

(EXPORTS UP)

Saipan, August 30 (UPI) ⁷⁴ COMMODITY EXPORTS FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY REACHED AN ALL TIME HIGH DURING FISCAL YEAR 1974, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED FRIDAY (AUG. 30) BY THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT.

JUST OVER EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF PRODUCTS AND GOODS WAS EXPORTED DURING THE YEAR, AS COMPARED WITH 1.8 MILLION DOLLARS IN FISCAL YEAR 1973. THE DRAMATIC INCREASE WAS DUE PRIMARILY TO INCREASED COPRA EXPORTS--WHICH IN TURN WERE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE HIGH WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR COPRA--AND TO AN INCREASED FISHING CATCH.

THE MAJOR EXPORT CONTINUES TO BE COPRA, THE DRIED MEAT OF THE COCONUT, WHICH TOTALLED 12,426 SHORT TONS WORTH 4.4 MILLION DOLLARS DURING THE YEAR. THIS IS A 3,964 SHORT TON INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR, AND A 3.5 MILLION DOLLAR INCREASE IN THE VALUE OF THIS EXPORT. ALL OF THE TT COPRA PRODUCTION IS SOLD IN JAPAN.

AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR (JUNE 30) COPRA PRICES HAD REACHED AN ALL TIME HIGH, WITH THE DISTRICT CENTER PRICE BEING \$252.50 FOR GRADE ONE, PER TON. THE PRICE HAS SINCE GONE EVEN HIGHER, TO ITS HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 1950. DEPARTMENT ANALYST FORECAST THE HIGH PRICES ON COPRA WILL CONTINUE WELL INTO THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR DUE TO THE PROJECTED CONTINUED HIGH PRICE OF COPRA ON THE WORLD MARKET.

FISH CONTINUED AS THE SECOND LARGEST COMMODITY EXPORTED, WITH A TOTAL VALUE OF NEARLY THREE MILLION DOLLARS. THIS IS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S \$309,000, ALTHOUGH IT IS THOUGHT THAT THE FIGURES REPORTED FOR LAST YEAR WERE NOT COMPLETE. UNDISPUTED, HOWEVER, IS THE FACT THAT THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN OFFSHORE FISHERIES CATCH DURING THE YEAR JUST COMPLETED. TUNA CAUGHT IN FISCAL YEAR 1974 INCREASED ALMOST 2,000 SHORT TONS OVER FY 1973.

MEAT EXPORTS ALSO INCREASED DURING THE YEAR, DUE TO LIFTING OF PREVIOUS RESTRICTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE EXPORT OF TT MEAT UNDER THE U.S. WHOLESOME MEAT ACT.

THE AMOUNTS OF OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS EXPORTED REMAINED THE SAME OR EVEN DECLINED SLIGHTLY DURING THE YEAR, DUE TO INCREASED LOCAL CONSUMPTION.

THE LEADING DISTRICT IN COMMODITY EXPORTS WAS PALAU. THE MARSHALL ISLANDS CONTINUED AS THE LARGEST COPRA PRODUCING DISTRICT IN THE TT, WHILE THE MARIANAS DISTRICT CONTINUED TO LEAD IN TOURISM.

IF THE SO-CALLED "INVISIBLE EXPORT" OF TOURISM IS INCLUDED IN THE EXPORT FIGURES FOR FY 1974, EXPORTS FOR THE YEAR TOTALLED 12.6 MILLION DOLLARS, A 7.2 MILLION DOLLAR INCREASE OVER FY 1973. TOURISM BROUGHT AN ESTIMATED 4.6 MILLION DOLLARS INTO THE TERRITORY DURING THE YEAR.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCALE, FIGURES COMPILED BY THE TRUST TERRITORY REVENUE DIVISION SHOW THAT IMPORTS ALSO INCREASED BY SOME 3.2 MILLION DOLLARS OVER THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR. WHILE THE DOLLAR VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. SHOWED A 4.3 MILLION DOLLAR INCREASE, THE DOLLAR VALUE OF IMPORTS FROM JAPAN AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES DECLINED, SHOWING THE EFFECTS OF THE U.S. DOLLAR DEVALUATION, AND SUBSEQUENT INFLATION, ON TRUST TERRITORY IMPORTS.

THE OVERALL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IN THE TT IMPROVED, ALTHOUGH IMPORTS CONTINUE TO OUTWEIGH EXPORTS BY A RATIO OF ABOUT THREE TO ONE.

COMMENTING ON THE FIGURES RELEASED THIS WEEK, DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT EUSEBIO RECHUCHER SAID: "THESE

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FIGURES INDICATE A DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT IN MICRONESIA'S ECONOMIC PICTURE. BUT THERE REMAINS A GREAT DEAL TO BE DONE. WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE MARKET STRUCTURE FOR TRADING TERRITORY PRODUCTS, AND INCREASE PRODUCTION OF THOSE ITEMS WHICH WE CAN PROFITABLY EXPORT. THIS IS A MAJOR GOAL OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS, AND I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS IN THAT DIRECTION."

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETS)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 30, (CONGRESS RELEASE)--THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE FOR THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION COMPLETED ITS FIRST SERIES OF MEETINGS FRIDAY (AUG. 30) AFTER A WEEK-LONG SESSION ON SAIPAN.

DELEGATION CHAIRMEN FROM THE DISTRICTS MET WITH THE COMMITTEE'S CHAIRMAN, SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIMO NAKAYANA, CONGRESS CONVENTION COORDINATOR SENATOR LAZARUS SAKI, AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH LIAISON N. WEIHAN CRALEY, JR., TO CONSIDER A LONG AND DETAILED AGENDA.

ONE OF THE FIRST DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE WAS TO ELECT ADDITIONAL OFFICERS; THE NEW OFFICERS ARE POUAPE DELEGATE LEO A. FALCAM, VICE PRESIDENT, AND MARIANAS DELEGATE LORENZO CABRERA, SECRETARY.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, THE CHAIRMAN DESCRIBED THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE'S WORK AS "VERY PRODUCTIVE" BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE HAD MADE "SOME VERY IMPORTANT DECISIONS" NEEDED TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE HISTORIC CONVENTION.

PUBLIC LAW NO. 5-66, WHICH CALLS FOR CREATION OF THE CONVENTION, ALSO CREATED THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE AND CHARGED IT WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO "FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION"--INCLUDING ARRANGING FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND FACILITIES--AND TO "TAKE SUCH OTHER STEPS AS IT MAY DEEM NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE" TO ASSIST THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION.

IN THEIR MEETING THE DELEGATES CONSIDERED LOGISTICAL PREPARATIONS, STAFFING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS. THEY ALSO LOOKED OVER A DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE WHICH--WHEN FINALIZED--MUST BE CONSIDERED FOR ADOPTION BY THE FULL CONVENTION WHEN IT MEETS ON SAIPAN SOMETIME IN 1976.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SAID THAT BECAUSE THEY RECOGNIZ THE NEED TO GET INFORMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA ABOUT THE PRE CONVENTION COMMITTEE'S WORK AND THE CONVENTION ITSELF, THEY MET WITH THE TRUST TERRITORY EDUCATION FOR SELF GOVERNMENT (ESS) TASK FORCE TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT.

ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE, IN TALKING ABOUT ESS'S EFFECTIVENESS, THEY WERE TOLD THAT IN SOME DISTRICTS, "THERE WAS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT" IN GETTING OUT INFORMATION, BUT THAT ESS WOULD COOPERATE FULLY ON NEWS ABOUT THE CONVENTION.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE WAS TO CREATE A SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONVENTION PERSONNEL COMPOSED OF LORENZO CABRERA, CHAIRMAN; AND MEMBERS LEO FALCAM, AND PALAU DELEGATE JOHN O. NGIRAKED. THIS SUBCOMMITTEE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF SOLICITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE COMMITTEE, AND OTHER KEY STAFF FOR THE CONVENTION FROM WHICH THE COMMITTEE WILL MAKE THE FINAL CHOICES.

THE COMMITTEE'S SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE PROPOSED DATE FOR THE CONVENTION WILL NOT BE DETERMINED UNTIL AFTER THE COMMITTEE HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICTS AND TO MEET AND TALK WITH ALL DISTRICT DELEGATIONS TO THE

CONVENTION.

