

(CONGRESS ASKS FOR SPECIAL SESSION)

SAIPAN, MAY 16 (UPI)---THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS OFFICIALLY ASKED TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSON TO CALL A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS THIS SUMMER ON SAIPAN. SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS N. NEIHAN CRALEY, JR., TOLD WNS THURSDAY (MAY 16) THAT THE REQUEST IS PRESENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE HICOM.

IN A LETTER DATED MAY 15, THE LEADERSHIP ASKED THAT A SPECIAL SESSION BE CALLED FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 15 CALENDAR DAYS, BEGINNING TUESDAY, JULY 23, WITH THE SESSION TO BE HELD ON SAIPAN. UNDER SECRETARIAL ORDER 2918, ONLY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IS EMPOWERED TO CALL A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS "...FOR SUCH PERIOD OF TIME AND AT SUCH TIME AND PLACE, AS IN HIS OPINION THE PUBLIC INTEREST MAY REQUIRE. NO LEGISLATION SHALL BE CONSIDERED AT ANY SPECIAL SESSION OTHER THAN THAT SPECIFIED IN THE CALL THEREFOR OR IN ANY SPECIAL MESSAGE BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE CONGRESS WHILE THE SUCH SESSION."

THE LEADERSHIP REQUESTED THAT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OR AREAS OF LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATION BE INCLUDED IN THE CALL: THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS; REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA; CONVENTION LAW; CONGRESS REVENUES AND PENDING APPROPRIATION BILLS; LEGISLATION CONCERNING FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS; AND "ANY ADDITIONAL ITEMS WHICH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER MAY CHOOSE."

THE LAST TIME THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MET IN SPECIAL SESSION WAS IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, 1972 IN PONAPE DISTRICT. DURING THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1974 REGULAR SESSION ON SAIPAN IT WAS WIDELY ASSUMED THAT A SPECIAL SESSION WOULD BE HELD THIS YEAR, AND IN FACT CONSIDERATION OF SEVERAL ITEMS OF LEGISLATION WAS POSTPONED IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH A SESSION.

THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP MET THIS WEEK ON SAIPAN TO TAKE UP THE SPECIAL SESSION REQUEST AND OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE CONGRESS (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(LEADERSHIP CONCLUDED MEETING)

SAIPAN, MAY 16 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONCLUDED A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE ON SAIPAN WEDNESDAY WITH THE PRIMARY ITEM OF DISCUSSION THE POSSIBILITY OF CALLING A SPECIAL SESSION THIS SUMMER.

ACCORDING TO LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL KALED UDUI, OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED INCLUDED STAFFING NEEDS FOR THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE OF THE UPCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, CONGRESS STAFFING, BRIEFINGS ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING LAW OF THE SEA, THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB), THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP), AND THE PROPOSED THREE-YEAR TRUST TERRITORY BUDGET PLAN.

THOSE ATTENDING THE LEADERSHIP MEETING INCLUDED: SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA OF TRUK, SENATE VICE-PRESIDENT LAZARUS SALII OF PALAU, SENATE FLOOR LEADER ANBILOS IEHSI OF PONAPE, SENATORS WILFRED KENDALL OF THE MARSHALLS AND PETRUS TUN OF YAP, AND SENATE CLERK SABO ULECHONG. FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WERE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY OF PONAPE, VICE-SPEAKER ENDY DOIS OF TRUK, FLOOR LEADER EKPAP SILK OF THE MARSHALLS, HOUSE CLERK ASTERIO TAKESEY, AND REPRESENTATIVES RAYLOND SETIK OF TRUK AND TARKONG PEDRO OF PALAU. CONGRESS STAFF INCLUDED UDUI, STAFF ATTORNEY MICHAEL WHITE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICER ANDY UHERBELAU AND CONGRESS INFORMATION SPECIALIST BRIAN FARLEY. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION INVITED TO ATTEND WERE NEIHAN CRALEY, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, NORM SMITH REPRESENTING THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, AND DR. MASAO KUMASAKI, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(NEW U.S. POSITION ON TINIAN)

SAIPAN, MAY 16 (MNS)---THE NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION MOVED THROUGH THEIR SECOND DAY ON SAIPAN THURSDAY (MAY QYLN WITH A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED THAT INDICATES A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN AMERICAN LAND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISLANDS OF TINIAN.

THE RELEASE SAID AMBASSADOR HAYDN WILLIAMS PRESENTED TO THE MARIANAS COMMISSION THURSDAY MORNING AN "AMENDED" LAND USE PLAN, ONE WHICH WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE "A FURTHER REDUCTION IN THE ACREAGE ON TINIAN REQUIRED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR MILITARY PURPOSE."

THE RELEASE CONTINUED: "THE NEW AMERICAN PROPOSAL, IN ADDITION TO REQUIRING LESS LAND, ALSO TOOK INTO FULL CONSIDERATION SAFETY NEEDS AND OPERATIONAL AND ENGINEERING FACTORS. THE PLAN ELIMINATES THE NECESSITY FOR RELOCATING THE VILLAGE OF SAN JOSE, AND THIS WILL KEEP THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND (THE AREA SOUTH OF THE PROJECTED EXTENSION OF WEST FIELD AND EAST OF THE HARBOR AREA) OPEN FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY PURPOSES AND FOR OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT)

"THE NEW UNITED STATES PLAN RESULTS FROM AN INTENSIVE RESTUDY BASED TECHNICAL SURVEYS CARRIED OUT OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, WHICH HAVE MADE POSSIBLE A GREATER DEGREE OF PRECISION IN DRAWING UP THE PLAN, AND REFLECTS IN PART VIEWS EXPRESSED EARLIER BY THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION," THE RELEASE STATED.

"THE NEED TO RELOCATE SAN JOSE VILLAGE UNDER THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS BASED ON SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN UNLOADING AMMUNITION AT THE HARBOR. THIS ENTAILED THE DESIGNATION OF A SAFETY ARC OF TWO MILES RADIUS WHICH INCLUDED THE VILLAGE.

"NEW STUDIES AND SURVEYS HAVE SHOWN THAT IT IS FEASIBLE TO CONSTRUCT A SEPARATE FACILITY FOR AMMUNITION HANDLING IN THE NORTHER PART OF THE ISLAND AWAY FROM POPULATED AREAS," CONCLUDED THE PRESS RELEASE.

(COPRA PRICE AT HIGHEST LEVEL)

SAIPAN, MAY 16 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD HAS RAISED THE OFFICIAL PRICE FOR COPRA IN THE TT TO ITS HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 1950. THE INCREASE WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE HIGH PRICE FOR COPRA CURRENTLY BEING PAID ON WORLD MARKETS, ACCORDING TO BOARD CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT ESUBIO RECHUCHER.

FOLLOWING A TWO-DAY MEETING ON SAIPAN, THE BOARD ANNOUNCED THURSDAY (MAY 16) THAT THE PRICE FOR ALL GRADES OF COPRA WILL GO UP BY \$70 PER TON EFFECTIVE MAY 26. THE NEW PRICES ARE: FOR COPRA DELIVERED TO THE DISTRICT CENTERS, \$252.50 PER TON FOR GRADE ONE, \$242.50 FOR GRADE TWO, AND \$232.50 FOR GRADE THREE, AND FOR COPRA PICKED UP IN THE OUTER ISLANDS, \$240.00 FOR GRADE ONE, \$230.00 FOR GRADE TWO, AND \$220.00 FOR GRADE THREE.

RECHUCHER SAID THAT THE PRESENT COPRA STABILIZATION FUND STANDS AT \$388,000, AND TWO RECENTLY SOLD SHIPMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BRING AN ADDITIONAL PROFIT OF \$700,000 RAISING THE FUND TO ONE AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS. ALL TRUST TERRITORY COPRA PRODUCERS ARE PAID THROUGH THE FUNDS, WHICH ASSURES THEM A RELATIVELY STEADY INCOME FOR THEIR WORK DEPENDING ON WORLD MARKET CONDITIONS.

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING INCLUDED THE COPRA MARKET'S CONTRACT WITH THE UNITED MICRONESIAN

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DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (UMDA) AND THE COPRA WAREHOUSE PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICTS. THE MARSHALL ISLANDS BROUGHT TO THE BOARD A PROPOSAL TO BE SEPARATED FROM THE UMDA CONTRACT, AS THEY NOW WISH TO MARKET THEIR OWN COPRA. THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT IS THE TERRITORY'S LARGEST COPRA PRODUCER.

THE WAREHOUSE PROJECTS HAVE RUN INTO LAND PROBLEMS IN SOME DISTRICTS, RECHUCHER SAD, ALTHOUGH THE PONAPE WAREHOUSE IS ALMOST COMPLETE. HE INDICATED THAT BOTH OF THESE MATTERS WILL BE EXPLORED FURTHER AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD IN JULY.

(NO CANDIDATES IN TWO MARSHALLS DISTRICTS)

SAIPAN, MAY 16 (MNS)---TWO OF THE NINE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATE DISTRICTS IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WERE WITHOUT CANDIDATES THURSDAY (MAY 16), FOLLOWING THE DEADLINE FOR FILING OF NOMINATION PAPERS ON EBeye, THE LAST AREA TO REPORT. EBeye OBSERVES KWAJALEIN TIME, AND THEREFORE CANDIDATES ON THAT HEAVILY POPULATED ISLANDS HAD AN EXTRA DAY IN WHICH TO FILE.

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION COMPILED BY THE HEADQUARTERS LEGISLATIVE LIAISON DIVISION, THREE CANDIDATES DID FILE THEIR PAPERS ON EBeye, BUT TWO FILED FOR THE SEAT FROM DELEGATE DISTRICT TWO WHICH ALREADY HAD A CANDIDATE, LEAVING TWO DISTRICT WITHOUT OFFICIAL CANDIDATES. MARSHALL ISLANDS POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NITIJELA, THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, HAVE URGED THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALLS NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONVENTION.

FILING TO RUN AS A CANDIDATE FROM DISTRICT SEVEN (KWAJALEIN, UJAE, LAE AND LIB) WAS TIPNE PHILIPPO, THE ONLY CANDIDATE RUNNING IN THAT DISTRICT. JOINING HENRY MOSES AS CANDIDATES FOR THE SEAT FROM DISTRICT TWO (ARNO AND MILI) ARE IROIJ LEIT KORINT AND LANGUE KALES. LEFT WITHOUT CANDIDATES ARE DISTRICT SIX (AILINGLAPALAP, JOBNOT AND NANO) AND DISTRICT NINE (MEJIT AND LIKIEP). THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES RUNNING IN THE MARSHALLS IS TEN, THE THE LOWEST OF ANY DISTRICT.

THE TERRITORY'S LARGEST DISTRICT, TRUK, SUBMITTED ITS LIST CANDIDATES TO THE LEGISLATIVE LIAISON DIVISION THURSDAY. TWELVE DELEGATES WILL BE ELECTED FROM TRUK. RUNNING FOR THOSE SEATS ARE: DISTRICT ONE (MOEN, WITH TWO DELEGATES TO BE ELECTED), FRANK NIFON, MIASHIRO ALBERT, SOKICHI STEPHEN, REPRESENTATIVE SASAUO HARUO, NANOYE SELIFES, DR. NGAS KONSOU AND FUJITA PETER; DISTRICT TWO (DURLOND), SOKICHI FRITZ AND SINCHI KASWICH; DISTRICT THREE (UMAD), NORI OHEITAN, CHIRO ALBERT, SOITER METI AND TARUNA SOUY, DISTRICT FOUR (PAREM, TISI AND FEFAN), MAKETO ROBERT AND ENIS NEOLIG; DISTRICT FIVE (TOL, POLLE, WONEI AND PATA), MENCHOR MOSES, CHUTOMU NIMWES, KASIO MIDA AND HANS WILIANDER; DISTRICT SIX (UDOT, FELA-BEQUETS, EOT AND RONALUM), TATASY MAINIT; DISTRICT SEVEN (ALL MUNICIPALITIES IN THE MORTLOCK ISLANDS, ELECTING THREE DELEGATES), FERMIN LIKICHE, TATASY CHIPEN, GIDEON HENGIO, HERMAN SIALES, DARO MALONE, WAINES SIMIJA, NISHINA SIRON, KATARO ELTARD, NAOSY PITIOL, MANUEL SOUND, ISKIA SOUY AND KACHO EKO, AND DISTRICT EIGHT (HALL ISLANDS, NAMONUITO ATOLL AND THE WESTERN ISLANDS), SENATOR TOSIWO MAKAYAMA AND LAMBERT AFIN.

THE ELECTION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES WILL TAKE PLACE ON TUESDAY, JUNE 4 IN ALL SIX DISTRICTS. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE SAID THURSDAY THAT THEIR INITIAL JUDGEMENT CONCERNING WRITE-IN VOTES IS THAT THEY WILL BE PERMITTED, AND THAT IN THE CASE OF THE TWO DISTRICTS IN THE MARSHALLS WHERE NO CANDIDATES HAVE FILED THE PERSON RECEIVING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF WRITE-IN VOTES WOULD BE ELECTED. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IN CASES WHERE A CANDIDATE IS

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RUNNING UNOPPOSED HE STILL MUST RECEIVE AT LEAST ONE VOTE IN ORDER TO BE ELECTED.

A TOTAL OF 129 CANDIDATES ARE SEEKING THE 42 DELEGATES SEATS IN THE CONVENTION.

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE CARRIED A LIST OF CANDIDATES FROM PALAU, YAP, PONAPE, THE MARIANAS AND A PORTION OF THE MARSHALLS IN THE WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 DISPATCH. THE TWO STORIES MAY BE COMBINED TO FORM A SINGLE STORY COVERING ALL CANDIDATES. THESE LISTS ARE UNOFFICIAL, BUT WERE OBTAINED FROM DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN EACH OF THE DISTRICTS. EVERY EFFORTS HAS BEEN MADE TO ASSURE CORRECT SPELLING OF NAMES, BUT WE APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE FOR ANY ERRORS WHICH YOU MAY FIND).

(MANGAFEL'S STATEMENT)

YAP, MAY 16 (KNS)---YAP'S SENATOR JOHN MANGAFEL HAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED ADMINISTRATION FOR NOT TAKING ACTION ON THE SODIUM ARSENITE LEAKAGE WHICH SPILLED INTO THE LAGOON NEAR THE DISTRICT CENTER AND IS THREATENING MARINE LIFE.

IN A STATEMENT FROM COLONIAN, THE SENATOR SAID THAT A RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT WARNING THE PEOPLE OF NGULOG, YINGUG, BALABAT, AND WARWOOD VILLAGES NOT TO EAT ANY MARINE LIFE TAKEN FROM THAT AREA OF THE LAGOON MENTIONED NOTHING OF WHAT IS BEING DONE TO CONTROL THE POISONOUS COMPOUND IN THE AREA.

"IT IS VERY WELL TO TELL THE PEOPLE NOT TO DO ANYTHING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE," MANGAFEL STATED. "I FEEL HOWEVER, IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO TELL THE PUBLIC WHAT IS BEING DONE. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SIMPLY TELL THEM NOT TO EAT ANY MARINE LIFE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE PUBLIC HAS THE RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS DOING ABOUT THIS POSSIBLY CHAOTIC SITUATION."

THE FRESHMAN SENATOR POINTED OUT THAT THE MATTER IS "VERY SERIOUS" AND MUST NOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY FOR IT AFFECTS THE PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD. "WE MAY BE TALKING ABOUT A MATTER OF 'LIFE AND DEATH' HERE UNLESS A PLAN TO CONTROL THE SITUATION IS IMMEDIATELY INSTITUED," THE SENATOR ADDED.

MANGAFEL FURTHER SAID THAT YAP DISTRICT IS JUST STARTING TO DEVELOP ITS MARINE RESOURCES PROGRAMS, AND THE ARSENITE SPILL IS A "GREAT AND DANGEROUS BLOW" TO BE PROGRAMS. HE URGED THE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE SOME DRASTIC ACTION TO CONTROL THE SITUATION. "IT MAY BE A MATTER OF 'LIFE AND DEATH' FOR THE PEOPLE IN THIS DISTRICT IF NOTHING IS DONE NOW," MANGAFEL WARNED.

BERMIN WEILBACHER, CHIEF OF THE AGRICULTURE DIVISION, SAID ON SAIPAN THURSDAY THAT THE AGRICULTURE DIVISION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES ARE INVOLVED IN MONITORING THE SAFETY OF THE SPILL. CONTACTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGARDING WAYS AND MEANS TO DISPOSE OF THE REMAINING ARSENITE.

HE POINTED OUT THAT CHIEF CONSERVATIONIST ROBERT P. OWEN WAS IN YAP THREE DAYS AFTER THE SPILL WAS REPORTED. HE ADDED THAT HEALTH SERVICES IS AWAITING WORD FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN THE UNITED STATES AS TO THE LATEST MEANS OF DISPOSING OF SODIUM ARSENITE.