

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(CONGRESSMEN URGED INVESTIGATION OF CONTRACT AWARD)

SAIPAN, JUNE 25 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---MARIANAS CONGRESSMEN FELIPE O. ATALIG AND PEDRO P. TENORIO HAVE SENT DISPATCHES TO SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ROGERS C.A.B. MORTON REQUESTING FOR AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF A TRUST TERRITORY CONTRACT AWARDED TO NON-MICRONESIAN COMPANIES FOR ATT-WIDE SURVEY OF MICRONESIAN PUBLIC LANDS.

THE CONGRESSMEN'S REACTION CAME FOLLOWING THE DISMISSAL OF THE CASE LAST WEEK ON SAIPAN BY THE TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COURT ON GROUNDS THAT NONE OF THE CHARGES FILED BY A SAIPAN SURVEYING FIRM OF JUAN C. TENORIO AND ASSOCIATES, INC. HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIATED. THE PLAINTIFFS (TENORIO) HAD SOUGHT TO ENJOIN THE TT GOVERNMENT FROM HIRING OTHER SURVEYORS.

ATALIG' DISPATCH REQUESTS THE SECRETARY IF THE INTERIOR TO INVESTIGATE THE HEADQUARTERS LANDS AND SURVEYS CONTRACT AWARDS TO ASIA MAPPING, INC., AND HAWAII ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS OVER A MICRONESIAN COMPANY WHICH ALSO SUBMITTED ITS APPLICATION FOR THE BID. HE SAID HE FEELS THE ACTION TAKEN BY LANDS AND SURVEYS IS UNWARRANTED AND THAT THE LOCAL FIRM SHOULD RECEIVE PREFERENCE.

CONGRESSMAN ATALIG'S STATEMENT WAS SUPPORTED BY REPRESENTATIVE TENORIO IN A DISPATCH TO SECRETARY MORTON AND ADDED THAT A MICRONESIAN COMPANY OFFERED THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BID WHICH WOULD HAVE SAVED THE GOVERNMENT SOME \$400,000 IF AWARDED. HE URGED THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO INVESTIGATE THE PROPRIETY OF THE DECISION WHICH DENIED THE CONTRACT TO A FINANCIALLY CAPABLE MICRONESIAN COMPANY.

THE CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO ASIA MAPPING INC., AND HAWAII ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS INC., BY THE TT GOVERNMENT "BASED ON TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION, EXPERIENCE, ORGANIZATION, AVAILABILITY AND REPUTATION." THE GOVERNMENT REJECTED THE TENORIO SURVEYING FIRM, THE ONLY MICRONESIAN COMPANY WHICH SUBMITTED ITS APPLICATION FOR THE BID.

(ULUL ISLANDERS CONTEST OWNERSHIP)

-80SAIPAN, JUNE 25 (MNS)---THE OWNERSHIP OF ULUL ISLAND IN TRUK DISTRICT IS BEING CONTESTED, IT WAS REPORTED IN GUAM'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, ULUL ISLANDERS HAVE ASKED FOR A NEW HEARING TO AWARD OWNERSHIP OF THE NAHONUITO ATOLL ISLAND TO THEM RATHER THAN THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AS A PREVIOUS RULING HAD DETERMINED.

THE ISLANDERS ARE DISPUTING A 1967 JUDGMENT WHICH DETERMINED THE THE TT HAD PURCHASED ULUL FROM FLORENTINE CAYMONT ETSCHIT ON FEBRUARY 14, 1974. THE PURCHASE PRICE WAS \$75,000.

THE PEOPLE OF ULUL, IT WAS REPORTED, INSIST THAT THEIR TRADITIONAL CHIEF, RAIMUNDO, FILED A CLAIM OF OWNERSHIP OF THE ISLAND IN 1954 FOR HIS PEOPLE. THE ISLANDERS SAY THAT THE CLAIM WAS FILED UNDER ALL TRUST TERRITORY REGULATIONS ON DETERMINATION OF LAND OWNERSHIP.

