

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SHIFT OF FUNDS TO MARIANAS OPPOSED)

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SAIPAN, AUGUST 27 (CONGRESS RELEASE) AT THE CONCLUSION OF MORE THAN A WEEK OF BUDGET HEARINGS, THE CHAIRMAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING HAVE SENT A STRONGLY-WORDED LETTER TO THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR OBJECTING TO CERTAIN PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE TRUST TERRITORY BUDGET WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE WITHOUT THE COMMITTEE'S KNOWLEDGE.

CHAIRMAN RAYMOND SETIK AND CO-CHAIRMAN BAILEY OLTER SENT THE LETTER, FOLLOWING AN EARLIER DISPATCH, WHICH PROTESTED PLANS INITIATED BY AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS AND THE TT ADMINISTRATION, WHICH WOULD SHIFT FUNDS OUT OF THE PROPOSED 1975 OR 1976 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR A PROJECT FOR THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT.

ACCORDING TO THE LETTER, THE MARIANAS IS SEEKING THE SUM OF \$4.5 MILLION FOR A POWER PLANT FACILITY, WHICH WOULD BE FUNDED BY EITHER REMOVING A REQUEST FOR THREE NEW FIELD TRIP VESSELS FROM THE 1975 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST, OR BY DELETING CERTAIN PROGRAMS FROM THE OTHER FIVE DISTRICTS' BUDGETS FOR 1976.

THE JOINT LETTER TO SECRETARY MORTON, WHICH ALSO DESCRIBES HOW NEW FUNDS FOR AN ADDITIONAL SHIP WERE REFUSED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS FOR THIS YEAR'S 1974 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET, ALONG WITH A DELETION OF TWO MORE SHIPS FOR 1975 TO ALLOW FUNDS FOR A LAND CADATER PROGRAM, INDICATES THAT THE COMMITTEE REALIZES "THE MARIANAS HAVE CRITICAL POWER PROBLEMS--BUT WE ARE ALSO ACCUTELY AWARE THAT THE OTHER DISTRICTS HAVE CRITICAL POWER PROBLEMS, TOO."

THE CO-CHAIRMEN WROTE MORTON THAT THEY LEARNED THROUGH THE RECENTLY COMPLETED HEARINGS ON SAIPAN THAT AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS, THE CHIEF U.S. NEGOTIATOR, PROMISED THE MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION DURING A RECENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS THAT HE WOULD HELP FIND WAYS TO FINANCE THE \$4.5 MILLION FACILITY, A PLAN WHICH HAS SINCE RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM THE TT ADMINISTRATION AND THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, STANLEY S. CARPENTER.

TRUK REPRESENTATIVE SETIK AND PONAPE SENATOR OLTER INFORMED MORTON THAT IF THE CHANGES ARE APPROVED, TO DELETE THE NEW SHIPS IN 1975 WOULD BRING BIG PROBLEMS TO ALL THE DISTRICTS, WHERE FIELD TRIP SERVICE HAS ALREADY REACHED OFTENTIMES CRITICAL STAGES. THEY ADDED THAT ONE ALTERNATIVE PLAN TO FINANCE THE POWER PLANT IN 1976 COULD BE EQUALLY DISASTERIOUS.

THAT PROPOSAL WOULD CUT SECONDARY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT BY \$632,000; DELETE ANOTHER \$602,000 FROM ROAD PROJECTS IN PALAU; CROP \$750,000 FROM ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN PONAPE; CUT \$770,000 FROM WATER PROJECTS IN TRUK; REDUCE ROAD BUILDING PROGRAMS IN YAP BY \$348,000; AND CUT HEADQUARTERS SPENDING FOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT BY ANOTHER \$1.4 MILLION.

THE CONGRESSMEN WROTE MORTON: "WE MUST TAKE THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE EXCEPTION TO THIS READJUSTMENT DESPITE OUR AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT."

