

(STATUS AGREEMENTS REACHED)

SAIPAN, JULY 15 (MNS) ~~THE~~ AMERICAN AND MICRONESIAN OFFICIALS MET ON GUAM LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE NEXT ROUND OF MICRONESIAN POLITICAL STATUS TALKS. THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT RELEASED BY THE TRUST TERRITORY STATUS LIAISON OFFICE:

AT THE CONCLUSION OF FOUR DAYS OF INFORMAL TALKS IN GUAM ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA WITH MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS, THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, STATED TODAY THAT FURTHER CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS WAS MADE IN REACHING AGREEMENTS IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT AREAS. TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS PREVIOUSLY REACHED AT CARNEL WERE REAFFIRMED.

THE NEXT STEP WILL BE THE REFERRAL OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BY SENATOR LAZARUS SALII, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR FUTURE STATUS, TO THE FULL JCFS SOMETIME BEFORE OR DURING THE FORTHCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS STATED THAT A RELEASE OF THE DETAILS OF THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS REACHED WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT A REVIEW BY THE JCFS.

THOSE ATTENDING THE GUAM MEETING IN ADDITION TO THE TWO CHAIRMAN, WERE SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE JCFS, INCLUDING CO-CHAIRMAN EKPAP SILK, SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA AND SENATORS AMBILOS IEHSI AND BAILEY OLTER, AND JCFS COUNSEL PAUL WARNKE. AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED U.S. DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES M. WILSON, JR., CAPTAIN RICHARD Y. SCOTT, DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, RONALD STOWE, OFFICE OF THE LEGAL ADVISER, DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND ALF E. BERGESEN, STATUS LIAISON OFFICER FROM SAIPAN.

THE AMBASSADOR WAS TO LEAVE FOR PALAU ON MONDAY JULY 15 TO DISCUSS THE INVITATION TO THE U.S. FROM THE PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE TO SEND A TECHNICAL TEAM TO KOROR FOR AN ON-THE-SPOT SURVEY OF POSSIBLE SITES FOR THE MILITARY LAND USE OPTIONS IN THAT DISTRICT. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY CAPTAIN SCOTT AND MR. BERGESEN.

(LETTER SUPPORTS MICOM)

SAIPAN, JULY 15 (MNS) ---TWELVE MARSHALLESE TRADITIONAL AND POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE WRITTEN A LETTER TO TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON TELLING HIM TAHT THEY "PROTEST THE ALLEGATION THAT ALL DISTRICTS THROUGH THEIR LEGISLATURES HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR MR. ROGER ST. PIERRE.

"THIS DISTRICT, FOR ONE, "THE LETTER SAID," HAS NOT EXPRESSED ANY SUCH POSITION."

ST. PIERRE, TT CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER, HAS BEEN FIGHTING ATTEMPTS BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO REMOVE HIM FROM HIS POSITION FOR OVER A YEAR. THE TT ADMINISTRATION CHARGES THAT ST. PIERRE IMPROPERLY ACCEPTED A MONETARY GIFT IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1969 CHONG HEE ESTATE CASE IN THE MARSHALLS.

ST. PIERRE HAS CONTENDED THAT HE IS A TRUST TERRITORY EMPLOYEE RATHER THAN A U.S. CIVIL SERVICE OR INTERIOR DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE AND, THEREFORE, IS NOT SUBJECT TO FEDERAL REGULATIONS. THERE ARE NO TT REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS IN CONNECTION WITH LEGAL MATTERS.

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"WE NOTE WITH REGRET," THE MARSHALLS LETTER SAID, "THAT WHILE SOME MICRONESIAN LEADERS HAVE VOICED STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE REMOVAL OF MR. ST. PIERRE, NOT ONE HAS EVER CONSIDERED SPEAKING OUT FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE CLIENT, MRS. TOTHAM SAMUEL."

THE TWELVE WHO SIGNED THE LETTER INCLUDED CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES DOMNICK AND ATAJI BALOS, SENATOR AMATA KABUA AND SPEAKER OF THE NITIJELA ATLAN ANIEN.

"MR. ST. PIERRE AND HIS ASSOCIATE'S CONDUCT IN THIS CASE," THE LETTER STATED, "DOES REFLECT BADLY ON THE IMAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY AND THAT OF THE UNITED STATES."

ANIBAR TIMOTHY, MARSHALLS PUBLIC DEFENDER REPRESENTATIVE, ASSISTED ST. PIERRE IN THE CASE.

THE TWELVE SAID THAT THEY WERE SURPRISED AT HOW THE "ST. PIERRE CASE" HAS GROWN "INTO THE HIGHLY VOLATILE SITUATION WE FIND IT IN AT THE PRESENT TIME. WE BELIEVE THE FACTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT HE WAS AT FAULT AND THAT THE MONEY TAKEN AWAY FROM THIS POOR MARSHALLESE WOMAN JUST BE REPAID," THE LETTER CONTINUED.

THEY SUPPORTED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE ST. PIERRE. "OUR UNDERSTANDING," THE LETTER SAID, "WAS THAT ONCE THE FACTS WERE ESTABLISHED, APPROPRIATE ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN BY YOU ADMINISTRATIVELY AND THAT WOULD CHOOSE THE MATTER."

ST. PIERRE IS NOW WAITING FOR TT CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD BURNETT'S RULING ON THE RECONSIDERATION OF HIS PREVIOUS DISQUALIFICATION ORDER TO HEAR ST. PIERRE'S CASE. THE HEARING ON THE RECONSIDERATION MOTION WAS HELD JUNE 14. THERE IS NO INDICATION WHEN JUSTICE BURNETT WILL ISSUE HIS RULING.

(ESG TASK FORCE PLANS A NEW PROGRAM)

SAIPAN, JULY 15 (MNS)---THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT TASK FORCE IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF PLANNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW APPROACH TO COVERAGE OF THE MAJOR ISSUES CONFRONTING THE TRUST TERRITORY IN THIS PERIOD OF TRANSITION.

THE PROGRAM INVOLVES A RADIO-TV INTERVIEW ALONG THE LINES OF THE "MEET THE PRESS" OR "FACE THE NATION" THEME-APPROACH, UTILIZING THE INTERVIEWING OF MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND INVITED GUESTS. THE IDEA WOULD CALL FOR SELECTING A PANEL OF REPORTERS FROM THE GENERAL POOL IN MICRONESIA TO INTERVIEW AN INVITED GUEST, EITHER A MEMBER OF THE ADMINISTRATION, A POLITICAL FIGURE OR ANYONE WITH SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISSUES RELEVANT TO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MICRONESIA TODAY, A TASK FORCE SPOKESMAN EXPLAINED.

THE PROGRAM WOULD BE RECORDED FOR BROADCAST THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY. ALSO THE PROGRAM SUMMARIES WOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO THE VARIOUS LOCAL LANGUAGES IN ORDER TO REACH THE PEOPLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN MICRONESIA. THE ESG TASK FORCE WOULD STAGE THE PROGRAM WITH A MICRONESIAN MODERATOR TO BE SELECTED FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE.

MARKING THE INITIAL STEP IN LAUNCHING THE PROGRAM WAS PRELIMINARY MEETING HELD LAST WEEK INVOLVING THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS AND THE MEMBERS OF THE ESG TASK FORCE. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE

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PRESS INDICATED THAT THEY ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN SUCH A PROGRAM, THE SPOKESMAN SAID. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE FIRST SERIES WOULD BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WHO WILL BE ON SAIPAN FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION COULD PARTICIPATE.

THE ESG TASK FORCE HOPES THAT THE PRESS WILL BE ABLE TO INTERVIEW AS MANY LEADING MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS AS POSSIBLE WHILE THEY ARE ON SAIPAN FOR THE FIRST SERIES OF THE PROGRAM. TO THIS END; INVITATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TO MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS AND OTHERS WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

IN ITS REVIEW OF THE ESG EDUCATION PROGRAM, THE TASK FORCE FEELS IT NECESSARY AT THIS TIME TO ENCOURAGE THE MICRONESIAN NEWS GROUPS, OF WHICH THERE ARE ABOUT A DOZEN INCLUDING THE RADIO STATIONS, TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A PROGRAM, THE SPOKESMAN STATED. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WOULD PROVIDE A FORUM FOR DISCUSSING MAJOR PUBLIC ISSUES WHICH CANNOT BE HANDLED THROUGH STRAIGHT REPORTING OR THE COMMENTARY APPROACH.

IN ORDER TO PRESENT A BALANCED, IMPARTIAL AND OBJECTIVE PROGRAM, THE TASK FORCE NOTES, THE PRIMARY AIM OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE OPEN AND FREE DISCUSSION OF THE VARIOUS ISSUES FACING THE TT TODAY.

"THE GIVE AND TAKE APPROACH OF THE PROGRAM WOULD NATURALLY CATER TO THE INTRINSIC INTEREST OF THE LISTENER WHO WOULD NORMALLY BE TURNED OFF IN THE TYPE OF PROGRAM WHERE SOMEONE IS TALKING TO THE LISTENER, NOT WITH HIM," THE TASK FORCE STATES IN ITS PROPOSAL.

IN SUCH AN INTERVIEW SITUATION, AS PROPOSED, THE LISTENER WOULD BE "EAVESDROPPING THE PARTICIPATING" IN A VICARIOUS MANNER IN A LIVE HAPPENING ON THE AIR.

NO TITLE HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR THE PROGRAM BUT AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE SOON CONCERNING THE FIRST PROGRAM.