

(SALII ON ESG)

SAIPAN, DEC. 16 (MNS) ⁷⁴ THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, SENATOR LAZARUS SALII SAID THIS WEEK THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE MIGHT WAIT UNTIL THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION ESTABLISHES A NEW GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA WHICH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WOULD INSIST UPON EVEN BEFORE THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. THE NEW GOVERNMENT COULD THEN CARRY OUT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. F13
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THE SENATOR MADE HIS REMARKS ON THE HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA," WHEN ASKED WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF THE STATUS TALKS WERE CALLED OFF INDEFINITELY IN THE WAKE OF THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS ISSUE.

ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, SALII STATED, IS THAT SINCE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAVE NOT BROUGHT AGREEMENT, PERHAPS MICRONESIANS WOULD TRY A DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS. THE FINAL POSSIBILITY, IS AN INDEFINITE CONTINUATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AND RESUMED TALKS AT A LATER TIME SALII ADDED. PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS SEEM "FUTILE" AND A "MOCKERY OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA," HE POINTED OUT.

SENATOR SALII INDICATED THAT THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WERE ABOUT THE METHOD OF RETURN. THE CONGRESS FEELS THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE MICRONESIANS IF THE LAND WERE TO BE RETURNED TO THE DISTRICT THROUGH ACTION BY THE CONGRESS BUT THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO DO IT BY EXECUTIVE ACTION. ACCORDING TO THE PALAU SENATOR, "THIS ACTION COULD RESULT IN A COMPLETE STOP" ON FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION.

"WHOEVER HAS CONTROL OF THE LAND WILL BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE NEGOTIATIONS," SALII POINTED OUT. IT IS THEREFORE "EXTREMELY IMPORTANT" THAT THE LANDS BE RETURNED BEFORE ANY FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS BE CONDUCTED OR ANY AGREEMENTS SIGNED. AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO RETURN PUBLIC LANDS WOULD CONTAIN PROVISIONS WHICH WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE CONGRESS AND TO THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES.

SALII EMPHASIZED SEVERAL TIMES THAT IF THE LANDS WERE RETURNED THROUGH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, THE CONTROL OVER THE LAND WOULD GO TO THE DISTRICTS AND HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT SEE HOW IT WOULD BE A GREATER ADVANTAGE FOR THE PEOPLE TO HAVE THE LAND RETURNED BY EXECUTIVE ACTION.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED HIS REGRET ABOUT THE DIVISIONS WHICH EXIST WITHIN MICRONESIA ON THE QUESTION OF PUBLIC LAND. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPES THERE CAN BE UNITY IN THE FUTURE WHEN THE SUBJECT COMES UP AGAIN.

PANEL MEMBERS ON THE "DIALOGUE" PROGRAM WERE: SAM MCPHETRES, MODERATOR, JOAN KING FROM THE PACIFIC DAILY NEWS; DERSON RAMON, FOR THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE AND ELIAS THOMAS, FOR THE MICRONESIAN BROADCASTING SERVICE.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(TRUK ELECTION RESULTS CHALLENGED)

SAIPAN, DEC. 16 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED THAT A CHALLENGE TO THE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS WILL BE MADE. THE NOTICE CAME IN A COPY OF A LETTER RECEIVED BY THEM WHICH WAS ADDRESSED TO THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER FOR TRUK DISTRICT.

BY LAW, THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS ACT AS ELECTION COMMISSIONERS AND ARE CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEING THAT ELECTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT PROPERLY. HOWEVER, THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE PROVIDES THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IS THE FINAL AUTHORITY ON WHETHER TO SEAT NEWLY-ELECTED MEMBERS, OR TO CALL FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION IF NECESSARY. 312

THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER FOR TRUK WAS NOTIFIED THAT THOSE WHO SIGNED THE LETTER INTEND TO PRESENT TO THE CONGRESS OF

MICRONESIA IN JANUARY OF 1975 CHALLENGES TO THESE ELECTIONS BASED ON A NUMBER OF SERIOUS IRREGULARITIES."

