

(DRAFT COMPACT INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 8 (MNS) ~~74~~ THE DRAFT COMPACT SETTING FORTH THE PROPOSED FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MICRONESIA AND THE UNITED STATES WAS CIRCULATED IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WEDNESDAY (AUGUST 8).

"THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS HAS MET AND HAS ACCEPTED THE AGREEMENTS REACHED IN GUAM," SAID SENATOR LAZARUS SALII, COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. HE AND REPRESENTATIVE EKPAP SILK, COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRMAN, CIRCULATED THE DRAFT COMPACT IN THE CONGRESS WEDNESDAY EVENING.

SOURCES CLOSE TO THE STATUS TALKS SAY THAT INDICATIONS POINT TO HOLDING THE NEXT FORMAL ROUND OF TALKS IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER. THE LOCATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IS NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME.

THE DRAFT COMPACT, WHICH IS SUBJECT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AS CERTAIN PROVISIONS REMAIN TO BE AGREED, COVERS TWELVE SEPARATE AREAS OF THE NEW RELATIONSHIP AS WELL AS THREE ANNEXES.

TITLE I OF THE COMPACT GIVES "FULL RESPONSIBILITY" TO THE "DULY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA" FOR ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SHOULD THE COMPACT BE TERMINATED, MICRONESIANS MAY "FREELY CHOOSE THEIR OWN FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS" UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE ELEVEN.

UNDER TITLE 2, THE UNITED STATES HAS "FULL RESPONSIBILITY

IF THE DRAFT COMPACT IS APPROVED, TITLE 9 CALLS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENTS TO ESTABLISH "RESIDENT OFFICES" IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FUTURE MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT.

TITLE 10 PROVIDES FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN "GOOD FAITH" SHOULD ANY DISPUTES ARISE FROM THE APPLICATION OF COMPACT AGREEMENTS.

TITLE 11 ALLOWS THE COMPACT TO BE AMENDED OR TERMINATED BY MUTUAL CONSENT AT ANY TIME. THE UNITED STATES HAD PREVIOUSLY ASKED FOR UNILATERAL TERMINATION AFTER 15 YEARS AND THE MICRONESIAN NEGOTIATORS AFTER FIVE YEARS. UNDER TITLE 11, THE COMPACT CAN BE ENDED UNILATERALLY AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS IF THE TERMINATING GOVERNMENT GIVES AT LEAST TWO YEARS NOTICE OF ITS INTENT TO TERMINATE. IN THE CASE OF MICRONESIAN TERMINATION, A MAJORITY OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE MUST FAVOR TERMINATION IN A REFERENDUM.

IN THIS REFERENDUM, HOWEVER, AT LEAST TWO THIRDS OF ALL ELIGIBLE VOTERS WILL HAVE TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF TERMINATION AS WELL AS TWO THIRDS OF ALL MICRONESIAN ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS.

IF IN ANY DISTRICT TWO THIRDS OF THE VOTERS OPPOSE TERMINATION, THAT DISTRICT HAS THE OPTION TO BEGIN SEPARATE POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. SHOULD THOSE NEGOTIATIONS NOT BE COMPLETED BY THE TERMINATION OF THE COMPACT, TITLE 11 SAYS THAT "RELEVANT" COMPACT PROVISIONS WILL APPLY TO THAT DISTRICT UNTIL A FINAL STATUS AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

SHOULD THE COMPACT BE TERMINATED, HOWEVER, THE RIGHTS AND USES IN MICRONESIAN LANDS AND WATERS AS COVERED BY THE EXISTING LEASES WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROTECTED BY A "MUTUAL SECURITY AGREEMENT" BETWEEN THE MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES. THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE NEGOTIATED DURING THE TWO YEAR NOTIFICATION PERIOD.

THE APPROVAL OF THE COMPACT AND THE DATE OF ITS INSTITUTION ARE COVERED IN TITLE 12. A MAJORITY OF AT LEAST

"55 PERCENT OF THOSE VOTING IN A PLEBISCITE" IS REQUIRED TO APPROVE THE COMPACT.

SHOULD A DISTRICT HAVE AT LEAST TWO THIRDS OF ITS VOTERS REJECT THE AGREEMENT, THE COMPACT WILL NOT APPLY TO THAT DISTRICT. IT WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO "NEGOTIATE WITH THE UNITED STATES" FOR A SEPARATE POLITICAL STATUS.

A MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION MUST BE DECIDED UPON BEFORE THE COMPACT CAN GO INTO EFFECT.

ANNEX A OF THE COMPACT ALLOWS THE FUTURE MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDED THAT SUCH MEMBERSHIP DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH UNITED STATES COMMITMENTS.

U.S. LAND REQUIREMENTS, A SUBJECT THAT HAS CAUSED MUCH DEBATE IN MICRONESIA, ARE OUTLINED IN ANNEX B.

IN THE MARSHALLS, THE U.S. NEEDS INCLUDE CONTINUED USE OF KWAJALEIN ATOLL AND ASSOCIATED AREAS CONNECTED WITH THE KWAJALEIN MISSILE RANGE, AS WELL AS PARTS OF BIKINI AND ENIWETOK ATOLLS.

IN PALAU, THE U.S. REQUESTED OPTIONS ON "ACCESS AND ANCHORAGE RIGHTS IN MALAKAL HARBOR AND ADJACENT WATERS" AND JOINT USE OF THE PROPOSED AIRFIELD AT GARRERU ISLAND OR THE BABELTHUAP AIRFIELD.

BABELTHAUP ISLAND, AN OPTION ON SOME 32,000 ACRES OF LAND IS NEEDED FOR "INTERMITTENT GROUND FORCE TRAINING AND MANEUVERS."

THE MARIANAS LAND REQUIREMENTS ARE THE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE MARIANAS STATUS NEGOTIATORS AND THE U.S.

IN ADDITION, "CONTINUING RIGHTS TO OCCASIONAL OR PROBLEMS WHICH SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD POSE.

SENATOR PANGELINAN NOTED THE CONFLICT WHICH HE AND HIS MARIANAS COLLEAGUES FACE NOW, IN TRYING TO REPRESENT THEIR CONSTITUENTS ON THE ONE HAND, AND CARRY OUT THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CONGRESS ON THE OTHER. HE SAID FOR TOO LONG THE CONGRESS HAS REFUSED TO DEAL OPENLY WITH THE QUESTION OF MARIANAS SEPARATISM, AND HE THANKED SENATOR SALII FOR HIS "COURAGEOUS" STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM AS HE SEES IT.

THE JOINT RESOLUTION CARRIED ON A VOICE VOTE, AND NOW GOES TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER ACTION.

THE SENATORS ALSO REJECTED, BY A VOTE OF NINE TO TWO, THE HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS BILL (SB 296), SENDING THAT IMPORTANT BILL TO A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.

IN THE HOUSE THURSDAY, A JOINT RESOLUTION COMMENDING SENATOR ALAN BIBLE (NEVADA) FOR HIS WORK ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, AND CONGRATULATING HIM UPON HIS RETIREMENT (HJR 142) WAS ADOPTED AND SENT TO THE SENATE.

ONE BILL AND ONE JOINT RESOLUTION WERE ALSO INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE. THE BILL WOULD APPROPRIATE \$20,000 FOR PAVING CERTAIN ROADS IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT (HB 367). THE RESOLUTION WOULD EXPRESS "THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REGARDING CLAIMS OF THE MARSHALLESE PEOPLE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES FOR ITS MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT" (HJR 156).

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS WILL HOLD ADDITIONAL MEETING THURSDAY. MNS WILL REPORT ON THE ACTION TAKEN AT THOSE SESSIONS IN A SEPARATE, SECOND DISPATCH FOR THURSDAY.)

(SENATE MEETS LATE WEDNESDAY)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 8 (MNS)---MEETING IN A LATE EVENING SESSION WEDNESDAY (AUG. 7), THEIR THIRD OF THE DAY, THE SENATE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PASSED FIVE BILLS ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, AND ADOPTED SIX JOINT RESOLUTIONS.

TWO OF THE BILLS PASSED BY THE SENATORS WOULD DECLARE CERTAIN ELECTIONS HELD ON JUNE 4 FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES IN THE MARSHALLS AND PALAU DISTRICTS NULL AND VOID, AND CALL FOR NEW ELECTIONS. ONE MEASURE WOULD RE-DRAW THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES FOR DELEGATE DISTRICTS ONE AND TWO IN PALAU DISTRICT, AND PROVIDE FOR A NEW ELECTION IN THOSE DISTRICTS (SB 358). THE BILL WOULD AFFECT A TOTAL OF FOUR DELEGATES WHO WERE ELECTED JUNE 4.

