

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(SALII RECOMMENDS NO MORE TALKS)

SAIPAN, DECEMBER 13, 1974---SENATOR LAZARUS SALII,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
FUTURE STATUS, ANNOUNCED FRIDAY (DEC. 13) ON SAIPAN HE HAS  
RECOMMENDED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE THAT FUTURE POLITICAL  
STATUS NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MICRONESIA  
NOW BE TERMINATED. FILE

THE SENATOR SAID THAT THE PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF AN  
EXECUTIVE ORDER TO RETURN PUBLIC LANDS "WHICH DOES NOT  
PROTECT MICRONESIAN INTERESTS IS AN INDICATION THAT THE  
UNITED STATES WILL HAVE NO HESITANCY IN TAKING SIMILAR ACTION  
WITH REGARD TO ANY OTHER ISSUE," THEREFORE, HE HAS RECOMMENDED  
THAT THE TALKS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND MICRONESIA BE TERMINATED."

SALII SAID HE HAS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT THIS POSITION  
BE TAKEN BY THE FULL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA  
IN JANUARY. 11

"ABOUT A YEAR AGO," SALII EXPLAINED, "THE JOINT COMMITTEE  
INFORMED THE U.S. THAT NO AGREEMENTS COULD BE REACHED ON  
FUTURE STATUS UNTIL MICRONESIAN PUBLIC LANDS ARE RETURNED  
TO THE PEOPLE. THE PLANNED ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER  
WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS A BREACH  
OF FAITH OF THE HIGHEST ORDER ON THE PART OF THE UNITED  
STATE GOVERNMENT," HE EMPHASIZED.

SALII CONTINUED: "THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE STATUS  
NEGOTIATIONS IS LAND, OR MORE PRECISELY--CONTROL OF MICRONESIAN  
LAND. THE UNITED STATES "PRIMARY INTEREST IN MICRONESIA IS  
LAND FOR MILITARY BASES."

SALII INDICATED THAT MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE WHO  
HAVE BEEN CONTACTED SO FAR HAVE EXPRESSED "FULL SUPPORT"  
IN FAVOR OF TERMINATING THE NEGOTIATIONS PERMANENTLY. HE SAID  
THAT THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS AND ITS  
LEADERSHIP ARE IN "FULL SUPPORT" OF THIS POSITION.

(PUBLIC LAND TRANSFER DRAWS LEADERS FROM ALL MICRONESIA)

HONOLULU, DEC. 13 (MNS)---THE ALA MOANA HOTEL IN HONOLULU  
WAS THE SITE OF A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE WHICH POSSIBLY INVOLVED  
MORE TRADITIONAL AND ELECTED LEADERS OF MICRONESIA THAN AT ANY  
OTHER TIME SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE TRUSTEESHIP (AGREEMENT).  
ALSO PRESENT TO DISCUSS THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION AND  
TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE NOVEMBER 1973, UNITED STATES POLICY  
TO TRANSFER MICRONESIA'S PUBLIC LANDS TO LOCAL OWNERSHIP  
AND CONTROL WERE OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON LED BY STANLEY  
S. CARPENTER, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, REPRESENTING SECRETARY OF THE  
INTERIOR ROGERS C.B. MORTON, HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E.  
JOHNSTON AND DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN, ALONG  
WITH SEVERAL LAND EXPERTS FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE  
PACIFIC ISLANDS HEADQUARTERS. EACH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR WAS  
ACCOMPANIED BY DISTRICT LAND EXPERTS.

IN HIS INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS, DELIVERED TO THE APPROXIMATELY  
80 PERSONS PRESENT, CARPENTER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "THERE ARE  
DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS AS TO HOW THE LAND SHOULD BE RETURNED"  
AMONG THOSE PRESENT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THERE ARE  
WIDELY DIFFERING SITUATIONS IN THE DISTRICTS AS REGARDS PUBLIC  
LAND. CARPENTER CONTINUED THAT HE HAD INVITED THE LEADERSHIP  
OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE  
TO COME TO HONOLULU TO "EXPLAIN THE POLICY OF THE SECRETARY  
AND SOLICIT YOUR VIEWS AND INPUT ON TECHNICAL ISSUES AND  
IMPLEMENTATION." 8309

CARPENTER EMPHASIZED THAT ANY SECRETARIAL ORDER ISSUED  
TO IMPLEMENT THE SECRETARY'S POLICY ON THE RETURN OF PUBLIC  
LANDS WILL BE PERMISSIVE, FOR EXAMPLE, IT WILL REQUIRE FORMAL  
REQUESTS FROM THE DISTRICTS FOR THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS.