BEFORE THE HEARING ON RAIMUNDO'S CLAIM WAS HELD, THE TT AWARDED ETSCHIT OWNERHI OF ULUL BY QUITCLAIM DEED. A QUITCLAIM DEED IS THE AWARDDING OF LAND OWNERSHIP.

TRUST TERRITORY CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD W. BURNETT IS ON TRUK TO HEAR HIGH COURT CASES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT HE WILL HEAR THE ULUL CASE DURING THIS SESSION.

(TT HOUSING WORKSHOP)

-80SAIPAN, JUNE 26 (MNS)---THE PONAPE AGRICULTURE AND TRADE SCHOOL (PATS), THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, HAS

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ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL CONDUCT A TEN-DAY WORKSHOP FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY HOUSING AUTHORITIES MANAGERS AND BOARD CHAIRMEN FOR THE SIX DISTRICTS. THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP ARE TO REVIEW ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE TERRITORY'S HOUSING PROGRAM, TO LEARN PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE AUTHORITIES TO THE TERRITORIAL HOUSING COMMISSION, AND TO DEAL WITH HOUSING RELATED PROBLEMS.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT 12 PARTICIPANTS WILL ATTEND THIS KEY WORKSHOP WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THE PATS COMPUJ JULY EIGHT THROUGH THE NINETEENTH. FATHER HUGH COSTIGAN, S.J., WHO IS DIRECTING THE WORKSHOP, INDICATED THAT A NUMBER OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE OFFICIALS SUCH AS REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, COMMERCIAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS AND TRADING FIRMS WILL BE INSTRUCTORS AT THE WORKSHOP.

THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE LOW COST HOUSING CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER OF 1972, ALSO HELD AT PATS, THAT TERRITORIAL HOUSING OFFICIALS WILL HAVE MET TOGETHER. THE WORKSHOP HAS BEEN MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A TRAINING GRANT TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

(TT NEWS COVERS PACIFIC)

SAIPAN, JUNE 26 (MNS)---MICRONESIA HAS JOINED ITS PACIFIC NEIGHBORS IN AN AREA WIDE NEWS EXCHANGE PROGRAM, COORDINATED THROUGH THE TRUST TERRITORY'S PEACESAT STATION ON SAIPAN, MICRONESIAN NEWS OF PACIFIC-WIDE INTEREST IS BROADCAST ONCE A WEEK TO ALMOST EVERY CORNER OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION.

THE NEWS EXCHANGES TAKE PLACE EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON; EACH STATION IS GIVEN ABOUT FOUR MINUTES TO BROADCAST NEWS ITEMS FROM THEIR AREA. OTHER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM THIS WEEK INCLUDED PAPUA NEW GUINEA, NEW ZEALAND, TONGA, THE COOK ISLANDS NIUE, AND A WEEKLY BROADCAST FROM HONOLULU'S PEACESAT TERMINAL.

THE LATEST BROADCAST ON WEDNESDAY (JUNE 26) INCLUDED REPORTS ON HAWAIIAN IMMIGRATION AND POPULATION STUDIES, OYSTER CULTIVATION IN TONGA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S ATTEMPTS TO CURB INFLATION, AND THE ROBBERY OF \$1,600 WORTH OF LIQUOR FROM NEW ZEALAND'S PARLIAMENTARY BARS. THE QUALITY OF THE RECEPTION WAS EXCELLENT IN ALMOST ALL CASES.

ELIAS THOMAS, THE TRUST TERRITORY BROADCAST CHIEF, IS IN CHARGE OF SAIPAN'S EFFORTS, WITH THE NEWS SCRIPT PREPARED BY MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE.

THE WEEKLY PROGRAM NOW LASTS FOR AN HOUR, AND DURING THE TIME STATIONS ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY NEWS ITEM SENT. THOMAS HOPES THAT HALF HOUR BROADCASTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO TT DISTRICT STATIONS FROM THE NEWS EXCHANGE.

THE TRUST TERRITORY IS ALSO EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINING THE PACIFIC ISLANDS NEWS ASSOCIATION A NEWS ORGANIZATION NOW BEING FORMED IN FIJI.