THOSE WHO SIGNED THE LETTER ARE: TRUK REPRESENTATIVE MASAO NAKAYAMA, TWO REGISTERED VOTERS NOT ALLOWED TO VOTE, JUAN SMITH AND SAIKICHY ANGEI, AND KUTTU MAGISTRATE SAM MARTIN.

"OUR PURPOSE IN WRITING TO YOU NOW IS TO NOTIFY YOU IN GENERAL TERMS OF THE IRREGULARITIES, AND ALSO TO REQUEST THAT YOU DO WHATEVER IS IN YOUR POWER TO BOTH INVESTIGATE THE IRREGULARITIES NOTED BELOW, AND TO TAKE SUCH AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AS IS APPROPRIATE TO CORRECT THE SAME."

"IT IS OUR BELIEF, HOWEVER, THAT THE ONLY WAY TO CORRECT THE IRREGULARITIES IS FOR CONGRESS ITSELF TO DECLARE THE ELECTIONS NULL AND VOID," THE LETTER STATED.

THEY STATED THEIR LETTER SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST FOR A RECOUNT SINCE "THE IRREGULARITIES WE COMPLAIN OF WOULD NOT BE CURED BY A RECOUNT," AND SAID THAT THE LETTER SHOULD BE TREATED AS A COMPLAINT AS ALLOWED UNDER THE IT CODE. THE LETTER THEN LISTED SEVEN AREAS IN WHICH PROPER PROCEDURES OR THE LAWS WERE NOT FOLLOWED:

1) UP TO DATE RECORDS OF REGISTERED VOTERS HAD NOT BEEN KEPT AS REQUIRED BY LAW AND "IN PART AT LEAST DUE TO OUT DATED RECORDS, THERE IS MASS CONFUSION."

2) ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THE CASTING OF ABSENTEE REVEALED THAT APPROXIMATELY 600 MORTLOCKESE, AND 100 PERSONS FROM THE HALLS, WESTERNS, AND NAMONUIIGS WHO HAD REQUESTED TO VOTE ABSENTEE DID NOT VOTE."

3) THE ELECTION LAW WAS VIOLATED BY ALLOWING ABSENTEE VOTERS UNTIL 8 P.M. TO VOTE.

4) "OLD AND OUTDATED" VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS WERE SENT TO THE OUTER ISLANDS, AND EVEN THOUGH MANY PERSONS WERE REGISTERED FOR THE ELECTION, THEY WERE UNABLE TO VOTE BECAUSE THEIR NAMES WERE NOT ON THE OLD LIST.

5) DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE LAW PROVIDES THAT PERSONS CONFINED IN HOSPITALS AND HOMES CAN VOTE, "NO ONE TOOK MOST OF THEM BALLOTS."

6) ILLEGAL VOTES WERE CAST. USING THE ISLAND OF PULAP AS ONE EXAMPLE, THEY SAID THAT 19 PERSONS WHO VOTED ON PULAP "ARE NOT LISTED ANYWHERE AS EVER HAVING REGISTERED TO VOTE."

7) THE ELECTION BOARD OFFICIALS ALLOWED A MEMBER OF THE DISTAD'S STAFF TO TELL THE COUNTING COMMITTEE WHICH BALLOTS TO ACCEPT AND WHICH TO REJECT.

"THIS PERSONS DID NOT AT THAT TIME HAVE ANY OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE TABULATING COMMITTEE OR THE ELECTION BOARD AND THUS WAS ACTING IN THIS REGARD WITHOUT AUTHORITY," THEY STATED. THEY FURTHER NOTED WHILE SOME OF THE IRREGULARITIES WERE SMALL, OTHERS WERE SUBSTANTIAL AND THAT THEY COULD HAVE "AND VERY LIKELY DID, INFLUENCE THE RESULTS" OF THE ELECTION. THE LETTER REMARKED THAT "UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES "WE SEE NO WAY IN WHICH THESE COULD BE CALLED VALID ELECTIONS" AND THAT THEY WOULD ASK THE CONGRESS TO DECLARE THEM NULL AND VOID.

