

(CONGRESS--16TH DAY)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 7 (MNS) ^{7/15} ---BOTH HOUSES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HELD ONLY BRIEF MORNING SESSIONS WEDNESDAY (AUG. 7), THE 16TH DAY OF THE CURRENT SPECIAL SESSION ON SAIPAN.

BUT THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ALSO PLANNED TO HOLD ADDITIONAL AFTERNOON SESSIONS WEDNESDAY.

FLOOR ACTION DURING THE MORNING WAS LIGHT. IN THE HOUSE ONE BILL WAS PASSED ON SECOND READING AND SENT TO THE SENATE FOR CONSIDERATION. IT IS AN APPROPRIATION OF \$356,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN PALAU DISTRICT (HB 358).

THREE OTHER APPROPRIATION MEASURES, ALL RECEIVED FROM THE SENATE, WERE PASSED ON FIRST READING. THEY ARE: \$375,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN PONAPE DISTRICT (SB 330); \$348,000 FOR THE SAME PURPOSES IN THE MARIANAS (SB 365); AND \$60,000 TO BE USED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN INITIATING AND CONDUCTING PROGRAMS TO ACHIEVE A GREATER SENSE OF NATIONAL UNITY IN MICRONESIA (SB 359).

THERE WERE NO NEW MEASURES INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE.

THERE WAS NO FINAL FLOOR ACTION ON EITHER BILLS OR RESOLUTIONS IN THE SENATE WEDNESDAY MORNING. TWO NEW BILLS WERE INTRODUCED. ONE IS AN APPROPRIATION OF \$365,000 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN TRUK DISTRICT (SB 374). THE OTHER IS AN APPROPRIATION OF \$50,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING TRANSLATORS FOR THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (SB 373).

THE SENATE SCHEDULED ANOTHER SESSION FOR WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AT 4:30, WHILE THE HOUSE WAS TO MEET AGAIN AT 1:00 P.M. (NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEW DIRECTORS: THERE WILL BE A SECOND MNS DISPATCH FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, COVERING THE AFTERNOON SESSIONS.)

(KABUA ON "DIALOGUE")

SAIPAN, AUGUST 7 (MNS) ---MARSHALL ISLANDS SENATOR AMATA KABUA SAID THIS WEEK THAT THE POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION IN HIS DISTRICT, WHICH HE HEADS, IS NOT ADVOCATING ANY PARTICULAR FORM OF FUTURE STATUS FOR THE MARSHALLS.

THE FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT, SPEAKING ON THE EDUCATION FOR SELF GOVERNMENT PROGRAM "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA," SAID MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF TRAVELING THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT TO TALK WITH THE PEOPLE AND GET THEIR VIEWS. HE SAID THE ONLY MANDATE WHICH THE COMMISSION NOW HAS FROM THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, THE NITIJELA, IS TO FIND OUT WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT AND THEN REPORT BACK TO THE NITIJELA WITH THESE FINDINGS. SO FAR, HE SAID, THE COMMISSION HAS VISITED ABOUT 65 PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE LIVING ON THE OUTER ISLANDS OF THE MARSHALLS.

THE SENATOR SAID IT IS HIS FEELING THAT MANY MARSHALLESE ARE NOT AWARE OF THE VARIOUS STATUS ALTERNATIVES. HE STATED, IN FACT, THAT HE FEELS OUTER ISLANDERS IN THE MARSHALLS ARE LESS WELL-INFORMED THAN THE PEOPLE RESIDING ON OUTER ISLANDS IN OTHER DISTRICTS. HE INDICATED THAT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TT ADMINISTRATION TO COME UP WITH BETTER MEANS OF GETTING INFORMATION OUT TO THESE PEOPLE.

ASKED ABOUT THE SEPARATIST FEELINGS EXPRESSED RECENTLY IN THE MARSHALLS, SENATOR KABUA SAID IT IS UP TO EACH DISTRICT TO DECIDE ITS OWN POLITICAL FUTURE. HE SAID THAT WHILE THE POSSIBILITY OF SEPARATE STATUS TALKS WITH THE U.S. IS BEING CONSIDERED IN THE MARSHALLS, NO OFFICIAL APPROACH HAS YET BEEN MADE TO ANYONE ON THE AMERICAN SIDE, AND THE MARSHALLS MAY DECIDE TO APPROACH OTHER NATIONS AS WELL IF THE DECISION

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IS TO SEEK A SEPARATE POLITICAL STATUS.

THE SENATOR ALSO STATED THAT THE SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS NOW GOING ON BETWEEN THE MARIANAS AND THE U.S. COULD BE SEEN AS A PRECEDENT FOR SEPARATE TALKS WITH HIS DISTRICT.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, KABUA SAID HE FEELS THAT A NEW ELECTION FOR DELEGATES MAY BE NEEDED IN THE MARSHALLS BECAUSE "ONLY ABOUT SEVEN TO TEN PER CENT" OF THE PEOPLE VOTED IN THE JUNE 4TH ELECTION. THEREFORE, HE SAID, THOSE ELECTED DO NOT REALLY REPRESENT THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE. THE SENATOR HAS INTRODUCED A BILL IN THE CURRENT SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS TO DECLARE THE MARSHALLESE CON-CON ELECTION NULL AND VOID AND CALL FOR A NEW ELECTION.

QUESTIONED BY THE PANEL OF NEWS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ON A PETITION, PRESENTED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LAST WEEK BY CONGRESSMAN JOHN HEINE, WHICH WAS IN DISAGREEMENT WITH HIS POLICIES AND THOSE OF THE NITIJELA, SENATOR KABUA SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THAT SOME OF HIS RELATIVES HAD SIGNED THE LETTER. HE INDICATED THAT IN HIS VIEW THE LETTER WAS SIMPLY AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO A CANDIDATE WHO WILL OPPOSE HIM IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION, AND THAT HE FEELS SUCH ELECTIONEERING IS "OUT OF PLACE" IN THE CONGRESS.

SENATOR KABUA ALSO STATED THAT HE HAS NO DOUBT THERE IS A MINORITY IN THE MARSHALLS WHICH DOES NOT AGREE WITH HIS POSITION AND THAT OF THE NITIJELA, AND THAT IT WILL BE UP TO THE MAJORITY TO LISTEN TO THEM AND TAKE THOSE MINORITY VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT.

SENATOR KABUA WAS INTERVIEWED BY JOAN KING, MICRONESIAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS ON GUAM, ABED YOUNIS, EDITOR OF MARIANAS VARIETY, AND JON ANDERSON, BUREAU CHIEF OF THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE. MODERATOR OF THE PROGRAM WAS ELIAS THOMAS, CHIEF OF THE HEADQUARTERS BROADCAST DIVISION.

ALL PROGRAMS IN THE "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA" SERIES ARE DISTRIBUTED FOR RADIO BROADCAST THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA.