

(ISLEY FIELD MEETING IN HONOLULU)

SAIPAN, SEPT. 26 (MNS) ~~24~~ THREE MARIANAS DISTRICT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL LEAVE FOR HONOLULU THIS WEEK FOR A FINAL REVIEW OF THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE NEW SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FACILITIES. THE PLANS ARE NOW NINETY (90) PERCENT COMPLETE.

MARIANAS DISTRICT BUDGET OFFICER ADDISON MARROW TOLD MNS THAT PLANS FOR THE TERMINAL FACILITY ARE DOWN TO WITHIN 10-15 DAYS OF BEING COMPLETED. HE SAID THE OFFICIALS, THREE AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES, LEIGH M. FISHER, AIRPORT CONSULTANT, AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DUTY-FREE SHOPPERS LIMITED, WILL MEET WITH THE RALPH M. PARSONS COMPANY, ARCHITECT FOR THE SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1.

AFTER THE FINAL REVIEW OF THE DESIGN OF TERMINAL FACILITIES, AND AFTER ALL THE PARTIES HAVE AGREED, THE NEXT STEP WILL BE THE OPENING OF THE PRE-BID CONFERENCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DUTY-FREE COMPLEX, BAR, RESTAURANT, LANDSCAPING, ROADS AND FIRE AND RESCUE BUILDING.

ACCORDING TO MARROW, THE PRE-BID CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER AND THE AWARD WILL BE MADE BY LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER. THE WHOLE PACKAGE WILL AMOUNT TO APPROXIMATELY FOUR AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARES.

SABLAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY IS CONSTRUCTING THE TERMINAL FACILITY BUILDING, EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN JULY OF NEXT YEAR, THE SAME TIME THE RUNWAY IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED.

THE MARIANAS BUDGET OFFICER NOTED THAT INTERNATIONAL SHOPPERS LTD., IS THE ONLY COMPANY WITH A LEASE AT THE NEW AIRPORT THUS FAR. HE SAID THAT NO LEASES FOR ANY TYPE OF BUSINESS OTHER THAN THE DUTY-FREE SHOP HAVE BEEN ADVERTISED OR GRANTED.

"WE'RE GOING TO GET TO IT BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET THE THING OUT FOR BID FIRST AND THEN WE'LL WORK ON THE INDIVIDUAL CONCESSION BID," MARROW EMPHASIZED. "THEY'LL BE COMPETITIVE AND IN MOST CASES WILL PROBABLY BE LOCAL GRANTED. WE'RE NOT LOOKING FOR BIG MONEY ANY MORE AND WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE MANY LOCAL PEOPLE THAT CAN HANDLE THE LEASES," MARROW ADDED. THESE WOULD BE FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES AS CAR RENTALS AND TOURS.

OTHERS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE MEETING IN ADDITION TO MARROW ARE: MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA; AIRPORT PROJECT MANAGER DICK CODY; ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS ELIAS OKAMURA, AND TOM SHEEHAN, MARIANAS DISTRICT PLANNER.

(CHAMBER OPPOSES DUTY FREE EXPANSION)

SAIPAN, SEPTEMBER 26 (MNS) --- THE SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MEETING IN A SPECIAL SESSION THURSDAY (SEPT. 26), ADOPTED A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE DUTY FREE SHOPPERS, INC., BUSINESS PERMIT TO ALLOW THEM TO OPEN A RETAIL OUTLET IN THE DOWNTOWN SHOPPING AREA OF SAIPAN.

DUTY FREE IS THE COMPANY WHICH WON, WITH A FIVE MILLION DOLLAR BID, THE RIGHT TO OPERATE THE DUTY FREE CONCESSION AT THE NEW SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON AN EXCLUSIVE BASIS FOR FIFTEEN YEARS. BECAUSE THAT CONCESSION WILL NOT BE OPENED FOR ANOTHER YEAR AND A HALF OR MORE, THE COMPANY IS SEEKING AN AMENDMENT TO THEIR PERMIT ALLOWING THEM TO OPEN A DOWNTOWN STORE. THE MARIANAS DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD INITIALLY APPROVED THIS AMENDMENT, BUT IT WAS RETURNED FOR ADDITIONAL REVIEW LATE LAST MONTH.

DUTY FREE IS NOW LIMITED TO THE AIRPORT OPERATION, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE A SECOND BUSINESS PERMIT WHICH ALLOWS THEM TO OPERATE DUTY FREE SHOPS IN HOTELS. THE COMPANY

10878

OPERATES AIRPORT AND OTHER DUTY FREE CONCESSIONS IN A NUMBER OF LOCATIONS, INCLUDING GUAM AND HAWAII.

SAIPAN BUSINESSMAN JOSE C. TENORIO WAS THE AUTHOR OF THE RESOLUTION OPPOSING FURTHER EXPANSION OF DUTY FREE ON SAIPAN. HE AND HIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, JOSEPH SCREEN, ARGUED THAT DUTY FREE'S ECONOMIC CLOUT WOULD TEND TO DRIVE LOCAL SAIPANESE BUSINESSMEN, WHO HAVE LESS RESOURCES, OUT OF THE BUSINESS OF SELLING MERCHANDISE TO SAIPAN'S VISITORS. THEY ARGUED THAT MICRONESIAN BUSINESSMEN SHOULD BE PROTECTED.