THEY ALSO NOTED THAT THE BLAME FOR THESE IRREGULARITIES HAD TO BE PLACED ON THE ELECTION OFFICIALS IN CHARGE; THAT SOME OF THE IRREGULARITIES COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED BY PROPER PLANNING BUT THAT "OTHERS WERE THE RESULT OF WHAT CAN ONLY BE CALLED BLATANT DISREGARD FOR THE LAW AND THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITIES AND FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL ELECTION."

THEY THEN AGAIN CALLED UPON THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER TO INVESTIGATE THEIR CHARGES, AND ADDITIONALLY NOTED IT WAS IMPORTANT TO "NOTIFY YOU NOW OF THE CHALLENGE WE WILL MAKE IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA IN JANUARY SO YOU CAN ASSURE THAT ALL RECORDS OF THIS ELECTION OF EVERY TYPE WHATSOEVER ARE PRESERVED IN A SECURE PLACE UNTIL THE CONGRESS SHALL HAVE FINISHED ITS OWN INVESTIGATION AND DELIBERATED ON THE MATTER."

(EPB REPORT ISSUED)

SAIPAN, DEC. 16 (MNS)---"WATER POLLUTION IS STILL A MAJOR CONCERN OF THE BOARD AND REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION." STATES THE SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY (TT) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD (EPB) ISSUED RECENTLY. THE REPORT LISTS THE POLICY STATEMENT, MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS, BUDGET NEEDS, ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT, WATER SUPPLY, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, AIR POLLUTION CONTROL, FIVE-YEAR OBJECTIVES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EPB DURING THE PAST YEAR.

THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAM, THE REPORT STATES, RECEIVED A \$113,000 FEDERAL MATCHING GRANT FOR PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION. A SIMILAR GRANT APPLICATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975 FOR A TOTAL OF \$136,900 HAS BEEN SUBMITTED.

"THE MAJORITY OF THE LAGOONS AROUND THE DISTRICT AND SUB-DISTRICT CENTERS ARE POLLUTED WITH DISCHARGE OF RAW SEWAGE FROM SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, HOUSING, RESIDENTIAL AREAS, AND SURFACE RUN-OFF," THE REPORT CONTINUES.

AIR POLLUTION IS GENERALLY LIMITED TO "FUGITIVE" DUST FROM ROADS, CONSTRUCTION SITES, PLUS AN ASPHALT AND AGGREGATE PLANT ON SAIPAN, AND SOME CONTAMINATION FROM MOTOR VEHICLES.

SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE YEAR BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD INCLUDE:

COMPLETED THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT "NEEDS SURVEY" IN THE TRUST TERRITORY IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT OF 1972;

REVIEWED AND EVALUATED TREATMENT PERFORMANCE OF TWO PRIMARY PLANTS ON SAIPAN;

HELD TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PALAU ON DESIGN OF TREATMENT FACILITIES AND THE RELOCATION OF THE TREATMENT SITE TO MALAKAL HARBOR IN WHICH THE NEW PLANT SITE AND OUTFALL WAS ACCEPTED BY ALL CONCERNED;

REVIEWED A DRAFT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON THE FLORA AND FAUNA ON TINIAN ISLAND PROPOSED BY THE U.S. MILITARY OCCUPANCY OF TINIAN. THE ASSESSMENT CONCLUDED THAT THERE WILL BE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE FLORA AND FAUNA BY THE MILITARY.

REVIEWED A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON FARALLON DE MEDINILLA BOMBARDMENT RANGE. THE CONTINUED BOMBING WILL PRODUCED BOTH DEFINED AND UNDEFINED ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO THE TERRITORIAL AND MARINE RESOURCES. THE BOARD SUBMITTED ITS COMMENTS TO THE U.S. COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR CONSIDERATION, THE REPORT STATES.

