

(MARIANAS ARE STRATEGIC NEED)

SAIPAN, JUNE 3 (MNS)---THE MARIANA ISLANDS ARE DESTINED TO BECOME THE FOCAL POINT OF AMERICA'S MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC DURING THE NEXT 15 YEARS, MEMBERS OF THE SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WERE MONDAY (JUNE 3).

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THE SPEAKER WAS JAMES H. WEBB, A FORMER U.S. MARINE AND THE AUTHOR OF SEVERAL ARTICLES, AND A FORTHCOMING BOOK, ABOUT AMERICAN MILITARY STRATEGY IN THE PACIFIC. CURRENTLY A TEMPORARY CONSULTANT TO THE GUAM TERRITORIAL PLANNING COMMISSION, WEBB SPOKE RECENTLY TO AN ECONOMIC CONFERENCE ON GUAM. HE WAS ASKED TO SPEAK ON THE SAME SUBJECT TO THE SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BY MEMBERS WHO HEARD THE GUAM SPEECH. ||

"I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT U.S. FORCES WILL BE CONSOLIDATED IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS--BASICALLY IN THE GUAM-TINIAN AXIS," WEBB TOLD THE LOCAL BUSINESSMEN. "GIVEN THE FACT THAT IT IS BOTH DESIRABLE AND NECESSARY THAT WE ALTER THE STRUCTURE OF OUR ASIAN PRESENCE, COUPLED WITH THE FACT THAT IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE U.S. TO REMAIN A PACIFIC POWER, THE MOST LOGICAL STRATEGIC OPTION IS TO CONSOLIDATE OUR FORCES INTO AN INNERIOR POSITION."

GUAM AND THE MARIANAS, HE ADDED, WOULD MAKE AN IDEAL INTERIOR POSITION. THE ISLANDS ARE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE ASIAN COMMITMENT POINTS SUCH AS CHINA, KOREA AND MALAYSIAN PENINSULA. IN ADDITION, THERE IS NOWHERE ELSE FOR THE U.S. TO GO BEYOND THE MARIANAS EXCEPT TO HAWAII, AND, SAID WEBB, "...IF THE U.S. IS FORCED TO WITHDRAW ALL THE WAY BACK TO HAWAII IT WOULD CEASE TO BE A VIABLE PACIFIC POWER."

WEBB SAID THE AMERICAN MILITARY INTEREST IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IS NOT A STRATEGIC, BUT A FUNCTIONAL ONE, AND THE INTEREST BEING EXPRESSED IN PALAU IS ONE THAT WOULD ONLY BECOME A REALITY IN THE EVENT OF A MILITARY COMMITMENT. IN THAT EVENT, PALAU WOULD PROBABLY BE USED AS SOME SORT OF STAGING AREA.

WEBB EMPHASIZED DURING HIS REMARKS THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ONLY FOR HIMSELF, AND THAT HIS VIEWS WERE NOT AN EXPRESSION OF OFFICAL U.S. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT POLICY.

HE SAID HIS PRIMARY CONCERN IS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS MAY NOT BE FULLY AWARE OF WHAT IS BEING NEGOTIATED IN THE CURRENT STATUS TALKS.

"WHAT IS IMPORTANT," HE STATED, "IS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS UNDERSTAND TWO THINGS BEFORE THEY EXERCISE THEIR VOTE IN A PLEBISCITE: FIRST, THAT IT IS QUITE CONCEIVABLE THAT IN FUTURE YEARS THERE WILL BE A LARGER MILITARY PRESENCE THAN WHAT IS NOW BEING PLANNED FOR; AND SECONDLY, THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND WHY: THAT SUCH AN INCREASED MILITARY POPULATION WILL BE THE BACKBONE OF OUR FUTURE PACIFIC PRESENCE, AND AS SUCH, THE ABSOLUTE KEY TO THE STABILITY OF THE AREA."

WEBB SAID HE PERSONALLY BELIEVES IN THE NECESSITY AND THE VALIDITY OF THE U.S. MILITARY PLANS FOR TINIAN AND THE REST OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS. BUT HE SAID HE ALSO GETS THE FEELING THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH MILITARY PRESENCE HAVE NOT BEEN OUTLINED IN DETAIL TO THE PEOPLE.

HE ATTEMPTED TO DO THIS BY POINTING OUT THE CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN RECENT YEARS IN U.S. POLICY IN THE PACIFIC AND ASIA. A REDUCTION OF 40 PER CENT HAS OCCURRED IN U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH IN THE AREA SINCE 1969, WITHOUT INCLUDING VIETNAM, AND THIS REDUCTION IS CONTINUING. HE POINTED OUT IT IS LIKELY THAT, UNDER THE NIXON, OR GUAM DOCTRINE, THE U.S. WILL PROBABLY WITHDRAW COMPLETELY FROM SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN, THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES IN THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, AND SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE HER PRESENCE IN JAPAN. AS A FALLBACK POSITION, THE MARIANAS EITHER ARE, OR WILL SOON BE, AMERICAN

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SOIL. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE READILY DEFENSIBLE IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE, WEBB POINTED OUT, AND ARE CENTRALLY LOCATED.

WEBB SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THIS AMERICAN NEED FOR BASES IN THE MARIANAS, THE PEOPLE OF THESE ISLANDS SHOULD NOT THINK THAT ALL THEY ARE NEGOTIATING FOR IS THE PUBLICLY STATED 2,500-MAN FACILITY ON TINIAN. ALTHOUGH HE DECLINED TO NAME A FIGURE FOR THE RECORD, HE INDICATED HIS FEELING THAT THE NUMBER OF MEN EVENTUALLY STATIONED ON TINIAN WILL BE MUCH HIGHER THAN 2,500.

THE U.S. HAS EXPRESSED A NEED FOR JUST UNDER TWO-THIRDS OF TINIAN FOR A BASE, AS WELL AS LESSER NEEDS ON SAIPAN AND ELSEWHERE IN THE MARIANAS. TENTATIVE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE U.S. TO ACCOMMODATE THESE NEEDS AS PART OF AN AGREEMENT THAT THE MARIANAS DISTRICT WILL BECOME A COMMONWEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES. MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT FINAL AGREEMENT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

(CANOE SEARCH DISCONTINUED)

SAIPAN, JUNE 3 (MNS)---SEARCH EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DISCONTINUED FOR A 22-FOOT OUTRIGGER CANOE MISSING SINCE LAST WEEK IN YAP DISTRICT, ACCORDING TO A MILITARY SPOKESMAN ON SAIPAN.

LT. CMDR. ALAN PENDLETON SAID AIRCRAFT FROM THE SEA AND AIR RESCUE CENTER ON GUAM SEARCHED THROUGH THE WEEKEND, BUT FAILED TO TURN UP ANY TRACE OF THE CRAFT, WHICH LEFT IFALIK LAST MONDAY FOR THE NEIGHBORING ISLAND OF WOLEAI WITH FOUR MEN ON BOARD.

THE RED AND BLACK CANOE WITH A WHITE SAIL CARRIED NO SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT, AND AUTHORITIES IN YAP BELIEVE THERE WAS VERY LITTLE FOOD OR WATER ON BOARD EITHER. THE TRIP FROM IFALIK TO WOLEAI NORMALLY IS A BRIEF ONE AS THE ISLANDS ARE ONLY ABOUT 30 MILES APART. BOTH LIE IN THE EASTERN OUTER ISLANDS OF YAP SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES EAST OF THE DISTRICT CENTER.

RADIO CONTACT BETWEEN IFALIK AND WOLEAI LAST FRIDAY INDICATED THAT THE CANOE HAD VEERED OFF ITS COURSE, AND THE YAP DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR WAS INFORMED. UPON RECEIVING THE INFORMATION, LT. CMDR. PENDLETON NOTIFIED THE RESCUE CENTER ON GUAM, WHICH LAUNCHED AN AERIAL SEARCH THE SAME DAY. THE SEARCH WAS DISCONTINUED SUNDAY PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS, PENDLETON SAID.

THE FOUR MEN ABOARD THE CANOE WERE NOT IDENTIFIED.

(FISHERMEN RESCUED)

SAIPAN, JUNE 3 (MNS)---FIFTEEN JAPANESE FISHERMEN DRIFTING ABOARD LIFE RAFTS WERE RESCUED BY ANOTHER JAPANESE FISHING BOAT THIS WEEKEND, ACCORDING TO REPORTS IN GUAM'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

THE JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY REPORTED THAT THE NO. 28 GONEI MARU SANK 420 MILES SOUTHWEST OF PONAPE LAST FRIDAY (MAY 31). THE NO. 8 FUKU MARU, RETURNING TO JAPAN FROM NEW ZEALAND, RESCUED THE FISHERMEN SATURDAY MORNING.

THE REPORTS GAVE NO INDICATION OF THE REASONS FOR THE SINKING. NO LIVES WERE REPORTED LOST.

(DATA COLLECTION TRAINING)

SAIPAN, JUNE 3 (MNS)---AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ON PONAPE, WALTICK TANUEL, LEFT AT THE END OF MAY TO SPEND TWO WEEKS IN THE DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BASED IN HONOLULU, HAWAII FOR TRAINING IN METHODS OF WATER-RESOURCES DATA COLLECTION, ACCORDING TO F.T. HIDAKA, DISTRICT CHIEF OF WATER RESOURCES DIVISION IN HONOLULU, HAWAII.

PANUEL STARTED TO WORK IN WATER RESOURCES DATA COLLECTION

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IN 1970 WHEN THE PROGRAM WAS FIRST INITIATED IN PONAPE BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, AND DURING THIS TIME HE HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB IN THE COLLECTION OF WATER RESOURCES DATA, HIDAKA SAID, ADDING THAT THE TRAINING WILL INCREASE HIS TECHNICAL COMPETENCE AND ABILITY TO CARRY ON HIS DUTIES.

ACCORDING TO THE DISTRICT CHIEF OF THE WATER RESOURCES DIVISION IN HAWAII, PANJEL'S TRAINING ARRANGEMENT WAS APPROVED BY KOICHI WONG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TT HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

HIDAKA NOTED THAT A LONG-TERM PROGRAM OF COLLECTING WATER-RESOURCES DATA WAS STARTED IN 1968 BY THE WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE TT GOVERNMENT. "THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE WATER RESOURCES DATA WHICH CAN BE USED BY THE TT OFFICIALS TO MAKE PROPER DECISIONS FOR MEETING THE WATER-SUPPLY NEEDS THROUGHOUT THE TT," HIDAKA SAID.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE DATA COLLECTION IS THE OPERATION OF STREAMGAGING STATIONS WHICH CONTINUOUSLY RECORD THE FLOW OF MANY LARGE STREAMS IN THE TT, ACCORDING TO HIDAKA. HE WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT LOCAL MICRONESIANS IN ALL THE DISTRICTS EXCEPT FOR THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FIELD DATA COLLECTION WHICH INCLUDES THE MEASUREMENT OF STREAMFLOW, RAINFALL, AND WELL WATER LEVELS.

(TRUKESE STUDENT TOP SCHOLAR)

SAIPAN, JUNE 3 (MNS)---BERTINA MASAICHY, A 19 YEAR OLD TRUKESE STUDENT ON GUAM, WAS ONE OF FOUR GRADUATION SPEAKERS AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION SUNDAY (JUNE 2). ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN GUAM'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, SHE IS THE FIRST STUDENT FROM TRUK TO BE INCLUDED AMONG THE TOP FOUR SCHOLARS AT A GUAM SCHOOL.

MS. MASAICHY, WHO IS ALSO TAKING A COURSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM, SAID SHE WAS "SHOCKED" WHEN SHE HEARD THE NEWS. "I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT I COULD HAVE BEEN CHOSEN," SHE SAID. "I KNOW THERE ARE SOME WHO ARE SMARTER THAN I."

BERTINA IS STAYING ON GUAM WITH PROFESSOR AND MRS. PAUL KAY. KAY WAS AN ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION IN TRUK BEFORE HE BECAME A COUNSELOR AT THE UNIVERSITY.

LIKE PROFESSOR KAY, BERTINA WANTS TO BE A COUNSELOR "BACK HOME IN TRUK. "WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL IN TRUK," SHE SAID, "WE HAD ONLY ONE COUNSELOR AND WE REALLY NEEDED MORE. YOU HAVE TO BE A NATIVE TO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF THE TRUKESE," BERTINA ADDED.

SHE HAS APPLIED FOR A SCHOLARSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM. WHILE BERTINA HOPES TO COMPLETE HER FIRST TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE ON GUAM, SHE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP TO OKLAHOMA UNIVERSITY WHERE SHE WANTS TO COMPLETE HER STUDIES.