DURING THE COURSE OF THE OPENING MEETING, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE MAJOR ISSUE OF CONTENTION AMONG THE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF MICRONESIANS AT THE MEETING WAS THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE U.S. POLICY STATEMENT. CARPENTER STRESSED THAT EITHER METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION WOULD RETURN THE SAME AMOUNT OF LAND TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA, FOR EXAMPLE, AMOUNT OF LAND EXPRESSLY MADE APPLICABLE FOR TRANSFER IN THE POLICY STATEMENT. IT WAS POINTED OUT SEVERAL TIMES BY VARIOUS SPEAKERS DURING THE MEETING THAT THE ORIGINAL APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY STATEMENT HAD BEEN THROUGH LEGISLATION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. CONGRESSIONAL WORK ON AN ADMINISTRATION LAND TRANSFER BILL COULD NOT BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS, BUT WAS COMPLETED AND AN AMENDED VERSION PASSED BY THE SPECIAL SESSION OF JULY, 1974. THIS BILL WAS SUBSEQUENTLY VETOED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WHO POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS INCONSISTENT WITH CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE POLICY STATEMENT.

AT A MEETING ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 9 HONOLULU TIME, DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED THE DESIRE OF THEIR DISTRICTS FOR AN "EXPEDITIOUS" RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS. FOR THIS REASON AND OTHERS, THE DISTRICTS OF THE MARIANAS, THE MARSHALLS AND PALAU STRONGLY SUPPORTED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY STATEMENT THROUGH SECRETARIAL ORDER. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PONAPE, TRUK AND YAP CONTINUED TO SUPPORT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA LEGISLATION. THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SUBMITTED A LETTER TO SECRETARY MORTON, READ INTO THE RECORD OF THE MEETING. THE LETTER WAS SIGNED BY THE SPEAKER AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS, ALONG WITH OTHER PERSONS. IN HIS PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO THE LETTER ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY MORTON, CARPENTER SAID THAT WHEN HE HAD LEFT WASHINGTON, IT "APPEARED TO THE SECRETARY THAT A SECRETARIAL ORDER IS THE MOST EFFICIENT, FLEXIBLE, PERMISSIVE AND NON-POLITICAL WAY TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY STATEMENT. BUT ANY FINAL DECISIONS WILL BE BASED ON THE VIEWPOINTS EXPRESSED IN THESE MEETINGS."

ON TUESDAY MORNING DECEMBER 10 HONOLULU TIME, SEVERAL DISTRICT DELEGATIONS MET WITH CARPENTER AND HIS STAFF TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL ISSUES AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE TYPE OF RETURN OF PUBLIC LAND THE POLICY STATEMENT ENVISIONS. LAND EXPERTS FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S STAFF WERE ALSO PRESENT.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON SAW THE OFFICIAL CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE WITH FINAL REMARKS BY ALL INVOLVED. EACH DISTRICT, USUALLY THROUGH THE SPEAKER OF ITS LEGISLATURE, REITERATED ITS ORIGINAL POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF IMPLEMENTATION, WITH THE MARIANAS, MARSHALLS AND PALAU STRONGLY URGING A SECRETARIAL ORDER, AND PONAPE, TRUK AND YAP IN FAVOR OF ACTION BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA NEXT PRESENTED THEIR FINAL COMMENTS AND LEFT THE MEETING, ACCOMPANIED BY THOSE OTHERS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE CONGRESS POSITION.

