

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(BUDGET REPORT SUBMITTED)

File

SAIPAN, SEPT. 4 (CONGRESS RELEASE) 74- THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS SUBMITTED A REPORT OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1976 PRELIMINARY BUDGET PLAN REQUEST TO HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSON. 11

THE REPORT INCLUDES REQUESTS FOR DIRECT APPROPRIATIONS AND FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS FOR THE OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL LATER BE CONSIDERED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS.

IN SUBMITTING THE REPORT AFTER TWO WEEKS OF HEARINGS ON SAIPAN, THE COMMITTEE RE-EMPHASIZED ITS CONCERN THAT MORE RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY FOR PROGRAM FORMULATION AND EXECUTION BE PLACED ON THE DISTRICT LEVEL. BECAUSE OF THIS CONCERN, THE FIRST SECTION OF THE REPORT DEALS WITH SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS IN THE QUARTERS OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET REQUESTS. SUBSEQUENT SECTIONS OF THE REPORT INVOLVING BUDGET CUTS FOR THE DISTRICTS PRIMARILY INCLUDE STAFF TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION CUTS, AND WHAT THE REPORT TERMS A "CONTINUOUS ABUSE" IN BUDGETING LARGE SUMS FOR GOVERNMENT VEHICLES THAT ARE OFTEN USED FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES, AND THE NEED FOR AN OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

A SPECIAL SECTION OF THE REPORT DESCRIBES POSSIBLE PROBLEMS WHICH COULD DEVELOP DURING THE POLITICAL STATUS TRANSITION PERIOD. THE REPORT MENTION A "DILEMMA OF CONSTANTLY INCREASING DEMANDS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES," INCLUDING HIGHER SALARIES, AND THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES STATUS NEGOTIATORS OF DECREASING U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MICRONESIA DURING THE 1975 TO 1980 FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE REPORT URGES THAT "CLOSE SCRUTINY" BE MADE OF GOVERNMENT REVENUES AVAILABLE TO MAKE UP THE ANTICIPATED DEFICIT BETWEEN WHAT THE UNITED STATES WILL COMMIT TO MICRONESIA AND WHAT MICRONESIA WILL REQUIRE TO MAINTAIN THE NECESSARY PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC SERVICES DURING THAT PERIOD. IT MENTIONS THE NEED FOR A DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN ORDER TO EXPAND MICRONESIA'S ECONOMIC BASE, SUGGESTING THE "PROPER MIX OF INDUSTRY," NAMELY TOURISM, FISHING, AND AGRICULTURE, TO ASSURE CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH.

HOWEVER, THE REPORT NOTES THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE REVIEWED THE BUDGETARY PLAN "AT A TIME WHEN MANY VARIABLES IN THE BUDGETARY PROCESSES REMAIN UNRESOLVED AND INDETERMINATE," SINCE A BUDGET CEILING FOR FISCAL YEARS 1975 AND 1976 HAS NOT YET BEEN SET BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

"THE COMMITTEE COULD HAVE REVIEWED THE BUDGET PLAN IN GREATER DEPTH WITH A GREATER DEGREE OF SPECIFICITY IF IT HAD HAD INFORMATION AS TO THE TOTAL DOLLAR CEILING FIGURE WITHIN WHICH ITS REVIEW SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN," THE REPORT STATES.

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE HEARINGS INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SETIK OF TRUK, CHAIRMAN; SENATOR BAILEY OLTER OF PONAPE, CO-CHAIRMAN; REPRESENTATIVE EKPAP SILK OF THE MARSHALLS; REPRESENTATIVE TARKONS PEDRO OF PALAU; SENATOR JOHN MANGFEL OF YAP; AND REPRESENTATIVE FELIPE O. ATALIG OF THE MARIANAS.

(AIR PACIFIC GETS MAJURO RIGHTS)

SAIPAN, SEPT. 4 (INS)---THE NATIONAL AIRLINE OF FIJI, AIR PACIFIC, HAS BEEN GRANTED THE TEMPORARY RIGHT TO PROVIDE SERVICE FROM FIJI TO MAJURO, IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, VIA

10706

FUNAFUTI AND TARAVA IN THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY, ACCORDING TO A NEWS ITEM IN THE AUGUST 26 EDITION OF AVIATION DAILY, AN AIRLINE TRADE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON.

THE STORY REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT GERALD FORD HAS APPROVED A ONE-YEAR OPERATING AUTHORITY FOR AIR PACIFIC TO SERVE MAJURO, AS WELL AS A ONE-YEAR AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE SERVICE BETWEEN FIJI AND PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA.

"THE AUTHORITY IS LIMITED TO ONE YEAR," AVIATION DAILY REPORTS, "SO THAT THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD (CAB) CAN REVIEW THE OWNERSHIP OF AIR PACIFIC AND REVIEW THE FIJI GOVERNMENT'S ACTION CONCERNING PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAY'S SERVICE THERE." THE FIJI AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN A RUNNING DISPUTE OVER AIR RIGHTS THAT RECENTLY RESULTED IN AN ORDER FROM FIJI TO PAN AM TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ITS FLIGHTS THROUGH FIJI'S NADI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EVERY WEEK. THE AIRLINE HAS COMPLIED WITH THE REDUCTION.

AIR PACIFIC IS JOINTLY OWNED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF FIJI, NAURU, TONGA, THE BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS, WESTERN SAMOA AND THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS COLONY, AS WELL AS BY QANTAS AIRLINES, AIR NEW ZEALAND AND BRITISH OVERSEAS AIRWAYS. THE AIRLINE ALREADY SERVES TARAVA AND FUNAFUTI ON A FLIGHT THAT TERMINATES IN NAURU. THE ONLY AIRLINE NOW PROVIDING REGULAR SCHEDULED SERVICE TO MAJURO, OTHER THAN CONTINENTAL/AIR MICRONESIA, IS NAURU.

THERE IS NO INDICATION IN THE AVIATION DAILY REPORT WHEN AIR PACIFIC WOULD BEGIN ITS MAJURO SERVICE. TRUST TERRITORY OFFICIALS WERE NOT AWARE OF THE CAB AWARD OF OPERATING RIGHTS TO AIR PACIFIC, AND THEREFORE HAD NO COMMENT ON ITS THIS WEEK.

(SYMPHONY TOUR BEGINS)

KWAJALEIN, SEPT. 4 (MNS)--THE HONOLULU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA BEGINS A TOUR OF MICRONESIA THIS WEEK, THE THIRD TIME IN AS MANY YEARS THAT THE ORCHESTRA HAS TOURED THE TRUST TERRITORY AND GUAM.

THE ORCHESTRA'S 53 MEMBERS, LED BY ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR JOSEPH LEVINE, ARE DUB TO ARRIVE IN KWAJALEIN, THE U.S. ARMY BASE IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, ON THURSDAY (SEPT. 5). THEY WILL GIVE SEVERAL CONCERTS AND ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES THERE, BEFORE FLYING TO PONAPE ON SUNDAY FOR THREE-DAY STAY. THE GROUP WILL FLY FROM PONAPE TO GUAM ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, THEN TO SAIPAN ON FRIDAY, THE 13TH, AND TO TRUK ON SUNDAY, THE 15TH. THE MUSICIANS WILL RETURN TO HONOLULU TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17.

BOTH PUBLIC CONCERTS AND SCHOOL ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES ARE SCHEDULED AT EACH STOP EXCEPT SAIPAN, WHERE ONLY A PUBLIC CONCERT WILL BE GIVEN ON FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 13.

GUEST SOLOIST WITH THE ORCHESTRA THIS YEAR IS TURAN-MIRZAL KAMAL, A CLASSICAL GUITARIST HAILED BY CRITICS AS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING GUITARISTS OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

THE TOUR IS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM THE INSULAR ARTS COUNCIL OF GUAM. IT IS SPONSORED BY THE HONOLULU SYMPHONY SOCIETY IN COOPERATION WITH CONTINENTAL/AIR MICRONESIA. LOCAL CIVIC AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS IN EACH LOCATION ARE ALSO BEING ASKED FOR DONATIONS TO ASSIST IN MEETING THE EXPENSES OF THE TRIP, ESTIMATED AT SOME \$70,000 DOLLARS. THE PUBLIC CONCERTS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY ARE FREE, HOWEVER. 10707

PRADAS RETIRES)

SAIPAN, SEPT. 4 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON AND THE TWO PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIMO NAKAYAMA AND HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY, HAVE CABLED THEIR BEST WISHES TO ANTONIO PRADAS, WHO RETIRED SEPTEMBER 1 AS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION.

IN HIS POSITION, PRADAS FUNCTIONED AS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, COMING INTO CLOSE CONTACT WITH MANY OFFICIALS IN MICRONESIA. HE HAD ALSO VISITED THE TRUST TERRITORY TWO TIMES DURING HIS TENURE.

"NOT ONLY ARE WE GRATEFUL TO MR. PRADAS FOR HIS EFFORTS IN THE U.N. TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, BUT WE WILL ALSO MISS HIS WISE COUNSEL AND FRIENDLY COOPERATION," THE OFFICIALS SAID IN THEIR TELEGRAM. "MR. PRADAS WILL BE WARMLY REMEMBERED BY BOTH AMERICAN AND MICRONESIAN FRIENDS WITH WHOM HE HAS COME INTO CONTACT DURING HIS SERVICE AS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO THE U.N. DEPARTMENT OF TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION. THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA EXTEND THEIR BEST WISHES TO MR. PRADAS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT...." THE TELEGRAM CONTINUED.

PRADAS HAS BEEN SUCCEEDD BY GIRMA ABEBE OF ETHIOPA. HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON AND THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS ALSO CONVEYED THEIR CONGRATULATIONS TO HIM IN THE MESSAGE, SAYING: "WITH EAGER ANTICIPATION (WE) LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH THE NEW SECRETARY WHO, WE BELIEVE, WILL CONTINUE THE EXCELLENT WORK IN WHICH HIS PREDECESSOR HAS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF AS A PUELIC SERVANT FOR THIS WORLD ORGANIZATION."