LISTING THEIR OBJECTIONS, SETIK AND OLTER SAID THAT BUDGET REQUESTS FOR MARIANAS DISTRICT POWER PLANT FACILITIES WERE ALREADY INCLUDED UNDER PHASE TWO OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR THAT DISTRICT. THEY ADDED THAT EFFORTS ARE NEW BEING MADE TO PLACE A U.S. NAVY BARGE WITH A GENERATING CAPACITY OF

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30,000 KILOWATTS ON SAIPAN AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 1975, AND THAT MARIANAS OFFICIALS ARE NOW CONSIDERING TWO SEPARATE AND "VERY FIRM" PROPOSALS FOR PRIVATE COMPANIES TO OPERATE THE MARIANAS POWER FACILITIES ON A COMMERCIAL BASIS.

"IN TERMS OF PRIORITIES," WROTE THE CONGRESSMEN, "BOTH THE CONGRESS AND THE DISTRICTS HAVE PUSHED FOR NEW SHIPS, AND FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS OF THE OFFICE OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS MAKE THESE CHANGES IS TO PLACE HIM IN THE POSITION OF KNOWING OUR PROBLEMS AND PRIORTIES BETTER THAN WE DO."

SETIK AND OLTER NOTED THAT THEY COULD NOT COMMENT ON THE POSSIBLE MOTIVES BEHIND THE PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES BUT SAID THEY ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE REVIEW FUNCTION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING IS BEING "INCREASINGLY ERODED BY EX POST FACTO DECISIONS" BY THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY WHICH THEY CHARGED "UNDERMINES ANY REASONABLE INPUT FROM THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA."

SETIK AND OLTER EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR REASONS WHY THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING HAS REQUESTED THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS ALLOCATE BLOCK GRANT FUNDS FOR MICRONESIA TO THE CONGRESS SO THAT IT MAY, THROUGH COMMITTEE, SET UP PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMS AS DETERMINED BY THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE THEMSELVES. THEY NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE STRONG RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, AND THE CONGRESS, THIS GOAL HAS NOT BEEN ACHIEVED.

"WE ARE, IN SHORT, BECOMING EXTREMELY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR IN BOTH REVIEWING AND SUPPORTING ANNUAL REGULAR AND SUPPLEMENTAL REQUESTS BEFORE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS," THEY WROTE. "IT GIVES US NO GREAT PLEASURE TO STATE THAT THE VERY REAL POSSIBILITY MAY EXIST IN THE FUTRE THAT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REPRESENTATIVES WHO APPEAR WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER BEFORE AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEES OF THE U.S. CONGRESS MAY BE FORCED TO PRESENT VIEWS DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THOSE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE DEPARTMENT, OR THAT MORE DRASTICALLY, THE CONGRESS MAY CHOOSE NOT TO ATTEND SUCH MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE."

REMINING THE INTERIOR SECRETARY OF A MESSAGE HE DELIVERED TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICTS IN JANUARY 1974, THAT "THE FUTURE OF MICRONESIA IS A MICRONESIAN MATTER", THE CONGRESSMEN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT "NEITHER THE CONGRESS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, NOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR WISH TO SEVER WHAT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST A VALUABLE AND PRODUCTIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP."

(SIR ALBERT HENRY ON PEACESAT)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 27 (MNS)---THE "UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE COOK ISLANDS AND NEW ZEALAND WAS DISCUSSED MONDAY (AUG. 26) DURING A PROGRAM ON THE PEACESAT EXPERIMENTAL SATELLITE NETWORK FEATURING SIR ALBERT HENRY, PREMIER OF THE COOK ISLANDS.

TRUST TERRITORY DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRIK YOMA PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSION FROM THE SAIPAN PEACESAT TERMINAL STATION.

READING FROM A PREPARED STATEMENT, SIR ALBERT HENRY DESCRIBED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS AND NEW ZEALAND AS "UNIQUE" BECAUSE IT BEGAN ABOUT 600 YEARS AGO.

