

(CONGRESS SESSION BRIEF)

SAIPAN, JULY 25 (MNS) ⁷⁴THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, MEETING IN SPECIAL SESSION, ENTERED ITS FOURTH-DAY OF THE 15-DAY SESSION WITH VERY LITTLE FLOOR ACTIVITY IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE FRIDAY (JULY 26).

IN THE SENATE, MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA DELIVERED SHORT REMARKS SETTING OUT WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO BE MAJOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE SESSION (SEE FOLLOWING STORY). MOST OF THE WORK OF THE LAWMAKERS CONTINUES TO BE IN THE STANDING COMMITTEES DURING THE FIRST WEEK.

YAP'S SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL OFFERED A BILL WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, (SB 354). THE BILL PROVIDES THAT THE MARSHALLS, TRUK AND PONAPE DISTRICTS INCREASE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE HOUSE BY ONE, WHILE REDUCING THE MARIANAS, AND PALAU DISTRICT BY ONE. YAP DISTRICT WOULD REMAIN THE SAME.

A JOINT RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE URGING THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT "TO REQUEST THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, THAT THE PATHET LAO FORCES RELEASE PRISONER OF WAR EMMETT KAY, WHO PERFORMED NUMEROUS EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATIONS IN MICRONESIA IN THE PAST, AND IS THE LAST KNOWN AMERICAN HELD PRISONER IN INDOCHINA," (HJR 138).

BOTH HOUSES WILL MEET AGAIN MONDAY MORNING AT 10:00

(JULY 29) WHICH WILL BE THE 7TH DAY OF THE 15-DAY SESSION.
(PARA-MEDICS SAVE BOY)

SAIPAN, JULY 26 (MNS)---TWO U.S. AIR FORCE PARA-MEDICS PARACHUTED ONTO TOBI ISLAND IN SOUTHERN PALAU AND HAVE STABILIZED THE CONDITION OF A FIVE OLD BOY STRICKEN WITH PNEUMONIA.

ACCORDING TO LT. COMMANDER ALAN PENDLETON, MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER, THE TWO PARA-MEDICS WERE SENT FROM CLARK AIR FORCE BASE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

"THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE TRANSPORTATION DIVISION, HEALTH SERVICES, AND THE MILITARY," PENDLETON SAID, "THE YOUNG MAN FROM TOBI WILL BE ALRIGHT."

THE BOY BECAME ILL ON JULY 5, PENDLETON REPORTED, AND HIS CONDITION BEGAN TO DETERIORATE RAPIDLY. HE ALSO CAME DOWN WITH INFECTION IN HIS INTESTINAL TRACT AND WAS UNABLE TO RETAIN WATER OR FOOD.

THE M/V JAMES COOK HEADED FOR TOBI FROM YAP, BUT IT DEVELOPED ENGINE TROUBLE AND HAD TO RETURN ON JULY 24. THE ONLY OTHER TRUST TERRITORY SHIP IN THE AREA, THE M/V Hafa Adai, WAS DOCKED IN KOROR BUT ITS CREW WAS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT AND A CAPTAIN WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE BEEN FLOWN IN FROM SAIPAN, PENDLETON SAID.

ACCORDING TO A DOCTOR ON TOBI, THE BOY REQUIRED IMMEDIATE EVACUATION TO KOROR'S MACDONALD HOSPITAL. THE MILITARY WAS ASKED, SAID PENDLETON, ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF REMOVING THE BOY BY HELICOPTER. HOWEVER, NO MILITARY HELICOPTERS WERE AVAILABLE TO MAKE THE FLIGHT FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO TOBI.

THE PARA-MEDICS WERE FLOWN IN, PENDLETON SAID, AND WERE ABLE TO STABILIZE THE BOY'S CONDITION. THE M/V Hafa Adai WILL PICK UP THE PARA-MEDICS AND BOY AND TAKE THEM TO KOROR, PENDLETON NOTED.

04293

(DEVELOPMENT BANK BOARD MEETING)

SAIPAN, JULY 26 (MNS)---THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF MICRONESIA WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON TUESDAY (JULY 30) ON SAIPAN.

ACCORDING TO DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, THE DIRECTORS WILL MEET "TO REVIEW STAFF VACANCIES FOR THE BANK."

THEY WILL PRIMARILY REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF GENERAL MANAGER, COLEMAN POINTED OUT. THE BANK BOARD HAS CONTACTED SEVERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO SUBMIT POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION.

THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF MICRONESIA, ORGANIZED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN JANUARY, 1974, WAS ORIGINALLY THE BANK OF MICRONESIA. THE CONGRESS FORMED THE ORIGINAL BANK IN 1973. MEETINGS CONDUCTED BY THE BANK OF MICRONESIA'S DIRECTORS SUBSEQUENTLY LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT BANK. THE NEW BANK, THE DIRECTORS FELT, WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO FULFILL THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF MICRONESIA.

PRESENT DEVELOPMENT BANK DIRECTORS ARE DEPUTY HICOM COLEMAN, CHAIRMAN; CONGRESSMAN SASAUO HARUO, VICE-CHAIRMAN; SENATOR AMATA KABUA, CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE; KENJI JACK, MARSHALLS; KATSUOSY PAULUS, TRUK; IDELPHONESE PANGELIMAN, PONAPE; JOHN CHIYEG, YAP; MANNY SABLAN, MARIANAS; AND, KALEB UDUI, CONSULTANT. SABLAN, WHO HAS BEEN IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PAST YEAR, WILL BE REPRESENTED BY JESUS GUERRERO.

(PANGELINAN ON STATUS)

SAIPAN, JULY 26 (MNS)---THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION REVEALED WEDNESDAY (JULY 24) THAT THE NEW STATUS OF THE MARIANAS "WILL NOT TAKE PLACE OFFICIALLY UNTIL THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT."

SENATOR EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN MADE THE STATEMENT DURING THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF PROGRAMS "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA" WHICH THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT (ESG) TASK FORCE HAS INITIATED. THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO BRING THE VIEWS OF LEADING OFFICIALS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION, UNITED STATES AND MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATING TEAMS, AND OTHERS, WHICH ARE IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA IN DECIDING THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS.

ALTHOUGH THE UN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL DOES NOT LOOK FAVORABLY UPON THE SEPARATE MARIANAS TALKS, SENATOR PANGELINAN SAID THAT AFTER REVIEWING THE VARIOUS TERRITORIES THAT HAVE BEEN UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THERE ARE LEGAL JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FEELS VERY STRONGLY, PANGELINAN SAID, "THAT WE DO HAVE A LEGAL MANDATE NOT ONLY WITHIN THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT BUT ALSO FROM THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER."

THE MARIANAS SENATOR TOLD THE PANELISTS THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE BESIDES COMMONWEALTH STATUS. HE LISTED THE UNINCORPORATED, UNORGANIZED TERRITORY OF GUAM, THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, AND THE INCORPORATED ORGANIZED TERRITORY OF HAWAII BEFORE STATEHOOD.

"OUR STUDIES INDICATED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP THAT WILL BEST SUIT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS IS THE ONE WE TERM COMMONWEALTH." PANGELINAN DECLARED. "THIS IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH PROPOSAL OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1969 WHICH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REJECTED. IF YOU EXAMINE THAT COMMONWEALTH PROPOSAL, BASICALLY IT IS NOT A COMMONWEALTH BUT RATHER ONE THAT MEETS VERY MUCH THE

04734

ORGANIZED, UNINCORPORATED TERRITORY OF GUAM."

ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE MARIANAS BEING A PART OF A UNIFIED MICRONESIA, SENATOR PANAGELINAN SAID, "THAT IS FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION TO DECIDE." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE IS HOPEFUL THAT A STATUS WHICH WOULD ACCOMMODATE THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA CAN BE ACHIEVED.

"I THINK THE RELATIONSHIP OF COMMONWEALTH WILL NOT SATISFY THE DESIRES AND ASPIRATIONS IN ANY DISTRICT OTHER THAN THE MARIANAS," PANGELINAN ADDED. "BUT I THINK THERE ARE AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND EVEN THE PACIFIC BASIN IN WHICH PERHAPS MORE STUDIES AND GREATER UNDERSTANDING WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE BEFORE WE CAN HAVE A UNIFIED MICRONESIAN TERRITORY."

REGARDING POLITICAL EDUCATION IN THE MARIANAS, THE SENATOR SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO KNOW OTHER ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO THEM AND NOT ONLY COMMONWEALTH. THE COMMISSION, HE CONTINUED, DOES NOT HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION. IT IS NOT WORK OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY, HE SAID, REFERRING TO THE ESG PROGRAM.

