

(ENIWETOK TRANSFER DELAYED)

1974

SAIPAN, JAN. 9 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY OFFICIALS HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION, THE SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS TO EFFECT THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OVER ENIWETOK ATOLL IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DELAYED. 11

THE TRANSFER WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE ON CRE BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1973, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT INITIALLY MADE JOINTLY BY AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS AND TT HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON IN MAY OF 1972. THE ATOLL HAS BEEN UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE MILITARY--OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED A U.S. AIR FORCE BASE--SINCE SHORTLY AFTER WORLD WAR TWO.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE SAID THAT AN INSTRUMENT OF TRANSFER HAS BEEN READY FOR SIGNATURE, AT LEAST AS FAR AS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THE TT ADMINISTRATION ARE CONCERNED, SINCE BEFORE DECEMBER 31. HOWEVER JAMES LECHE, AN ATTORNEY FOR NLSC IN MAJURO, HAS ASKED THAT THE TRANSFER BE DELAYED UNTIL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF ENIWETOK CAN BE COMPLETE. AS SOON AS THEY INDICATE THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THE LANGUAGE OF THE TRANSFER DOCUMENT, THE SIGNING CAN TAKE PLACE. A U.S. NAVY REPRESENTATIVE ON GUAM HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO REPRESENT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, AND PRESUMABLY THE FORMAL SIGNING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE ON SAIPAN.

THE TRANSFER OF ENIWETOK TO TRUST TERRITORY CONTROL WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT OFFICIAL STEP TOWARD THE EVENTUAL RETURN OF THE PEOPLE FROM THEIR PRESENT HOME ON UJELLANS TO THEIR HOME ISLANDS. LIKE THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI, THE ENIWETOKESE WERE RELOCATED FOLLOWING THE WAR SO THAT THEIR ATOLL COULD BE USED BY THE U.S. FOR THE TESTING OF ATOMIC WEAPONS. A REHABILITATION PROGRAM FOR ENIWETOK IS IN THE PLANNING STAGES.

(WON PAT TO VISIT YAP/PALAU)

SAIPAN, JAN. 9, (MNS)---ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE INTERIOR SUB-COMMITTEE ON TERRITORIAL AND INSULAR AFFAIRS WHO VISITED SAIPAN AND TINIAN IN THE MARIANAS THIS WEEK HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS TO VISIT PALAU AND YAP DISTRICTS.

ANTONIO B. WON PAT, DELEGATE TO CONGRESS FROM GUAM, WILL FLY TO KOROR, PALAU THURSDAY (JAN. 9) AND FROM KOROR TO YAP ON SATURDAY, RETURNING TO GUAM MONDAY, JANUARY 14. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON THE TRIP BY ADRIAN WINKEL, STAFF CONSULTANT TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE.

"WITH WON PAT'S VISIT TO THE DISTRICTS OF YAP AND PALAU, AND WITH THE UPCOMING VISIT OF REPRESENTATIVES MINK AND NEEDS TO TRUK, PONAPE AND THE MARSHALLS, ALL SIX DISTRICTS WILL HAVE HAD SOME VISITATION BY MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE," SAID W. NEIHAN CRALEY, JR., THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS. PRIOR TO DELEGATE WON PAT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THERE HAD BEEN NO PLANS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO VISIT YAP OR PALAU.

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PHILLIP BURTON OF CALIFORNIA, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS THOMAS FOLEY OF WASHINGTON, WILLIAM M. KETCHUM OF CALIFORNIA, AND RON DE LUGO OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VISITED THE MARIANAS THIS WEEK, ALONG WITH WON PAT. THEY LEFT TUESDAY FROM SAIPAN, MAKING A BRIEF STOPOVER ON TINIAN ON THEIR WAY BACK TO GUAM.

CONGRESSMAN PATSY MINK OF HAWAII AND CONGRESSMAN LLOYD NEEDS OF WASHINGTON HAVE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO VISIT THE EASTERN DISTRICTS NEXT WEEK. THEY WILL ARRIVE IN TRUK MONDAY, JANUARY 14, AND WILL THEN VISIT MAJURO AND PONAPE ON SUCCEEDING DAYS BEFORE RETURNING TO HAWAII ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 17.

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(POMAPE DELEGATION VISITING MUNICIPALITIES)

POMAPE, JAN. 9, (HNS)---THE POMAPE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DELEGATION IS CURRENTLY TOURING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF POMAPE ISLAND PROPER IN ORDER TO DISCUSS WITH THE PEOPLE ISSUES THAT CONCERN THEM PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF NEXT WEEK'S SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS ON SAIPAN.

ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM HALVERSEN JOHNNY OF RADIO WSZD IN POMAPE, THE DELEGATION, HEADED BY SENATOR ANBILOS IEHSI, BEGAN ITS TOUR AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO VISIT THE MUNICIPALITIES OF UH, NETT, KITT, MATELENIKHW, SOKHS AND KOLONIA, THE DISTRICT CENTER.

DISCUSSIONS WILL CENTER ON AREAS TO BE TAKEN UP BY THE CONGRESS AT THE 1974 SESSION, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE CONCERNS OF THE LOCAL PEOPLE. BECAUSE THE DELEGATION HAS VERY LIMITED TIME BEFORE THE SESSION BEGINS, THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO VISIT THE POMAPE OUTER ISLANDS, JOHNNY REPORTS.

THE TOUR IS PART OF THE DELEGATION'S CONTINUED GOAL TO RELIEF MATTERS OF CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN TO THE PEOPLE IN THE LOCALITIES, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO TAKE A READING OF THE PEOPLE'S NEEDS AND THE NEEDS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPALITY. IT IS HOPED THAT CONTINUED EFFORTS IN CONDUCTING SUCH TOURS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF POMAPE. THIS WEEKEND THE DELEGATION MEMBERS WILL LEAVE FOR SAIPAN AND THE CONGRESSIONAL SESSION.

IN ADDITION TO SENATOR IEHSI, MEMBERS OF THE POMAPE DELEGATION ARE: SENATOR BAIELY OLTER, AND REPRESENTATIVES SUNGIUD HADLEY, BETHMEL HENRY, RESIO MOSES, AND JOAB SIGRAH.

\*FMC OKAYS TRANSPAC INCREASE

SAIPAN, JAN. 9, (HNS)---THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TRANSPACIFIC LINES, INC., C. DOUGLAS ECHOLS, SAID ON SAIPAN WEDNESDAY HE HAS RECEIVED NOTIFICATION THAT THE U.S. FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION HAS GIVEN ITS APPROVAL TO TRANSPAC'S REQUESTED TWENTY-DOLLAR PER TON INCREASE IN FREIGHT SHIPPING RATES TO COVER INCREASED FUEL COSTS.

ECHOLS SAID THE FMC APPROVED A "BUNKER SURCHARGE" TO TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY FOR ALL CARGO ORIGINATING IN U.S. PORTS, INCLUDING GUAM. HE SAID THE CHARGE WOULD NOT BE IMPOSED ON ANY CARGO THAT IS ALREADY IN TRANSIT FROM THOSE PORTS.

TRANSPAC ANNOUNCED THE HIGHER RATES LAST WEEK, SAYING THE EMERGENCY INCREASE WAS NECESSITATED BY SHARPLY INCREASED FUEL COSTS OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE THUS FAR MADE NO COMMENT ON LAST WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SURCHARGE ARE PRESENTLY BEING STUDIED. A SPOKESMAN SAID SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAVE BEEN HELD, AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE SITUATION WILL BE MADE WITHIN A FEW DAYS.

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(LAW OF THE SEA COMMITTEE MEETS)

SAIPAN, JANUARY 9 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---OWNERSHIP OF THE MICRONESIA'S REEFS AND SEAS WAS ONE OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING A MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE LAW OF THE SEA OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THIS WEEK.

ACCORDING TO CHAIRMAN SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH, HE AND MEMBERS SENATOR ANATA KABUA, REPRESENTATIVE MERNAN O. GUERRERO AND HASAO HAKAYAMA AND STAFF COUNSEL FRED RAMP MET ON SAIPAN TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO DATE AND REVIEW WHERE THEY SHOULD FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION.

THE COMMITTEE FIRST REVIEWED SOME OF THE BACKGROUND MATERIALS THEY HAVE COLLECTED TO DATE TO EXAMINE AND EXPLORE FURTHER WAYS AND MEANS TO PROCEED. THE MATERIAL AND INFORMATION WILL BE PUT INTO THE FORM OF A REPORT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DURING THE FORTHCOMING SESSION.

THE SECOND ASPECT CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE WAS ITS FUTURE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL ATTEND THE MAIN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN CARACAS, VENEZUELA DURING THE LATTER PART OF THE SUMMER.

A THIRD AREA DISCUSSED WAS REVIEW OF CANDIDATES IN THE EVENT THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO HIRE A CONSULTANT. THIS PHASE, HE SAID, WAS POSTPONED UNTIL MORE INFORMATION COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.

SENATOR ANARAICH STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK AND THE UNITED NATIONS SPONSORED CONFERENCE.

"IT IS OUR FEELING THAT THE CONGRESS WILL GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER SINCE THE SEA AND ITS WELTH ARE SO VITAL TO MICRONESIANS. THIS MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO HAVE A VOICE IN WHAT COULD LEAD TO A MAJOR AGREEMENT AMONG NATIONS TO UTILIZE THE RESOURCES OF OCEANS OF THE WORLD," HE SAID.

A PAST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE HAS NOTED THAT THE ADVANCED NATIONS OF THE WORLD ARE LOOKING MORE AND MORE TO THE SEA FOR FUTURE RESOURCES, WHILE LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS LIKE MICRONESIA ARE NOT YET CAPABLE OF USING ALL IN THE SEA THAT IS AVAILABLE. SHOULD INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS BE MADE WHICH ARE NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF ISLAND NATIONS, THEN "SOME DAY WE MAY SEE LARGER NATIONS OF THE WORLD EXPLOITING RESOURCES WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN OURS," SENATOR ANARAICH STATED.

MICRONESIA PRESENTLY HAS A THREE MILE TERRITORIAL WATER ZONE IN ADDITION TO A NINE MILE FISHING ZONE. OTHER NATIONS, SUCH AS PERU IN SOUTH AMERICA, CLAIM UP TO 200 MILES OF TERRITORIAL AND FISHING WATERS OFF THEIR COASTS. THE U.S. STILL MAINTAINES A THREE MILE LIMIT.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ALSO PUT FORTH A POSITION FOR THREE ZONES:

ONE: A ZONE INCLUDING ALL THE INTERNAL WATERS WITHIN STRAIGHT LINES BETWEEN THE OUTERMOST ISLANDS AND REEFS OF MICRONESIA.

TWO: A TERRITORIAL WATERS ZONE 12 MILES OUT FROM THE FIRST LINE THROUGH WHICH MICRONESIA COULD REGULATE AIR AND SEA PASSAGE.

THREE: A 200 MILE RESOURCE ZONE EXTENDING FROM THE 12 MILE ZONE OTWARD IN WHICH MICRONESIA WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHTS TO ALL RESOURCES, BUT WOULD NOT REGULATE PASSAGE OF SHIPS AND PLANES.

MICRONESIA'S CLAIM TO EXTENSIVE JURISDICTION OVER THE SEA IS BASED PRIMARILY ON TRADITIONAL MICRONESIAN CONCEPTS OF OWNERSHIP OF THE SEA, ANARAICH POINTED OUT. THESE CONCEPTS, HOWEVER, HAVE NEVER BEEN DOCUMENTED. THE JOINT COMMITTEE THEREFORE ASSIGNED REPRESENTATIVE MASAO HAKAYAMA AND COMMITTEE COUNSEL FRED RAMP TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON TRADITIONAL IDEAS OF OWNERSHIP OF THE SEA. DURING THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER THEY TRAVELED THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA INTERVIEWING KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSONS ABOUT HISTORY AND TRADITIONS RELATING TO THE SEA.

THE RESULT OF THEIR EFFORTS IS A LENGTHY REPORT TO BE RELEASED DURING THE SESSION. THE REPORT CONSIDERS THREE SUBJECTS: TRADITIONAL MICRONESIAN NAVIGATION; TRADITIONAL ISLAND EMPIRES IN MICRONESIA; AND TRADITIONAL CONCEPTS OF OWNERSHIP OF THE SEA. THE REPORT CONCLUDES THAT NAVIGATION WAS SUFFICIENTLY SOPHISTICATED TO PERMIT EXTENSIVE INTERISLAND CONTACT AND THAT SUCH CONTACT RESULTED IN THE FORMATION OF VAST ISLAND EMPIRES IN THE ERA PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF WESTERNERS. THE REPORT ALSO CONCLUDES THAT MICRONESIANS TRADITIONALLY CONSIDERED THEMSELVES TO OWN SUBSTANTIALLY ALL OF THE SEA BETWEEN AND AROUND THE MICRONESIAN ISLANDS.

THE SENATOR FROM IRIK SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE INTENDS TO BRING THIS REPORT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA TASK FORCE FROM THE UNITED STATES TO A MEETING WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR THE END OF JANUARY OR SAIPAN. THIS MEETING HAD BEEN PLANNED FOR DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR BUT WAS DELAYED BY REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES.

"IT IS OUR HOPE THAT IN THIS MEETING WE CAN RECEIVE A RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST FOR REPRESENTATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE, AND THAT WE CAN ALSO RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND MICRONESIAN POSITIONS," SENATOR AMARAICH CONCLUDED.