SOME OF THE SPECIAL PROJECTS NOW UNDERWAY INCLUDE CHANNEL BLASTING PROJECTS ON YAP, SAIPAN, PONAPE AND TRUK.

ALSO, A COMPREHENSIVE WATER SUPPLY SURVEY WAS CONCLUDED IN ALL SIX DISTRICTS TO DEFINE THE SANITARY QUALITY OF DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLIES. THESE SURVEYS WILL BE HELPFUL IN IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS FOR, AND PLANNING OF, NEW AND IMPROVED WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS, AND ELIMINATION OF SOURCES OF POLLUTION.

IN COOPERATION WITH TT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, THE BOARD'S STAFF SERVED AS AN ADVISORY BODY AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR A FEDERALLY-SPONSORED YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS SUMMER PROGRAM ON TRUK, SAIPAN AND YAP.

THE REPORT ENDED WITH A CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS. AMONG THEM ARE: THAT THE TT HAS COME A LONG WAY IN ITS

EFFORTS TO CLEAN UP ITS ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY WATER DEGRADATION, BY DISCHARGE OF RAW SEWAGE INTO THE LAGOONS.

CONSTRUCTION OF MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR ALL SIX DISTRICTS ARE EITHER COMPLETED OR IN VARIOUS STATES OF COMPLETION, THE REPORT POINTED OUT.

FEDERAL FUNDS ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE ON A YEARLY BASIS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCOMPLISHING BOTH FEDERAL AND LOCAL CLEAN WATER OBJECTIVES.

MANY MICRONESIANS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE FACILITIES IN SPITE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES.

COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IS NON-EXISTENT. THE TT GOVERNMENT OPERATES COLLECTION SERVICES FROM GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AND DISPOSAL AT OPEN DUMPS.

DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SUPPLIES IS PROGRESSING IN ALL THE DISTRICTS. THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, CIVIC ACTION TEAMS ARE INVOLVED IN VARIOUS WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY.

THERE IS A CONTINUING NEED FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE BOARD, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WHICH HAVE INTEREST IN THE ECONOMIC AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT IN MICRONESIA FOR PROPER PLANNING TO ASSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES SUCH AS WATER, POWER, SEWERS AND OTHERS.

THE REPORT CONCLUDED WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS: THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SET ASIDE SOME REVOLVING FUNDS TO FINANCE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE PUBLIC-SEWER CONNECTIONS FOR CERTAIN FAMILIES IN MICRONESIA; THAT A SPECIAL UNIT BE ESTABLISHED EITHER WITHIN THE DISTRICT PUBLIC WORKS, OR THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, WHOSE MISSION IS TO CONNECT HOUSES TO PUBLIC SEWERS.

THE ADMINISTRATION PROVIDE THE DISTRICTS WITH MINIMUM GARBAGE TRUCKS AND OTHER NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO EXPAND THE SOLID WASTE SERVICES TO MICRONESIAN COMMUNITIES. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE, AT THE MINIMUM, TO OPERATE SEMI-LANDFILL DUMPS.

THE GOVERNMENT, THE REPORT STATES, SHOULD HIRE EXPERIENCED AND WELL QUALIFIED WATER QUALITY CONTROL PERSONNEL TO TRAIN AND SUPERVISE MICRONESIAN COUNTERPARTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF GOOD WATER QUALITY.

ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE BOARD RECOMMENDS, AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS WITH INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TT EXCHANGE INFORMATION WITH THE BOARD TO ASSURE THE MEETING OF REQUIREMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL.

THE ADMINISTRATION PLACE EMPHASIS ON EFFICIENT OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCH FACILITIES AS WATER, SEWER, AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT. AND, THE REPORT STATES, THE ADMINISTRATION, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, CONTINUE TO SEEK FEDERAL GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, WATER SUPPLIES, AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.