

File

(SPECIAL SESSION UNDERWAY)

SAIPAN, JULY 23 (UNSD) ⁷⁴ THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONVENED IN SPECIAL SESSION ON SAIPAN TUESDAY (JULY 23), TO TAKE CARE OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS LEFT OVER FROM THE REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS, AS WELL AS TO CONSIDER CERTAIN NEW PIECES OF LEGISLATION AND AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LAWS. THE SESSION IS TO LAST 15 DAYS.

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SPECTATORS FILLED THE GALLERIES OF BOTH HOUSES AS SPEAKER BETHUEL HENRY OF PONAPE AND PRESIDENT TOSIVO NAKAYAMA OF TRUK CALLED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE TO ORDER. FORMAL BUSINESS WAS LIMITED, HOWEVER, TO THE INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS AND BRIEF OPENING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDING OFFICERS (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

IN THE SENATE, FLOOR LEADER AMBILOS IEHSI OF PONAPE INTRODUCED BY REQUEST THREE BILLS THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE AMONG THE MAJOR PIECES OF LEGISLATION CONSIDERED DURING THE SESSION. TWO ARE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW WHICH WAS PASSED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

ONE OF THESE MAKES CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE COMPENSATION

TO BE PAID CONVENTION DELEGATES (SB 349). IT RAISES THE DAILY PER DIEM RATE FROM TWENTY-FIVE TO THIRTY-TWO DOLLARS AND EIGHTY-FIVE CENTS, AND PROVIDES THAT MEMBERS OF THE PRE-CONVENTION AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEES SHALL ALSO RECEIVE THIS AMOUNT WHILE UNDERTAKING THEIR OFFICIAL DUTIES.

THE OTHER AMENDMENT CREATES A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE (SB 347), WHICH WILL HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EXAMINING THE CREDENTIALS OF ALL ELECTED AND APPOINTED DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION, AND CONSIDERING ANY CHALLENGES MADE TO THEM. THE AMENDMENT WOULD, IF ADOPTED, PROVIDE THAT THE COMMITTEE MUST MEET ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 26, 1974, AND COMPLETE ITS WORK BEFORE THE END OF SEPTEMBER. THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT ALSO PROVIDES THAT DECISIONS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MAY BE APPEALED TO THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE, A SEVEN-MEMBER BODY REPRESENTING ALL DISTRICT CONVENTION DELEGATIONS AND HEADED BY THE SENATE PRESIDENT.

THE THIRD ADMINISTRATION BILL INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE TUESDAY WOULD MAKE EXTENSIVE AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC LAW 5-51, THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SALARY PLAN ACT (SB 348). THE MEASURE WOULD SET UP PROCEDURES FOR PAYMENT OF A "LOCAL HIRE INCENTIVE PREMIUM" TO CERTAIN EMPLOYEES, AS WELL AS OTHER PROCEDURES DESIGNED TO OFFSET PROVISIONS OF THE ORIGINAL ACT WHICH HAVE MADE IT DIFFICULT, IN THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW, TO HIRE OR RETAIN CERTAIN LOCAL HIRE, CONTRACT, AND THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONAL EMPLOYEES.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ONE OF THESE THREE BILLS WAS ALSO INTRODUCED, ALONG WITH ONE JOINT RESOLUTION. THE BILL AMENDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW AS IT RELATES TO COMPENSATION OF DELEGATES WAS OFFERED (HB 344).

THE JOINT RESOLUTION WOULD ASK THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO AMEND CERTAIN PUBLIC LAWS TO EXCLUDE PROGRAMS OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO FISHERIES TO THE TRUST TERRITORY (JR 139).

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THE USUAL OPENING CEREMONIES OF A CONGRESSIONAL SESSION WERE ALSO OBSERVED IN BOTH HOUSES, WITH INVOCATIONS DELIVERED BY GUEST MINISTERS AND THE TWO CHAMBERS INFORMING ONE ANOTHER THAT THEY ARE ORGANIZED AND READY TO CONDUCT BUSINESS.

SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA (MARIANAS) SPOKE ON BEHALF OF HIS DELEGATION IN WELCOMING THE LAWMAKERS BACK TO SAIPAN, AND SAID IT IS HIS HOPE THAT PRIORITIES WILL BE SET SO THAT THE CONGRESS CAN MAKE THE MAXIMUM PRODUCTIVE USE OF THE LIMITED TIME IT WILL HAVE DURING THIS BRIEF, 15-DAY SESSION.

BOTH HOUSES WILL MEET AGAIN AT TEN WEDNESDAY MORNING.

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(NAKAYANA AND HENRY SPEAKS AT OPENING)

SAIPAN, JULY 23 (CONGRESS RELEASED)---THE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONVENED TUESDAY MORNING ON SAIPAN WITH SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYANA AND HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY URGING THE LAWMAKERS TO GET ON WITH THE TASK OF NATION-BUILDING.

IN REMARKS INSERTED INTO THE SENATE JOURNAL, PRESIDENT NAKAYANA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FIFTH CONGRESS HAS MADE PROGRESS TOWARDS PREPARING FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA AND DEVELOPING AN ECONOMY, DURING THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF, BUT HE SAID "THE VERY CONVENING OF THIS SESSION IS A SIGN THAT OUR WORK IS NOT YET COMPLETED.

"AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS," SAID NAKAYANA, "I DELIVERED A SPEECH WHICH ASKED MICRONESIANS TO 'WAKE UP,' TO THE REALITIES OF MICRONESIA TODAY AND ITS FUTURE NEEDS. IT

WAS MY OPINION THEN, AND IT IS NOW, THAT THE MAJOR WORK OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS WAS OF TWO KINDS: CREATION OF THE LAWS LIKE THAT FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WHICH WILL LEAD THE WAY TO A NEW GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA, AND AT THE SAME TIME A SECOND GOAL OF DEVELOPING OUR ECONOMY FOR THIS NEW MICRONESIA.

"WE STILL HAVE MANY IMPORTANT THINGS TO DISCUSS AND DO FOR OUR PEOPLE," STATED NAKAYANA, "WE STILL FACE MANY PROBLEMS WHICH ARE SHARED BY OTHER UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND WHICH ARE SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF MICRONESIA AS AN ISLAND NATION."

THE SENATE PRESIDENT SAID THE ACTIONS OF THE CONGRESS "MAY HAVE GREAT EFFECTS ON THE FUTURE OF MICRONESIA AND OUR PEOPLE" AND THAT FAILURE TO ACT WILL LIKEWISE HAVE ITS EFFECT.

SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY, ADDRESSING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SAID WORK IN THE CURRENT SESSION WOULD BE CONTINUED ON MANY ITEMS OF LEGISLATION CARRIED OVER FROM THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION LAST JANUARY. NOTING SEVERAL ITEMS OF LEGISLATION NOW BEFORE THE CONGRESS, INCLUDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW, RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS, NEEDED PUBLIC PROJECTS AND COMPENSATION FOR CONTRACT EMPLOYEES, HE SAID CONGRESS MEMBERS HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS TO SEEK THE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE OF LOCAL LEADERS IN THE DISTRICTS CONCERNING THESE MEASURES.

"BECAUSE OF THIS ADDITIONAL INPUT," STATED HENRY, "I FEEL THAT THE TASK NOW BEFORE US IS CLEAR AND OUR LEGISLATIVE GOALS ARE NOW BETTER DEFINED."

SPEAKER HENRY SAID ONCE THE CONGRESS SUCCEEDS IN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE STRUCTURE OF MICRONESIA'S FUTURE GOVERNMENT, AN EQUALLY IMPORTANT TASK WILL BE TO ENACT FAR-SIGHTED LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO HELP "CONQUER THE PROBLEM OF ECONOMIC UNDERDEVELOPMENT IN MICRONESIA."

"POLITICAL FREEDOM CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT ECONOMIC FREEDOM," SAID HENRY, "AND THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH IMAGINATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, BORNE OUT OF CREATIVE THINKING, USING NEW METHODS OF ACHIEVING PROGRESS."

SPEAKER HENRY SAID WHERE DISAGREEMENTS EXIST, THEY MUST BE SOLVED BY DISCUSSION AND COMPROMISE, ADDING THAT HE HAS "EVERY CONFIDENCE" THAT THE WILL OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES CAN BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE CONGRESS' LEGISLATIVE TASK.

