

(IROIJ OPPOSE CON CON)

MAJURO, APRIL 30 (MNS)---THE ENTIRE TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, THE IROIJ, HAVE ISSUED A JOINT PROCLAMATION DECLARING THEIR SUPPORT OF NITIJELA RESOLUTION NUMBER 5, WHICH CALLS FOR A BOYCOTT BY THE MARSHALLS OF THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. 11
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THE PROCLAMATION WAS ADOPTED BY THE IROIJ DURING AN ALL-DAY MEETING IN MAJURO FRIDAY, APRIL 26, ACCORDING TO MARSHALLS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS TONY DEBRUM. THE DOCUMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN WIDELY DISSEMINATED THROUGHOUT THE MARSHALLS, AND WAS READ FROM THE PULPITS OF SEVERAL CHURCHES ON SUNDAY.

TRANSLATED FROM MARSHALLESE, THE PROCLAMATION READS:

"TO ALL OUR PEOPLE IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS:

"YOU MAY HAVE HEARD OVER THE RADIO THE NITIJELA RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE CONVENTION CALLED TO DRAFT A CONSTITUTION FOR MICRONESIA. WE NOW NOTIFY YOU THAT WE FULLY SUPPORT THE NITIJELA IN ITS DETERMINATION THAT NOT ONE OF US IN OUR ISLANDS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN SAIPAN. THIS HAS BEEN CLEARLY SPECIFIED IN NITIJELA RESOLUTION NUMBER 56, WHICH RESOLUTION IS A REINFORCEMENT OF NITIJELA RESOLUTION NUMBER 18 AND IS ALSO IN SUPPORT OF NITIJELA BILL NUMBER 9, WHICH HAS BECOME LAW, ESTABLISHING THE MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION.

"THIS COMMISSION WILL BE VISITING WITH YOU FROM HERE ON IN, TO SOLICIT YOUR VIEWS ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS."

THE PROCLAMATION WAS SIGNED BY THE FOLLOWING IROIJ:

KABUA KABUA, JOBA KABUA, LEJELAN KABUA, NAMO HERMIOS, MENASSE BENJAMIN, MO JITIAM, CHIYAYA LANGIEOR, BWILLEJ JIBAS, MAITOL WATAK, ALBERT LOEAK, AND IROIJ KOREAN. THE ONLY TRADITIONAL LEADER IN THE MARSHALLS WHO DID NOT SIGN, LEROK LEBAN, WAS NOT IN MAJUPO AT THE TIME THE PROCLAMATION WAS ADOPTED, BUT HE WAS A SUPPORTER OF THE NITIJELA ACTIONS AND IT WAS UNDERSTOOD HE WOULD HAVE SIGNED THE PROCLAMATION HAD HE BEEN AVAILABLE.

DEBRUM REPORTED TO MNS TUESDAY THAT SO FAR NO ONE IN THE MARSHALLS HAS FILED HIS NOMINATING PAPERS FOR THE DELEGATE ELECTION TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 4. PAPERS FOR ONE CANDIDATE HAD BEEN FILED BUT WERE LATER WITHDRAWN WITHOUT EXPLANATION. THE DEADLINE FOR CANDIDATES TO FILE IS MAY 14.

(ONE MORE BILL VETOED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 30 (MNS)---ACTING DEPUT HIGH COMMISSIONER DWIGHT HEINE ACTED LATE MONDAY AFTERNOON (APRIL 29) TO DISAPPROVE A BILL TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE DISPOSING OF ABANDONED WATERCRAFT, (HB 197). THE MEASURE IS THE SEVENTH BILL TO BE VETOED OUT OF THE 46 THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PASSED IN ITS LAST REGULAR SESSION ON SAIPAN. FIVE MORE BILLS ARE STILL AWAITING ACTION.