HE DISCUSSED THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE FREE ASSOCIATION STATUS, AND TOURISM.

SIR ALBERT EXPLAINED THAT BEFORE THE CHANGE IN STATUS, THE PERCENTAGE OF THE COOK ISLANDS ANNUAL BUDGET BEING RECEIVED FROM NEW ZEALAND WAS 80-85 PERCENT. NOW IT HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 40 PERCENT BECAUSE OF THE INCREASE IN INTERNAL EARNINGS. "PRIOR TO SELF-GOVERNMENT," HE SAID, "VERY LITTLE TAXATION WAS IMPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND." HOWEVER, HE EXPLAINED, THE COST OF ADMINISTRATION IS BEING FUNDED ENTIRELY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND. NOW, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS HAS IMPOSED TAXATION ON THE PEOPLE WHICH INCREASES ITS INTERNAL EARNINGS AND HAS DECREASED NEW ZEALAND'S AID.

MOST OF THE COUNTRY'S FOOD SUPPLIES ARE IMPORTED FROM NEW ZEALAND DUTY-FREE. HOWEVER, A FIVE PERCENT IMPORT TAX WAS IMPOSED ON NON-ESSENTIAL FOOD SUPPLIES.

THE COOK ISLAND'S MAIN EXPORT IS CITRUS, ACCORDING TO SIR ALBERT. THE BANANA INDUSTRY HAS BEEN REVIVED, BRINGING EVEN MORE INCOME TO THE ISLANDS. "THE OPENING OF OUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS BRINGING OTHER AVENUES OF IMPROVEMENT TO OUR ECONOMIC STRUCTURE," THE PREMIER SAID.

ASKED BY COLEMAN ABOUT TOURISM, SIR ALBERT SAID: "WE ARE APPROACHING THE TOURIST INDUSTRY WITH CAUTION AT THIS TIME. AN OVER-EXERCISE JUST FOR THE SAKE OF MONEY FROM TOURISM, WE'RE TAKING THAT SLOWLY. WE HAVE TWO FORMS OF CONTROL TO THE TOURIST INDUSTRY. ONE, WE ARE RESTRICTING INVESTMENT TO COMPANIES FROM NEW ZEALAND OR AUSTRALIA. TWO, WE RESTRICT ACCOMMODATION TO 160 A WEEK.

"WITH THE HELP OF NEW ZEALAND, WE ARE MOVING TOWARD A MUCH MORE STABLE ECONOMIC BASE THAN WE HAD BEFORE. BEFORE SELF-GOVERNMENT THINGS WERE VERY UNSATISFACTORY. THE FUTURE WAS NOT SURE. TODAY, BECAUSE THE AIM OF GOVERNMENT IS TOWARDS A CERTAIN GOAL, TO TRY AND ENCOURAGE THE INCREASE OF SELF-EMPLOYED COOK ISLANDERS ON THEIR OWN LAND, EVERYBODY SEEMS TO SEE A PICTURE THAT THEY HAVE AIMED FOR IN THE FUTURE," HE POINTED OUT.

RESPONDING TO A QUESTION FROM YOMA ON THE "FREE ASSOCIATION STATUS" BETWEEN THE COOK ISLANDS AND NEW ZEALAND, THE PREMIER EXPLAINED: "THE RIGHT, AUTHORITY OR THE POWER TO CHANGE THIS RELATIONSHIP IS IN THE HANDS OF THE COOK ISLANDS PEOPLE THEMSELVES. IF WE WANT FURTHER SELF-DETERMINATION, WE JUST HAVE TO AMEND CLAUSE 5 IN OUR CONSTITUTION. AT THE PRESENT TIME, WE HAVE FULL INTERNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT. NEW ZEALAND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT IN CONTROL. THIS RESPONSIBILITY CAN ONLY BE DISCHARGED IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COOK ISLANDS GOVERNMENT. TO CHANGE THIS THE COOK ISLAND GOVERNMENT IS GIVEN THE RIGHT AT ANYTIME TO DO.