"IN MAKING LAWS FOR OUR NEW NATION, WE MUST LOOK TO THE FUTURE," HE SAID. "LAWMAKING MUST GIVE PRIORITY TO LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND OUR DECISIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN THIS AREA."

(FENTRESS JOINS TT FLEET)

SAIPAN, JULY 23 (MNS)---A NEW CONTAINER CARGO SHIP WILL SOON BEGIN OPERATIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

ACCORDING TO YWAO B. ELANZO, ACTIVE CHIEF OF TRANSPORTATION, THE M/S FENTRESS IS BEING READIED FOR MICRONESIAN SERVICE IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA. SEVEN CREW MEMBERS, ELANZO SAID TUESDAY (JULY 23), HAVE LEFT FOR CALIFORNIA.

THE FENTRESS WILL BE USED TO IMPROVE INTER-MICRONESIAN CONTAINER SHIPPING SERVICE AND PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR THE FAR EAST SERVICE.

THE SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY, ELANZO SAID, WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY FUNDING TO ACTIVATE THE FENTRESS. SAIPAN SHIPPING WILL RECEIVE AN INITIAL TWO YEAR CHARTER TO OPERATE THE SHIP.

THE FENTRESS, ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE GUNNERS KNOT, CAN HOLD 60 CONTAINERS, SAID ELANZO.

IT WILL BEGIN OPERATING IN MID-SEPTEMBER. IF THERE IS NO MICRONESIA BOUND CARGO ON THE WEST COAST, REPORTED ELANZO, THE FENTRESS WILL PROCEED TO KOREA FOR MINOR REPAIRS. (BUSINESS PERMIT NEWS)

SAIPAN, JULY 23 (MNS)---THE MICRONESIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION, A PROPOSED TRUST TERRITORY CORPORATION, HAS APPLIED FOR A FOREIGN INVESTORS BUSINESS PERMIT, ACCORDING TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE FIRM HAS APPLIED TO OFFER INTER - AND - INTRA - DISTRICT TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN ALL SIX TRUST TERRITORY DISTRICTS. THEY ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY WILL OFFER ELECTRICAL POWER SERVICE AND PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRICAL SKILLS. THEIR SAIPAN AGENT IS PEDRO A. TENORIO.

MICRONESIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS' APPLICATION HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARDS FOR THEIR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION.

IN OTHER BUSINESS PERMIT NEWS, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION REPORTED THAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON TWO BUSINESS PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

THE APPLICATION OF THE MICRONESIAN HOUSING CORPORATION, A TT FIRM, WAS REJECTED BY THE MARIANAS DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD. THE BOARD FELT THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH MICRONESIAN FIRMS PRESENTLY ON SAIPAN TO OFFER CONSTRUCTION SERVICES. THEY ALSO CITED THE FACT THAT THE PROPOSED MICRONESIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRM WAS TOO SMALL.

THE YAP DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPROVED THE APPLICATION OF THE DONG AH AMERICAN CORPORATION OF GUAM TO ENGAGE IN CONSTRUCTION RELATED TO SERVICES IN THAT DISTRICT. DONG AH ALSO APPLIED TO THE OTHER FIVE DISTRICTS; HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NOT YET ACTED ON THE APPLICATION.

(TUNA FOUNDATION FORMED)

SAIPAN, JULY 23 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY HAS JOINED GUAM, HAWAII, AMERICAN SAMOA AND MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN TUNA FISHING INDUSTRY TO FORM THE PACIFIC TUNA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION. THE FOUNDATION WILL BE INVOLVED IN IMPROVING THE SKIPJACK TUNA FISHING AND PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC. ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FROM THE MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, MICRONESIAN FISHERMEN WILL THEN BE ABLE TO UTILIZE THE NEW FISHING TECHNIQUES DEVELOPED, THEREBY MAKING TUNA FISHING A MORE PROFITABLE AND VIABLE ENTERPRISE.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY \$400,000 TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY. THE AMERICAN TUNA INDUSTRY WILL PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL \$400,000 AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION WILL PROVIDE \$35,000. THESE FUNDS WILL BE USED DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PLANNED THREE YEAR OPERATION.

ANDREW GERARAS OF HAWAII HAS BEEN ELECTED CHAIRMAN-PRESIDENT OF THE PACIFIC TUNA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION. REPRESENTATIVES FROM GUAM AND THE TRUST TERRITORY TO SERVE AS VICE PRESIDENT AND SECOND VICE PRESIDENT RESPECTIVELY, WILL BE SELECTED AT A LATER DATE.

THE ONLY TUNA FISHING TECHNIQUE NOW IN USE IN MICRONESIA IS LIVE BAIT FISHING. A LACK OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF LIVE BAIT IN THE TRUST TERRITORY WILL LIMIT THE ANNUAL CATCH OF SKIPJACK WHEN THE TOTAL FISHERY IS DEVELOPED. RESEARCH TO IMPROVE THE BAIT SITUATION IS PRESENTLY BEING CONDUCTED, ALONG WITH STUDIES ON THE POSSIBILITY OF BAIT FARMING AND OF BULK SHIPMENT OF LIVE BAIT TO THE TRUST TERRITORY AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDS.

THE PACIFIC TUNA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION INTENDS TO DEVELOP THE MOST ECONOMICAL METHOD OF IMPROVING THE SKIPJACK TUNA INDUSTRY IN THE PACIFIC FOR MICRONESIAN AND AMERICAN FISHING INTERESTS. THE NEW TECHNIQUES DEVELOPED WILL ENABLE THE MICRONESIAN FISHERMAN TO UTILIZE TO A GREATER EXTENT THE STOCK OF SKIPJACK TUNA WHICH OCCUR IN THE PACIFIC.

(SELLARS VISITS PALAU)

PALAU, JULY 23 (MNS)---AUSTRALIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER TO THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU, L.G. SELLARS, HAS COMPLETED HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO PALAU AFTER MEETING WITH DISTRICT OFFICIALS AND TRADITIONAL AND ELECTED LEADERS. HIS TOUR LASTED FROM JULY 17 TO 21.

ACCORDING TO DAVID NGIRMIDOL, PALAU PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER, SELLARS SAID THAT MEETINGS WITH THE PALAU LEGISLATURE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, TWO TRADITIONAL CHIEFS, AND KOROR MAYOR RUBASCH FRITZ WERE ESPECIALLY PRODUCTIVE.

THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE DISCUSSED WITH SELLARS THE POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING FOREIGN AID FROM AUSTRALIA. DURING HIS TOUR OF YAP, THAT LEGISLATURE ALSO RAISED THE SUBJECT.

SELLARS ALSO DISCUSSED PROBLEMS FACED BY PALAU'S PRIVATE BUSINESSES IN THE AREAS OF SHIPPING, TRADE AND PRICE CONTROLS, MBIRHIDOL REPORTED.

HIGH COMMISSIONER SELLARS VISITED THE MICRONESIAN OCCUPATIONAL CENTER, THE VAN CAMP SEA FOOD COMPANY, THE PALAU MUSEUM, AND THE MICRONESIAN MARI-CULTURE DEMONSTRATION CENTER. SELLARS, IT WAS REPORTED, WAS ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED BY THE WORK OF THE MARI-CULTURE CENTER.

SELLARS IS NOW ON SAIPAN FOR THE OPENING OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

(DUMATOL RECEIVES AWARD)

SAIPAN, JULY 23 (MNS)---AN INCENTIVE AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO CESAR L. DUMATOL TUESDAY (JULY 23) FOR HIS "OUTSTANDING EFFORTS" IN WORKING WITH THE TRUST TERRITORY CENSUS.

HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON PRESENTED DUMATOL WITH A CHECK AND CALLED HIS WORK "AN INSPIRATION TO OTHER EMPLOYEES."

DUMATOL, WHO WORKS IN THE TT DISASTER CONTROL OFFICE, TRAINED DISTRICT CENSUS SUPERVISORS, CENSUS ENUMERATORS, AND CHECKERS AND CODERS.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE AWARD CEREMONY WERE WILLIAM H. STEWART, FORMER CENSUS COORDINATOR, AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRIK YONA. YONA IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE INCENTIVE AWARDS COMMITTEE.