

(AIRLINE HEARING CONCLUDES)

SAIPAN, APRIL 19 (MNS)---AFTER SIX WEEKS OF TESTIMONY AND A TRANSCRIPT THAT IS MORE THAN 4,000 PAGES LONG, THE RE-OPENED CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD (C.A.B.) HEARING INTO THE SAIPAN/JAPAN AIRLINE ROUTE CASE FINALLY ENDED ON SAIPAN FRIDAY (APRIL 19).

FINAL WITNESSES BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GREER MURPHY INCLUDED CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA AND HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY, AND CONGRESSMAN SASAUO HARUO OF TRUK. ALL WERE TESTIFYING ON PHASE TWO OF THE PROCEEDING, WHICH WAS DEVOTED TO AN ATTEMPT TO LEARN WHERE THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA STAND ON THE ROUTE CASE. PHASE TWO LASTED APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS, AND HAD BEEN PRECEDED BY FOUR WEEKS OF TESTIMONY IN PHASE ONE, AN INVESTIGATION BY THE CAB OF CHARGES THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AIRLINES MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN IMPROPER CONDUCT WHILE SEEKING SUPPORT IN MICRONESIA FOR THEIR PROPOSALS.

THE PRINCIPAL CONTENDERS FOR THE ROUTE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BECOME A LUCRATIVE REVENUE SOURCE WHEN SAIPAN'S NEWLY RENOVATED ISLEY FIELD OPENS NEXT YEAR, ARE PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS AND CONTINENTAL AIRLINES. NORTHWEST ORIENT AIRLINES HAS ALSO APPLIED FOR THE ROUTE, AND WAS REPRESENTED THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE HEARING, BUT HAS NOT ACTIVELY SOUGHT SUPPORT IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

THE CAB ORDERED THE RE-OPENED HEARINGS IN FEBRUARY, AFTER DECIDING THAT IT COULD NOT MAKE A DECISION ON THE ROUTE AWARD WITHOUT FURTHER INFORMATION. IT IS EXPECTED THAT IT WILL TAKE JUDGE MURPHY SEVERAL MONTHS TO PREPARE HIS REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THESE HEARINGS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FIVE-MEMBER BOARD.

JAPAN AIRLINES HAS ALREADY BEEN AUTHORIZED TO FLY THE SAIPA/JAPAN ROUTE, BUT HAS NOT YET BEGUN TO DO SO. THE CURRENT CAB PROCEEDING IS TO SELECT A RECIPROCAL U.S. FLAG CARRIER. THE ROUTE CASE ALSO INVOLVES ONE-STOP SERVICE TO GUAM VIA SAIPAN.

(FISHING VESSEL IN CUSTODY)

PALAU, APRIL 19 (MNS)---PALAU AUTHORITIES HAVE TAKEN CUSTODY OF A TAIWANESE FISHING VESSEL THAT WAS APPREHENDED A WEEK AGO AT UNPOPULATED HELEN REEF. A COURT ACTION IS EXPECTED TO BE FILED SHORTLY FOR FORFEITURE OF THE BOAT FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO TRUST TERRITORY WATERS AND UNLAWFUL REMOVAL OF MARINE RESOURCES FROM THE REEF.

THE CHINESE SHIP HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE "NOB TEI SHENG," OWNED BY WU KAO HEN OF KAOHSIUNG, TAIWAN, WHICH IS HER HOME PORT. TT OFFICIALS HAVE DETERMINED THAT THE VESSEL DID NOT HAVE PRIOR PERMISSION TO ENTER TERRITORIAL WATERS.

TWO U.S. NAVY GUNBOATS ON ROUTINE PATROL, THE USS GALLUP AND THE USS CANON, MADE THE ARREST OF THE SHIP AFTER OBSERVING TWO SMALL BOATS ON THE REEF, AND PHOTOGRAPHING THEIR OCCUPANTS TAKING TURTLES AND SHELLFISH FROM THE REEF AREA. THE LARGER SHIP WAS SERVING AS A "MOTHER SHIP" FOR THE SMALLER BOATS, AND WHILE IT WAS ANCHORED OUTSIDE THE TERRITORIAL WATER LIMITS, BOTH THE SHIP'S MASTER, LIM NING CHUAN, AND ITS FISHING MASTER, EN THU AP WERE PART OF THE PARTY OF FIFTEEN OBSERVED ON THE REEF. THE CAPTAIN HAS BEEN CRIMINALLY CHARGED WITH CAUSING THE UNLAWFUL ENTRY INTO TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE TWO SMALL BOATS, AND BOTH THE CAPTAIN AND FISHING MASTER WITH CAUSING UNLAWFUL REMOVAL OF MARINE RESOURCES.

