

(SIX NOMINATIONS TO CONGRESS)

SAIPAN, SEPT. 17 (CNS)-74 THE NOMINATIONS OF SIX INDIVIDUALS TO FILL IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT WERE SENT TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THIS WEEK FOR ADVICE AND CONSENT. THE NOMINATIONS WERE MADE IN LETTERS TO THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP, AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN UP BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS, WHICH ACTS FOR THE CONGRESS ON SUCH MATTERS BETWEEN SESSIONS.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS: FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER ON THE STAFF OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, JUAN A. SABLAN; FOR DIRECTOR OF THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, PODIS PEDRUS; FOR DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OF TRUK DISTRICT, MITARO S. DANIS; FOR DEPUTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR OF PONAPE DISTRICT, BERMIN F. WEILBACHER; FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, ELIAS OKAMURA; AND FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, WILLIAM M. STEWART.

SABLAN, 38, WHO HAS BEEN DISTAD IN TRUK SINCE 1970, IS NAMED TO FILL THE POSITION FORMERLY HELD BY LEO A. FALCAN, NOW DISTAD IN PONAPE. THE JOB HAS BEEN VACANT SINCE FALCAN WAS ASSIGNED TO PONAPE IN NOVEMBER, 1970. BEFORE GOING TO TRUK, SABLAN, WHO IS FROM SAIPAN, WAS A BUDGET ANALYST WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AT HEADQUARTERS, AND SERVED FOR MANY YEARS IN THAT DEPARTMENT. HE IS ALSO A FORMER MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

PEDRUS, 32, IS PRESENTLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, A POSITION WHICH HE HAS HELD SINCE EARLY LAST YEAR. HE WILL REPLACE ARTHUR AKINA WHEN HE RETIRES LATE THIS YEAR; THE APPOINTMENT OF PEDRUS IS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 22, PENDING APPROVAL BY THE CONGRESS. FROM PONAPE, PEDRUS ATTENDED THE COLLEGE OF GUAM AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO, AND RECEIVED HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII IN 1966. HE HAS SERVED CONTINUOUSLY WITH THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT SINCE THAT TIME. IF CONFIRMED, PEDRUS WILL BE THE FIFTH MICRONESIAN TO BECOME DIRECTOR OF A DEPARTMENT AT HEADQUARTERS.

MOVING UP TO FILL THE POSITION LEFT VACANT BY THE APPOINTMENT OF JUAN SABLAN AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER WOULD BE MITARO DANIS, PRESENTLY DEPUTY DISTAD IN TRUK, A POSITION HE HAS HELD SINCE 1970. DANIS, 38, IS A FORMER DISTRICT PROSECUTOR AND LAND MANAGEMENT OFFICER IN TRUK, AND SERVED IN 1969 AND 1970 AS ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE LANDS AND SURVEYS DIVISION ON SAIPAN. HE IS ALSO, LIKE SABLAN, A FORMER MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. HE IS A GRADUATE OF PACIFIC ISLANDS CENTRAL SCHOOL AND HAS ATTENDED THE COLLEGE OF GUAM. DANIS IS ORIGINALLY FROM TRUK DISTRICT.

BERMIN WEILBACHER, 33, IS PRESENTLY CHIEF OF THE AGRICULTURE DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT. HE WOULD FILL THE ~~NEW~~ VACANT POSITION OF DEPUTY DISTAD UNDER LEO FALCAN IN PONAPE. A KUSAIBAN BY BIRTH, WEILBACHER GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII IN 1966 WITH A DEGREE IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY. FOR FOUR YEARS, HE WAS EXPERIMENTAL OFFICER FOR THE APPLIED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CORPORATION IN THAILAND BEFORE RETURNING TO THE TRUST TERRITORY TO HEAD THE PLANT INDUSTRY BRANCH OF THE AGRICULTURE DIVISION IN 1970. HE BECAME CHIEF OF THE DIVISION IN 1972.

THE NOMINATION OF ELIAS OKAMURA, 39, OF PALAU, AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT IS BEING MADE FOR THE SECOND TIME. THE FIRST NOMINATION, IN 1962, WAS REJECTED BY THE CONGRESS WITH THE COMMENT THAT THE NOMINEE LACKED ADEQUATE QUALIFICATIONS AND

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SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE. IN RE-SUBMITTED OKAMURA'S NAME, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER NOTED THAT IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE HE WAS LAST NOMINATED OKAMURA PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL PROGRAMS TO BROADEN HIS FAMILIARITY WITH ALL ASPECTS OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE AREAS IN WHICH THE JOINT COMMITTEE FELT HE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE. HE HAS ALSO SERVED AS ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THE ABSENCE OF DIRECTOR JOSEPH BEADLES. OKAMURA HAS BEEN HOLDING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR, WITH DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO THOSE OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WHICH THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT NOW HAVE.

AT THE TIME OF HIS APPOINTMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR AS DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, EUSEBIO RECHNUCKER WAS ASKED TO NAME HIS CHOICE FOR A DEPUTY, EITHER A MICRONESIAN OR AN EXPATRIATE. HE RECENTLY INFORMED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT WILLIAM-H. STEWART IS HIS FIRST CHOICE FOR THE POSITION, AND THE HICOM, IN HIS LETTER TO THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP NOMINATING STEWART, SAID HE "UNROLEHEARTEDLY APPROVES" OF RECHNUCKER'S SELECTION.

STEWART, 42, HAS BEEN AN INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIST ON THE STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT SINCE 1970. IN 1973, HE COORDINATED THE SUCCESSFUL TRUST TERRITORY CENSUS PROGRAM. HE PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS A FOREIGN INVESTMENT ADVISOR TO THE ROYAL KINGDOM OF THAILAND, AND AS AN INDUSTRIAL AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER IN THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES OF TUNISIA AND GHANA. HE HAS ALSO WORKED WITH THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA AS AN ECONOMIC-INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHER AND CHIEF CARTOGRAPHER, AND IS THE AUTHOR OF MANY ECONOMIC AND MARKETING PUBLICATIONS. A GRADUATE OF MORRIS HARVEY UNIVERSITY IN CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, STEWART HAS ALSO ATTENDED MARSHALL UNIVERSITY AND THE INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE OF THE ARMED FORCES. HE IS ORIGINALLY FROM SARASOTA, FLORIDA.

THE CONGRESS APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE WILL ALSO HAVE BEFORE IT WHEN IT NEXT MEETS THE NOMINATION OF HARUO RENELIIK, DEPUTY DISTAD OF PALAU, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE TERRITORIAL HOUSING COMMISSION.

THE COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY TRUK SENATOR ANDON ANARAICH, HAS 45 DAYS IN WHICH TO CONSIDER THESE NOMINATIONS. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE SENATORS OLYMPIO T. BORJA (MARIANAS), AND PETRUS TUN (YAP), AND REPRESENTATIVES TARKONG PEDRO (PALAU), JOAB SIGRAH (PONAPE) AND CHARLES DOMNICK (MARSHALLS).

(TT DELEGATES TO SPC)

SAIPAN, SEPT. 17 (MNS)---THE FOURTEENTH SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE AND THE THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION ARE TO BE HELD IN RAROTONGA, COOK ISLANDS, FROM SEPTEMBER 25 TO OCTOBER 7. HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS FROM THE PACIFIC COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES FOR WHICH THE COMMISSION WORKS, AND FROM THE EIGHT PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS, WILL GATHER IN RAROTONGA FOR THESE MEETINGS. THE TRUST TERRITORY WILL SEND SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS.

OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, OTHER PACIFIC REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND FROM THE UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS INTERESTED IN THE REGION WILL ALSO BE IN ATTENDANCE. CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE IS THE HONORABLE SIR ALBERT HENRY, PREMIER OF THE COOK ISLANDS.

THIS YEAR'S MEETINGS WILL BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST: IT IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE CONFERENCE AND SESSION HAVE MET SINCE THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PUT FORWARD A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THE TWO MEETINGS AND TO GIVE THE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS A GREATER VOICE IN COMMISSION

AFFAIRS. DISCUSSION OF THE WAY IN WHICH THESE PROPOSALS ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED IS ONE OF THE FIRST ITEMS ON THE CONFERENCE'S AGENDA.

THE CONFERENCE DELEGATES ARE FACED WITH AN EXCEPTIONALLY FULL PROGRAM. THEY WILL BE CONSIDERING IN DETAIL THE COMMISSION'S WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR 1975. THEY WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSING THE PROGRESS OF A NUMBER OF REGIONAL SPECIAL PROJECTS WHICH HAVE BEEN SET IN MOTION AS A RESULT OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS ANNOUNCED AT LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRALIA, FRANCE AND NEW ZEALAND, AND WILL BE CONSIDERING PROPOSALS FOR NEW SPECIAL PROJECTS IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS.

ALSO ON THE AGENDA ARE A PROPOSAL FOR A SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK, FOR WHICH POTENTIAL DONORS ARE BEING SOUGHT, TRANSPORT PROBLEMS WITHIN THE REGION, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING FUTURE SOUTH PACIFIC ARTS FESTIVALS.

AMONG THE DETAILED SUGGESTIONS PUT FORWARD BY AUSTRALIA AT THE THIRTEENTH CONFERENCE ON GUAM WAS A PROPOSAL THAT FUTURE CONFERENCES IN ADDITION TO CONSIDERING THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION, SHOULD ALSO DISCUSS ONE OR MORE THEMES OF INTEREST TO THE REGION AS A WHOLE. THE 1974 PLANNING COMMITTEE, WHICH MET IN NOUMEA IN MAY, HAS PROPOSED THAT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON PROBLEMS OF CULTURAL CONSERVATION AND OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT. BOTH SUBJECTS ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE REGION AND ARE LIKELY TO EVOKE LIVELY DEBATE.

AS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION SERVING THE ENTIRE PACIFIC REGION, THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION HAS A HARD TASK: WITHIN ITS THREE MAIN FIELDS OF WORK (HEALTH, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS) IT IS ENGAGED IN A WIDE VARIETY OF PROJECTS; THEY COVER NUTRITION, DENGUE FEVER AND FISH POISONING; REEF AND DEEP-SEA FISHERIES; LANGUAGE TEACHING; EDUCATIONAL MATTERS SUCH AS AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS AND BROADCASTING; ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION; AND CONSERVATION OF NATURE.

THE COMMISSION'S TWENTY SPECIALIST OFFICERS SPEND A MAJOR PART OF THEIR TIME IN THE TERRITORIES INVESTIGATING PARTICULAR PROBLEMS, CONDUCTING TRAINING ACTIVITIES, SUPERVISING FIELD PROJECTS. AT THE FOURTEENTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISLAND TERRITORIES WILL ENSURE THAT THE COMMISSION'S WORK IS RELEVANT AND USEFUL TO THEIR PEOPLES.

ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY WILL BE: SENATOR AMATA KABUA (MARSHALLS) AND SPECIAL CONSULTANT DWIGHT HEINE, AS OFFICIAL DELEGATES; YAP DISTAD LEONARD AGUIQUI AND CONGRESSMAN MASAO NAKAYAMA (TRUK) AS ALTERNATE DELEGATES; AND CONGRESS ATTORNEY FRED RAMP, HOUSE CLERK ASTERIO TAKESY AND ASSISTANT SPECIAL CONSULTANT CLARENCE TAKEUCKI, AS ADVISORS.

#### (PRICE CONTROL IN FIJI)

FIJI, SEPT. 17 (KNS)---A PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC SAYS THAT PRICE AND WAGE CONTROLS HAVE VERY LITTLE EFFECT ON THE RATE OF INFLATION IN AN IMPORT-DEPENDENT COUNTRY LIKE FIJI, OR THE TRUST TERRITORY.

PROFESSOR ASHOK DESAI MADE THE COMMENT WHILE ADDRESSING A TOP-LEVEL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR HELD AT THE REEF HOTEL IN SINGATOKA, FIJI. A REPORT OF THE SPEECH WAS INCLUDED IN THIS WEEK'S PEACESAT SATELLITE NEWS EXCHANGE.

PROF. DESAI SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI HAD TRIED ITS BEST TO FIND A SOLUTION TO INFLATION WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF PRICE CONTROL AND THE PRICES AND INCOME BOARD. HOWEVER, HE SAID, IT IS NOT BEING FULLY REALIZED THAT THE PROBLEM IS BEYOND THEIR POWER TO SOLVE. PROF. DESAI SAID THAT PRICES COULD BE PREVENTED FROM RISING BY CONTINUOUS DEVALUATION OF THE FIJI DOLLAR BUT THIS WOULD BRING CERTAIN PROBLEMS OF ITS OWN.

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PROF. DESAI ADDED THAT WORLD PRICE INDEXING WOULD AGGRAVATE THE INFLATION PROBLEM AND INCREASE IMPORTS BUT IT WOULD ALSO IMPROVE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY.

MOST PACIFIC ISLANDS NATIONS AND TERRITORIES ARE FACING INCREASING PROBLEMS FROM RISING PRICES, PARTICULARLY FOR BASIC FOODSTUFFS.

#### (SOUTH PACIFIC SHIPPING COUNCIL FORMED)

FIJI, SEPT. 17 (NNS)---MINISTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM NINE SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES HAVE DECIDE TO ESTABLISH A SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL SHIPPING COUNCIL AND AN ADVISORY BOARD, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI.

THE DECISION CAME DURING A THREE-DAY MEETING OF MINISTERS IN TONGA LATE IN AUGUST. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MEETING SAID PRESIDENT HAMMER DEROBURT, OF NAURU, WAS ELECTED FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL AND FIJI'S PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT AND TOURISM, ROBERT DODS, WAS CHOSEN CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY BOARD. THE NEW COUNCIL IS TO HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING IN SUVA, FIJI IN APRIL OR MAY OF NEXT YEAR.

IN ADDITION TO FIJI AND NAURU, OTHER REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING CAME FROM AUSTRALIA, THE COOK ISLANDS, THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA. THE TRUST TERRITORY WAS NOT REPRESENTED.

IT WAS ALSO REPORTED THAT DURING THE MEETING IN NUKU'ALOFA IT WAS AGREED THAT PROPOSALS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL SHIPPING CORPORATION IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM. THE INITIAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE CORPORATION WILL BE AT SUVA.