

(LEGISLATURE ASKS TALKS SUSPENSION)

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PALAU, OCT. 23 (MNS)---THE PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE HAS CALLED FOR THE SUSPENSION OF STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNTIL THE QUESTION OF THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS IS RESOLVED.

THE STRONGLY-WORKED RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED MONDAY EVENING (OCT. 21), IS ONE OF THE FINAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTH PALAU LEGISLATURE, WHICH CONCLUDED TUESDAY MORNING (SEE FOLLOWING STORY). ADOPTION OF THE MEASURE CAME AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE BY BOTH TRADITIONAL AND ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THE RESOLUTION CALLS ATTENTION TO THE RECENT VETO BY TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON OF SENATE BILL 296 OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, RELATIVE TO THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS. THIS ACTION, SAYS THE PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, "HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED ONCE AGAIN (THE UNITED STATES') UTTER UNWILLINGNESS TO RETURN SAID PUBLIC LANDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXPRESSED DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA."

THE MEASURE ALSO POINTS OUT THAT THE PALAU DELEGATION TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, THE SPEAKER OF THE PALAU LEGISLATURE, AND HIGH CHIEF IBEDUL RECENTLY INFORMED U.S. AMBASSADOR F. HAYDON WILLIAMS THAT "...NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY OPTIONS IN PALAU CAN TAKE PLACE IF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER VETOED SENATE BILL NO. 296." THEREFORE, THE RESOLUTION CONCLUDES, THE VETO ACTION IS "HEREBY DENOUNCED" AND THE HICOM IS REQUESTED TO "WITHDRAW HIS VETO OF SAID BILL AND SIGN IT INTO LAW."

THE MEASURE FURTHER RESOLVES "...THAT THE PALAU LEGISLATURE HEREBY DECLARED THAT NO NEGOTIATIONS SHALL TAKE PLACE WITH RESPECT TO THE UNITED STATES DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS OF MILITARY OPTIONS IN THE PALAU DISTRICTS," AND "THAT THE PALAU LEGISLATURE DENOUNCES ANY UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OR THE UNITED STATES THROUGH EXECUTIVE ACTION TO RETURN PUBLIC LANDS SINCE SUCH ACTIONS WILL RESULT IN UNDERSIRABLE WITHHOLDING OF LANDS FOR THE UNITED STATES MILITARY AND OTHER USES," AND, "THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO SUSPEND NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE DRAFT COMPACT (OF FREE ASSOCIATION.)"

THE RESOLUTION HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, SENATOR LAZARUS SALII OF PALAU, WHO TESTIFIED BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE IN FAVOR OF THE MEASURE.

(PALAU LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS)

PALAU, OCT. 23 (MNS)---THE FIFTH PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, SEVENTH REGULAR SESSION, WAS OFFICIALLY ADJOURNED TUESDAY (OCT. 22) AFTER THREE WEEKS OF MEETINGS IN KOROR, THE PALAU DISTRICT CENTER.

THE SESSION CONCLUDED WITH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR THOMAS O. REMENGESAU AND LEGISLATURE SPEAKER ITEL BANG LUII DELIVERING BRIEF REMARKS.

RE MENGESAU ASSURED THE LAWMAKERS THAT THE MEASURE ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE WILL BE GIVEN "UTMOST ATTENTION" BY THE ADMINISTRATION, AND WILL BE ACTED UPON IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW. HE FURTHER CONVEYED THE MESSAGES SENT BY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON AND UNITED STATES SENATOR HIRAM L. FONG OF HAWAII.

BOTH MEN HAD HOPED TO BE IN PALAU THIS WEEK FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE LEGISLATURE AND PALAU FAIR ACTIVITIES, BUT WERE UNABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP DUE TO CHANGES IN THE SENATOR'S PLANE SCHEDULES.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REMENGESAU ALSO SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT THE UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE CONGRSS OF MICRONESIA, ASKING ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF PALAU TO COOPERATE

TO MAKE THE ELECTION SUCCESSFUL. HE SAID IF EVERYONE TAKES HIS RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY REGARDING THE ELECTION, THE RESULT WILL BE QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL TO REPRESENT THE DISTRICT IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

SPEAKER LUII SPOKE ONLY BRIEFLY, THANKING THE ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS COOPERATION DURING THE SESSION, AND THANKING EACH OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR THEIR WORK IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SESSION.

(TV STATION TO CONTINUE)

SAIPAN, OCT. 23 (MNS)---MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA ANNOUNCED THAT A MUTUAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND H. SCOTT KILGORE, PRESIDENT OF THE MICRONESIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION.

THE AGREEMENT WOULD THUS ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSING SAIPAN'S LOCAL TELEVISION STATION WSZE AT THE END OF THIS MONTH ACCORDING TO DISTAD ADA.

DISTAD ADA SAID THAT HE WAS VERY HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THE CONTINUED SERVICE OF WSZE TV TO SAIPAN AND TINIAN AS THE COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT HAVE COME TO APPRECIATE TV AS AN EXTREMELY DESIRABLE AND VALUABLE ASPECT OF EDUCATIONAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE IN THE MARIANAS.

THE MARIANAS DISTAD ADDED THAT THERE ARE STILL MANY PROBLEMS AND REQUIREMENTS FACING BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE MICRONESIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION IN THE CONTINUING OPERATION OF THE VALUABLE MEDIA, BUT SAID HE FELT CONFIDENT THESE PROBLEMS COULD BE SURMOUNTED WITH THE CONTINUING COOPERATIVENESS OF KILGORE AND THE MICRONESIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COMMUNITIES OF THE MARIANAS.

MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER DAVID Q. MARATITA SAID THAT THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION HAS GIVEN A TENTATIVE APPROVAL FOR LEASING THE PARCEL OF LAND REQUIRED BY THE STATION TO ERECT A TOWER. THE LAND IS REPORTED MILITARY RETENTION AREA.

LAST WEEK THE AGENCIES INVOLVED, LAND MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC WORKS, AND PLANNING MET TO WORK OUT THE AGREEMENT. MARATITA SAID SCOTT KILGORE HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE AGREEMENT.

LAST WEEK KILGORE INFORMED THE DISTAD THAT UNLESS STATION OFFICIALS RECEIVED SOME SORT OF ASSURANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE LAND THEY REQUIRE TO ERECT A NEW TOWER, THEY WILL GO OFF THE AIR AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

KILGORE CITED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT NO PROGRESS IS BEING MADE NEGOTIATIONS TO MOVE THE FACILITY FROM ITS PRESENT LOCATION AT THE ROTYAO TAGA HOTEL TO THE NEW SITE AT THE DISTRICT EDUCATION COMPLEX AT LOWER BASE. HE ADDED THAT THE STATION'S LEASE AT THE ROYAL TAGA HAS EXPIRED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW AND THEY ARE PAYING RENT FOR TWO LOCATIONS.

(ISLEY AIRPORT PROGRESS)

SAIPAN, OCT. 23 (MNS)---THE RALPH M. PARSONS COMPANY HAS INFORMED THE OFFICE OF THE MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR THAT THE FINAL TERMINAL DESIGN FOR ISLEY AIRPORT WAS COMPLETED LAST WEEK, ACCORDING TO A NEWS RELEASE FROM THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR.

THE FINAL BID DOCUMENTS FOR THE TERMINAL FACILITY ARE CURRENTLY BEING PRINTED AND A PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON SAIPAN, NOVEMBER 14. "WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL HAVE SELECTED A CONTRACTOR AND AWARDED THE BID NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 18, 1974," DISTAD FRANCISCO C. ADA SAID.

ACCORDING TO ADA, THE CURRENT CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS: THE RUNWAY, APRON AND THE ARRIVAL BUILDING WILL BE COMPLETED AND READY FOR USE DURING THE SUMMER OF 1975, THE COMPLETE AIRPORT INCLUDING LANDSCAPING AND OTHERS WILL BE READY FOR USE NO LATER THAN JULY 18, 1976.

"WE PLAN A SOFT OPENING IN THE SUMMER OF 1975 USING THE NES RUNWAY AND THE BUILDING," ADA SAID. "THIS WILL BE NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE VERY POOR CONDITION OF THE PRESENT RUNWAY AT THE KOBLER AIRFIELD," ADA CONTINUED.

THE TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF THE NEW ISLEY AIRPORT WILL RUN APPROXIMATELY EIGHT AND A HALF TO NINE AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS DEPENDING OF THE FINAL BIDS WE RECEIVE ON THE TERMINAL COMPLEX. FUNDING WAS OBTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER: \$2 MILLION FROM THE TT REGULAR GRANT FUNDS; \$2 MILLION FROM FAA, ADAP, \$5 MILLION ADVANCE CONCESSION FEE FROM DUTY FREE OF HONG KONG.

"WE CURRENTLY HAVE INVESTED THE DUTY FREE FIVE MILLION DOLLARS IN BANK OF AMERICA TIME CERTIFICATES AND THEY ARE EARNING \$1,500 A DAY INTEREST," THE DISTAD REPORTED.

"THIS OF COURSE WILL DECREASE AS CONSTRUCTION COST BECOMES DUE AND WE HAVE TO WITHDRAW IT TO MAKE PAYMENT. WE ANTICIPATE EARNING BETWEEN \$500,000 TO \$700,000 DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD. IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN WE SHOULD END UP IN JULY 1976 WITH A FIRST CLASS AIRPORT COMPLETELY PAID FOR. TO DATE WE HAVE NOT ISSUED ANY LEASES FOR OTHER SMALL CONCESSION BECAUSE WE ARE CURRENTLY PUTTING TOGETHER THE MANAGEMENT PACKAGE WHICH WILL NEED SOME CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA APPROVAL. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD BE READY FOR THOSE OTHER CONCESSIONS NO LATER THAN MARCH OR APRIL OF 1975," CONCLUDED DISTAD ADA.