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(REFERRAL RATE LOWERED)

SAIPAN, JAN. 2, (MNS)---THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS LOWERED THE DAILY MILITARY HOSPITAL RATE CHARGED FOR TRUST TERRITORY MEDICAL REFERRALS FROM 126 DOLLARS A DAY TO 66 DOLLARS A DAY. THE ACTION WAS TAKEN AFTER INTERIOR SECRETARY ROGERS C.B. MORTON APPEALED TO DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER FOR A SPECIAL RATE FOR MEDICAL PATIENTS FROM BOTH MICRONESIA AND AMERICAN SAMOA WHO MUST BE REFERRED TO EITHER TRIPLER ARMY HOSPITAL IN HAWAII OR THE GUAM NAVAL HOSPITAL.

ON JULY 1, 1973, THE DAILY RATE FOR SUCH PATIENTS HAD GONE UP TWO HUNDRED PER CENT, FROM 42 DOLLARS A DAY TO 126 DOLLARS A DAY. TT HEALTH OFFICIALS SAID THEN THAT THE INCREASE WOULD FORCE A CUT OF TWO-THIRDS IN MEDICAL REFERRALS, THE PROGRAM WHEREBY PATIENTS WITH MEDICAL PROBLEMS WHICH CANNOT BE HANDLED BY TERRITORIAL HEALTH FACILITIES OR PERSONNEL ARE REFERRED OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY.

IN A LETTER FROM SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO SECRETARY MORTON ON DECEMBER 22, THE DEFENSE SECRETARY SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTING THE TWO MILITARY HOSPITALS TO INITIATE THE SPECIAL INTER-AGENCY RATE OF 66 DOLLARS A DAY, AND TO KEEP THAT RATE IN EFFECT UNTIL THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 1975. THE NEW RATE STILL REPRESENTS AN INCREASE, BUT TT HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR DR. MASAO KUMANGAI SAID THIS WEEK ON SAIPAN HIS DEPARTMENT CAN "LIVE BETTER" WITH THE 66 DOLLAR FIGURE.

"WE APPRECIATE THE COOPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN MAKING THIS GESTURE," DR. KUMANGAI SAID OF THE RATE REDUCTION. HE ADDED THAT WHILE THE POSSIBILITY OF STILL HIGHER RATES WILL FACE THE TT IN MID-1975, THE HEALTH SERVICES BUDGET CAN BE PLANNED TO TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT, WHEREAS THE DRASTIC INCREASE ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR CAME AFTER BUDGETS HAD ALREADY BEEN WORKED UP AND FUNDS APPROPRIATED.

THE TRUST TERRITORY REFERRED SOME 600 PATIENTS TO HOSPITALS OUTSIDE THE TERRITORY DURING THE PAST YEAR; MOST OF THESE WENT TO EITHER GUAM NAVAL HOSPITAL OR TO TRIPLER. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF ACTUAL REFERRALS IS NOT VERY GREAT, THE EXPENSE IS HIGH SINCE MOST OF THESE PATIENTS REQUIRE SPECIAL, AND THEREFORE EXPENSIVE, TREATMENT.

THE SO-CALLED "INTER-AGENCY" RATE WHICH IS CHARGED BY THE MILITARY HOSPITALS IS NOT ONE WHICH THE PATIENTS HAVE TO PAY. THE BILLINGS ARE MADE TO THE TT GOVERNMENT, AND PAYMENT IS MADE FROM THE HEALTH SERVICES BUDGET. IN MOST CASES MICRONESIAN PATIENTS PAY NOTHING FOR THE MEDICAL CARE THEY RECEIVE IN U.S. MILITARY HOSPITALS.

(STANDBY RATION PLAN READY)

SAIPAN, JAN. 2, (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY FUEL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE HAS PREPARED A STANDBY PLAN FOR THE RATIONING OF GASOLINE ON SAIPAN. THE PLAN, INVOLVING PRINTED RATION CARDS WHICH WOULD IDENTIFY THE STATION FROM WHICH EACH CARDHOLDER COULD OBTAIN A WEEKLY ALLOTMENT OF GASOLINE, IS READY TO GO IF NEEDED, BUT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE ON WHETHER GOVERNMENT-IMPOSED RATIONING OF GAS IS NECESSARY, ACCORDING TO JAMES WHEELER, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.