"IF WE WANT TO GO FURTHER INTO INDEPENDENCE, WE SHALL DO SO. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE FULL RIGHT, TO DECIDE THE PERIOD OF TIME WE WANT TO STAY AS WE ARE, OR THE PERIOD OF TIME WE THINK WE COULD MAINTAIN OUR STATUS OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THIS IS LEFT ENTIRELY IN OUR HANDS. WE COULD STAY LIKE THIS FOR 20 YEARS, OR WE MAY CONSIDER THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS AND WE CAN DO IT NEXT YEAR. BUT IT IS REVIEWABLE."

THE PREMIER ALSO SAID THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE AN ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER AT A SELECTED SITE TO DISCUSS THE FINANCIAL SITUATION, ECONOMIC AND EXCHANGE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(MOBIL OPENS ROTA PLANT)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 26 (CONGRESS RELEASE)--- DEDICATION CEREMONIES FOR A FUEL OIL BULK PLANT FACILITY ON THE ISLAND OF ROTA IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT WERE HELD SATURDAY, AUGUST 24.

THE OPENING OF THE NEW BULK PLANT, WHICH WILL BE OPERATED BY MOBIL OIL OF MICRONESIA, WILL GREATLY ALLEVIATE THE CHRONIC FUEL SHORTAGES WHICH HAVE FACED ROTA IN THE PAST, ACCORDING TO MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVE FELIPE O. ATALIG.

ATALIG, WHO ATTENDED THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY ON BEHALF OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, DESCRIBED ROTA IN THE PAST AS BEING THE "STEPCHILD" OF THE MARIANAS, WITH HER CLOSEST ISLAND NEIGHBOR, GUAM, BEING A FOREIGN COUNTRY. FOR OVER TEN YEARS, HE SAID, THE OTHER ISLANDS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WERE ADMINISTERED SEPARATELY BY THE U.S. MILITARY WHILE ROTA WAS ADMINISTERED TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER FIVE DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA.

ATALIG TOLD A CROWD OF NEARLY 200 WHO GATHERED FOR THE DEDICATION THAT BECAUSE OF THIS SITUATION, THE PEOPLE OF ROTA REMAINED STRONG AND BECAME, IN HIS OPINION, "PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST SELF-SUFFICIENT AND AGRICULTURALLY PRODUCTIVE ISLANDS IN MICRONESIA TODAY." HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH ROTA HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY NEGLECTED IN THE PAST, THE PEOPLE HAVE BECOME SELF-RELIANT, "MORE THAN ANY OTHER ISLAND IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT."

THANKING MOBIL OIL OF MICRONESIA FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN EXPANDING THEIR SERVICES TO ROTA, ATALIG SAID THE PLANT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY BOOST THE LOCAL ECONOMY SINCE IT WILL LOWER FUEL COSTS TO ROTA ISLAND RESIDENTS. HE SAID GASOLINE PRICES WILL BE REDUCED FROM ABOUT 95CENTS TO ABOUT 65CENTS PER GALLON.

OTHER SIGNATARIES WHO ATTENDED THE CEREMONY AND DELIVERED SHORT REMARKS WERE ANTONIO ATALIG WHO PERFORMED THE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY.

(SEARCH MEETING)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 27 (MNS)---SAIPAN WAS THE SITE OF A RECENT MEETING TO PLAN FOR A MASSIVE SEARCH AND IDENTIFICATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY DURING THE 1974-75 SCHOOL YEAR. THE CONFERENCE ESTABLISHED A PRECEDENT IN MUTUAL PLANNING BY BRINGING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATION AND HEADSTART OF THE SIX DISTRICTS. THE THREE-DAY MEETING WAS HELD ON SAIPAN LAST WEEK.

