

(UNDP AGREEMENT SIGNED)

NEW YORK, JUNE 11 (MNS)---AS OF MONDAY AFTERNOON *JUNE 10) NEW YORK TIME, THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS IS OFFICIALLY INCLUDED IN PROGRAMS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

THE CEREMONIES DURING WHICH THE UNDP STANDARD AGREEMENT INCLUDING THE TRUST TERRITORY WAS SIGNED, TOOK PLACE AT THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT OFFICES NEAR THE UN. SIGNING FOR THE UNDP WAS CARLOS VEGEA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND FAR EAST REGIONS. THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE WAS AMBASSADOR BARBARA WHITE, WHO HAS ALSO BEEN THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL FOR THIS YEAR'S HEARINGS. THE CEREMONIES WERE ATTENDED BY TT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRIK YOMA AND TRUK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR JUAN SABLAN, BOTH REPRESENTING HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, AND BY CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SENATOR WILFRED KENDALL AND REPRESENTATIVE JOAB SIGRAH.

THIS LONG AWAITED AGREEMENT WILL NOW MAKE THE TT ELIGIBLE FOR SUCH REGIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY PROGRAMS AS THE TERRITORY MIGHT REQUEST THROUGH THE UNDP REGIONAL OFFICE IN THE PACIFIC, WHICH IS LOCATED IN APIA, WESTERN SAMOA.

SPEAKING WITH THE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION FOLLOWING THE SIGNING CEREMONIES MONDAY AFTERNOON, VEGEA INDICATED THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD PROBABLY HAVE SOMEONE TOUR THE TRUST TERRITORY BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS IN MICRONESIA FOR FOLLOW-UP SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS WHICH MIGHT BE OF VALUE. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED FURTHER THAT IT WILL BE UP TO THE TRUST TERRITORY AS A PARTICIPATING COUNTRY TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN REQUESTING PROGRAMS IN THE PACIFIC FIELD.

THE UNDP STANDARD AGREEMENT WAS REFERRED TO BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE TRUST TERRITORY EARLIER IN THE DAY AS AMBASSADOR WHITE, HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON, SENATOR KENDALL, AND REPRESENTATIVE SIGRAH PRESENTED THEIR CLOSING STATEMENTS TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL AT THIS YEAR'S HEARINGS.

IN HER VERY BRIEF REMARKS, AMBASSADOR WHITE ACKNOWLEDGED THE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH COUNCIL MEMBERS HAD OFFERED TO THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY IN THE PREVIOUS SEVERAL DAYS. SHE ASSURED THE COUNCIL, FIRST, THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAINS COMMITTED TO INCREASING SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR MICRONESIA AND AN EVENTUAL AND SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THE STATUS QUESTION AND, SECOND, THAT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE IN THE FUTURE TO WORK WITH MICRONESIA'S PEOPLE TO LESSEN THEIR ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE UPON OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE BY BUILDING UP THEIR DOMESTIC RESOURCES.

HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON'S CLOSING REMARKS WERE MORE SPECIFIC IN CLARIFYING SEVERAL MATTERS WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN LAST WEEKS STATEMENTS TO THE COUNCIL. THE HICOM REAFFIRMED THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, AND HE RESTATED THE TRUST TERRITORY POLICY OF PLACING MICRONESIANS IN POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY THROUGHOUT THE GOVERNMENT WHEN THEY ARE QUALIFIED.

IN THIS REGARD, HE POINTED OUT THAT OF THE 37 POSITIONS NOW SUBJECT TO ADVICE-AND-CONSENT BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, 32 ARE CURRENTLY FILLED AND 5 ARE VACANT. OF THESE 32 POSITIONS WHICH ARE FILLED, HE SAID, 20 ARE PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY MICRONESIANS AND ONLY 12 BY NON-MICRONESIANS. HE ADDED THAT HE ANTICIPATES THAT AT LEAST FOUR OF THE FIVE CURRENT VACANCIES WILL BE FILLED WITH MICRONESIANS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, SO THAT 65 PERCENT OF THESE TOP LEVEL SENIOR POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE HELD BY MICRONESIANS.

IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER RESPONDED TO SOME CONCERNS EXPRESSED THAT MONEY IN THE MARINE RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND WAS NOT BEING LOANED OUT QUICKLY ENOUGH. THE HICOM SAID THAT A TERRITORY WIDE PROGRAM OF INFORMATION AND MARINE RESOURCES PERSONNEL VISITS TO THE FIELD IS BEING PLANNED TO ACQUAINT PEOPLE WITH THE FACT THAT THIS FUND OF MORE THAN \$4000,000 IS AVAILABLE FOR SUCH MARINE RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT LOANS.

THERE WERE SOME COMMENTS AT SEVERAL POINTS IN THIS YEAR'S COUNCIL HEARINGS THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S POWER OF THE VETO OVER CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA LEGISLATION OUGHT TO BE RESTRICTED, AND THAT THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT REVIEW OF BILLS ON WHICH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S VETO HAS BEEN OVERRIDDEN BY THE CONGRESS OUGHT TO BE OFFICIALLY RESTRICTED ONLY TO THOSE MATTERS WHICH CONCERN ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY INTERESTS DIRECTLY.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER RESPONDED AGAIN BY POINTING OUT THAT IN THE FIVE YEARS DURING WHICH HE HAS BEEN HIGH COMMISSIONER HIS VETO HAS BEEN OVERRIDDEN ONLY THREE TIMES, AND IN THE ONE CASE IN WHICH A PURELY LOCAL MATTER WAS CONCERNED THE BILL WAS EVENTUALLY ALLOWED TO BECOME LAW.

THESE VETOS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID, "ARE VERY DEFINITELY NOT THE SIGN OF AN INTERNAL CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY AND THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE."

AS HE CONCLUDED, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER EXPRESSED HIGH HOPE THAT THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED OFFICE OF THE TERRITORIAL PLANNER MIGHT PROVIDE THE KIND OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY THAT HAS BEEN ENVISIONED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA LAW WHICH ESTABLISHED THAT OFFICE.

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SIGRAH/KENDALL GIVE FINAL STATEMENTS)

NEW YORK, JUNE 11 (COM)---SENATOR WILFRED KENDALL AND REPRESENTATIVE JOAB SIGRAH, SPEAKING BEFORE THE FINAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL IN NEW YORK THIS WEEK, RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED EARLIER IN THE COUNCIL'S MEETINGS. BOTH ALSO NOTED AREAS IN WHICH PROGRESS WAS STILL NEEDED IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

SENATOR KENDALL SAID THAT HE AND REPRESENTATIVE SIGRAH HAD LISTENED CAREFULLY TO THE THOUGHTFUL QUESTIONS POSED AND THE GENERAL DEBATE DELIVERED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND HE SAID THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL AREAS WHICH OBVIOUSLY NEEDED FURTHER AMPLIFICATION.

HE THEN COVERED THE TOPICS OF THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LAND LEGISLATION, REGIONAL COOPERATION, GOVERNMENT SALARIES, AND THE REPLACEMENT OF EXPATRIATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

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SPEAKING OF THE RETURN OF LAND, HE NOTED THAT LEGISLATION WAS NOW PENDING IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHICH HAD BEEN ASSIGNED A MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT THE VERSION OF THIS LEGISLATION WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE SENATE HAD BEEN OPPOSED ON SEVERAL PARTICULARS BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

IN THE AREA OF REGIONAL COOPERATION, THE SENATOR NOTED THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM SUGGESTION THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND THE PEOPLE OF THE GILBERT ISLANDS SHOULD EXPLORE AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WOULD BE CONSIDERED. HE COMMENTED THAT, "WE WOULD ASSURE ALL THE MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL OF MICRONESIA'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN ASSUMING A PLACE IN THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY OF NATIONS."

AS TO THE QUESTION OF GOVERNMENT SALARIES, HE SAID THAT HE WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM THAT SALARIES SHOULD BE BASED UPON THE REALITIES OF THE MICRONESIAN ECONOMY. THE CONGRESS, HE STATED, WAS AWARE OF THIS AND, IN FACT, HAD REDUCED SALARIES AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN A BILL WHICH WAS VETOED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT WHILE THERE IS A SINGLE-BASE SALARY SCHEDULE, EXPATRIATES CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AS MUCH AS A 161 PERCENT DIFFERENTIAL AND THAT THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY HAD NOT YET FOLLOWED THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF LAST YEARS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL THAT SUCH DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE PAID BY THE UNITED STATES SEPARATELY FROM THE ANNUAL GRANT FUND APPROPRIATIONS.

DEVELOPING MICRONESIAN SKILLS TO BRING ABOUT A REDUCATION OF EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES WAS GOING SLOWLY, THE SENATOR SAID. DESPITE A STEEP REDUCTION IN U.S. CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, THE TOTAL OF ALL EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES HAD ONLY DECREASED BY 6 PERCENT DURING THE PAST YEAR.

SENATOR KENDALL THEN TURNED TO THE ADVICE-AND-CONSENT POWERS OF THE CONGRESS AND THE QUESTION OF FINANCES IN THE FUTURE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. WITH REGARD TO ADVICE-AND-CONSENT, HE NOTED THAT THE CONGRESS WAS NOT SUPPORTING SIMPLY REPLACEMENT OF EXPATRIATES WITH MICRONESIANS FOR REPLACEMENT'S SAKE, BUT THE POSITIONING OF MICRONESIAN CANDIDATES WHO ARE QUALIFIED.

HE NOTED THAT THE CONGRESS HAS TURNED DOWN THE NOMINATION OF MICRONESIAN CANDIDATES IN THE PAST AND IT HAD ALSO ASKED FOR BROADER POWERS IN THIS AREA BECAUSE MANY IMPORTANT POLICY MAKING POSITIONS STILL DO NOT FALL UNDER THE ADVICE AND CONSENT LAW.

ON THE FUTURE STATUS ISSUE, HE NOTED THAT A QUESTION HAD BEEN RAISED AS TO WHY THE TRANSITION PERIOD TO A NEW STATUS, SIX YEARS, WAS SO LONG. HE NOTED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE FIGURE OF FUTURE ASSISTANCE PROPOSED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA BUT DID AGREE TO COMPLETE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS BEFORE THE END OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. SINCE THESE PROJECTS COULD NOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE 1981, THIS BECAME THE TENTATIVE TARGET DATE.

SENATOR KENDALL ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM'S CONCERN THAT THE FINISHED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS MAY HAVE CONTINUING OPERATIONAL COSTS WHICH CANNOT BE MET UNDER THE FUTURE MICRONESIAN ECONOMY, SAYING THAT, "WE WILL BEAR THIS IN MIND FOR WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO BECOME PERMANENTLY DEPENDENT UPON ANY OTHER NATION."

HE THEN DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF MICRONESIAN UNITY AND THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS QUESTION. HE SAID THAT THE CONGRESS WAS DISAPPOINTED AT CERTAIN ACTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT WHILE THE CONGRESS RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY TO SELF-DETERMINATION, THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY COULD NOT CLOSE THE DOOR ON ANY POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE UNITY.

THE SENATOR NOTED THAT THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY HAD INDICATED IT WOULD HOLD A PLEBISCITE IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT WHETHER OR NOT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN FINISHED WITH THE OTHER DISTRICTS. HE SAID, "THIS COURSE OF ACTION WILL PREVENT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS FROM HAVING A REAL CHOICE ON THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL STATUS."

HE NOTED THAT IT WAS THE POSITION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THAT VOTING ON A POLITICAL STATUS CHOICE BY THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA SHOULD BE ALL AT THE SAME TIME, AND HE SAID, "WE ASK THIS COUNCIL TO URGE THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY TO RESPECT AND HONOR THIS POSITION."