THE OTHER BILL WOULD RE-DRAW THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES FOR DELEGATE DISTRICTS EIGHT AND NINE IN THE MARSHALLS, AND PROVIDE FOR A NEW ELECTION IN THOSE DISTRICTS (SB 363). TWO ELECTED DELEGATES WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS BILL. BOTH MEASURES MUST NOW GO TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

THE BILLS PROMPTED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE. MARIANAS SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN, AN ATTORNEY, SAID HE WAS CONCERNED WITH THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECLARING AN ELECTION VOID THAT WAS HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW. THE POSSIBILITY OF LEGAL ACTION IS THERE, HE NOTED, ADDING THAT THE BILL IS ALSO "UNFAIR" TO THOSE WHO WERE ELECTED IN THE AFFECTED DISTRICTS. "THEY ARE ENTITLED TO SERVE" IN THE CONVENTION, HE SAID.

SENATOR BAILEY OLTER (PONAPE) ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY IRREGULARITIES IN THE ELECTIONS IN QUESTION. NO, REPLIED SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH (TRUK), THE PROBLEM WAS WITH THE WAY IN WHICH THE DISTRICT LINES WERE DRAWN. IN THE MARSHALLS IMPORTANT CULTURAL FACTORS WERE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE ORIGINAL BILL, WHILE IN PALAU THE TWO DISTRICTS TURNED OUT TO BE QUITE UNBALANCED IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF VOTERS IN EACH.

SENATOR AMBILOS IEHSI (PONAPE), CLEARLY TROUBLED BY THE BILLS. SAID HE HAD "NEVER FACED A MORE DIFFICULT DECISION" EMERGENCY USE OF ALL HARBORS, WATERS AND AIRFIELDS THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA" ARE ALSO ASKED FOR.

ANNEX C DEALS WITH THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE EXCHANGE OF RESIDENT OFFICES.

THE UNITED STATES HAS INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST THE MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT IN HELPING COVER THE EXPENSES OF RELOCATING THE PRESENT CAPITAL TO A NEW SIDE TO BE CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. DETAILS OF THIS PROPOSAL REMAIN TO BE NEGOTIATED.

(CONGRESS--17TH DAY)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 8 (MNS)---THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS MOVING TOWARD AJOURNMENT NOW, THE MEETINGS LASTING LONGER AND THE TRANSMISSION OF LEGISLATION BETWEEN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE BECOMING MORE FREQUENT.

WITH ONLY ONE FULL DAY REMAINING OF THE EXTENDED SPECIAL SESSION ON SAIPAN, BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE HELD LENGTHY SESSIONS THURSDAY, AND THEN SCHEDULED ADDITIONAL SESSIONS FOR LATE IN THE AFTERNOON.

ONE MORE BILL IS ON ITS WAY TO HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON FOR HIS ACTION AS THE RESULT OF THURSDAY'S FIRST HOUSE SESSION. THE BILL AUTHORIZES AND DIRECTS THE SENATE PRESIDENT AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

TO INITIATE AND CONDUCT PROGRAMS TO ACHIEVE A GREATER SENSE OF NATIONAL UNITY IN MICRONESIA, AND APPROPRIATES \$60,000 TO CARRY OUT THIS PURPOSE (SB 359). IT IS THE SECOND BILL TO PASS DURING THE CURRENT SESSION.

MARSHALL ISLANDS CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DOMNICK CAST THE LONE DISSENTING VOTE ON THE UNITY MEASURE. HE TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT HE VOTED "NO" BECAUSE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS, IN HIS VIEW, BEEN TRYING TO "RIP THE TERRITORY APART," AND NOW IT IS TRYING TO TIE IT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN.

SIX OTHER BILLS, ALL SENATE MEASURES, PASSED FIRST READING IN THE HOUSE, SETTING THEM UP FOR POSSIBLE FINAL ACTION BEFORE THE END OF THE SESSION.

IN THE SENATE AT THURSDAY'S FIRST SESSION, TWO BILLS PASSED FINAL READING AND WERE SENT TO THE HOUSE FOR ACTION. ONE WOULD ESTABLISH A COMMISSION ON MINIMUM WAGES (SB 368), AND THE OTHER WOULD DECLARE THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTION, THAT WILL BE ADOPTED DURING THE FORTHCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO BE THE SUPREME LAW OF MICRONESIA (SB 369).

SENATORS PANGELINAN AND OLYMPIO T. BORJA (MARIANAS) BOTH RAISED OBJECTIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION BILL. SENATOR PANGELINAN QUESTIONED HOW THE CONGRESS COULD PASS A BILL MAKING A DOCUMENT THEY HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN THE SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND. SENATOR BORJA SAID THE CONVENTION ITSELF SHOULD MAKE THIS SORT OF DECISION.

SENATOR LAZARUS SALII (PALAU) CONTENDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS "VERY MUCH IN ORDER" THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, WHICH CREATED THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, ALSO GIVE IT INSTRUCTIONS OF THIS SORT RELATING TO THE CONSTITUTION. THE BILL PASSED WITH THREE NEGATIVE VOTES, CAST BY THE TWO MARIANAS SENATORS AND BY SENATOR ROMAN TMETUHL (PALAU).

ON THE RESOLUTION CALENDAR, THE LAWMAKERS ADOPTED, ALSO OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF THE SENATORS FROM THE MARIANAS, A JOINT MEASURE DECLARING THE OPPOSITION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO THE SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF ANY PART OF THE TRUST TERRITORY PRIOR TO TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP

DURING DEBATE ON THIS MEASURE, SENATOR LAZARUS SALII DISCUSSED THE SEPARATE MARIANAS TALKS, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT, IN THE EVENT THE MARIANAS AND THE U.S. REACH AN AGREEMENT BEFORE THE OTHER DISTRICTS DO THE SAME IN THE CONGRESS. HE AGREED THAT THERE MAY NOT BE LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR DECLARING THE ELECTIONS VOID, BUT SAID PERHAPS ON MORAL GROUNDS A JUSTIFICATION FOR THE ACTION COULD BE FOUND. BOTH HE AND SENATOR OLYMPIO BORJA (MARIANAS) STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING FAIR AND APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION FROM ALL AREAS OF MICRONESIA IN THE CONVENTION.

SENATOR JOHN MANGEFEL (YAP) ALLUDED TO WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN ON THE MINDS OF MANY OF HIS COLLEAGUES, THAT THE CONGRESS WAS FACED IN THESE TWO BILLS WITH A POLITICAL, RATHER THAN A LEGAL OR A MORAL PROBLEM. "THIS IS A LOCAL PROBLEM, WITHIN ONE DISTRICT," HE SAID WITH REFERENCE TO THE MARSHALLS BILL, AND "THIS CONGRESS SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A VEHICLE FOR SOLVING LOCAL PROBLEMS."

IN THE VOTING ON THE MARSHALLS BILL, SENATORS MANGEFEL, PANGELINAN AND SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA (TRUK) VOTED "NO," AND SEVERAL OTHERS ABSTAINED TWICE. THE FINAL TALLY WAS EIGHT IN FAVOR OF PASSAGE AND THREE AGAINST. THE PALAU BILL PASSED TEN TO NOTHING, WITH TWO SENATORS NOT PRESENT AND MORE THAN HALF OF THOSE VOTING ALSO ABSTAINING.

THE OTHER BILLS PASSED BY THE SENATE WEDNESDAY EVENING WERE LESS CONTROVERSIAL. THEY ARE: A BILL APPROPRIATING \$60,000 FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW OF THE SEA DURING 1975 (SB 356); A BILL RELATING TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES THAT WOULD RETURN TWENTY PER CENT OF THE INCOME DERIVED FROM THE INCOME AND GROSS RECEIPTS TAX LAW TO THE DISTRICTS (SB 370); AND A BILL APPROPRIATING AND ADDITIONAL \$59,000 FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR CONVENTION DELEGATES TO TRAVEL TO MEET WITH THEIR CONSTITUENTS (SB 371). ALL THREE OF THESE BILLS ALSO GO TO THE HOUSE FOR FURTHER ACTION.

THE REVENUE-SHARING MEASURE (SB 370) WAS PASSED WITHOUT FANFARE OR DEBATE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THIS ISSUE HAS SPARKED LONG AND BITTER DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHERE THE BILL FACES AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

ON THE RESOLUTION CALENDAR, THE SENATORS ADOPTED SIX JOINT MEASURES. THREE OF THEM EXPRESS THE THANKS OF THE CONGRESS TO THREE MEMBERS OF THE MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FRANK N. JONES (SJR 135), DEAN JOSHUA M. MORSE (SJR 136) AND DEAN CLINTON BAMBERGER (SJR 137). THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED WITHOUT COMMENT EXCEPT WHEN SENATOR LAZARUS SALII ASKED "WHY ARE WE THANKING ALL THESE PEOPLE?" GETTING NO ANSWER, HE VOTED "NO" ON THE FINAL RESOLUTION WITH A SHAKE OF HIS HEAD.

