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(NOTICE TO NEWS DIRECTORS AND EDITORS: YOU WILL RECEIVE A GREAT DEAL OF MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE MATERIAL TODAY. THERE WILL BE THREE RELEASES: ONE WILL CONCERN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA ACTIVITIES FOR THIS DATE; ANOTHER WILL CONTAIN THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY BY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ROGERS C.B. MORTON; AND THE THIRD WILL CONTAIN NON-CONGRESS NEWS AND AN INTERIOR DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE BASED ON THE MORTON STATEMENT. FOR BROADCAST EDITORS, WE SUGGEST THAT THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT RELEASE WILL SUFFICE FOR REGULAR NEWCAST USE AND THAT THE ENTIRE TEXT, EITHER FROM MNS OR FROM TAPES OF THE STATEMENT YOU HAVE RECEIVED, MIGHT BE USED AT SPECIAL TIMES.

THE FOLLOWING MNS RELEASE CONTAINS THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT RELEASE AND THE NON-CONGRESS NEWS.
(MORTON STATEMENT)

SAIPAN, JAN. 23 (MNS)---INTERIOR SECRETARY ROGERS C.B. MORTON, IN A HISTORIC "MESSAGE TO MICRONESIA," TODAY ANNOUNCED SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LEADING TO SELF-GOVERNMENT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS. AT THE SAME TIME HE ANNOUNCED THE LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

THE MESSAGE WAS RECORDED IN WASHINGTON FOR BROADCAST IN MICRONESIA.

UNDER A 1947 TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS, THE UNITED STATES--THOUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR--ADMINISTERS THE MORE THAN 2100 ISLANDS LYING IN A THREE-MILLION SQUARE MILE EXPANSE OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN. FEWER THAN 100 ISLANDS ARE INHABITED BY APPROXIMATELY 110,000 PERSONS.

ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS INCLUDE THE MARIANAS (EXCEPT FOR GUAM, A U.S. TERRITORY), THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, PALAU, PONAPE, TRUK AND YAP.

IN HIS MESSAGE, MORTON DECLARED:

"THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS GIVING WHOLE-HEARTED SUPPORT TO THE ORGANIZATION OF A CONSTITUTIONAL COVENTION; I BELIEVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS FUNDAMENTAL INSTRUMENT IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF EFFORTS TOWARD SELF-GOVERNMENT.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WILL ACT RAPIDLY TO MAKE THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION A REALITY. YOUR NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE THE BLUEPRINT FOR YOUR FUTURE. IT WILL BE THE CORNERSTONE FOR IMPORTANT PROGRAMS DURING THE PERIOD OF YOUR TRANSITION FROM TRUSTEESHIP TO SELF-GOVERNMENT. I HAVE ASKED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, TO MAKE AVAILABLE ANY AND ALL TECHNICAL AND STAFF SUPPORT AS REQUESTED BY THE CONGRESS TO ASSIST IN THIS HISTORIC STEP.

"WITH REGARD TO THE DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC LANDS, LET ME SAY THAT THE U.S. POLICY REPRESENTS A FULFILLMENT OF A PROMISE MADE YEARS AGO BY THE UNITED STATES TO HOLD THESE LANDS IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE. THE DECISION TO RETURN CONTROL OVER PUBLIC LANDS TO THOSE DISTRICTS REQUESTING IT IS FULL OF MEANING FOR THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. ACTING THROUGH YOUR ELECTED AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT AND TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP YOU ARE NOW TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR MATTERS PERTAINING TO LAND, CULTURALLY THE MOST PRIZED AND SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COMMODITY IN MICRONESIA. THIS CONSTITUTES AN ENORMOUS STEP IN TRANSITION TOWARD SELF-GOVERNMENT."

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OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE SECRETARY MORTON ANNOUNCED:

"TO PROMOTE FURTHER CONTROL BY MICRONESIANS OVER THEIR OWN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, I HAVE ORDERED THE LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE TRUST TERRITORY EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1974. FROM THAT DATE, INDIVIDUAL AND COMMERCIAL INVESTORS FROM ANY OF THE WORLD'S COMMUNITY OF NATIONS WILL BE PERMITTED TO APPLY FOR BUSINESS PERMITS IN MICRONESIA. MORE SPECIFICALLY, EACH DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD WILL BE ABLE TO CONSIDER BUSINESS APPLICATIONS FROM ANY NATION WITHIN THE GUIDELINES OF YOUR OWN FOREIGN INVESTORS BUSINESS PERMIT ACT. UNDER THE TERMS OF THAT ACT, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WILL HAVE FINAL AUTHORITY TO REVIEW EACH RECOMMENDATION OF THE DISTRICT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.

"I HAVE INSTRUCTED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BASE HIS REVIEW ON THE SECURITY OF THE AREA AND THE GENERAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE."

IN FURTHER SUPPORT OF THE SELF-GOVERNMENT GOAL, SECRETARY MORTON SAID HE IS INSTRUCTING U.S. REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE MICRONESIANS TO IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT, "SO THAT IT WILL REACH ALL AREAS AND ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY."

HE ADDED:

"WE WILL CONTINUE THE POLICY OF ELEVATING QUALIFIED MICRONESIANS INTO MORE RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IN THE ADMINISTRATION. I HAVE ASKED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SUBMIT TO ME HIS BEST FORECAST OF MANPOWER NEEDS OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS SO THAT WE MIGHT DETERMINE HOW MORE MICRONESIANS MAY BE PLACED IN KEY POSITIONS."

ALREADY, MORTON SAID, MICRONESIANS HOLD THE DIRECTORSHIPS IN HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS. HE POINTED OUT THAT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IN 1969, NO MICRONESIAN SERVED IN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S CABINET, AND ONLY ONE MICRONESIAN WAS A DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR. TODAY EIGHT OF THESE TOP LEVEL POSITIONS ARE HELD BY MICRONESIANS.

CITING ADVANCES IN ROAD CONSTRUCTION, HOSPITAL AND SCHOOL EXPANSION, AND MODERN SEWAGE DISPOSAL FACILITIES, MORTON POINTED OUT THAT LOCAL REVENUES HAVE JUMPED FROM \$850,000 TO \$4.5 MILLION IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

TOURISM HAS BECOME BIG BUSINESS IN MICRONESIA WITH THE BUILDING OF AIRPORTS AND HOTELS. IN 1973 SOME 48,000 VISITORS ADDED OVER \$3.5 MILLION TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

HE ANNOUNCED THAT STANLEY C. CARPENTER, DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS WILL WORK WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON, THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND DISTRICT LEADERS TO PREPARE A REVISED FIVE-YEAR PLAN AIMED AT PROVIDING MORE POWER, WATER, CLASSROOM SPACE, ROADS, SEWAGE SYSTEMS AND AIRPORTS.

ALREADY ESTABLISHED ARE THE MICRONESIAN OCCUPATIONAL CENTER AND THE MICRONESIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

"WE HAVE A NEW HOSPITAL IN TRUK, AND PLANNING IS COMPLETED FOR ANOTHER IN PONAPE," MORTON SAID. "THE LONG-FOUGHT RENRAK BRIDGE CONNECTING BABELTHUAP WITH KOROR HAS BEEN FUNDED AND WILL SOON BE A REALITY."

MORTON GAVE EMPHASIS TO THIS STATEMENT:

"AS WE APPROACH THE END OF THE TRUSTEESHIP WE BELIEVE EVEN GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR MICRONESIA MUST BE ASSUMED BY THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. THERE WILL REMAIN MANY AREAS THAT WILL BE SHARED WITH YOU. BUT FOR THE LARGER PART, THE FUTURE OF MICRONESIA IS A MICRONESIAN MATTER. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETERMINING YOUR FUTURE GOVERNMENT IS YOURS. THE OBLIGATION TO PROMOTE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WELFARE OF MICRONESIANS IS YOURS. THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION IS YOURS."
(WILLIAMS COMING)

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SAIPAN, JAN. 23 (MNS)---AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS, THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, WILL STOP OVER ON SAIPAN, ARRIVING TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 29, AND LEAVING THURSDAY, JANUARY 31. THE AMBASSADOR, WHO WILL BE ENROUTE TO THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA, WILL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW UP WITH SENATOR LAZARUS LASII, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, AND WITH SENATOR EDWARD PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO RECENT STATUS TALKS.

SENATOR SALII AND AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS AGREED LAST DECEMBER THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE AN INFORMAL AND CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND INFORMATION ON THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA UNDER A STATUS OF FREE ASSOCIATION IN THE POST TRUSTEESHIP PERIOD. THESE TALKS WILL SERVE AS BACKGROUND FOR THE FURTHER FORMAL TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE. THESE INFORMAL EXCHANGES WILL GIVE THE JOINT COMMITTEE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH THE UNITED STATES ITS VIEWS OF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA'S REQUIREMENTS AND FOR THE UNITED STATES IN TURN TO EXPLAIN ITS ASSUMPTION AND ITS PROPOSALS. THE DISCUSSIONS WILL NOT INVOLVE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS BUT WILL PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE FURTHER FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS.

THE AMBASSADOR WILL DISCUSS WITH SENATOR SALII THE AGENDA FOR THESE INFORMAL EXCHANGES AND HE WILL ALSO CONSULT WITH SENATOR PANGELINAN CONCERNING THE WORK OF THE JOINT U.S. MARIANAS AD HOC PREPARATORY COMMITTEE.

MEANWHILE, A THREE-MAN U.S. TEAM HEADED BY JAMES M. WILSON, U.S. DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WILL ARRIVE SHORTLY ON SAIPAN TO BEGIN THIS PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WORK, AND MAY REMAIN FOR AS LONG AS THREE WEEKS. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TEAM ARE JAMES BERG AND RICHARD MILLER, BOTH OF THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS. BERG AND MILLER ARRIVE JANUARY 24, AND WILSON ON FEBRUARY 1. WILSON WILL REMAIN THROUGH THE DISCUSSIONS.

(KWAJ TO TRACK JAPANESE SATELLITES)

SAIPAN, JAN. 23 (MNS)---THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT WITHIN THE PAST FEW WEEKS THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION HAS CONSULTED WITH THE LEADERS OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT AND OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONCERNING THE PROSPECTIVE USE OF TRACKING FACILITIES ON KWAJALEIN IN CONNECTION WITH THE FUTURE LAUNCHING FROM JAPAN OF TWO SATELLITES FOR TEST PURPOSES RELATING TO THE PEACEFUL EXPLORATION OF SPACE.

THE LAUNCHINGS ARE PROJECTED TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 1975 AND 1977 WITH JAPANESE NATIONALS USING THE TRACKING FACILITIES ON KWAJALEIN DURING SPECIFIED PERIODS AT THE TIME OF THE LAUNCHES. DISCUSSIONS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER WAY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN WITH REGARD TO THE PRACTICAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THIS COOPERATIVE VENTURE.

(SAIPAN GAS RATIONING SET)

SAIPAN, JAN. 23 (MNS)---MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A FORM OF GASOLINE RATIONING WILL GO INTO EFFECT ON SAIPAN BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY FIRST. THE BASIC PLAN WOULD LIMIT EACH VEHICLE ON THE ISLAND TO ONE FULL TANK OF GAS PER WEEK--GASOLINE WHICH CAN BE PURCHASED AT ANY OF THE EIGHT GASOLINE STATIONS ON THE ISLAND.

IN ANOTHER MOVE AS A RESULT OF THE CUTBACKS IN FUEL ALLOCATIONS TO THE TRUST TERRITORY, THE DISTAD ANNOUNCED THAT A SCHEDULE OF POWER OUTAGES WILL BEGIN THURSDAY NIGHT IN AN EFFORT TO STAY WITHIN THE MARIANAS' MONTHLY ALLOCATION OF DIESEL FUEL FOR ELECTRICAL GENERATORS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY.

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VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION OF ELECTRIC POWER ON SAIPAN HAS HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON THE DAILY CONSUMPTION OF FUEL, ACCORDING TO DISTRICT OFFICIALS. CONSEQUENTLY IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO BEGIN SCHEDULED POWER RATIONING TO CONSERVE WHAT FUEL DOES REMAIN UNTIL THE FEBRUARY ALLOCATIONS ARE RECEIVED. DISTAD ADA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE POWER RATIONING MAY CONTINUE INTO NEXT MONTH IN AN EFFORT TO MORE EVENLY DISTRIBUTE THE FEBRUARY ALLOCATION OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.

