

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(R&D INVESTIGATION COMPLETE)

SAIPAN, MAY 31 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT (JCR&D), CHAIRED BY REPRESENTATIVE SASAUO HARUO OF TRUK, IS CURRENTLY ON SAIPAN WRAPPING UP ITS MONTH-LONG INVESTIGATIVE WORK ON FISHERIES AND FISHING COOPERATIVES IN THE EASTERN, AND WESTERN DISTRICTS.

DURING THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THE COMMITTEE VISITED SOME OF THE OUTER ISLANDS AND DISTRICT CENTERS OF THE MARSHALLS, PONAPE, TRUK, YAP AND PALAU, MEETING THE OFFICIALS OF THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES AND FISHING COOPERATIVES. THE COMMITTEE, AS SPECIFIED BY HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 135, WAS ASKED TO INVESTIGATE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED MICRONESIA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (UMDA).

CONGRESSMAN HARUO OBSERVED THAT THE OUTER ISLANDS HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED AND VERY LITTLE SUPPORT GIVEN TO THEM IN TERMS OF PROGRAMS FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT MOST PROGRAMS, WHICH HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED IN THE DISTRICT CENTERS, MUST BE REDIRECTED SO THAT THE OUTER ISLANDS SHARE THE SAME BENEFITS.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ALSO RELATED SOME OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS HIS COMMITTEE FOUND DURING ITS FACT FINDING TRIP THROUGH THE DISTRICTS RELATING TO FISHERIES. HE SAID THE COMMITTEE DISCOVERED THE EXISTENCE OF POOR COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS BETWEEN THE DISTRICT CENTERS AND THE OUTER ISLANDS, SO THAT FISHERMEN COULD NOT RELY ON FIELD-TRIP SHIPS TO PICK UP THEIR CATCH WHILE THE FISH ARE STILL FRESH. HE SAID THE OTHER PROBLEM IS THE NON-EXISTENCE OF REEFER FACILITIES FOR FISHERMEN IN THE OUTER ISLANDS TO STORE THEIR CATCH WHILE THE FIELD-TRIP SHIP COMES TO THEIR ISLANDS.

THE COMMITTEE, ACCORDING TO HARUO, WILL ENCOURAGE FISHING AUTHORITIES AND FISHING CO-OPS TO OBTAIN REEFER BOATS WHICH WOULD BE USED TO TRANSPORT FISH FROM THE OUTER ISLANDS TO THE DISTRICT CENTERS WHERE THEY COULD BE STORED IN ADEQUATE REEFER FACILITIES. HE INDICATED THAT THE COMMITTEE IS ALSO CONSIDERING POSSIBLE LEGISLATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMBARKING ON AN EXTENSION SERVICE TRAINING IN FISHERIES FOR MICRONESIA'S FISHERMEN. HE SAID THE TRAINING WOULD INVOLVE BRINGING FISHERIES EXPERTS TO MICRONESIA WHO WOULD WORK ALONG WITH MICRONESIANS IN THE PROCESSING OF FISH, AND IN OTHER ASPECTS OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPRESENTATIVE HARUO CONTINUED THAT AT THIS STAGE, IT IS ALSO EVIDENT THROUGH THE COMMITTEE'S VISITS TO THE ISLANDS THAT THERE IS ALSO A GREAT NEED TO TRAIN MICRONESIANS IN MANAGEMENT--MANAGING AND OPERATING FISHING COOPERATIVES. HE MENTIONED THAT IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT WHEREVER THE COMMITTEE WENT DURING ITS RECENT TRIP, LOCAL PEOPLE EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN DEVELOPING AND IMPROVING FISHING COOPERATIVES.

THE COMMITTEE IS NOW FINALIZING ITS REPORT ON FISHERIES AND ITS FINDINGS CONCERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF UMDA AS MANDATED BY HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 135 FOR SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.

THE COMMITTEE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY COM FISHERIES CONSULTANT CLINT ATKINSON, WHO ALSO ACCOMPANIED THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES TWO YEARS AGO TO THE EASTERN ASIAN COUNTRIES, A TRIP WHICH RESULTED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES.

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(COPRA PROFITS SOAR)

SAIPAN, MAY 31 (MNS)---THE MARKET VALUE OF TRUST TERRITORY COPRA IS EXPECTED TO REACH OVER \$4,000,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 1974, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED FROM THE AGRICULTURE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT.

LAST YEAR'S COPRA CROP WAS VALUED AT \$946,755.27 FOR 8,462 SHORT TONS. THE COPRA CROP WILL REACH APPROXIMATELY 12,000 SHORT TONS FOR FISCAL 1974.

THE TRUST TERRITORY COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD, MEETING ON SAIPAN LAST MONTH, VOTED TO INCREASE THE PRICE PAID TO PRODUCERS FOR COPRA, THE NEW PRICES FOR COPRA DELIVERED TO DISTRICT CENTERS ARE \$252.50 FOR GRADE ONE, \$242.50 FOR GRADE TWO, AND \$232.50 FOR GRADE THREE. THE PRICES PAID FOR COPRA PICKED UP AT OUTER ISLAND LOCATIONS ARE \$240, \$230, AND \$220 RESPECTIVELY. THESE REPRESENT THE HIGHEST PAID FOR COPRA SINCE 1950.

EUSEBIO RECHUCHER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND DIRECTOR OF THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, SAID THAT THE NEW PRICES WERE MADE POSSIBLE BY THE CONTINUING HIGH PRICES PAID FOR COPRA ON WORLD MARKETS.

THE COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD WILL MEET AGAIN IN JULY TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE MARSHALL ISLANDS. THE MARSHALLS, THE TT'S LARGEST COPRA PRODUCER, WANTS TO BE SEPARATED FROM THE BOARD'S MARKETING CONTRACT WITH THE UNITED MICRONESIA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION.

(TIME OFF TO VOTE)

SAIPAN, MAY 31 (MNS)---A MEMORANDUM REMINDING TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OF THE CON CON ELECTION WAS ISSUED BY DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN THIS WEEK. COPIES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ALL DIRECTORS, IMMEDIATE STAFF OFFICERS AND THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION.

COLEMAN SAID PUBLIC LAW 5-60 CALLS FOR AN ELECTION ON JUNE 4, 1974, OF DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, ADDING, "WE CALL YOUR ATTENTION...TO THE OFFICIAL POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE RELEASE OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE TT CITIZENS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS ON THIS DAY."

THE DEPUTY HICOM REQUESTED THAT ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS INFORM THEIR SUPERVISORS OF THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS POLICY SO THAT EMPLOYEES UNDER THEIR SUPERVISION ARE EXCUSED IN ORDER TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS.

COLEMAN'S INSTRUCTIONS SAID: "IN RELEASING EMPLOYEES TO VOTE, DEPARTMENT, DIVISION OR ACTIVITY HEADS SHOULD TRY TO SCHEDULE THE RELEASE OF THE EMPLOYEES FOR THIS PURPOSE IN SUCH A MANNER SO AS TO ENABLE EMPLOYEES TO VOTE AND AT THE SAME TIME INSURE THAT ESSENTIAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES ARE NOT INTERRUPTED AND THEY ARE ADEQUATELY MANNED."

THE CON CON ELECTION IS SEEN AS A SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN MICRONESIA HISTORY WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY WILL EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE CANDIDATES WHO WILL DRAFT A CONSTITUTION FOR THEIR INTERNAL GOVERNMENT. IT WAS REPORTED THAT SOME 130 ASPIRING MICRONESIANS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE HAD FILED THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR CANDIDACY TO RUN FOR THE ELECTED DELEGATE SEATS.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SAID THIS WEEK THAT ALL DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY SETTING UP THE MACHINERY FOR THE ELECTION, AND SPECIAL FIELD TRIP VESSELS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE VARIOUS OUTER ISLANDS IN MICRONESIA WITH PERSONNEL TO HELP CONDUCT THE ELECTION. ACCORDING TO THE ELECTION LAW IN THE TT CODE, POLLS WILL OPEN AT SEVEN A.M. LOCAL TIME JUNE 4TH, AND WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL SEVEN IN THE EVENING.

08805

(TASK FORCE REVIEWS FEEDING PROGRAM)

SAIPAN, MAY 31 (MNS)---A TWO-DAY MEETING OF SPEICAL TASK FORCE COMMITTEE TO STUDY WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPROVING THE "SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM" IN THE TRUST TERRITORY WAS CONCLUDED ON SAIPAN THIS WEEK, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FROM THE TT HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT.

THE SPECIAL TASK FORCE CONSISTED OF JOSHUA KOSHIBA, ERMES SIALES, OLTER PAUL, BILLY SAWAJ AND STANLEY TORRES.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE TASK FORCE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF PROCURING A VARIETY OF FOOD COMMODITIES FOR THE FEEDING PROGRAM, AS WELL AS RECOMMENDING THE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES OF THE PROGRAM BE STRENGTHENED. IN ADDITION, THE TASK FORCE SAID REQUESTS FOR U.S.D.A. FOOD ITEMS SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED EQUITABLY.

THE TASK FORCE ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT A PARTICULAR DEPARTMENT OF THE TT GOVERNMENT BE OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE PROGRAM, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE PRESENT CONFUSION AS TO WHO ACTUALLY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM'S OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

"AT THE MOMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SAID IT DOES NOT HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PROGRAM...WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, THE COMMITTEE POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS NON-COMMITMENT ATTITUDE AMONG SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE 'INEFFICIENT' IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM," THE TASK FORCE NOTED.

THE TASK FORCE URGED THAT FURHTER CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ITS FINDINGS, SO THE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM COULD BE IMPROVED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE SCHOOL CHILDREN IN MICRONESIA.

(NINE COMPLETE ENGLISH COURSE)

SAIPAN, MAY 31 (MNS)---NINE PEOPLE FROM THE MARIANAS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARMTNET AND ONE FROM HEADQUARTERS BROADCAST DIVISION COMPLETED A BASIC COURSE IN ENGLISH THIS WEEK, AND THEY WERE AWARDED CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION BY PEDRO HARRIS, CHIEF OF THE TRAINING DIVISION.

IN A SPECIAL CEREMONY HELD AT THE TRAINING DIVISION FRIDAY (MAY 31), CERTIFICATES WERE PRESENTED TO THE FOLLOWING: FRANCISCO C. PALACIOS, PROBIO M. CABRERA, ANA C. ADA, LEONARD L.G. CANACHO, EDWARD B. FLORES, ANTONIO R. CAMACHO, AND JESUS D. MUNA. ALSO GRADUATED WAS JUAN B. CAMACHO, WHO WAS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE GRADUATION CEREMONIES, AND MRS. ANGIE SABLAN FROM THE HEADQUARTERS BROADCAST DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRAINING DIVISION, EACH STUDENT IN THE CLASS PUT IN SOME 450 HOURS IN CLASSROOM WORK---FIVE HOURS A WEEK FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS. THE SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT MANY OF THE STUDENTS WER SCHOOLED IN JAPANESE BUT LACK A SOLID BACKGROUND IN ENGLISH; BUT DESPITE THAT FACT, HOWEVER, THEY SHOWED UNUSUAL PROGRESS IN THE COURSE, HE STATED.

ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, THE PROGRAM WAS FUNDED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER GRANTS MADE AVAILAble TO THE TT THROUGH THE U.S. LABOR DEPARTMENT, WITH SUPPORT ALSO PROVIDED BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT.

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: THE FOURTH ROUND OF MARIANAS STATUS TALKS WILL CONCLUDE SOMETIME FRIDAY. MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE WILL HAVE A SECOND DISPATCH FOR MAY 31 CARRYING THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE THAT IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE TALKS.)