ALSO ADOPTED WERE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO ACCEPT A FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION GRANT OFFER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KUSAIE AIRPORT MASTER PLAN (HJR 150), REQUESTING THE HICOM TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR AN AIRPORT AT JALUIT IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (HJR 143), AND COMMENDING CONTINENTAL/AIR MICRONESIA ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ITS AIR SERVICE TO TINIAN, IN THE MARIANAS (HJR 139). THESE MEASURES HAVE NOW COMPLETED THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

NO NEW BILLS OR RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED WEDNESDAY EVENING. THE SENATE RECESSED UNTIL 1:30 THURSDAY AFTERNOON, THE 17TH DAY OF THE 18-DAY SPECIAL SESSION.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(HARUO CRITICIZES LAND RETURN BILL)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 8 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---AN ADMINISTRATION-PROPOSED BILL TO RETURN ALL PUBLIC LANDS NOW HELD "IN TRUST" BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT CAME UNDER SHARP ATTACK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WEDNESDAY.

REPRESENTATIVE SASAUO HARUO OF TRUK TOLD HOUSE MEMBERS ALTHOUGH HE IS "ABSOLUTELY IN FAVOR OF THE INTENT" OF SENATE BILL 296, HE SAID HE COULD NOT "CONDONE ITS PASSAGE" BECAUSE PROVISIONS IN THE MEASURE WOULD COMMISSIONER FOR MILITARY RETENTION PURPOSES.

IN REMARKS INSERTED INTO THE HOUSE JOURNAL HARUO DECLARED: "I SEE NO LOGICAL REASON WHY THESE LANDS CANNOT BE RETURNED TO THE DISTRICTS," ADDING THAT IF NECESSARY, THE UNITED STATES COULD THEN NEGOTIATE WITH THE DISTRICTS THEMSELVES IF THEY NEED THE LANDS. HE SAID SUCH PROVISIONS IN THE BILL ONLY "ACCOMMODATE THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES."

INFORMING THE HOUSE THAT HE REFUSED TO SIGN THE COMMITTEE REPORT CONCERNING THE MEASURE, THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN ALSO OBJECTED TO THE BILL ON THE GROUNDS THAT OTHER LANDS WOULD BE WITHHELD FROM THE DISTRICTS "TO ALLEGEDLY FULFILL THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE ADMINISTERING

AUTHORITY FOR THE ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF MICRONESIA," AS HE EXPLAINED IT.

"THIS SORT OF ARRANGEMENT HAS RESULTED IN HOLDING BACK OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN PAST YEARS," HARUO OBJECTED, AND "NOT ACCELERATING OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."

HARUO SAID ANOTHER FLAW IN THE BILL WAS THAT LANDS CURRENTLY OWNED OR LEASED BY THE GOVERNMENT WHERE DISPUTES AND CLAIMS EXISTED WERE ALSO BEING RETURNED TO THE DISTRICTS, AND IN EFFECT, "SHOVING THESE PROBLEMS OFF ONTO THE DISTRICTS. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN CALLOUS IN THE PAST WITH REGARD TO LAND LEASE PROBLEMS WITH IT HAS CAUSED AND I THINK IT IS ONLY FAIR THAT THEY SHOULD REVIEW THESE LEASES AND RENEGOTIATE THEM WITH EQUITY TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED," HE SAID.

HARUO ALSO NOTED THAT BILL DOES NOT INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR FUNDING THE ADJUDICATORY BODIES IN SETTLING THESE DISPUTES MENTIONED IN THE BILL.

"SINCE MUCH OF THE WORK THEY WILL ENCOUNTER WILL BE CAUSED BY THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY," HARUO SAID, "I FEEL THAT THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY SHOULD BE THE BODIES AND NOT THE DISTRICT OR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA."

"FOR THESE REASONS," CONCLUDED HARUO, "I CANNOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE SIGN THE COMMITTEE REPORT AND I CANNOT VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL."

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(MOSES ON LEADERSHIP)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 8 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---REPRESENTATIVE RESIO MOSES OF PONAPE SAID WEDNESDAY THAT A LACK OF LEADERSHIP UNDERLIES "EACH AND EVERY SINGLE PROBLEM MICRONESIA FACES AS IT TRIES TO DEVELOP AS A NATION.

"WITHOUT LEADERSHIP," HE SAID, "WE CANNOT BUILD A NATION, ACHIEVE SELF-RELIANCE, SELF-GOVERNMENT OR BUILD AN ECONOMY."

IN A PREPARED STATEMENT INSERTED INTO THE JOURNAL OF WEDNESDAY'S SECOND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE'S SESSION, THE FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN SAID: "WE DO NOT HAVE ANY MICHAEL SOMARES OR SIR ALBERT HENRYS OR HAMMER DEROBURTS IN OUR ISLAND TERRITORY. IN OTHER WORDS, WE LACK LEADERSHIP,"

EXPLAINING THAT DEROBURT LED THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU TO INDEPENDENCE IN 1968, THAT SOMARE PRESENTLY HEADS THE GOVERNMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA WHICH BECAME SELF-GOVERNING LAST YEAR, AND THAT THE COOK ISLANDS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SIR ALBERT HENRY, BECAME A FREE ASSOCIATED STATE WITH NEW ZEALAND TEN YEARS AGO, CONGRESSMAN MOSES SAID THAT "NOWHERE DOES ORGANIZED INITIATIVE EXIST IN BUILDING OR CONTROLLING MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY."

WHILE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS RESOLVING MICRONESIA'S FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS. MOSES POINTED OUT THAT IN THE PAST THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS AND COLONIALISM?" HE ASKED. "DOES THE WORD ECONOMY IN THE MICRONESIAN VOCABULARY SIMPLY MEAN ASKING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS FOR GRANTS?"

THE PONAPE CONGRESSMAN SAID IF MICRONESIA IS EVER TO BECOME A NATION, "WE MUST ROLL OUR SLEEVES INSTEAD OF HOLDING OUT OUR HANDS TO THE UNITED STATES."

MOSES STRESSED "IT WILL TAKE LEADERSHIP TO ACCOMPLISH THIS. IT WILL TAKE LEADERSHIP TO CONVINCING OUR VILLAGES AND COMMUNITIES THAT IF WE NEED SCHOOLS, DISPENSARIES OR SEA-WALLS, WE MUST BUILD THESE OURSELVES, AT OUR OWN EXPENSE, WITH FREE

LABOR DONATED IN OUR SPARE TIME."

HE SAID THESE "LABOR INVESTMENTS" WOULD PERMIT LIMITED UNITED STATES AID TO BE SPENT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WHICH WOULD BE MORE BENEFICIAL IN THE LONG RUN.

"WE NEED AN ELECTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE," HE CONTINUED, "WHO HAS THE FORESIGHT AND INITIATIVE TO CUT AWAY CERTAIN GOVERNMENT PROJECTS WHICH DO NOT BELONG IN AN UNDERDEVELOPED NATION." MOSES SAID EVEN THOUGH MICRONESIA'S ECONOMY IS "BANKRUPT," A SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM EXISTS. POINTING OUT THAT MOST INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES DID NOT HAVE A SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM UNTIL THEIR ECONOMICS WERE "WELL ON THE WAY TO SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT," THE PONAPE REPRESENTATIVE STATED THAT THE MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND THAT MICRONESIA'S TRADITIONAL FAMILY STRUCTURE ITSELF ELIMINATES THE NEED FOR SUCH A PROGRAM.

"WE MUST FACE UP TO THE OBVIOUS FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES FAILED TO DEVELOP OUR ECONOMY, BUT CRITICISM WILL NOT CORRECT THIS UNJUSTICE," HE SAID. "IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THIS CONGRESS CANNOT BE ABSOLVED OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR PEOPLE. TEN YEARS FROM NOW, ONLY WE WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE SUCCESSES OR FAILURES THAT MIGHT THEN EXIST."

MOSES SAID UNTIL MICRONESIA HAS AN ELECTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MICRONESIAN LEADERSHIP TO BREAK CONTINUED DEPENDENCY ON THE UNITED STATES CAN ONLY COME FROM THE CONGRESS.

"THE FUTURE OF MICRONESIA IS IN OUR HANDS," HE CONCLUDED. "LET US MAKE UP OUR MINDS NOW TO GRASP IT FIRMLY WHILE IT IS STILL WITHIN OUR REACH."