THE TRUST TERRITORY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION HAS RECEIVED A GRANT OF \$65,000 FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN REGION DEAF-BLIND CENTER AINED TOTALLY AT THE IDENTIFICATION AND DIAGNOSIS OF DEAF-BLIND AND OTHER HANDICAPPED CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY.

THE PURPOSE OF THE JOINT MEETING, SPONSORED BY THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION, AND HEALTH SERVICES, WAS TO INFORM ALL PARTICIPANTS OF EXISTING SERVICES FOR HANDICAPPED, TO ESTABLISH THE THREE DISTRICT AGENCIES AS DECISION MAKERS FOR DIAGNOSTIC AND PROGRAM SERVICES FOR HANDICAPPED, TO DEVELOP UNIQUE DISTRICT-BY-DISTRICT STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES TO CONDUCT THE SEARCH PROJECTS LOCALLY, AND TO BEGIN TO IMPROVE REFERRAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND HEALTH DEPARTMENTS IN THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

BY THE END OF THE MEETING EACH DISTRICT HAD DEVELOPED A UNIQUE DISTRICT PLAN MAKING USE OF LOCAL AND PROJECT

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RESOURCES IN ORDER TO CONDUCT A SEARCH FOR HANDICAPPED WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL TEACHERS, HEADSTART PROGRAMS, AND LOCAL MEDICAL PERSONNEL. EACH DISTRICT IS PLANNING TO SURVEY THEIR TOTAL POPULATION INCLUDING THE MANY DISTANT OUTER ISLANDS WHICH ARE REMOTE BOTH FROM CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. SEARCH ACTIVITIES WILL BEGIN IN EACH OF THE DISTRICTS IN OCTOBER.

ONCE SUSPECTED HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ARE LOCATED, DEAF-BLIND AND OTHER HANDICAPPED CHILDREN WILL BE RECEIVING DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES THROUGH PROJECT FUNDS, EXISTING MEDICAL SERVICES SUCH AS THE CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S SERVICES, AND OTHER FUNDS THAT ARE ANTICIPATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SPECIAL EDUCATION SECTION.

THE MEETING WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY FUNDS PROVIDED THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BY THE NORTHWEST REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON. THE CENTER IS FUNDED FROM THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION TO ASSIST STATES AND TERRITORIES IN ITS REGION WITH THE LOCATION, AND ASSESSMENT OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN TO ENSURE THEIR APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENTS.

EACH OF THE TERRITORY'S DISTRICTS WAS REPRESENTED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH OF THE DEPARTMENTS.

DAVID PIERCY, COORDINATOR, SPECIAL EDUCATION, DR. WILLA FISHER, CHIEF, MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH/CRIPPLED CHILDREN SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, AND DR. THOMAS CHASTAIN, A CONSULTANT FROM LAS CRUCES, NEX MEXICO, SERVED AS FACILITATORS FOR THE MEETING.

THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY 31 PARTICIPANTS REPRESENTING THE SIX DISTRICTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND HEADSTART REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDING HEADQUARTERS HEALTH SERVICES STAFF.

(BUSINESS APPLICATIONS)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 27 (MNS)---AN APPLICATION FROM A LAND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY FOR A PERMIT TO SET UP OPERATIONS IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT WAS THE ONLY ACTIVITY REPORTED BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION FOR THE PAST WEEK. THE DIVISION HANDLES APPLICATIONS FOR FOREIGN BUSINESS PERMITS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE PROPOSED COMPANY IS OCEANSIDE CORPORATION, WHICH WANTS TO ENGAGE IN HOTEL AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MARIANAS. PRESIDENT OF THE FIRM IS VICENTE S. SABLAN OF SAIPAN, VICE-PRESIDENT IS PETER J. CHUN OF HONOLULU, AND SECRETARY IS JESUS S. SABLAN OF SAIPAN.

THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO THE MARIANAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMENDATION.