

(KILI DELEGATION RETURNS)

MAJURO, APRIL 25 (MNS)---A DELEGATION FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE ISLAND OF KILI, WHERE THE DISPLACED PEOPLE OF BIKINI HAVE RESIDED FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS, HAS RETURNED FROM WASHINGTON WHERE THEY PRESENTED A PETITION TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR AN "EX-GRATIA" PAYMENT OF THREE MILLION DOLLARS TO THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI. 1974

REP. ATAJI BALOS, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE DELEGATION, CALLED THE MISSION "MOST PRODUCTIVE" AND INDICATED THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT COMMITMENTS MADE BY WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WILL BE HONORED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. 11

STANLEY S. CARPENTER, DIRECTOR OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, INDICATED IN A LETTER TO THE CONGRESSMAN AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF THE PETITION THAT HIS OFFICE BELIEVES THE MATTER DESERVES FULL AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION. HE FURTHER WROTE:

"WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN ON OUR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTAL LEVELS TO INSURE THAT THERE WILL BE PROMPT AND CAREFUL ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE PROBLEM." CARPENTER PROMISED THAT AN OFFICIAL ANSWER WILL BE FORTHCOMING WITHIN NINETY DAYS.

REAR ADMIRAL T. J. BIGLEY, WHOSE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE THE EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION, SAID IN A LETTER TO THE CONGRESSMAN THAT HIS OFFICE WILL GIVE FULL AND SYMPATHETIC SUPPORT TO THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUEST.

THE PETITION ITSELF, WRITTEN IN THE FORM OF A RESOLUTION OF THE BIKINI PEOPLE, POINTS OUT THAT THE BIKINIANS HAVE ENCOUNTERED EQUAL IF NOT MORE SEVERE HARDSHIP AS A RESULT OF THEIR DISPLACEMENT FROM THEIR HOMELAND AS THAT SUFFERED BY THE ENIWETOK PEOPLE. THEY NOTE IN THE SAME DOCUMENT THAT THE PEOPLE OF ENIWETOK, PRESENTLY LIVING IN UJELANG, HAD RECEIVED ONE MILLION TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN 1970 FROM THE DEPT. OF DEFENSE IN RECOGNITION OF THE SUFFERING THEY HAD ENDURED. BASED ON THAT AMOUNT, AND CALCULATING THE DIFFERENCES IN POPULATION, LOST INTEREST, AND INFLATION, THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI FEEL THAT A PAYMENT OF THREE MILLION DOLLARS IS JUSTIFIED, THE PETITION STATES.

CONGRESSMAN BALOS TOLD MNS THURSDAY (APRIL 24) HE WAS OVERWHELMED BY THE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT AND COOPERATION GIVEN HIM AND THE DELEGATION FROM KILI WHILE IN WASHINGTON. "MANY SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN IN THE UNITED STATES WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO INSURE THAT OUR DELEGATION GOT TO MEET WITH THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE BIKINI PEOPLE" HE SAID. "WE KNOW THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO COUNT ON THEIR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO OUR REQUEST FOR THIS PAYMENT TO THE BIKINIANS."

REP. BALOS ALSO EXPRESSED ON BEHALF OF THE KILI DELEGATION SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, THE NITIJELA, WHICH EARLY IN ITS 12ST SESSION THIS YEAR HAD APPROPRIATED 7,500 DOLLARS TO COVER THE EXPENSES OF THE DELEGATION.

THE DELEGATION, CONSISTING OF KILI MAGISTRATE LORE KESSIBUKI, COUNCILMAN NATHAN NOTE, AND MOSES LEWAJ, WAS TO LEAVE MAJURO THURSDAY AFTERNOON FOR KILI WHERE THEY WILL REPORT ON THEIR TRIP AND MAKE A FINAL DETERMINATION AS TO THE DATE OF THEIR REPATRIATION TO BIKINI, WHICH WAS EARLIER SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MONTH.

MARSHALLS DISTAD OSCAR DEBRUM AND CONGRESSMAN BALOS PLAN TO JOIN THE DELEGATION FOR THIS TRIP TO KILI.
(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(RONGELAP/UTIRIK SURVEY COMPLETED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 25 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE ANNUAL MEDICAL SURVEY FOR RONGELAP AND UTIRIK IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WAS COMPLETED DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF THIS MONTH WITH DISCOVERY OF ADDITIONAL CASES OF THYROID ABNORMALITIES.

THE EXAMINATIONS WERE CONDUCTED BY THE BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY, AN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION-SPONSORED MEDICAL TEAM HEADQUARTERED IN LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK. 04276

THE TEAM FOUND FOUR PEOPLE ON RONGELAP WITH THYROID PROBLEMS, TWO WERE EXPOSED THE OTHER TWO UNEXPOSED TO RADIATION FALLOUT. THE FIFTH PATIENT, WHO IS UNEXPOSED IS FROM EBEYE. THE FIVE PATIENTS WERE BROUGHT TO KWAJALEIN WHERE THEY WERE TO BE FLOWN TO MAJURO HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT. NONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTIRIK WAS ABLE TO MAKE THE 1974 SURVEY DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS. HOWEVER, A CONGRESS STAFF MEMBER, JOHN S. DEL ROSARIO, JR. WAS SENT TO ACCOMPANY THE TEAM THROUGHOUT THE TRIP.

ON RONGELAP, THE PEOPLE REFUSED TO BE EXAMINED UNLESS DR. ROBERT CONARD, HEAD OF THE BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY (BNL) GROUP AGREED TO GIVE THEM FOOD. THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED DURING A VILLAGE MEETING WHERE THE PEOPLE TOLD DR. CONARD THAT GATHERING FOOD IS A TASK WHICH IS INTERRUPTED BY THE EXAMS. THEY SAID IF THEY HAVE TO BE EXAMINED, THE BNL MUST PROVIDE ENOUGH FOOD FOR A WHOLE DAY.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED IMMEDIATELY TO UNLOAD FOOD WHICH WAS GIVEN TO THE CHIEF MAGISTRATES TO DIVIDE EQUALLY AMONGST THE LOCAL PEOPLE. IT CONSISTED OF RICE, FLOUR, SUGAR AND SOME MEAT BROUGHT BY THE BNL GROUP IN ADDITION TO SOME GIFT FOOD FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES LIVING ON EBEYE. THE PEOPLE FINALLY SUBMITTED TO THE EXAMINATIONS AFTER THIS WAS DONE.

ON BOTH RONGELAP AND UTIRIK, THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN OUT OF FOOD SUCH AS FLOUR, SUGAR AND RICE FOR MONTHS. THE CHIEF MAGISTRATES STATED THAT THE FIELD TRIP SHIPS WHICH VISIT THEIR ISLANDS HAVE NOT BROUGHT FOOD SINCE LAST DECEMBER. FOOD WAS ALSO GIVEN TO THE UTIRIKESE BY THE BNL TEAM BECAUSE OF THE SEVERE SHORTAGE.

DURING THE LAST VILLAGE MEETING ON RONGELAP DURING THIS EXAMINATION, THE PEOPLE ASKED DR. CONARD IF THE COCONUT CRABS ON THE SOUTHERNMOST ISLAND OF RONGELAP ATOLL ARE SAFE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. CONARD SAID THAT THEY ARE. THE CHIEF MAGISTRATES SENT THREE RONGELAPESE TO BRING SOME 200-POUNDS OF CRABS WHICH WERE COOKED AND GIVEN TO DR. CONARD AND THE BNL CREW. THE PEOPLE CAME TO JOIN THE BNL GROUP ONLY AFTER THEY SAW THAT EVERYONE IN THE TEAM WAS EATING COCONUT CRAB. THEY WERE INSTRUCTED, HOWEVER, NOT TO TAKE COCONUT CRABS FROM THE NORTHERNMOST ISLAND UNTIL IT IS DETERMINED THAT THEY ARE SAFE TO EAT.

THE BNL MEDICAL TEAM ALSO CONDUCTED SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS FOR DIABETICS. THIS WAS CARRIED OUT TO ASSIST THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES IN COLLECTING INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF DIABETICS IN THAT DISTRICT. THE EXAMINATIONS SHOWED THAT AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF THOSE EXAMINED ARE SUFFERING FROM DIABETIS. WHICH WAS CALLED A RATHER "UNUSUAL" SITUATION BY ONE OF THE BNL DOCTORS SINCE IT IS HIGHER, PERCENTAGE-WISE, THAN WHAT IS GENERALLY FOUND IN THE UNITED STATES. A BNL DOCTOR REMARKED THAT THEY ARE DOING STUDIES IN THIS AREA TO ATTRACT TOP EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD SO THEY CAN COME OUT AND STUDY THE CAUSE OF THIS "UNUSUAL" INCIDENCE OF DIABETIS.

AT THE LAST VILLAGE MEETING, THE PEOPLE ASKED SOME QUESTIONS WHICH WERE PREPARED BY THE RONGELAP SURVIVORS ORGANIZATION PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE MEDICAL TEAM. ESSENTIALLY, THE QUESTIONS ASKED WERE: WOULD THE MEDICINE YOU GIVE US AFTER THE EXAMINATIONS CURE OUR SICKNESS? HOW LONG WOULD THE BNL CONTINUE ITS EXAMINATIONS? ARE THERE BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF EXPOSED PEOPLE IN CASE THEIR PARENTS DIE, ETC?

SOME OF THE RESPONSES TO THESE QUESTIONS BY DR. CONARD WERE NOT READILY ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE. A NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE APPARENTLY GROWN SUSPICIOUS OF THE WORK OF THE BNL BUT ONLY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERNS IN PRIVATE TO NON-BNL OBSERVERS

AND MICRONESIANS WHO ACCOMPANIED THIS YEAR'S MEDICAL SURVEY TO THE TWO ISLANDS.

THE EXAMINATIONS TOOK APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS. THE SURVEY STARTED ON MAJURO ON THURSDAY, MARCH 22 AND ENDED ON BIKINI DURING THE MIDDLE PART OF APRIL.

(MANPOWER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING)

SAIPAN, APRIL 25 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY MANPOWER ADVISORY COUNCIL IS MEETING NEXT WEEK ON SAIPAN TO DISCUSS MANPOWER NEEDS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TT EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SAID THURSDAY (APR. 25). THE MEETING STARTS ON THE 29TH AND RUNS THROUGH MAY 3RD.

A TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING INCLUDES DISCUSSION OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RECENT MEMORANDUM RELATING TO MANPOWER; A COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PLAN; REPORTS ON THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET, AND ALSO THE STATUS OF TT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE GRANTS AND LOANS TO STUDENTS.

THE BOARD IS CHAIRED BY WILHELM R. RENGIL, AND OTHER OFFICERS INCLUDE: ALONZO IGISONAR, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND FATHER RICHARD BECKER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. OTHER MEMBERS ARE: RAYMOND ULOCHONG; ELIZABETH UDUI, HILARY TACHELIOL; WILLIAM ALLEN; SOCHIKI STEPHEN; MISSAUO PETRUS, JOSE SEMAN; AND REPRESENTATIVE JOHN HEINE FROM THE MARSHALLS. (NEW EDITOR NAMED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 25 (MNS)---THE PUBLISHER OF THE SAIPAN WEEKLY NEWSPAPER "I GASETA," VICTOR M.C. PANGELINAN, HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF OSCAR C. RASA AS EDITOR OF THE PUBLICATION. PREVIOUSLY, PANGELINAN HAS CARRIED BOTH THE PUBLISHER AND EDITOR TITLES.

RASA, 27, IS A GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM, WHERE HE RECEIVED BOTH HIS BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S DEGREES. HE ALSO STUDIED FOR A TIME AT WASHINGTON, D.C.'S AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN A DOCTORAL CANDIDATE PROGRAM. RASA SERVED AS A SUBSTITUTE EDITOR OF "I GASETA" FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH EARLIER THIS YEAR WHILE PANGELINAN WAS ON VACATION.

RASA OFFICIALLY TOOK OVER THE PAPER ON MONDAY (APRIL 22), PANGELINAN SAID, AND THE EDITION TO BE PUBLISHED FRIDAY WILL BE HIS FIRST.

PANGELINAN ALSO REVEALED THURSDAY THAT HE HAS RECEIVED AN OFFER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE KOREAN-AMERICAN HERALD COMPANY, WHICH HAS ITS HEAD OFFICE IN LOS ANGELES, TO MERGE "I GASETA" WITH THE KOREAN PAPER. HE INDICATED HE HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE OFFER.

"I GASETA" IS ONE OF TWO WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED ON SAIPAN. THE OTHER IS THE "MARIANAS VARIETY."