

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(CONGRESSMAN SPEAK TO TRADITIONAL LEADERS).

TRUK, NOV. 15 (CONGRESS RELEASE) - THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SPOKE BEFORE THE SECOND CONFERENCE OF THE MICRONESIAN TRADITIONAL CHIEFS THIS WEEK, IN AN AFTERNOON MEETING OF THE GROUP. THEY ALSO HEARD COMMENTS AND OPINIONS FROM THE MICRONESIAN LEADERS ON A RANGE OF SUBJECTS AT THE TRUK MEETING.

SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIWO NAKAYAMA AND HOUSE SPEAKER BETHWEL HENRY WERE BOTH INVITED TO ACT AS A "RESOURCE GROUP" ON AGENDA ITEM NO. ONE, "UNITY OF MICRONESIA."

PRESIDENT NAKAYAMA AND SPEAKER HENRY SPOKE INFORMALLY BEFORE THE MICRONESIAN LEADERS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED TO THEM BY DELEGATES FROM SEVERAL DISTRICTS.

IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION OF HOW THE CONGRESS WOULD HANDLE THE WORK OF THE UNITY OF MICRONESIA, SPEAKER HENRY REPLIED THAT THE SUBJECT OF UNITY WAS "DYNAMIC AND ALIVE" AND THAT AS MICRONESIANS WOULD BEGIN ADMINISTERING THEIR OWN AFFAIRS IN THE FUTURE IT WAS A VERY APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION.

HE CONTINUED BY SAYING THAT UNITY WAS "LONG A MATTER OF CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA CONCERN AND THAT IT WAS ALSO A CONCERN OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION," AND NOTED THAT "WE IN THE CONGRESS ARE FOR UNITY IN ORDER FOR MICRONESIA TO BE STRONG IN NEGOTIATING WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE."

THE SENATE PRESIDENT THEN RESPONDED TO A QUESTION POSED BY A DELEGATE CHIEF FROM PONAPE, WHO ASKED, DID THE CONGRESS CONSIDER IT GOOD FOR THE UNITY OF MICRONESIA FOR THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS NOT TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION? SENATOR NAKAYAMA, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE OF THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN MEETING IN TRUK, EXPLAINED THAT DURING CONSIDERATION OF THAT MATTER IN THE CONGRESS, MANY MEMBERS FELT THAT GIVING THE VOTE TO A TRADITIONAL CHIEF WOULD PUT THE CHIEF IN A DIFFICULT POSITION IF HE VOTED FOR SOMETHING AND IT WAS DEFEATED; IT WOULD BE AN EMBARRASSMENT. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE WAS CONSIDERING THAT MATTER DURING THEIR MEETING ON TRUK AND THAT QUESTION SHOULD BE EXPLORED. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING WHEN THE SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED IN THE CONGRESS "UNITY WAS NOT MENTIONED, BECAUSE THE EMPHASIS WAS ON THE STATUS OF THE CHIEFS"; THAT THE CONGRESS FELT THE CHIEFS SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS ORDINARY DELEGATES BUT SHOULD BE GIVEN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BECAUSE OF THEIR HIGH RANK.

LATER IN THE MEETING, THE ACTING PALAU HIGH CHIEF REKLAI, STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE GIVING OF THE VOTE TO CHIEFS WHO WILL ATTEND THE CONCON AND ASKED THAT THE DISTRICT AND CONGRESS LEADERS TAKE ACTION TO CORRECT THIS MATTER.

ASKED BY A CHIEF FROM TRUK TO COMMENT ON THE ROLE OF THE TWO SYSTEMS OF AUTHORITY IN MICRONESIA--TRADITIONAL AND NEW--HE REMARKED THAT HIS JOB WAS TO REPRESENT BOTH THE PEOPLE AND CHIEFS AND THAT "HOW WE DO OUR JOBS DEPENDS ON WHAT THE PEOPLE AND LEADERS WANT US TO DO. I THINK THE TWO SYSTEMS ARE WORKING VERY WELL."

OTHER QUESTIONS THEN FOLLOWED, INCLUDING THOSE ABOUT THE UNITY MONEY APPROPRIATED BY THE CONGRESS, THE RECENT TRIP BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS TO JAPAN, KOREA, AND THE PHILIPPINES, OTHER UNITY LEGISLATION, AND MATTERS RELATED TO THE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE MARSHALLS AND THE MARIANAS.

COMMENTS WERE ALSO RECEIVED BY THE MEETING FROM TRUKESE AND PONAPEAN CHIEFS WHO SUPPORTED THE WAYS AND MEANS OF BRINGING ALL MICRONESIANS FROM OTHER DISTRICTS CLOSER TOGETHER, INCLUDING A FUTURE THIRD CONFERENCE IN ANOTHER DISTRICT.

AT THE END OF THE MEETING A CHIEF FROM PONAPE MADE REFERENCE TO THE FUNDS WHICH THE PRESIDING OFFICERS HAD

12095

APPROVED TO HELP SUPPORT COSTS OF THE CONFERENCE. SEVERAL CHIEFS, HE NOTED, HAD ASKED IF MONEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE.

"BUT THE WAY TO BRING US TOGETHER," HE NOTED, "IS NOT TO TALK ABOUT MONEY. ONE WAY TO BE UNITED IS TO STAND BY OURSELVES. WE SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFERENCES LIKE THESE WITH THE LEADERS OF THE DISTRICTS."

THE CHIEFS COULD PAY THEIR OWN WAY AND THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICTS COULD PROVIDE THE FOOD AND ACCOMMODATIONS, HE ADDED. "IF WE HAVE TO DEPEND ON MONEY, THEN WE CANNOT MADE DECISIONS BY OURSELVES." HE CONCLUDED.

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(MORE ON TRUK MEET)

TRUK, NOV. 15 (COM RELEASE)--- THREE IMPORTANT ISSUES, INCLUDING THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS, WAR CLAIMS AND THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM WERE THE SUBJECT MATTER OF DISCUSSION ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MICRONESIAN TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN TRUK WEDNESDAY, (NOV. 13).

THE DISCUSSION ON RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS TOOK UP THE WHOLE MORNING SESSION WHEN SEVERAL COMMENTS FROM THE DIFFERENT DISTRICTS WERE INDICATED.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL KALEB UDUI OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA EXPLAINED TO THE CHIEFS THE REASON FOR THE HICOM'S VETO OVER THE BILL. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES IN THE POSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, INCLUDING EMINENT DOMAIN, LEASING OF LANDS, CONTROL OF SUBMERGED LANDS, LIABILITIES FOR DAMAGES AND OTHERS.

IN HIS RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY THE TRUK DELEGATION ASKING WHAT STEPS THE CONGRESS HAS TAKEN REGARDING THE HICOM'S VETO, UDUI SAID THE CONGRESS COULD TRY TO OVERRIDE THE VETO OR RE-DRAFT THE BILL IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WOULD FIND ITS WAY INTO THE NEXT CONGRESS. CHIEF IBELOUL OF PALAU TOLD THE CHIEFS FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS THAT HE IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO TOB TROB THE PEOPLE OF THEIR LANDS. AND HE ASKED THE CHIEFS TO WORK TOGETHER IN TRYING TO GET THE LANDS BACK.

ONE OBSERVATION FROM THE PONAPE DELEGATION SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND NOT REPRESENTING OR ACTING ON BEHALF OF DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE, ON THE ISSUE OF PUBLIC LAND. THE PONAPE CHIEFS WANTED TO REMIND THE CONGRESS THAT LANDS IN MICRONESIA WERE "GOD GIVEN LANDS." YAP DELEGATION WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A SET PRICE OF LAND IN MICRONESIA. UDUI RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT THERE IS NO SET PRICE, BUT CERTAIN CRITERIA HAVE TO BE MET TO INSURE FAIR PRICES.

DURING THE AFTERNOON SESSION, KEN ROSS AND JOHN KELLY OF TRUK'S WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION (WCC) OFFICE EXPLAINED THE OPERATION OF THEIR OFFICE AND THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS ACT PASSED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS IN 1971. THAT ACT WAS PASSED, STATED ROSS, TO REIMBURSE THE LOSSES OF MICRONESIANS FROM DAMAGE DURING THE WAR ITSELF AND FOR A STATED POST-WAR PERIOD. THE TOTAL AMOUNT APPROPRIATED WAS \$30 MILLION. MICRONESIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION (MCC) WAS SET UP TO RENDER JUDGEMENT ON ALL CLAIMS.

ROSS SAID THERE ARE OVER 10,000 CLAIMS OF WHICH 3,500 HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADJUDICATED. THE REST MUST BE FINISHED BY OCT. 15, 1976, WHEN MCC WILL CEASE TO EXIST. HE EXPLAINED THAT MCC DOES NOT HAVE ANY ROLE IN THE PAYMENT OF CLAIMS, WHICH IS UP TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND THE TT GOVERNMENT. THE ROLE OF THE MCC IS ONLY TO RECOMMEND TO THEM THE AWARD AND THE AMOUNTS TO AWARD TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLAIMANT. 12096

CHIEFS FROM THE TRUK DELEGATION ASKED ROSS ABOUT THE 16 PER CENT MINIMUM PAYMENT BEING GIVEN TO CLAIMANTS. ROSS EXPLAINED THAT THE INTERIOR SECRETARY DECIDED THAT CLAIMANTS COULD BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY PAID IN CASE THE \$30 MILLION APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS SHOULD BE INSUFFICIENT.

THAT DOESN'T MEAN, EXPLAINED ROSS, THAT THE CLAIMANTS WILL ONLY GET 16 PER CENT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS. ONCE ALL THE CLAIMS ARE ADJUDICATED AND 16 PER CENT IS PAID TO EACH CLAIM, THEN THE REST OF THE MONEY WILL BE PAID ACCORDING TO HOW MUCH MONEY IS LEFT OF THE ORIGINAL \$30 MILLION. THE QUESTION WAS ALSO RAISED BY TRUK WHICH HAS OVER 3,600 OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CLAIMS, WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE PEOPLE AWARDED PAYMENT OF THEIR CLAIMS ARE NOT GIVEN 100 PER CENT SINCE AFTER ACCEPTING THE DECISION OF THE MCC, A CLAIMANT MUST SIGN A RELEASE OF THE JAPANESE AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS TO COLLECT ANY MONEY.

ROSS RESPONDED THAT SUCH QUESTIONS WERE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE COMMISSION, BUT SHOULD RIGHTFULLY BE ADDRESSED TO THE U.S. CONGRESS, THE AUTHOR OF THE ACT.

THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS SET UP A COMMITTEE TO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS TO THE U.S. CONGRESS ON THE SUBJECT OF WAR CLAIMS, "TO GET ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTION AND OTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING WAR CLAIMS PAYMENTS TO MICRONESIANS."

ONE OBSERVERS FROM HEADQUARTERS STATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE U.S. AND JAPAN DO NOT CLAIM ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE DONE TO MICRONESIA AND HER PEOPLE DURING THE WAR. HE NOTED THAT THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS ACT STATES THAT THESE ARE "EX GRATIA" PAYMENTS.

MEMBERS OF THE ESG HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE DAIZIRO NAKAMURA AND SAM MCPHETERS AND TRUK'S ESG TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN SUSUMU AIZAWA ADDRESSED THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS AND ANSWERED QUESTIONS ON THEIR PROGRAM DURING THE AFTERNOON AND AGAIN IN A LATE NIGHT SESSION, WHICH LASTED UNTIL 3 A.M. THURSDAY (NOV. 14). THE CHIEFS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF SENDING ESG PERSONNEL INTO VILLAGES AND TO OUTER ISLANDS SO THAT ALL PEOPLE WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT THE DIFFERENT POSSIBLE POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES AND THE CON CON.

THE CHIEFS FROM TRUK AND PONAPE WERE CRITICAL OF THE PROGRAM BECAUSE IT IS FINANCED AND RUN BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, BUT DAIZIRO NAKAMURA TOLD THEM THAT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAD GIVEN THIS RESPONSIBILITY OF EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT TO THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE CHIEFS CONFERENCE CONTINUED THURSDAY AND FRIDAY (NOV. 14-15) WITH PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS.

(TRUK RESULTS STILL AWAITED)

SAIPAN, NOV. 15 (MNS)---NEARLY TWO WEEKS AFTER THE NOVEMBER 5 CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA GENERAL ELECTION IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, THE RESULTS IN TWO OF THE RACES STILL ARE NOT IN. BOTH ARE IN TRUK DISTRICT, AND BOTH PROMISE TO BE CLOSE CONTESTS.

THE DELAY HAS BEEN CAUSED BY PROBLEMS WITH THE FIELD TRIP SHIP THAT WAS TO HAVE PICKED UP THE BALLOTS FROM THE OUTLYING ISLANDS OF TRUK AND RETURN THEM TO MOEN, THE DISTRICT CENTER, FOR COUNTING. AFTER PICKING UP BALLOTS FROM THE HALL ISLANDS, THE SHIP WAS FORCED TO RETURN TO MOEN, AND WAS UNABLE TO GO OUT AGAIN TO RESUME THE FIELD TRIP UNTIL EARLIER THIS WEEK. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEADQUARTERS LEGISLATIVE LIAISON DIVISION SAID FRIDAY (NOV. 15) THAT THE SHIP IS NOW EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT MOEN LATE SATURDAY WITH BALLOTS FROM THE MORTLOCK ISLANDS, AND THE WESTERN ISLANDS, AND NOMONUITO ATOLL. RESULTS FOR TWO REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS, AND THE TRUK

SENATE RACE, ARE BEING HELD UP BY THE DELAYED COUNT. HOWEVER IN REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 15, THE MORTLOCK ISLANDS, INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN RAYMOND SETIK IS UNOPPOSED, AND THUS LIKELY TO BE EASILY RE-ELECTED.

IN REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 18, THE HASS AND WESTERN ISLANDS, THERE IS A THREE-WAY RACE BETWEEN INCUMBENT CONGRESSMAN NASAO NAKAYAMA, LAMBERT AAFIN, AND MASACHIRO CHRISTLIB. THE ONLY RESULTS AVAILABLE SO FAR ON THIS RACE ARE FROM THE HALL ISLANDS. THEY SHOW CHRISTLIB LEADING NAKAYAMA BY 149 VOTES TO 133, AND AAFIN FAR BEHIND WITH 45. MOST OF THE VOTERS LIVE IN THE WESTERN ISLANDS, INCLUDING THE NAMONUITO ATOLL, PULUWAT, AND PULUSUK, AND THESE VOTES STILL AREN'T IN.

THE SENATE RACE, BETWEEN INCUMBENT ANDON AMARAICH AND NICK BOSSY, IS ALSO UP IN THE AIR UNTIL THOSE FINAL VOTES COME IN. ALTHOUGH BOSSY IS PRESENTLY LEADING AMARAICH BY A WIDE MARGIN, 6,199 TO 3,767, MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT THE FINAL OUTCOME TO BE MUCH CLOSER THAN THAT, SINCE SENATOR AMARAICH IS EXPECTED TO RUN STRONGEST IN THE OUTER ISLANDS. THE SENATOR NEEDS 2,432 VOTES TO CATCH UP WITH BOSSY, AND DEPENDING ON THE VOTER TURNOUT IN THE OUTER ISLANDS, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT HE WILL HAVE TO GET FROM 85 TO 95 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL REMAINING VOTE IF HE IS TO WIN.

IN ALL OF THE OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, OUTER ISLAND VOTES ARE CALLED IN BY RADIO AFTER BEING COUNTED BY LOCAL COMMITTEES IN EACH MUNICIPALITY, AND THUS IT IS POSSIBLE TO RELEASE UNOFFICIAL RESULTS EVEN THOUGH THE ACTUAL BALLOTS HAVE NOT BEEN RETURNED TO THE DISTRICT CENTERS. IN TRUK, HOWEVER, THERE IS ONLY ONE CENTRAL VOTE TABULATING COMMITTEE, ON MOEN, AND NO ONE ELSE IS AUTHORIZED TO OPEN THE BOXES AND COUNT THE BALLOTS.

(SPC CONSULTANT COMING)

SAIPAN, NOV. 15 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR DR. MASAO KUMANGAI HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A CONSULTANT IN PEDIATRICS (CHILD MEDICINE) FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION, DR. ANJA NIIRANEN, WILL ARRIVE ON SAIPAN NOVEMBER 19 TO WORK FOR THREE WEEKS WITH HEADQUARTERS AND DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES STAFF ON A PROJECT TO DEVELOP GROWTH PATTERNS FOR MICRONESIAN PRE-SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN.

DR. NIIRANEN WILL BE TAKING MEASUREMENTS OF HEIGHT, WEIGHT, HEAD, ARM AND LEG CIRCUMFERENCE, AND SKIN FOLD THICKNESS OF AT LEAST 500 CHILDREN IN THE 0 TO 5 YEAR AGE GROUP IN THE MARIANAS. DETAILED PLANS FOR THE PROJECT WILL BE DEVELOPED AFTER DR. NIIRANEN ARRIVES, DR. KUMANGAI SAID, BUT HE ADDED THAT CHILDREN FROM ROTA AND TINIAN AS WELL AS SAIPAN WILL BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE.

DR. NIIRANEN IS ALSO DOING SIMILAR STUDIES IN NEW GUINEA, THE NEW HEBRIDES, AND IN THE COOK ISLANDS.

DR. KUMANGAI SAID THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES WOULD ANTICIPATE FUTURE PRODUCTS OF THIS TYPE WILL BE SCHEDULED TO DEVELOP CHILD GROWTH PATTERNS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE OTHER DISTRICTS.