY-FREE STORE, RENTAL OF PRIME AIRLINE, TICKET OFFICE AND FREIGHT SPACE," THE DISTAD SAID, "AS WELL AS OTHER RENTALS, SUCH AS RENT-A-CAR, FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE AND MANY OTHERS; SUCH AS LANDING FEES, FUEL TAX, ETC."

THE DISTAD THEN HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH THE AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES AND BUSINESSMEN TO CHECK ON POSSIBLE REVENUE SOURCES. ACCORDING TO THE DISTAD, OF THE SEVEN BUSINESSMEN THAT ATTENDED THE MEETING, FOUR INDICATED AN INTEREST, OF WHICH TWO ARE LOCAL BUSINESSMEN. THE BUSINESSMEN REPRESENTED WERE JOSE C. TENORIO ENTERPRISES (JOETEN); MANNY VILLAGOMEZ ENTERPRISES; JONES AND GUERRERO OF GUAM; DUTY FREE LIMITED, HONG KONG; BANK OF AMERICA; BANK OF HAWAII AND FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK. THEY INDICATED INTEREST IN THE PRIME CONCESSION WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESTAURANT, BAR AND DUTY-FREE STORE. THEY WERE BRIEFED ON THE AIR TERMINAL FACILITIES PLAN WHICH CANNOT NOW BE BUILT BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF FUNDS. THE DISTAD INDICATED HE WANTED A MICRONESIAN BUSINESSMAN TO WIN THE BID.

THE PRESIDENT OF NAURU HAS SENT A LETTER TO THE DISTAD INDICATING HIS DESIRE TO INVEST \$2 MILLION IN THE AIRPORT. OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONALS ALSO INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO HELP IN FINANCING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ENTIRE TERMINAL.

THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION PROJECTED THAT THE MOST MONEY WOULD BE GENERATED OUT OF THE DUTY-FREE CONCESSION. WITH THE SIGNING OF THE BILL WHICH WILL PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF DUTY-FREE RETAIL CONCESSIONS IN OFFICIAL PORTS OF ENTRY IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, THE BILL ALSO GIVES AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN THIS REVENUE WITHIN A LOCAL "ENTERPRISE FUND" WHICH WILL SUPPORT THE AIRPORT. THE BILL ALSO PROVIDES AUTHORIZATION "TO DEMAND AND RETAIN ADVANCE CONCESSION FEES OF \$1 MILLION FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE CONCESSION AND OTHER TERMINAL BUILDINGS IF NECESSARY," THE DISTAD SAID.

OTHER FEATURES ARE THAT THE CONCESSIONAIRE WILL BE EXEMPT FROM GROSS REVENUE TAXES, DISTRICT, MUNICIPAL LICENSE, AND PERMIT FEES. THE CONCESSIONAIRE WILL PAY A BUSINESS PRIVILEGE FEE OF THREE PER CENT TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND A MINIMUM OF SEVEN PER CENT TO THE DISTRICT OF GROSS SALES.

THE DISTAD ALSO SAID IN THE TWO-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ESTABLISH AN AIRPORT AUTHORITY OR AGENCY TO DIRECT THE AIRPORT, USING A BOARD OF DIRECTORS FRAMEWORK, PROBABLY CONSISTING OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, PUBLIC WORKS OFFICER AND OTHER DISTRICT OFFICIALS AND ONE OR TWO FROM THE

PRIVATE SECTOR. "WE WILL ALSO LOOK FOR AND SECURE A MANAGEMENT COMPANY," THE DISTAD STATED. "TO ACTUALLY RUN THE DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS AT LEAST FOR SEVERAL YEAR UNTIL WE CAN TRAIN OUR OWN PERSONNEL."

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL IS UNIQUE IN TWO WAYS. FIRST IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS GONE OUTSIDE TO SECURE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION, AND THE OTHER, IS THAT ISLEY AIRPORT, HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE THE FIRST SELF-SUPPORTING VENTURE WITHIN THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT.

THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WAS DESIGNED BY THE RALPH M. PARSONS COMPANY OF HONOLULU. THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT IS WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN COORDINATING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RUNWAY AND THE TERMINAL.

WHEN THE ENTIRE AIRPORT IS COMPLETED, BOARDING PASSENGERS EXPECTED IN 1975 ARE 130,000, THE SAME NUMBER OF PASSENGERS ANNUALLY THAT GUAM IS NOW RECEIVING. THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WHEN COMPLETED, WILL BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE LARGEST COMMERCIAL AIRLINERS. THE TOTAL COST OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT IS AN ESTIMATED \$6,000,000.

(TT REVENUE OFFICERS CONFERENCE)

SAIPAN, APRIL 17 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICERS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENED WEDNESDAY (APRIL 17) AT THE HEADQUARTERS ON SAIPAN AND IS SCHEDULED TO RUN THROUGH THE 19TH, ACCORDING TO JESUS P. MAFNAS, CHIEF OF THE TT REVENUE DIVISION.

WELCOMING REMARKS WERE DELIVERED BY RONALD A. PETERSON, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY, WHO OUTLINED PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT AND SUGGESTED THAT ROTATION OF DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICERS BE CONSIDERED IN THE FUTURE SO THAT THEY WILL BE EXPOSED TO PROBLEMS IN THE OTHER DISTRICTS.

THE CHIEF OF THE REVENUE DIVISION, IN ADDRESSING THE PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONFERENCE, NOTED THE IMPORTANT ROLE THEY PLAY IN THE OVER-ALL DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA. MAFNAS STATED THAT ONE WAY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA IS THROUGH RAISING MORE REVENUE BY MEANS OF TAXATION.

"TAXATION IS HERE AND IT IS GOING TO STAY REGARDLESS OF THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA," MAFNAS SAID. HE NOTED THAT NO HUMAN BEING WANTS TO SPEND A PENNY IF IT WILL NOT BENEFIT HIM DIRECTLY. MAFNAS STATED, HOWEVER, THAT AS THE DEMAND FOR BETTER PUBLIC FACILITIES INCREASES, THE TT INCOME TAX WILL HAVE TO BE AMENDED TO GENERATE MORE REVENUES TO MEET THESE INCREASING NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

MAFNAS ADDED THAT MORE RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE PLACED UPON THE SHOULDERS OF THE DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICERS WHEN MORE REVENUES ARE GENERATED IN THE FUTURE IN MICRONESIA. HE SAID THAT THE REVENUE DIVISION MUST BE PREPARED TO COPE WITH THAT "UNAVOIDABLE TREND IN THE TT TAX LAW" AIMED AT MEETING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL GROWTH IN MICRONESIA.

MAFNAS POINTED OUT THAT THE CURRENT INFORMATION ON TAX RETURNS COMPILED BY THE DATA PROCESSING DIVISION WILL PROVIDE USEFUL SUPPORT AND A BASE ON WHICH DECISIONS REGARDING THE OVER-ALL OPERATION OF THE REVENUE DIVISION CAN BE MADE IN THE FUTURE.

MAFNAS URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO TRY TO REACH THE TAXPAYERS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND EDUCATE THEM IN THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TAXATION, AS WELL AS DISCUSSING WITH THEM THE IMPORTANCE OF TAXES AS THEY RELATE TO THE BENEFITS THE TAXPAYERS RECEIVE FROM THE TAXES THEY PAY. TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE, MAFNAS SAID MORE EDUCATION IS NEEDED NOT ONLY FOR THE TAX PAYERS BUT FOR THE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE REVENUE DIVISION, ADDING THAT HE IS ENDORSING A CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR THE STAFF MEMBERS, WITH BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL TYPES OF TRAINING.

MAFNAS CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT BOTH HE AND THE DISTRICT

REVENUE OFFICERS ARE VERY PLEASED WITH THE RECENTLY APPROVED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET TOTALLING \$255,800 FOR THEIR OPERATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1974 BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONFERENCE INCLUDE ANTONIO R. SABLAN, DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICER FOR THE MARIANAS DISTRICT; FERMIN M. ATALIG, DISTRICT TAX OFFICER, ROTA; KYOSHI TELLEY, DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICER, PALAU; AND ROBERT BEENGIN, YAP DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICER.