"BUT THE PEOPLE WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A VERY COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL EDUCATION," HE SAID. "WE'RE HOLDING IT NOW BY INFORMING THEM WHAT HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THERE WILL BE A TIME AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT IN WHICH THE TWO DELEGATIONS WILL GET TOGETHER AND FOLLOW A FORMAT OF POLITICAL EDUCATION. AFTER THAT, WHEN WE FEEL THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE READY TO MAKE A DECISION, THEN A PLEBISCITE OR REFERENDUM WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE."

ASKED WHETHER THE MARIANAS CAN REJOIN THE OTHER DISTRICTS SHOULD THEIR POLITICAL STATUS BE MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN THAT OF THE MARIANAS AT SOME FUTURE DATE, SENATOR PANGELINAN SAID HE THINKS THERE IS AN OPTION.

"ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES THAT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED HERE IN THE RELATIONSHIP IS THAT THROUGH MUTUAL CONSENT, THE STATUS CAN BE MODIFIED. THIS QUESTION IS REALLY ONE FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION AND THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE.

"IT'S A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION," CONTINUED CHAIRMAN PANGELINAN. "I DON'T THINK THAT WE CAN PINPOINT EXACTLY WHETHER THIS CAN TAKE PLACE. THE OTHER QUESTION IS WHETHER THE MICRONESIANS WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE MARIANAS BACK. OR THE MICRONESIANS WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE MARIANAS."

ASKED WHETHER IS IT APPROPRIATE FOR THE MARIANAS TO PARTICIPATE IN MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, PANGELINAN SAID THAT THE MATTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND DEBATED EXTENSIVELY BETWEEN THE MARIANAS CONGRESS DELEGATION AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS. HE INDICATED THAT IF THE MARIANAS IS TAKEN OUT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, "THE PROSPECTS OF HAVING THE RISK OF OVERTURNING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL IS VERY, VERY GREAT. THE QUESTION IS THAT IT IS GOING TO BE VETOED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER?"

THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS, ACCORDING TO PANGELINAN, FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA ARE ENTITLED TO THEIR RIGHTS WHICH INCLUDES HAVING THEIR OWN CONSTITUTION. "WE IN THE MARIANAS WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY OBSTRUCT THAT RIGHT.

"I THINK THAT OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONVENTION CAN TAKE MANY FORMS. WE CAN GO THERE AND KEEP SILENT, WE CAN

GO THERE AND SPEAK VERY LOUDLY, OR WE CAN TELL THE DELEGATES WHAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS WANT," CONCLUDED PANGELINAN.

(HEALTH COUNCIL REPORTS)

SAIPAN, JULY 26 (MNS)---THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE TRUST TERRITORY HEALTH COUNCIL WERE RELEASED THURSDAY (JULY 25) BY TT HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR DR. MASAO KUMANGAI.

AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK LONG KOROR, PALAU CONFERENCE WERE THE IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES FOR PASSENGER PATIENTS ON AIR MICRONESIA, THE REMOVAL OF DANGEROUS PESTICIDES FROM THE DISTRICTS, AND REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE NEW YAP HOSPITAL AND JALUIT DISPENSARY.

THE HEALTH COUNCIL, IT WAS REPORTED, HAS ASSURED AIR MICRONESIA THAT DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN URGED TO CONDUCT PROPER SCREENING AND DIAGNOSING OF EMERGENCY CASES SO THAT THE AIRLINE CAN TRANSPORT THEM QUICKLY AND SAFELY.

THE COUNCIL ALSO ENDORSED AND SENT LETTERS TO ALL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS HAVE THEIR STAFFS COMPILE REQUIRED INFORMATION ON SHIPPING BANNED PESTICIDES ARE STILL BEING STORED IN THE DISTRICTS, THE COUNCIL NOTED, SHIPMENT OF THEM TO GUAM HAS ALREADY STARTED.

THE COUNCIL ALSO SENT A LETTER TO THE TRUST TERRITORY PROGRAM AND BUDGET OFFICER SAYING THAT FUNDING FOR THE PROPOSED YAP HOSPITAL IS NOT ADEQUATE. "THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS NEW FACILITY IS A HIGH PRIORITY ITEM," THE LETTER STATED, "AND IS ESSENTIAL IN PROVIDING ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF YAP DISTRICT."

2.3 MILLION DOLLARS, NOTED THE COUNCIL, HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROPRIATED FOR THE FACILITY BUT YAP DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR LEONARD AGUIGUI HAD REQUESTED AN ADDITIONAL \$800,000.

"THE COUNCIL STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS REQUEST FOR THE NEEDED FACILITY," THE LETTER SAID.

THE HEALTH COUNCIL ALSO PASSED A RESOLUTION URGING THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO PASS DURING ITS SPECIAL SESSION TWO HOUSE BILLS REQUESTING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE JALUIT DISPENSARY.

(TIOBECH TO ATTEND CALIFORNIA MARITIME ACADEMY)

SAIPAN, JULY 26 (MNS)---JOSEPHUIS TIOBECH OF PALAU WILL BEGIN HIS FIRST YEAR OF STUDY AT THE CALIFORNIA MARITIME ACADEMY UNDER A FULL TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIP, IT WAS ANNOUNCED BY A SPOKESMAN FROM THE TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS FRIDAY (JULY 26).

TIOBECH IS A RECENT GRADUATE OF XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL, AND HE WILL BEGIN A MARINE ENGINEERING CURRICULUM AT THE ACADEMY IN THE FALL.

AT PRESENT THERE ARE TWO OTHER MICRONESIANS ATTENDING THE CALIFORNIA MARITIME ACADEMY, LUKNER WEILBACHER OF PONAPE AND GEORGE BUCHOMAL OF YAP, WHO HAVE BOTH COMPLETED THEIR FIRST YEAR OF TRAINING. BUCHOMAL IS ALSO ON A FULL TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIP, WHILE WEILBACHER IS BEING ASSISTED BY BOTH A TRANSPORTATION DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP AND A TRUST TERRITORY SCHOLARSHIP.

NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: THE FOLLOWING IS A CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA RELEASE RECEIVED BY MNS TOO LATE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE REGULAR MNS DISPATCH. IT IS MEANT TO FOLLOW THE MNS STORY FOR JULY 26 (CONGRESS SESSION BRIEF.)

SAIPAN, JULY 26 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA URGED THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FRIDAY (JULY 26) TO PASS LEGISLATION TO GIVE THE TERRITORY'S SIX DISTRICTS GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONTROL OVER THEIR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

IN HIS SENATE SPEECH, BORJA SAID THAT THE CONGRESS SHOULD FAVORABLE CONSIDER THE MAJOR ISSUES LISTED IN THE SPECIAL SESSION CALL SUCH AS REVENUE SHARING, RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS, AND THE ELECTION OF DISTADS. HE ALSO ASKED THAT REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BE DELAYED BECAUSE IN HIS OPINION THE UPCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WOULD HANDLE THE MATTER AND THAT TOO LITTLE TIME REMAINS TO REAPPORTION THE CONGRESS BEFORE THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

"THESE ARE MATTERS WHICH DEMAND OUR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AND ACTION DURING THIS SHORT SESSION," BORJA SAID.

CONCERNING REVENUE SHARING WHICH HE SAID MUST BEGIN FOR "VERY COMPELLING REASONS" BORJA SAID EACH DISTRICT SHOULD RECEIVE AN EQUITABLE AMOUNT OF THE REVENUES IT GENERATES, AND THAT THE PLAN WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY OF DECENTRALIZING THE GOVERNMENT AND GIVING MORE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE DISTRICTS. "IT WILL ALLOW THEM GREATER EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING THEIR OWN MATTER," HE EXPLAINED, "A VALUABLE STEP BOTH IN TRANSITION TO A NEW STATUS, AND FOR THAT STATUS.

"THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS TO THE DISTRICTS IS ANOTHER MAJOR ISSUE," BORJA STATED, INDICATING THAT SUCH LEGISLATION WOULD BE "HISTORICALLY AND SIGNIFICANT" BECAUSE IT WOULD RESTORE TO THE DISTRICTS THEIR "GREATEST NATURAL ASSET."

TOUCHING ON THE ISSUE OF FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS, THE MARIANAS SENATOR NOTED THAT MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CONGRESS "CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE OTHER DISTRICTS IN ACHIEVING THEIR DESIRED STATUS." BORJA SAID HE HOPED THAT THE OTHER DISTRICTS WOULD LIKEWISE ASSIST THE MARIANAS IN ACHIEVING THEIR POLITICAL GOALS. ALSO RELATED TO THE STATUS QUESTION, BORJA SAID PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO ALLOW FOR THE ELECTION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS WOULD BE A STEP NECESSARY FOR "GIVING GREATER RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DISTRICTS AND MAKING OUR GOVERNMENT MORE RESPONSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE BEING GOVERNED."

CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS, BORJA NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH CONGRESS REVENUES ARE LIMITED, DISTRICT APPROPRIATION BILLS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ENACTED. "WE MUST CONSIDER WHAT DISTRICT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS ARE IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING IN THIS SESSION," HE SAID.