THE COMMITTEE WILL VISIT PONAPE ON SEPTEMBER 9, AND FROM THERE PLANS TO VISIT THE OTHER DISTRICTS. THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT IT WAS THE INTENT OF THE MEMBERS TO HAVE MONTHLY MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE TO COORDINATE THEIR WORK ON PLANS FOR THE CONVENTION.

DURING ITS DELIBERATIONS, THE COMMITTEE ALSO TOOK UP THE QUESTION OF THE FACILITY TO HOUSE THE CONVENTION AND ITS OFFICES. SEVERAL PROPOSED SITES ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION INCLUDING THE SAIPAN CONTINENTAL HOTEL, BUT MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED BEFORE A DECISION CAN BE MADE.

ALL DISTRICTS WERE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING, EXCEPT THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT. A SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MARSHALLS DELEGATION WAS NOT YET ORGANIZED, BUT THAT THE CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY COULD DO SO SOON, IN ORDER TO JOIN WITH THEM IN THE "IMPORTANT WORK OF THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE."

DISTRICT DELEGATES ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE: MARIANAS, LORENZO CABRERA; PALAU, JOHN O. NSIRAKED; PONAPE, LEO A. FALCAN; TRUK, CHUTOMO NIMES; AND YAP, PETRUS TUN. ALSO ATTENDING WERE CONGRESS CONVENTION COORDINATOR LAZARUS SALII, LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL KALEB UDUI, SENATE CLERK F. SABO ULUCKONG, AND HOUSE CLERK ASTERIO TAYOM OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, N. NEIMAN CRALEY, JR., WHO HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO PROVIDE LIAISON FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, WAS ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE'S TEMPORARY OFFICE IS LOCATED AT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ANNEX BUILDING. CHAIRMAN NAKAYAMA SAID THAT IF THERE ARE PERSONS OR GROUPS WHO HAVE QUESTIONS OR WANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMMITTEE OF THE CONVENTION THEY COULD CONTACT THE COMMITTEE THROUGH SENATOR SALII AT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS, 96956.

FUTURE WORK OF THE PRE CONVENTION COMMITTEE WILL INCLUDE A REVIEW IN PONAPE OF THE RULES, AND--UPON SIGNING INTO LAW OF SENATE BILL NO. 347--APPOINTMENT OF A THREE-MEMBER CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

(TRANSPAC SHAREHOLDERS FILED SUIT)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 30 (MNS)---TRANSPACIFIC LINES INC., SHAREHOLDERS HAVE FILED A SUIT AGAINST THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO THURSDAY'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, (AUG.29).

THE SUIT, FILED THIS WEEK AT THE TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COURT, NAMES TT HIGH COMMISSIONER EDUARD E. JOHNSTON, ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD I. MIYAMOTO AND TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANT WAYNE C. THIESSEN AS DEFENDANTS.

THE SUIT IS BROUGHT BY 24 STOCKHOLDERS, INCLUDING GEORGE C. KISKADDON, FORMER HEAD OF TRANSPAC'S PREDECESSOR COMPANY, MILI, MICRONESIAN CITIZENS PEDRO R. GUERRERO, MANUEL D. MUNA, CARLOS A. SHODA, SEGUNDO SABLAN, HERCULANO KOHLER AND THE YAP SHIPPING COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

THE SHAREHOLDERS ALLEGE THAT JOHNSTON, MIYAMOTO AND THIESSEN "ACTED OPPRESSIVELY AND MALICIOUSLY IN INTERFERING WITH THE CONTRACT RIGHTS" OF THE PLAINTIFFS. THEY SEEK \$31 MILLION PLUS PUNITIVE DAMAGES OF \$10 MILLION AND ASK THAT THE TRANSPAC RECEIVERSHIP BE DISSOLVED.

THE SUIT FOLLOWS AN EARLIER ACTION IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF CLAIMS, WHICH WAS DISMISSED FOR LACK OF JURISDICTION.

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IN THAT SUIT, 16 TRANSPAC SHAREHOLDERS SOUGHT RECOVERY OF FINANCIAL LOSSES FROM THE UNITED STATES, ALLEGING THAT THEIR PRIVATE PROPERTY WAS TAKEN FOR PUBLIC USE BY THE U.S. THROUGH ITS AGENTS OR APPOINTEES, SUCH AS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE DAILY NEWS STORY SAID.

THE LATEST SUIT CHARGES THAT THE TT DID NOT LIVE UP TO ITS CONTRACT, NEGOTIATED IN AUGUST 1968 WITH MICRONESIA INTEROCEAN LINE INC., (MILI), WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME TRANSPAC. IT ALLEGES THAT THE TT GOVERNMENT WAS TO FURNISH REASONABLE PORT FACILITIES AND DID NOT, THEREBY RESULTING IN FINANCIAL LOSS FOR THE NAMED PLAINTIFF SHAREHOLDERS.

"THE TT ENGAGED IN MANAGEMENT PRACTICES CAUSING A TERMINAL FINANCIAL CRISIS AND DESTRUCTION OF TRANSPAC," THE COMPLAINT CONTINUES, "MAKING THE PERFORMANCE OF SAID CONTRACT IMPOSSIBLE."

THE ACTIONS OF THOSE PLACED IN OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF TRANSPAC "CONTRIBUTED TO THE FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL DESTRUCTION OF THE CORPORATION," CAUSING THE COMPANY TO BE PUT INTO RECEIVERSHIP, THE COMPLAINT ALLEGES. AS A RESULT, IT STATED, "SAID TT IS INDEBTED TO PLAINTIFFS FOR THEIR LOSS OF PROFITS AND CAPITAL AND THEIR OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN SAID CORPORATION."

THE PLAINTIFFS SAY THEY ARE BASING THE \$31 MILLION FIGURE ON PAST AND FUTURE EARNINGS OF TRANSPAC WHICH THEY SAY WOULD HAVE RESULTED BUT FOR THE ACTIONS OF JOHNSTON, MIYAKOT AND THIESSEN WHO "INDUCED AND CAUSED SAID TT TO BREACH SAID CONTRACT WITH TRANSPAC, ALL TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SAID TRANSPACIFIC LINES," READS THE COMPLAINT.

DOUGLAS F. CUSHNIE OF GUAM IS REPRESENTING THE SHAREHOLDERS.

(TT-SAN DIEGO COUNTY AFFILIATE)

SAIPAN, AUGUST 30 (MNS)--THE OFFICE OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY AUDITOR AND CONTROLLER, GERALD J. LONERGAN, WAS THE SITE OF AN OFFICIAL AFFILIATION CEREMONY RECENTLY WHERE JESUS MAFNAS, T.T. CHIEF OF THE REVENUE DIVISION, WAS PRESENTED A CERTIFICATE OF AFFILIATION WITH THE CALIFORNIA SOCIETY OF GOVERNMENTAL ACCOUNTANTS. THE PRESENTATION WAS MADE BY JOE SOLDO, A PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT IN THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY AUDITOR AND CONTROLLER'S OFFICE, WHO ALSO SERVES AS SOCIETY TREASURER; AND SHERYL WHITE, PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY'S SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, ACCORDING TO MAFNAS.

THE COUNTY HAS OPERATED A STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH THE TRUST TERRITORY FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. HARRY BARBER, A SENIOR ACCOUNTANT FOR THE COUNTY, IS PRESENTLY SPENDING ONE YEAR ON ASSIGNMENT IN THE ISLANDS ESTABLISHING A FIELD AUDIT PROGRAM FOR THE REVENUE DIVISION HEADED BY MAFNAS.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE TRUST TERRITORY WILL FORM A LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE ACCOUNTANTS SOCIETY TO PROMOTE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING, ACCORDING TO MAFNAS.

ACCOUNTANTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS IN THE BUSINESS SECTORS WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION AS SOON AS THE CHAPTER IS ORGANIZED. THERE ARE MORE THAN FIFTEEN MICRONESIAN AND NON-MICRONESIAN ACCOUNTANTS WHO HAVE SIGNED UP.

THE CHAPTER WILL ENABLE ITS MEMBERS TO SHARE IDEAS AND DISCUSS ESSENTIAL PROBLEMS. THIS WILL IMPROVE THE COMMUNICATIONS AS WELL AS THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACCOUNTANTS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS SECTORS, MAFNAS CONCLUDED.

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(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: BECAUSE MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 2 IS LABOR DAY AND AN OFFICIAL HOLIDAY, THERE
WILL BE NO MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE DISPATCH FOR THAT DAY.
THE NEXT MNS DISPATCH YOU RECEIVE WILL BE DATED TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3.)