

(NOT E TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: THE FOLLOWING IS A SPECIAL MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE DISPATCH FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 8 COVERING EVENTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL.)

(COUNCIL HEARS QUESTIONS/PETITIONERS)

NEW YORK, JUNE 8 (MNS)---AFTER A DAY OF FURTHER QUESTIONING FROM DELEGATES TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, THE PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL OF PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS, AND STATEMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBERS THEMSELVES IN WHAT IS CALLED THE "GENERAL DEBATE" PHASE OF THE PROCEEDINGS, THE 1974 UNITED NATIONS HEARINGS FOR THE PACIFIC TRUST TERRITORY ARE NOW MOVING TO A CONCLUSION.

DURING THE FOURTH DAY OF HEARINGS THIS YEAR, ON THURSDAY (JUNE 6), SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE V.P. KOVELENKO CONTINUED THE QUESTIONING PERIOD. HE ASKED ABOUT PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE STATUS FOR THE TERRITORY, OFFERING THE OPINION THAT IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT THIRTY YEARS WAS A LONGER TIME THAN NECESSARY TO BRING ABOUT A RESOLUTION TO THE STATUS QUESTIONS.

KOVELENKO ALSO WISHED TO KNOW FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAD BEEN MENTIONED EARLIER THIS WEEK IN A STATEMENT FROM ONE OF THE CONGRESSMAN. "WHAT SPECIFIC KINDS OF ASSISTANCE", HE ASKED, "WAS THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE TO THE TRUST TERRITORY?"

CONGRESSMAN JOAB SIGRAH OF PONAPE RESPONDED THAT HE WISHED THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, AS IT HAS IN THE PAST, WOULD MAKE A STRONG RECOMMENDATION TO THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY REGARDING GREATER CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONTROL OVER THE BUDGET OF THE TERRITORY, AND FOR RESTRICTIONS ON THE POWER OF THE VETO OVER CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA LEGISLATION.

OTHER QUESTIONING, DURING WHAT WAS A RELATIVELY BRIEF QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH THE SOVIET DELEGATE HAD TO DO WITH MILITARY INTERESTS IN THE TERRITORY, THE QUESTION OF PUBLIC LAND, AND WHETHER OR NOT THE DISPARITIES BETWEEN MICRONESIAN AND EXPATRIATE SALARIES WERE BEING OVERCOME.

WHAT FOLLOWED DURING THE THURSDAY SESSION WAS CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS PETITIONS ADDRESSED TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL DURING THE PAST YEAR. THE PETITIONS INCLUDED RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DISTRICT LEGISLATURES IN THE TT, AND OTHER REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM BODIES SUCH AS THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHICH ARE ROUTINELY ADDRESSED TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE INFORMATION OF MEMBERS AND CONSIDERATION AT THESE ANNUAL HEARINGS.

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING ABOUT ONE OF THESE COMMUNICATIONS, UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE AMBASSADOR BARBARA WHITE INDICATED THAT THE U.S. IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY WHICH CAN BE GRANTED TO THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR MICRONESIA. SHE SAID THAT THIS STUDY IS TO BE COMPLETED SOON, AND THAT AS A RESULT OF THE STUDY IT COULD BE EXPECTED THAT SOME OF THESE SELF-GOVERNMENT MEASURES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED RIGHT AWAY, PERHAPS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

SHE DID ADD, HOWEVER, THAT MANY MATTERS RELATED TO THE QUESTION OF SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR MICRONESIA WOULD HAVE TO BE DEBATED AND DECIDED AT THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

ANOTHER OF THE COMMUNICATIONS CAME FROM THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS OF YAP, TRUK, AND PONAPE, WHO PARTICIPATED IN A CONFERENCE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANCE ASKED ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE

June 11  
1974  
11

68110

TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN THE COMING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, AND HE ASKED WHAT THE CHANCES ARE THAT SOME PROVISION MIGHT BE MADE IN A FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA FOR SOME OFFICIAL POSITION FOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS TO MICRONESIAN SOCIETY WAS POINTED OUT IN RESPONSE TO THIS, AND IT WAS NOTED THAT THE TRADITIONAL LEADERS WILL BE TAKING PART IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. IF THERE IS TO BE SOME ROLE IN THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA FOR THESE TRADITIONAL LEADERS, THAT WOULD BE A MATTER TO BE DECIDED BY DELEGATES TO THE COMING CONVENTION, IT WAS STATED.

AGAIN THIS YEAR MEMBERS FROM THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION CAME TO THE COUNCIL HEARINGS TO PRESENT STATEMENTS TO THE COUNCIL AS PETITIONERS.

THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL HAS BEEN ON RECORD IN THE PAST AS OPPOSING SEPARATION OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE TT. CONSEQUENTLY, THE MARIANAS GROUP HAS FELT IT NECESSARY TO COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL EACH YEAR FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS TO PRESENT ITS CASE.

THIS YEAR DANIE T. MUNA OF SAIPAN PRESENTED A MORE GENERAL STATEMENT REVIEWING FOR THE COUNCIL THE HISTORY OF THE MARIANAS DESIRE FOR SEPARATE STATUS AND THE REASONS FOR THESE DESIRES. JOSE R. CRUZ, FROM TINIAN IN THE MARIANAS, REVIEWED THE SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE THIRD AND FOURTH ROUNDS OF MARIANAS NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WERE HELD DURING THE YEAR. HE INDICATED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROGRESSING SATISFACTORIALLY AS FAR AS THE MARIANAS COMMISSION IS CONCERNED, AND SAID THAT IT IS HOPED AND EXPECTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE COMPLETED LATER THIS YEAR WITH A DRAFTS STATUS AGREEMENT DRAWN UP FOR PRESENTATION TO THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS IN A PLEBISCITE.

ANOTHER STATEMENT WAS PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL BY SUSAN COSTELLO, A FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER IN MICRONESIA, WHO SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS FRIENDS OF MICRONESIA. MISS COSTELLO EXPRESSED CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE TERRITORY. SHE SAID: "PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN MICRONESIA IS PREPARING FOR ITS FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, THE TRUST TERRITORY CANNOT AFFORD DELAY OR DIVERSION IN AN ALREADY LACKING POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM,"

SHE CONTINUED, "MICRONESIA LOOKS AT THE WORLD WITH TWO FACES; THE FACE OF TRADITION LOOKS BACK ON HISTORY AND CULTURE; THE FACE OF MODERNIZATION TURNS FORWARD TO A WRENCHING FUTURE. THIS POSITION IS ONE OF DELICATE BALANCE AND THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY MUST MOVE WITH UTMOST CONCERN AND CARE AND A CLEAR DETERMINATION TO LIVE UP TO THE SPIRIT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT."

AND SO BY THE END OF THE DAY ON THURSDAY, IN NEW YORK, THE U.S. AND TRUST TERRITORY DELEGATIONS HAD MADE THEIR PRESENTATIONS AND HAD SUBMITTED TO QUESTIONING ON THOSE STATEMENTS. THE PETITIONERS HAD BEEN HEARD AND COMMUNICATIONS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED.

BY FRIDAY, THEN, THE STATE HAD BEEN SET FOR WHAT IS CALLED GENERAL DEBATE. THAT IS WHEN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COUNCIL OFFER THEIR OWN STATEMENTS, THEIR OWN VIEWS ON WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN MICRONESIA BASED ON WHAT THEY HAVE HEARD IN THE PREVIOUS SEVERAL DAYS, AND THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ON WAYS THAT THINGS MIGHT BE DONE DIFFERENTLY OR BETTER IN THE FUTURE.

THROUGHOUT THOSE GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS ON FRIDAY

THERE WERE COMMON CONCERNS: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT, AND MOVEMENT TOWARDS SELF-GOVERNMENT, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE TRUST TERRITORY GOT GENERALLY FAVORABLE RATINGS FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROGRAMS FROM THE DELEGATES.

IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE FUTURE STATUS QUESTION THESE THOUGHTS WERE OFFERED: THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT HE HOPED THAT A FINAL DRAFT COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION COULD BE OFFERED TO THE COUNCIL FOR EXAMINATION AT NEXT YEARS HEARINGS, AND HE OFFERED SUPPORT TO REPRESENTATIVE SIGRAH'S CONCERN FOR ORDERLY, COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE SUPPORTS THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, STATING THAT WHILE FORMAL TALKS HAD NOT BEEN REQUESTED, THE U.S. HOPE FOR A UNIFIED MICRONESIA OF THE MARSHALLS AND THE CAROLINE WAS A WORTHY ONE.

THE FRENCH DELEGATE FURTHER HOPED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION COULD SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOP A PLAN FOR TRANSITION TO A NEW STATUS, THAT FURTHER AUTHORITY OVER THE BUDGET WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, THAT THE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM WOULD SHOW MEANINGFUL RESULTS, AND THAT THERE MIGHT BE A MORE THOROUGH ROLE FOR THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES IN A FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE.

MANY OF THESE SAME SENTIMENTS WERE VOICED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHO WELCOMED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, IN PARTICULAR, AND ALSO THE FORMATION OF THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT. HE SUPPORTED THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE QUESTION OF MARSHALL ISLANDS SEPARATE SENTIMENT, ALSO, AND SAID THAT ANY MOVE TO SEPARATE THE MARSHALLS FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY OR BEGIN SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARSHALLS WOULD BE VIEWED BY THE BRITISH DELEGATION WITH "DISTRESS" AND "CONCERN."

MOREOVER, HE SAID, WHILE THE REALITIES OF THE MARIANAS SEPARATION MUST BE RECOGNIZED. HE HOPED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION COULD BE COMPLETED AND OFFERED TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS PRIOR TO THE TIME OF A PLEBISCITE ON A MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH DECISION.

THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM AUSTRALIA SAID HE FELT THAT THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS HAD REACHED A VERY CRITICAL POINT, THAT IT SEEMED THAT AGREEMENTS ON PUBLIC LAND AND FINANCES WERE NEAR, AND HE QUESTIONED WHY IT SEEMED AS THOUGH 1981 HAD BEEN SET AS THE TARGET DATE FOR FULL INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR MICRONESIA IN VIEW OF WHAT APPEARED TO BE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS ON THE STATUS QUESTION IN THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS. HE ALSO CALLED FOR INCREASED EMPHASIS ON PLACING MICRONESIANS IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE GOVERNMENT, IN PREPARATION FOR THE MOVE TO SELF-GOVERNMENT. HE SAID, "IT IS BETTER FOR A MICRONESIAN TO DESIGN AND BUILD A DISPENSARY THAN TO WAIT FOR THE TIME WHEN HE CAN ADMINISTER THE DISPENSARY BUILT FOR HIM."

THE SOVIET DELEGATE ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARIANAS DISTRICT ON THE STATUS QUESTION ARE NOT LEGAL, AND THE BREAKING UP THE TRUST TERRITORY SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED. HE NOTED THE CONTINUING ASSURANCES BY THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY THAT THE MOVEMENT TOWARDS SELF-GOVERNMENT WAS CONTINUING SATISFACTORILY AND POINTED OUT THAT IT HAS BEEN TWENTY-FIVE TO THIRTY YEARS OR SO THAT THE TERRITORY HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES. YET DESPITE THIS LONG PERIOD, HE SAID, SELF-GOVERNMENT HAS NOT COME. THE SOVIET DELEGATE SAID, "THE SOVIET UNION WISHES TO SEE THE

PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, JUST LIKE THOSE OF OTHER COLONIAL TERRITORIES, EXERCISING THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OFFERED SEVERAL THOUGHTS ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRITORY. HE WAS JOINED BY HIS COLLEAGUES FROM AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE IN URGING THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 1973 UN VISITV MISSION BE CARRIED OUT, AND THAT A THOROUGH REVIEW OF MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY BE UNDERTAKEN, POSSIBLY, AS SUGGESTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE, BY AN APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY.

AMONG OTHER CONCERNS IN THE ECONOMIC REALM EXPRESSED BY THE BRITISH REPRESENTATIVE, HE FELT THAT SOME THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE HEAVY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS EXPENDITURES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS AS COMPARED TO THE FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS TO ADEQUATELY STAFF THE NEW FACILITIES. HE WAS CONCERNED, TOO, ABOUT THE BUDGET OF THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AS COMPARED TO THE LARGER AMOUNTS OF THE EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENTS. HE SAID THAT IT APPEARED TO HIS DELEGATION THAT TOURISM DEVELOPMENT MIGHT CURRENTLY BE IMBALANCED AND THAT TOO MUCH DEVELOPMENT IN THIS AREA MIGHT BE OCCURRING IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT IN RELATION TO THE OTHER DISTRICTS. FINALLY, HE AGAIN URGED THAT RESTRICTIVE TARIFFS ON MICRONESIAN PRODUCTS COMING IN TO THE UNITED STATES BE ELIMINATED.

SEVERAL OFFICIALS FROM BOTH THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS AND THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN IN NEW YORK FOR THE COUNCIL HEARINGS THIS WEEK, INCLUDING DEPUTY STATUS NEGOTIATOR JAMES WILSON, AND STANLEY CARPENTER, DIRECTOR OF THE TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS OFFICE. CONGRESSMAN SIGRAH FROM KUSAIE ISLAND IN PONAPE DISTRICT MET INFORMALLY WITH CARPENTER TO EXPRESS HIS THANKS FOR INTERIOR DEPARMTNET WILLINGNESS TO AGREE WITH AND FOLLOW UP QUICKLY ON THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ACTION TO MAKE KUSAIE A SEPARATE ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

INTERIOR SECRETARY ROGERS C.B. MORTON, IN A LETTER RESPONDING TO THE CONGRESS PETITION REQUESTION THAT APPROPRIATE CHANGES BE MADE IN THE SECRETARIAL ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE, SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO MAKE THOSE CHANGES AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. SIGRAH EXPRESSED HIS THANKS TO CARPENTER ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF KUSAIE AND REQUESTED THAT HIS THANKS BE PASSED ON TO THE SECRETARY.

THIS WEEKEND WILL SEE PREPARATIONS FOR MONDAY'S FINAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL INVOLVING TRUST TERRITORY OFFICIALS. CLOSING STATEMENTS WILL BE PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR WHITE, HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON, CONGRESSMAN SIGRAH, AND SENATOR WILFRED KENDALL OF THE MARSHALLS.