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MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA, WHOSE STAFF WOULD HAVE TO ADMINISTER ANY RATIONING SYSTEM, SAID WEDNESDAY: "WE ARE ASSESSING THE SITUATION VERY CLOSELY, AND ARE PREPARED TO INSTITUTE SOME KIND OF RATIONING IF NECESSARY. HOWEVER," HE ADDED, "I DON'T THINK THE SITUATION IS THAT BAD AT THIS TIME. I STILL THINK THAT IF EVERYONE COOPERATES, AND IF THE DEALERS WILL VOLUNTARILY RATION THEIR SUPPLIES, THE GOVERNMENT WON'T HAVE TO STEP IN."

TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON SAID THIS WEEK THAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF GUAM AND THE TRUST TERRITORY HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAY DAYS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF RATIONING GASOLINE ON BOTH ISLANDS. GUAM HAS BEGUN TO EXPERIENCE THE SAME LONG LINES OF CARS AND CLOSED GAS STATIONS THAT BECAME A REGULAR OCCURENCE ON SAIPAN DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

THE PROBLEM IS SOMEWHAT LESS SEVERE ON SAIPAN NOW THAT THE LONG NEW YEAR'S HOLODAY WEEKEND IS OVER. STATIONS HAVE BEGUN TO RECEIVE THEIR JANUARY GASOLINE ALLOCATIONS FROM MOBIL, MICRONESIA, AND MOST MOTORISTS SEEM TO BE ABLE TO FIND ENOUGH GASOLINE AT THE MOMENT. OFFICIALS HOPE TO WORK WITH THE GASOLINE DEALERS TO AVOID ANOTHER END-OF-THE-MONTH DRY PERIOD SUCH AS DEVELOPED AT THE END OF DECEMBER. DISTAD ADA SAID HE AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF WOULD BE HOLDING ANOTHER MEETING WITH THE GAS DEALERS SOMETIME THIS WEEK.

LAST WEEK THE SAIPAN DEALERS INDICATED THEY WOULD WELCOME SOME FORM OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED RATIONING.

THE PLAN DEVELOPED BY THE FUEL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE EACH REGISTERED VEHICLE OWNER DECLARE THE STATION WHERE HE PREFERS TO BUY HIS GAS. HE WOULD THEN RECEIVE A CARD WITH THAT STATION'S NAME ON IT, AND WOULD BE ENTITLED TO PURCHASE GAS ONLY AT THAT STATION. THERE ARE EIGHT PRIVATE GASOLINE STATIONS ON SAIPAN.

WHEELER SAID THE AMOUNT OF GAS WHICH WOULD BE ALLOWED PER WEEK TO EACH CARDHOLDER HAS NOT BEEN SET. IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DETERMINED BASED ON FIGURES FROM MOBIL ON THE AMOUNT OF GASOLINE AVAILABLE FOR A GIVEN MONTH, COMBINED WITH STATISTICS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ON THE NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED ON SAIPAN.

MOBIL OFFICIALS SAID WEDNESDAY THAT GASOLINE AND FUEL OIL ALLOCATIONS FOR JANUARY WILL BE THE SAME AS IN DECEMBER; THAT IS, A CONTINUED TWELVE PER CENT REDUCTION BASED ON AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OVER THE NINE-MONTH PERIOD JANUARY THROUGH SEPTEMBER, 1973.

(MARIANAS PROJECTED POPULATION FIGURES)

SAIPAN, JAN. 2, (MNS)---SAIPAN'S POPULATION IS LIKELY TO REACH AT LEAST 18,000 SIX YEARS FROM NOW, AND COULD GO AS HIGH AS 25,000, ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS AND VIEWS, SAIPAN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER. THE FIGURES WERE BASED ON ACTUAL, PROPOSED AND POTENTIAL HOTEL SPACE, THE POTENTIAL OF JAPANESE TOURISM, AND THE POSSIBLE 500 JOBS TO BE CREATED BY THE PROPOSED MILITARY BASE ON TINIAN, THE PAPER SAID.

TOM SHEEHAN, MARIANAS DISTRICT PLANNER, WHO MADE THE STUDIES,  
SAID THERE ARE THREE LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT, THE "LOW-LEVEL"  
WITH 500 HOTEL ROOMS IN OPERATION AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION, WOULD  
REQUIRE A PERMANENT POPULATION OF 18,000. "MID-LEVEL"  
PROJECTIONS SUGGEST 3,000 HOTEL ROOMS AND A POPULATION OF 40,000.  
"HIGH LEVEL," WITH 5,700 ROOMS WOULD GENERATE A POPULATION OF  
85,000 PEOPLE, ACCORDING TO MARIANAS VARIETY.

SHEEHAN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE LOW-LEVEL POPULATION IS  
"LIKELY" TO HAPPEN, MIDDLE-LEVEL IS A POSSIBILITY, AND THE  
HIGH-LEVEL IS A "PRETTY REMOTE" POSSIBILITY.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROJECTION CONCERNS THE NEED  
FOR ALIEN LABOR. THE STUDY POINTS OUT THAT THE TOURIST  
INDUSTRY IN THE MARIANAS IS IN A LABOR SHORTAGE. UNDER THE  
LOW-LEVEL PREDICTION, 2,000 ALIENS WILL BE WORKING IN THE  
MARIANAS. THIS FIGURE IS A THOUSAND MORE THAN THOSE ALIENS  
PRESENTLY HOLDING JOBS IN THE MARIANAS, PRIMARILY IN CONSTRUCTION  
FIELDS. UNDER THE MID-LEVEL PREDICTIONS, THERE WOULD BE 26,000  
ALIENS ON THE ISLANDS AND POSSIBLY 50 TO 60,000 OR MORE WITH THE  
HIGH-LEVEL, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT.

THE STUDY FURTHER POINTS OUT THAT THERE WILL BE STRONG  
PRESSURE TO RELAX IMMIGRATION LAWS TO ALLOW MORE ALIENS TO ENTER  
THE MARIANAS. ATTEMPTS TO LIMIT OR RESTRICT SUCH TRENDS WOULD  
CREATE SERIOUS SOCIAL TENSIONS BETWEEN THE ALIENS AND THE  
INDIGENOUS POPULATION, THE REPORT STATES.

IN CONCLUDING, THE STUDY ADDS THAT WITHOUT DEVELOPMENT OF  
TOURISM, WITH 900 GOVERNMENT JOBS AND THE PROJECTED 500 TO BE  
CREATED BY THE MILITARY ON TINIAN, BY 1980, THE UNEMPLOYMENT  
RATE WOULD REACH 80%.

THE STUDY DID NOT MENTION THE EFFECT ON GOVERNMENT JOBS  
SHOULD THE IT ADMINISTRATION MOVE TO ANOTHER DISTRICT AT THE  
CHANGE IN POLITICAL STATUS.  
(AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS)

SAIPAN, JAN. 2, (MNS)---FOUR TRUST TERRITORY STUDENTS  
HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY THE DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE,  
DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT TO FURTHER THEIR  
EDUCATION IN TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY.

THE STUDENTS ARE MATHIAS KUSUNAGAR FROM YAP, AND GLASTINE  
CORNELIUS FROM PONAPE, BOTH OF WHOM WILL ATTEND BULOLO FORESTRY  
COLLEGE IN NEW GUINEA, AND ADELINO LORENS, PONAPE, AND ISMAEL  
MIKE OF TRUK WHO WILL ATTEND VUDAL AGRICULTURE COLLEGE, ALSO  
IN NEW GUINEA.

THESE STUDENTS WILL PURSUE A THREE-YEAR INTENSIVE COLLEGE-  
LEVEL COURSE OF STUDY IN TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY,  
GRADUATING WITH A DIPLOMA EQUIVALENT TO A COLLEGE BACHELOR OF  
SCIENCE DEGREE, ACCORDING TO BERMIN F. WEILBACHER, CHIEF OF  
AGRICULTURE.

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for a copy?*