THE SENATOR THEN TURNED TO THE AREA OF INCREASED CONTROL OVER THE BUDGET BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND LIMITATIONS ON THE VETO POWERS OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, BOTH OF WHICH HAD BEEN ENDORSED BY THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL.

HE SAID THAT THE VETO POWER SHOULD BE CURBED, "SINCE OUR COURTS, WHICH WERE ESTABLISHED FOR THAT PURPOSE, HAVE ADEQUATE AUTHORITY TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA FROM ANY ABUSES OF LEGISLATIVE POWER."

WITH REGARD TO CONTROL OF THE TERRITORY BUDGET, HE SAID THAT RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE WILLINGNESS OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA IN THIS AREA, EVEN THOUGH THIS HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE 37TH, 38TH, 39TH, AND 40TH SESSIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

IN CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS, SENATOR KENDALL STRESSED THE NEED FOR INCREASING CONTROL BY MICRONESIANS OVER MICRONESIAN AFFAIRS. THIS MATTER, HE SAID, WAS BEING STUDIED, ACCORDING TO THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY.

"THIS IS THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT," KENDALL SAID, "AND WE WONDER HOW MUCH MORE TIME WILL BE REQUIRED. IN ONE SENSE THERE IS ONLY ONE ISSUE BEFORE THE COUNCIL - THAT IS THE ISSUE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT. ANY CHANGES REQUESTED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WILL BE ELEMENTS OF ANY FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA, AND COULD CERTAINLY BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY BY THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY. THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA URGENTLY REQUEST THAT THIS COUNCIL URGE THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY TO MAKE THOSE CHANGES."

IN ONE FINAL REMARK, HE SAID THAT WHILE SOME OF HIS REMARKS MAY HAVE BEEN AT TIMES SOMEWHAT CRITICAL OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, "MY CRITICISM WAS CONSTRUCTIVE IN SPIRIT AND IN OUTLOOK AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, TOO, FOR ITS ASSISTANCE."

CONGRESSMAN SIGRAH, IN HIS CLOSING REMARKS TO THE COUNCIL, SPOKE GENERALLY ABOUT THE AREAS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE IDEA OF MICRONESIAN UNITY AS IT HAS IN THE PAST AND THAT THIS WAS A CONCEPT TO WHICH THE CONGRESS IS FULLY COMMITTED.

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HE SUGGESTED THAT THE COUNCIL AND THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY GIVE THOUGHT TO HAVING MORE VISITS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS TO MICRONESIA TO STUDY AND OBSERVE THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL EDUCATION AND THE PROGRESS OF THE POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

REPRESENTATIVE SIGRAH ALSO CALLED UPON THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN PLANNING THE TRANSITION TO A NEW POLITICAL STATUS AND DURING THE PERIOD OF THE NEW POLITICAL STATUS.

HE THEN TURNED TO THE AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MADE SEVERAL COMMENTS ON QUESTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. IN RESPONSE TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, WHO ASKED, "WOULD THE CONGRESS SUPPORT A FULL REVIEW OF MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY?" CONGRESSMAN SIGRAH SAID THAT HE MOST CERTAINLY FELT THAT SUCH A STEP IS NECESSARY, ESPECIALLY IN DEVELOPING ANY OVERALL PLAN FOR MICRONESIA.

HE ALSO RESPONDED TO A QUESTION CONCERNING WHAT PROGRAMS THE TRUST TERRITORY EXPECTED HELP ON FROM THE UNDP. IN TERMS OF GENERAL ECONOMIC HELP, HE HAD A LIST DEVELOPED BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION WHICH INCLUDED FULL ECONOMIC SURVEY OF MICRONESIA TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR BALANCED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATISTICS GATHERING CAPABILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, DEVELOPMENT OF A TRUST TERRITORY WIDE HANDICRAFT PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, AND, FINALLY, COURSES AND TRAINING SEMINARS ON THE ROLE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.

REPRESENTATIVE SIGRAH NOTED THAT PROGRESS IN MICRONESIA HAD BEEN INCREASING SINCE THE 1960'S, AND HE SAID, "IT IS MY HOPE THAT DURING THE 42ND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL NEXT YEAR, AS THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA COMPLETES TEN YEARS OF EXISTENCE, THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND SPECIAL ADVISORS CAN REPORT TO YOU OF EVEN GREATER PROGRESS IN THE YEAR TO COME."

FINALLY, CONGRESSMAN SIGRAH NOTED THAT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SPECIAL ADVISORS RESULT FROM VARYING VIEWPOINTS ABOUT WHAT ARE THE REAL PROBLEMS, AND HOW TO GO ABOUT SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS.

"I AM SURE," HE ADDED, "THAT EVEN WHEN MICRONESIA IS INTERNALLY SELF-GOVERNING THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF HEALTHY TENSION BETWEEN THE BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT. THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE."

AND SO THE HEARINGS FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY DELEGATES HAVE CAME TO AN END IN NEW YORK, MEANWHILE, THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER WEEK OR SO IN ITS DELIBERATIONS. THEY HAVE NOW APPOINTED A DRAFTING COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM TO WRITE THE COUNCIL'S REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR 1974. THIS REPORT AND ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY LATER THIS YEAR.

HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON AND CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REPRESENTATIVES SENATOR KENDALL AND CONGRESSMAN SIGRAH PLAN TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON FOLLOWING THESE HEARINGS. THEY WILL MEET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PRIOR TO RETURNING TO MICRONESIA.

(KABUA WANTS TO AMEND CON CON LAW)
MAJURO, JUNE 11 (MNS)---MARSHALL ISLANDS SENATOR AMATA KABUA HAS REVEALED THAT HE PLANS TO INTRODUCE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW AT THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THAT WOULD REQUIRE A MAJORITY VOTE FOR THE CONSTITUTION BY DISTRICT.

HE MADE THE STATEMENT IN MAJURO, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH CARL ZIMMERMAN, A HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN REPORTER WHO RECENTLY TOURED THE TRUST TERRITORY. THE COMMENTS WERE PUBLISHED IN THE JUNE 1, 1974 EDITION OF THE NEWSPAPER.

SENATOR KABUA SAID HIS AMENDMENT WOULD ASSURE THAT THE MARSHALL ISLANDS WOULD NOT BE FORCED TO ACCEPT A CONSTITUTION IN THE EVENT THE VOTING IN THE OTHER DISTRICTS FAVORED THE DOCUMENT WHILE THE MARSHALLS DID NOT.

HE ADDED THAT, SHOULD THE AMENDMENT PASS, A SPECIAL ELECTION MIGHT BE HELD IN THE MARSHALLS TO CHOOSE DELEGATES FOR THE CONVENTION. VOTER TURNOUT IN THE MARSHALLS WAS EXTREMELY LOW FOR THE JUNE 4 DELEGATE ELECTION. VOTERS WERE URGED TO IGNORE THAT ELECTION BY THE LEADERSHIP IN THE MARSHALLS, AND IT APPEARS THAT MOST OF THEM TOOK THAT ADVICE. AT LAST COUNT ONLY ABOUT 1,000 VOTES HAS BEEN TALLIED IN THE DISTRICT, WHICH HAS APPROXIMATELY 10,000 ELIGIBLE VOTERS, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEADQUARTERS PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT ON SAIPAN.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW (PL 5-63) PRESENTLY CALLS FOR A TERRITORY-WIDE REFERENDUM TO EITHER APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF THE CONSTITUTION, BUT THE LAW MAKES NO PROVISION FOR INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE CONSTITUTION APART FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS. THIS POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN IMPLIED, HOWEVER, IN STATEMENTS FROM SEVERAL OFFICIALS THAT NO DISTRICT WOULD BE "FORCED" TO ACCEPT THE CONSTITUTION.

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