ALSO PARTICIPATING ARE: SEREMEA ARNOLD, DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICER FOR TRUK DISTRICT; LYNDON P. ABRAHAM, DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICER, PONAPE; ABINMELEK LANG, DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICER, MARSHALLS; AND JORLANG ISAAC, TAX REVENUE OFFICER OF EBEYE.

THE CONFERENCE IS DISCUSSING THE TT REVENUE DIVISION'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES; REVIEWING THE CURRENT BUDGET AND THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975; DISCUSSING MANPOWER PROJECTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975, '76 AND '77; PLANNING FOR STAFF TRAINING SCHEDULED FOR THE FALL OF THIS YEAR AND A SIMILAR TRAINING PROGRAM BEING PLANNED WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AT HONOLULU FOR APRIL OF NEXT YEAR.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION ARE: THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE TT INCOME TAX LAW, INCLUDING THE RECENT AMENDMENTS; THE PROPOSED AUDIT PROGRAM FOR THE TT; AND IMPORT AND EXPORT TAX LAWS AND REBATE PROCEDURES.

(DENTAL CONFERENCE A SUCCESS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 18 (MNS)---PERSONNEL OF THE TRUST TERRITORY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES HAVE RETURNED TO SAIPAN FROM YAP DISTRICT, WHERE THE SEVENTH ANNUAL TERRITORIAL DENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE WAS HELD LAST WEEK. BOTH DR. MASAO KUMANGAI, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, AND DR. JACK HELKENA, CHIEF OF THE DENTAL HEALTH DIVISION, HAVE TERMED THE MEETING A SUCCESS.

THE CONFERENCE DEALT WITH THE MATTERS OF PRE-NATAL AND MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH CARE IN THE DENTAL PROGRAM, ORAL SURGERY, HEALTH EDUCATION, AND A NUMBER OF RELATED TOPICS, AND FEATURED GUEST LECTURERS INCLUDING LT. T. L. CARLBERG, ORAL SURGEON FROM THE U.S. NAVAL HEALTH CLINIC ON GUAM AND SPECIAL CONSULTANT TO THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION DR. CHELLIE J. SUNDRAM.

SUMMARIZING THE FINDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE, HELKENA AND KUMANGAI SAID THAT IN MICRONESIA, DENTAL SERVICES NEED TO BE BUILT UP OR REORGANIZED, AND THAT MEANS MORE STAFF, WHICH IN TURN MEANS MORE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION. BECAUSE OF THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES THROUGH MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES IS PLACING TOP PRIORITY IN MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT. MORE TRAINING IS NOW OPEN FOR DENTAL HEALTH TRAINING THROUGH W.H.O., S.P.C. AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES.

"WE ARE FACED WITH DEMANDS TO PROVIDE DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE AS WELL AS TO SCHOOL CHILDREN," SAID DR. KUMANGAI. "IN THIS RESPECT, THE DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES SHOULD PUT MORE CONSIDERATION ON PROVIDING BETTER SERVICES TO CHILDREN IN MICRONESIA, ESPECIALLY TO THE SCHOOL AGE GROUP.

"IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER FORMING A MANPOWER COMMITTEE (DISTRICTS ESPECIALLY) TO STUDY MORE WAYS IN WHICH THE DENTISTS CAN BEST SELECT CANDIDATES (HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS) FOR DENTAL PROFESSIONS."

DR. HELKENA ADDED, "IT IS LIKEWISE A NEED FOR THE DISTRICT DENTAL OFFICERS TO SET UP PLANS TO CREATE A SYSTEM WHERE THEY CAN TAKE TIME TO VISIT THE SCHOOLS AND TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF DENTAL HEALTH AND THE NEEDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MANPOWER TO DO DENTAL WORK."

BOTH MEN PRAISED THE COOPERATIVE EFFORT OF THE YAP COMMUNITY AND THE YAP DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES IN MAKING THE CONFERENCE A SUCCESS. THE CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE FROM APRIL 8 TO 12.

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