CARPENTER EXPRESSED HIS SURPRISE AT THIS ACTION AND HIS REGRET THAT THOSE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO LEFT AND THEIR SUPPORTERS COULD NOT REMAIN TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES IN MORE DEPTH. HE CONTINUED BY STATING THAT "IF A SECRETARIAL ORDER TRANSFERRING THE PUBLIC LANDS TO THE DISTRICTS IS ISSUED, IT WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY BE MEANT TO DEROGATE FROM THE AUTHORITY OF AND OUR RESPECT FOR THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA." BUT, HE EMPHASIZED, THE FINAL DECISION AS TO THE METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION HAS NOT BEEN MADE AND HIS REPORT TO THE SECRETARY WOULD BE BASED ON THE INPUT HE RECEIVED IN THE HONOLULU MEETING. 5310

HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON AND THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR THE ENTIRE GROUP AT THE ALA MOANA HOTEL ON TUESDAY EVENING. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS WILL BE REMAINING IN HONOLULU FOR A

**FEW DAYS FOR THEIR SEMI-ANNUAL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S CONFERENCE.**

**(CRUZ SHOCKED AT WILLIAMS DISCLOSURE)**

SAIPAN, DEC. 13 (MNS)---TINIAN DELEGATE TO THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION (MPSC) JOSE R. CRUZ, SUPPORTER OF A U.S. MILITARY BASE ON TINIAN, SAID HE WAS "SHOCK AND CONFUSED" WHEN HE LEARNED TUESDAY (DEC. 10) THAT THERE ARE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR SUCH A BASE ON THE ISLAND.

IN A STORY CARRIED ON FRIDAY'S (DEC. 13) PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, CRUZ SAID, "I HAVE BEEN PREACHING ALL ALONG THE ADVANTAGES OF A BASE. MY GOD, SUDDENLY I HAVE TO GO BACK AND TELL THEM THERE WILL BE NO HIGH SCHOOL OR HOSPITAL."

CRUZ SAID U.S. AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS TOLD THE MPSC THAT THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF MADE THE DECISION BASED ON CONDITIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

THE FORMER TINIAN MAYOR INDICATED THAT HE HAD HEARD SPECULATION IN WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER THAT IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO GET THE MONEY FROM U.S. CONGRESS FOR A BASE. HE SAID HIS MAJOR CONCERN IS "THE IMPACT OF THIS MONEY LOSS. WE HAD EXPECTED SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE BASE," CRUZ TOLD THE DAILY NEWS.

CRUZ WENT ON TO SAY HE "DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD HURT THEM," IT WOULD "JUST BRING MORE PROBLEMS AND CONFUSION TO THE PEOPLE TO TINIAN," HE SAID WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE BASE POSTPONEMENT ON MARIANAS--U.S. STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

"IT'S GOING TO BE SAD NEWS TO THE LAND SPECULATORS TOO," HE ADDED. THE MPSC WILL HAVE TO REEXAMINE ITS POSITION ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE U.S. THE COMMISSION WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER THE \$13.5 MILLION WOULD BE ADQUATE WITHOUT A BASE, CRUZ POINTED OUT.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN SAID THE GROUP IS REVIEWING THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND WOULD ISSUE A RESPONSE SOMETIME THIS WEEK.

**(COM ESSAY CONTEST)**

SAIPAN, DECEMBER 13 (MNS)---"RESPECT FOR THE PAST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE," WILL BE THE GENERAL THEME FOR A NEW ESSAY CONTEST IN COMMEMORATION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

SPONSORED BY THE CONGRESS AND ADMINISTERED BY THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT TASK FORCE, THE CONTEST WILL BE IN TWO CATEGORIES, ONE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ONE FOR UNIVERSITY OR POST HIGH SCHOOL INSTITUTIONS.

CASH AWARDS WILL BE MADE IN BOTH CATEGORIES AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL AND THE GRAND PRIZE WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A TRIP TO SAIPAN TO ADDRESS A JOINT-SESSION OF THE CONGRESS IN MID-FEBRUARY AND DELIVER THEIR ESSAYS PERSONALLY AS WELL AS RECEIVING A CASH AWARD.

MANY DETAILS ARE YET TO BE WORKED OUT, ACCORDING TO AN ESSG SPOKESMAN. CONGRESSIONAL AND TASK FORCE PERSONNEL WILL MEET AGAIN TO FINALIZE ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES BUT URGE ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS OF MICRONESIAN CITIZENSHIP TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS OF THEIR ESSAYS, NOT TO EXCEED 500 WORDS. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE RELEASED PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS VACATIONS.