ANOTHER LOCAL BUSINESSMAN, JOSE PANGELINAN, SAID THAT MICRONESIAN BUSINESSMEN HAVE ALREADY BEEN SHUT OUT OF THE AIRPORT CONCESSION BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT COMPETE, FINANCIALLY, WITH THE FIVE MILLION DOLLAR DUTY FREE BID, AND THAT IF THIS TREND CONTINUES THE LOCAL PEOPLE WILL BE LEFT WITH NOTHING BUT MAKING BEDS AND WASHING FLOORS IN SAIPAN'S VISITOR INDUSTRY.

SPEAKING FOR DUTY FREE, THE COMPANY'S HONG KONG VICE PRESIDENT, TOM HARVILLE, ARGUED THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE THE BUSINESS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO OPPOSE ANY CHAMBER MEMBER'S EFFORTS TO EXPAND. HE FURTHER CONTENDED THAT THE OPENING OF A SO-CALLED "FREE STANDING" OUTLET FOR DUTY FREE IN THE DOWN TOWN AREA WOULD NOT DRIVE OTHER BUSINESSMEN OUT OF THE TOURIST MERCHANDISING BUSINESS. HE CONTENDED THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED ON GUAM, ALTHOUGH SCREEN PRODUCED LETTERS TO THE CONTRARY FROM SOME GUAM BUSINESSMEN.

THE VOTE, TAKEN BY SECRET BALLOT, WAS 26 IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION, AND 11 AGAINST, WITH FOUR OF THE 41 CHAMBER MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE MEETING NOT VOTING.

THE QUESTION OF AMENDING THE DUTY FREE PERMIT WILL BE TAKEN UP AGAIN BY THE DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, CHAIRED BY PEDRO DELA CRUZ.

(PRE-CONVENTION AND ESG GROUPS IN MARSHALLS)

MAJURO, SEPT. 26 (MNS)---TWO GROUPS CONCERNED WITH THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT EFFORT VISITED THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT LAST WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL LEADERS.

THE MEETINGS WERE NOT ENTIRELY SUCCESSFUL, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF CONTINUING OPPOSITION IN THE MARSHALLS TO PARTICIPATION BY THE DISTRICT IN THE CONVENTION OR OTHER TERRITORY-WIDE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO FUTURE STATUS.

SOURCES IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT CENTER REPORTED TO MNS THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION'S PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE, CHAIRED BY SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA (TRUK), "WAS NOT ABLE TO MEET WITH AS MANY GROUPS AS THE MEMBERS WOULD HAVE LIKED," PRIMARILY DUE TO LOCAL OPPOSITION TO THE CONVENTION.

DURING A MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, THE NITIJELA, THE COMMITTEE WAS TOLD THAT THE NITIJELA'S OBJECTIONS TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTIO STILL STAND. THESE WERE EXPRESSED IN RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED EARLY THIS YEAR OPPOSING MARSHALLESE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONVENTION. THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE REPORTEDLY TOLD THAT UNTIL CERTAIN CHANGES ARE MADE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW, SUCH AS ALLOWING TRADITIONAL DELEGATES TO VOTE, AND UNTIL SUCH TIME AS OTHER MARSHALLS REQUESTS FOR INCREASED REVENUE SHARING AND FURTHER DECENTRALIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM ARE HONORED, THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURE WILL NOT CHANGE ITS POSITION ON THE CONVENTION.

FOLLOWING THE MEETING, ONE LEGISLATOR INDICATED THAT HE FELT THE COMMITTEE'S VISIT TO THE DISTRICT HAD ONLY SERVED TO FURTHER INTENSIFY THE DISTRICT FEELING THAT IT

HAS NO FUTURE WITH THE REST OF THE TERRITORY.

"THE COMMITTEE BROUGHT WITH IT THE SAME MESSAGE THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAS BEEN GIVING THE MARSHALLESE PEOPLE FOR YEARS: WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT FOR WHAT THE CONGRESS WANTS DONE, BUT DON'T COUNT ON OUR SUPPORT FOR THINGS THE DISTRICT WANTS DONE." THE MEMBER OF THE NITIJELA MAKING THIS STATEMENT WAS NOT IDENTIFIED.

A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE WITH THE MARSHALLESE TRADITIONAL LEADERS WAS CANCELLED WHEN ONLY THREE OF THE MORE THAN FIFTEEN RECOGNIZED TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN MAJURO SHOWED UP FOR THE MEETING. ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE MARSHALLESE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION, JINED ILO KOBO, WAS ALSO CANCELLED DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICTS.

THE OTHER GROUP VISITING MAJURO LAST WEEK WAS THE HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR SELF GOVERNMENT (ESG). THEY MET WITH A NUMBER OF STUDENT GROUPS AND OTHERS, INCLUDING THE JINED ILO KOBO. BUT FOLLOWING ONE MEETING MARIE MADDISON, A JINED ILO KOBO LEADER, COMPLAINED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE ESG GROUP WERE NOT PREPARED TO ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS.