THE BILL PROVIDED THAT ABANDONED WATERCRAFT IN CHANNELS WHICH MAY OBSTRUCT NAVIGATION MAY BE REMOVED UNDER A VERY SIMPLE PROCEDURE BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION 30 DAYS AFTER ABANDONMENT. A LENGTHY PROCEDURE WAS ALSO PROVIDED FOR THE REMOVAL OF WATERCRAFT WHICH DO NOT OBSTRUCT NAVIGATION. THE BILL WOULD ALSO HAVE PROVIDED THAT THE APPROPRIATE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OR DISTRICT LEGISLATURE MUST INITIATE THE ACTION TO REMOVE A VESSEL BY RESOLUTION AND THEREAFTER THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WOULD SEE TO THE REMOVAL. PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF ABANDONED CRAFT WERE TO GO TO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. 08-132

IN A VETO MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, HEINE SAID ON BEHALF OF THE HICOM: "WE CONSIDER THE PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THIS ACT AS VERY CUMBERSOME, DUPLICATIVE, INCONSISTENT AND UNESSENTIAL. THE LAW CONCERNING ABANDONED PROPERTY IS WELL-DEFINED AND ADEQUATE TO COVER MOST PROBLEMS RELATING TO SUCH PROPERTY. IF A STATUTORY EXPRESSION OF SUCH LAW IS DESIRABLE, WE SUGGEST NEW LEGISLATION TO BE PROPOSED."

SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS N. NEIMAN CRALEY JR., POINTED OUT TUESDAY THAT ALTHOUGH SB 276, WHICH WAS VETOED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER MONDAY (APRIL 29) WOULD HAVE EXTENDED THE SALARY ACT UNDER WHICH THE SALARIES OF TT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ARE PRESENTLY PAID, THE VETO ACTION DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THE SALARY ACT WILL END ON JUNE 30TH. THIS QUESTION HAS STILL NOT BEEN RESOLVED.

CRALEY SAID THAT ANOTHER BILL, SB 298 WHICH WAS SIGNED AS PUBLIC LAW 5-81 ON APRIL 12, INCLUDES A PROVISION EXTENDING THE SALARY ACT UNTIL JUNE 30TH 1975. IN OTHER WORDS, TWO OF THE BILLS OFFICIALLY TRANSMITTED TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WOULD HAVE EXTENDED THE SALARY ACT. ALTHOUGH ONE OF THESE WAS VETOED, THE OTHER WAS SIGNED.

CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA OFFICIALS MAINTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT SENATE BILL 298 AS TRANSMITTED TO THE HICOM, AND SIGNED INTO LAW ON APRIL 12, WAS NOT THE VERSION OF THE BILL WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE CONGRESS. ATTORNEY MICHAEL A. WHITE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S OFFICE SAID TUESDAY THAT IT IS THE POSITION OF THE CONGRESS THAT SENATE BILL 298 HAS NOT BECOME LAW, BECAUSE THE CONGRESS DID NOT PASS THE BILL IN THE FORM IN WHICH IT REACHED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

A MEETING IS TO BE HELD THURSDAY MORNING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S OFFICE OF THE CONGRESS AND THE TT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM.

(LIB BOAT RECOVERED)

SAIPAN, APRIL 30 (MNS)---THE MISSING BOAT FROM LIB ISLAND IN THE MARSHALLS THAT WAS THE OBJECT OF AN AERIAL SEARCH LAST WEEK HAS BEEN LOCATED, ITS NINE OCCUPANTS IN GOOD CONDITION.

THE BOAT WAS SPOTTED FROM THE AIR LATE FRIDAY EVENING (URIL 26), ACCORDING TO LT. CMDR. ALAN PENDLETON, MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER ON SAIPAN. THE BOAT WAS LACATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE KWAJALEIN REEF. IT HAD LEFT LIB MONDAY FOR EREYE, A TRIP THAT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE TAKEN THE 22-FOOT OUTBOARD BOAT ONLY ABOUT SIX HOURS. SERACH EFFORTS WERE BEGUN THURSDAY.

PENDLETON SAID THE DELAY IN LEARNING OF THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO THE SEARCH ON SAIPAN WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE SEARCH WAS COORDINATED BY KWAJALEIN AND HAWAII MILITARY AUTHORITIES, RATHER THAN FROM GUAM AS IS USUALLY THE CASE WITH SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY. IT WAS NOT UNTIL TUESDAY MORNING THAT OFFICIALS ON SAIPAN LEARNED THE BOAT HAD BEEN FOUND.

(BOATING SAFETY TIPS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 30 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER ON SAIPAN, LT. CDR. ALAN R. PENDLETON, HAS ASKED ALL DISTRICTS TO COOPERATE IN INITIATING BOATING SAFETY PROGRAMS IN LIGHT OF RECENT INCIDENTS.

PENDLETON SAID THAT AIR SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS BY THE MILITARY ARE TIME-CONSUMING AND COSTLY, CITING LAST MONTH'S FOUR INCIDENTS AT SEA WHICH COST THE NAVY \$60,000 AND MORE THAN NINETY HOURS OF AIRCRAFT FLIGHT TIME. HE ADDED THAT MOST OF THESE BOATING INCIDENTS WOULD NEVER HAVE OCCURED

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IF THE MOST LOGICAL AND SIMPLE RULES OF BOATING SAFETY HAD BEEN OBSERVED.

PENDLETON ISSUED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION PROVIDED TO ASSIST EACH DISTRICT AND MINIMIZE ANY CONFUSION DURING A SEARCH AND RESCUE OR MEDICAL EVACUATION MISSION: A) FOLLOW UP ANY PHONE CALL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WITH A MESSAGE CONTAINING AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE. (FOR A LOST BOAT) TIME OF DEPARTURE; DESTINATION; NUMBER OF PEOPLE ABOARD; FULL DESCRIPTION OF BOAT; SAFETY EQUIPMENT ABOARD IF ANY; AND FOOD AND WATER ABOARD IF ANY. IN CASE OF A MISSING BOAT, PENDLETON SAID AERIAL SEARCH HAS GREATER CHANCE OF LOCATION DURING THE FIRST TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PERIOD AND DECREASES RAPIDLY THEREAFTER AS THE OCEAN SEARCH AREA INCREASES. HE ALSO SAID COORDINATION OF SEARCHES SHOULD BE LIMITED TO AS FEW PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE OR REQUIRED. THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF ASSISTING MILITARY UNITS REMAINS WITH RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER ON GUAM, HE SAID.

PENDLETON STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT EACH DISTRICT INITIATE A CONTINUOUS WATER SAFETY PROGRAM, WIDELY DISSEMINATE, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE PREVENTION AND SELF-HELP IN CASES OF INCIDENTS AT SEA. MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH MANY SOURCES TO ASSIST IN SUCH PROGRAMS. "YOUR COOPERATION IS HIGHLY ANTICIPATED AND APPRECIATED," THE NAVAL LIAISON OFFICER TOLD THE DISTADS.

(PREPARATION FOR CON CON ELECTION)

SAIPAN, APRIL 25 (MNS)---ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WILL BE HELD JUNE 4TH, AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELECTION, REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES IS WELL UNDERWAY, ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRIK YOMA.

PERSONS WISHING TO VOTE IN THE JUNE ELECTION MUST REGISTER BEFORE MAY 5TH, YOMA SAID, AND ASPIRING CANDIDATES MUST FILE THEIR APPLICATIONS WITH 25 SIGNATURES OF VOTERS. HE INDICATED THAT FULL-TIME STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD MAY REGISTER BY MAIL AND ADDED THAT REQUESTS FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR NO LATER THAN MAY 25TH. HOWEVER, TT STUDENTS WITHIN THE TT SHOULD REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOTS NO LATER THAN MAY 30 TH AND SHOULD ALSO REGISTER BEFORE MAY 5TH. ALL ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, WHO IS THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER, NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M. ON JUNE 3RD.

ALL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELECTION OF THE DELEGATES TO ALL MICRONESIAN CITIZENS, BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE TT. MICRONESIAN CITIZENS WHO ARE PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF ANY OTHER COUNTRIES AND ARE LIVING OUTSIDE THE TT ARE NOT ELEGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE JUNE ELECTION, ACCORDING TO YOMA.