THE 17-MAN CREW OF THE "NOB TEI SHENG" IS CONFINED TO THE SHIP IN MALAKAL HARBOR AT KOROR WHILE THE LEGAL DISPOSITION OF THE CASE PROCEEDS.

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(TRADITIONAL LEADERS' CONFERENCE CONTINUED)

PONAPE, APRIL 19 (MNS)---THE TUESDAY (APRIL 16) SESSION OF THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS' CONFERENCE IN PONAPE FEATURED A DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND THE CONCEPT OF FREE-ASSOCIATION STATUS FOR MICRONESIA. ACCORDING TO WSZD MANAGER HALVORSEN JOHNNY, THE REV. JOSEPH CAVANAUGH WAS INVITED BY THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS TO EXPLAIN THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE FREE-ASSOCIATION STATUS.

CAVANAUGH DISCUSSED THE UNITED NATIONS INTERPRETATION OF FREE-ASSOCIATION AS WELL AS EXPLAINING SOME OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT COMPACT CURRENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS.

IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION, THE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE DRAFTED A POSITION OF THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR SENTIMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OF UNITY FOR ALL MICRONESIA. THE COMMITTEE ALSO DRAFTED A LETTER OUTLINING VARIOUS PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW WHICH WAS RECENTLY SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER.

IN THE WEDNESDAY (APRIL 17) SESSION, THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS DISCUSSED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE VOTING AGE OF 18 FOR DELEGATES, BUT STATED THAT THEY PREFER AT LEAST 30 YEARS OF AGE FOR CANDIDATES.

NICK BOSSY, A TRADITIONAL LEADER FROM TRUK, NOTED THAT SUSUMI AIZAWA, WHO RETURNED TO TRUK AFTER ATTENDING SEVERAL DAYS OF THE CONFERENCE, "DID NOT BELIEVE THAT INDEPENDENCE WAS A VIABLE CHOICE AT THIS TIME FOR MICRONESIA." AIZAWA HAD SAID EARLIER THAT HIS TRAINING IN ECONOMICS, DURING THE JAPANESE ADMINISTRATION, LED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAD NOT YET REACHED THE STAGE NECESSARY FOR INDEPENDENCE.

ACCORDING TO BOSSY, AIZAWA STATED THAT AS A CHIEF, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS PEOPLE IN TRUK, HE COULD NOT FAVOR INDEPENDENCE NOW, ALTHOUGH HE THINKS THAT SHOULD BE THE ULTIMATE GOAL FOR MICRONESIA.

THE SESSION CONTINUED WITH SOME DISCUSSION ON THE INDEPENDENCE STATUS BY OARON NETT, YASUO YAMADA, WHO REPRESENTED MAYOR WELERIEHIGGINS OF KOLONIA TOWN. YAMADA BASED MOST OF HIS DISCUSSION ON MATERIALS PREPARED BY THE CATHOLIC MOBILE ACTION TEAM THAT HAD CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE HEARINGS IN PONAPE, DISCUSSING THE VARIOUS POLITIVAL ALTERNATIVES WITH THE PEOPLE.

YAMADA, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY ISKIA SONY OF TRUK, EXPLAINED THAT THE CATHOLIC MOBILE ACTION TEAM TOOK NO PARTICULAR STANCE IN THEIR EDUCATION PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, THIS CLARIFIED A "MISUNDERSTANDING" THAT THE TEAM FAVORS AN INDEPENDENCE STATUS FOR MICRONESIA.

THE TRADITIONAL LEADER'S CONFERENCE WAS EXPECTED TO CONCLUDE FRIDAY AFTER TWO WEEKS OF MEETINGS. TRADITIONAL LEADERS FROM TRUK, PONAPE AND YAP TOOK PART.

(TWO WHALEBOATS FOR YAP)

YAP, APRIL 19 (MNS)---TWO WHALEBOATS HAVE BEEN DONATED BY THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE BASED IN HAWAII FOR FISHING PROJECTS IN THE YAP DISTRICT, ACCORDING TO MIKE A. MCCOY, YAP DISTRICT FISHERIES OFFICER.

THE FIRST BOAT WAS DELIVERED TO YAP LAST MONTH BY THE COAST GUARD AFTER BEING BROUGHT TO GUAM BY THE NAVY FROM HAWAII AS PART OF THEIR "OPERATION HANDCLASP" PROJECT. THE BOAT WILL BE SENT TO ULITHI TO BE USED BY THE HIGH SCHOOL THERE IN THEIR FISHING CLASSES CONDUCTED BY PEDRO YAMALMAI. IN ADDITION, THE BOAT WILL ALSO BE USED TO SURVEY THE AREA FOR POSSIBLE CONCENTRATIONS OF BAITFISH. THE BOAT IS STILL IN YAP NOW AND WILL BE RIGGED AS A TUNA TROLLER AND FOR BOTTOM FISHING, ATTEMPTING TO FOLLOW SUCCESSES OF THE FISHING

DORIES IN PONAPE IN TROLLING FOR TUNA, ACCORDING TO MCCOY. AFTER TRIAL RUNS, IT WILL BE SENT TO ULITHI.

THE SECOND BOAT IS NOW ON SAIPAN AWAITING SHIPMENT TO YAP, WHERE IT WILL BE RIGGED IN A SIMILAR FASHION IF THE FIRST EFFORT PROVES TO BE SUCCESSFUL. IT WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT FISHING PROGRAMS IN THE DISTRICT CENTER.

BOTH BOATS WILL CONTAIN BUILT-IN ICE HOLDS AND ADEQUATE FUEL TO ALLOW THEM TO FISH FOR LONGER PERIODS THAN ARE PRESENTLY POSSIBLE. THE BOATS WILL ALSO HAVE SINGLE-SIDE BAND RADIOS AND DEVICES FOR MEASURING DEPTHS FOR DEEP BOTTOM FISHING.

ACCORDING TO MCCOY, THE TWO BOATS HAVE A VALUE TOTALLING SOME \$30,000. HE SAID "THE PEOPLE OF YAP ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES FOR DONATING THE BOATS, AND TO THE NAVY AND COAST GUARD FOR TRANSPORTING THE FIRST BOAT TO YAP FREE OF CHARGE."

(LICENSURE BOARD MEETING CONCLUDED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 19 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES DR. MASAO KUMANGAI SAID THIS WEEK THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TT LICENSURE BOARD HELD ON SAIPAN FROM APRIL 16TH TO THE 17TH HAS BEEN CONCLUDED.

DURING ITS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, THE BOARD ELECTED DR. JOSE VILLAGOMEZ, PRESIDENT; DR. MINORU UEKI, VICE-PRESIDENT; AND MRS. KEIKO SIGRAH, SECRETARY OF THE BOARD.

THE BOARD ALSO ESTABLISHED REVIEW STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION OF MEDICAL OFFICERS, NURSES, STAFF PHYSICIANS AND OTHER HEALTH PERSONNEL IN THE TT. IN A FUTURE MEETING THE BOARD WILL REVIEW LICENSES OF PRIVATE DOCTORS AND NURSES WHO ARE PRACTICING IN THE TT.

ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT, DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS THE BOARD WILL UNDERTAKE ITS FIRST ASSIGNMENT BY REVIEWING LICENSES FOR THREE DENTAL OFFICERS AND ONE MEDICAL OFFICER WHO ARE PRESENTLY DOING THEIR INTERNSHIP IN VARIOUS HOSPITALS IN THE TT. LICENSES WILL BE ISSUED TO THE FOUR CANDIDATES IF THEY PASS THEIR TT LICENSURE BOARD EXAMINATION. IN ADDITION, THE BOARD WILL REVIEW AND RENEW LICENSES FOR HEALTH PRACTITIONERS IN THE TT ON A FOUR YEAR BASIS.

DR. KUMANGAI ALSO SAID THAT A PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON ROTA APRIL 22 THROUGH THE 26TH. HE HAS ASSIGNED DR. FRANCISCO T. PALACIOS, CHIEF OF THE COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIVISION, TO COORDINATE THE CONFERENCE.

ACCORDING TO DR. PALACIOS, THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE ARE: IDENTIFYING PROBLEMS IN COMMUNICABLE AND CHRONIC DISEASES IN MICRONESIA; AND FORMULATING SOLUTIONS TO DELIVERY OF SERVICES TO MICRONESIAN COMMUNITIES.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE SIX DISTRICTS AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS FROM ROTA, KUSAIE AND THE HEADQUARTERS HEALTH SERVICES WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE.

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: THE FOLLOWING STORY WAS RELEASED BY THE AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION SERVICE IN CANBERRA, AND IS INCLUDED HERE BECAUSE OF THE GREAT INTEREST IN MICRONESIA IN THE PROGRESS OF ITS SISTER TRUST TERRITORY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, TOWARD INDEPENDENCE.)

(NEW GUINEA INDEPENDENCE IN '74)

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA---THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED ITS SUPPORT OF THE DECISION OF MICHAEL SOMARE, CHIEF MINISTER OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA, IN SETTING DECEMBER 1, 1974 AS THE DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR HIS COUNTRY.

"I CAN ASSURE THIS HOUSE AND THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL DEVOTE ITSELF TO ENSURING THAT THE FINAL STEPS TOWARD INDEPENDENCE WILL BE ACHIEVED SMOOTHLY AND IN A

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SPIRIT OF GOODWILL," SAID BILL MORRISON, ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN MATTERS RELATING TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA IN AN ADDRESS TO THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT RECENTLY.

EXPLAINING THAT PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS ALREADY VIRTUALLY INDEPENDENT, MORRISON SAID STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ENABLE PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO ASSUME AN INTERNATIONAL IDENTITY. IT HAS PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES; IT HAS BECOME A MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; IT HAS TAKEN PART IN THE NEGOTIATION OF BORDER AGREEMENTS WITH INDONESIA. ON THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL IT HAS APPOINTED A MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS SUPPORTED BY A DEPARTMENT, MORRISON STATED.

"THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN IMPRESSIVE. THE INCREASING RECOGNITION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S INTERNATIONAL STATUS IS INDICATED BY THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN CONSULATES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED IN PORT MORESBY," HE SAID.

REFERRING TO DEFENSE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS, MORRISON SAID IT HAS BEEN THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO DEVOLVE STEADILY INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE EXPERIENCE WHICH PAPUA NEW GUINEA HAS GAINED IN THE EXERCISE OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES WILL STAND THE COUNTRY IN GOOD STEAD IN THE YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE," HE SAID.

"AUSTRALIA ALSO ENDORSES MR. SOMARE'S STATEMENT THAT PAPUA NEW GUINEA HAS ALL THE PREREQUISITES OF AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY AND HAS THE MANPOWER AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO CONTINUE ITS DEVELOPMENT. THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT BY GOODWILL AND APPLICATION THESE CAN BE OVERCOME.

"AUSTRALIA IS BACKING PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S POTENTIAL BY GIVING POSITIVE MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO UNDERPIN PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND TO ASSIST IN THE EARLY YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE.

"THE PRIME MINISTER HAS INFORMED THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT THAT ON THE BASIS OF PRESENT INDICATIONS, A UNITED PAPUA NEW GUINEA COULD PROCEED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT AUSTRALIA WILL PROVIDE A TOTAL OF AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS AUSTRALIAN (NEARLY 750 MILLION U.S.) FOR ITS EXPENDITURE ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER OVER THE THREE YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING IN 1974-1975. THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITMENT IS TO UNDERPIN THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA GOVERNMENT'S NEW IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND TO ASSIST PAPUA NEW GUINEA IN THE EARLY YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE. AS A GOVERNMENT WE ACCEPT THIS RESPONSIBILITY," MORRISON SAID.