"EACH TIME A QUESTION WAS BROUGHT UP, IT SEEMS THE ONLY ANSWER THE GROUP COULD GIVE WAS THAT THEY WOULD WRITE THE QUESTION DOWN, CONSULT WITH SAIPAN, AND SEND A REPLY BACK IN THE FUTURE," SHE SAID. "THAT CERTAINLY IS NOT WHAT WE THOUGHT THESE DISTRICT VISITATIONS WERE FOR," SHE ADDED, QUESTIONING THE VALIDITY OF SUCH TRIPS.

THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND OTHER PROGRAMS RELATED TO THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE TERRITORY REMAINS A MAJOR QUESTION MARK. THE DISTRICT HAS NOT YET ORGANIZED ITS CONVENTION DELEGATION, NOR HAVE ANY TRADITIONAL DELEGATES OR A DELEGATE FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION BEEN SELECTED. THE MARSHALLS IS THUS NOT REPRESENTED ON THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE, WHICH INCLUDES MEMBERS FROM EACH OF THE OTHER DISTRICT DELEGATIONS.

THE COMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY TOURING THE WESTERN DISTRICTS OF YAP AND PALAU.

(PALACIOS NOMINATED--ATALIG DUMPED)

SAIPAN, SEPTEMBER 26 (MNS)---THE MARIANA ISLANDS POPULAR PARTY, THE DISTRICT'S LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY, HAS WITHDRAWN ITS SUPPORT FROM INCUMBENT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REPRESENTATIVE FELIPE Q. ATALIG IN HIS BID FOR RE-ELECTION THIS FALL.

IN A SECRET BALLOT TAKEN AMONG PARTY CONVENTION DELEGATES, ATALIG WAS DEFEATED FOR THE PARTY NOMINATION FOR THE SEAT FROM REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT ONE BY HERMAN T. PALACIOS OF SAIPAN. THE VOTE WAS 81 FOR PALACIOS AND 57 FOR ATALIG.

THE TWO-TERM CONGRESSMAN CARRIED ALL 48 DELEGATE VOTES FROM THE ISLAND OF ROTA, BUT PALACIOS CARRIED ALL 48 VOTES FROM TINIAN. THE DISTRICT ALSO INCLUDES THE VILLAGE OF SAN ANTONIO ON SAIPAN, AND HERE ATALIG WAS DEFEATED 33 TO 9.

POLITICAL OBSERVERS ON SAIPAN SAID THEY EXPECT ATALIG TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION ANYWAY AS IN INDEPENDENT. THE DISTRICT'S OTHER MAJOR PARTY, THE TERRITORIAL PARTY, HAS ALREADY SELECTED SAIPAN POLICE OFFICER JOSE P. MAFNAS TO RUN FOR THE DISTRICT ONE SEAT. ATALIG LEFT FOR ROTA SHORTLY AFTER THE VOTE WAS COUNTED, AND WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT.

THE POPULAR PARTY HELD ITS NOMINATING CONVENTION LAST WEEKEND, SELECTING INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN HERMAN Q. GUERRERO,

WHO IS ALSO THE PARTY PRESIDENT, TO RUN FOR RE-ELECTION, ALONG WITH SENATOR EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN. THE PARTY ALSO NOMINATED HERMAN R. GUERRERO OF SAIPAN TO CONTEST THE DISTRICT TWO SEAT NOW HELD BY TERRITORIAL PARTY MEMBER PEDRO P. TENORIO. THE CONVENTION DEADLOCKED, HOWEVER, OVER THE MATTER OF ATALIG VERSUS PALACIOS. THE MATTER WAS FINALLY RESOLVED FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PARTY OFFICIALS AND TINIAN MEMBERS OF THE PARTY.

THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE HELD NOVEMBER 5. THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT IS ONE OF TWO DISTRICTS WHERE THERE ARE ACTIVE POLITICAL PARTIES. THE OTHER IS PALAU.

(KUMANGAI BACK FROM WHO MEET)

SAIPAN, SEPT. 26 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES, DR. MASAO KUMANGAI, HAS RETURNED FROM THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION REGIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC, WHICH WAS HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, FROM SEPTEMBER 1 TO 10, 1974.

THE SESSION WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL MEMBER STATES. ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND UNDP, UNICEF, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY, AND TWELVE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATION WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

HIGHLIGHTING THE CONFERENCE WERE: A REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR REGARDING WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES, WHICH INCLUDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER STATES AND TERRITORIES IN THIS REGION AND TECHNICAL SEMINARS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SO FORTH; FROM JULY 1, 1973 TO JUNE 30, 1974; REVIEW AND MODIFICATION OF PARTS OF THE PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR 1975 AND A REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM AND GUDGET FOR 1976 AND 1977; AND OTHER IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS ON CHOLERA, MALARIA AND DENGUE PROBLEMS IN THE PACIFIC AREAS.