THE GASOLINE RATIONING SCHEME IS BEING IMPLEMENTED TO HELP CUT DOWN ON THE LONG LINES OF CARS WHICH HAVE BEEN FORMING AT SAIPAN GAS STATIONS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS--LINES WHICH ALSO FORMED AT THE END OF DECEMBER AS DRIVERS BECAME CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GET GAS AT ALL. THE PRESENT THINKING IS THE RESULT OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE GASOLINE DEALERS THEMSELVES, ACCORDING TO ADA.

THE RATIONING PLAN WOULD WORK LIKE THIS:

A POCKET SIZED CARD WOULD BE ISSUED FOR EACH AUTOMOBILE, WITH THE CARD TO BE NUMBERED WITH THE LICENSE PLATE NUMBER OF THE VEHICLE.

STARTING ON FEBRUARY FIRST, EACH VEHICLE WOULD BE LIMITED TO ONE FULL TANK OF GASOLINE PER WEEK, WITH THE IDENTIFICATION CARD TO BE PUNCHED IN AN APPROPRIATE PLACE BY THE DEALER FROM WHOM THE GAS IS PURCHASED.

THE OPERATOR OF THE VEHICLE WOULD BE ABLE TO PURCHASE GASOLINE AT ANY OF THE EIGHT STATIONS ON THE ISLAND, WITH THE RESTRICTION THAT THERE BE ONLY ONE FILL-UP PER WEEK. IN OTHER WORDS, THE RATIONING ASPECT OF THE PLAN IS EFFECTIVE IN LIMITING THE VEHICLE TO AS MUCH MILEAGE AS ITS OPERATOR CAN GET ON ONE TANK OF GAS. IF HE RUNS OUT, HE HAS TO WAIT UNTIL THE NEXT WEEKLY PERIOD BEGINS TO GET ANY MORE GASOLINE. AS AN EXAMPLE, A CAR WHICH HAS A 12 GALLON TANK AND WHICH GETS 20 MILES TO THE GALLON WOULD BE ABLE TO DRIVE ABOUT 240 MILES. IT IS FELT THAT IF DRIVERS KNOW THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO GET A SPECIFIED TIME PERIOD THAT THE SO-CALLED GAS PANIC WHICH HAS LED TO THE LONG LINES AT STATIONS WILL DISIPATE.

RATION CARDS ARE BEING PRINTED THIS WEEK AND WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT A TIME AND PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER.

(TRANSPAC REACTION)

SAIPAN, JAN. 23 (MNS)--THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TRANSPACIFIC LINES, INC., C. DOUGLAS ECHOLS, SAID ON SAIPAN TODAY THAT TRANSPAC HAS RECEIVED THE 1974 JOINT REPORT OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, RELEVANT TO THE "PRESENT OCEAN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IN MICRONESIA." ECHOLS SAID THAT WHILE THE REPORT CONTAINS CERTAIN INACCURACIES AND MISLEADING GENERALIZATIONS AND OFTEN LACKS SUPPORTIVE DATA TO BACK UP ITS CONCLUSIONS, IT DESERVES AND WILL BE GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY TRANSPAC OFFICIALS.

A FULL RESPONSE WILL BE FORTHCOMING THE LATTER PART OF NEXT WEEK, WHEN THE REPORT WILL BE REVIEWED IN DEPTH. TRANSPAC WILL REQUEST A HEARING BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS, AT WHICH TIME A FULL PRESENTATION OF TRANSPAC'S REBUTTAL WILL BE MADE. ECHOLS SAID HE CONSIDERS THE REPORT BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA TO REQUIRE SUCH A RESPONSE BY TRANSPAC BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS. "WE FEEL SURE THAT AFTER ALL THE FACTS ARE LAID BEFORE THE CONGRESS, THERE WILL BE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS IN MICRONESIA AND PERHAPS A MORE HARMONIOUS ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH WE CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER TOWARD SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS."