

(PANGELINAN ON DIALOGUE FOR MICRONESIA)

SAIPAN, DECEMBER 24 (MNS) ⁷⁴ THE NEED FOR THE MARIANAS DISTRICT TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATING IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN QUESTIONED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION (MPSC) SENATOR EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN.

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PANGELINAN, SPEAKING ON THE HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT (ESG) PROGRAM "DIALOGUE FOR MICRONEESIA" SAID THAT HE WASN'T SURE ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE COMMITTEE SINCE SENATOR LAZARUS SALII (JCFS CHAIRMAN) HAD INDICATED THAT HE FELT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. SHOULD STOP UNTIL THE LANDS WERE RETURNED IN AN ACCEPTABLE MANNER. A DECISION COULD NOT BE MADE AT THIS TIME AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE MARIANAS REPRESENTATION ON THAT COMMITTEE WILL BE CONTINUED. THE MARIANAS WILL CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA UNTIL A PLEBESCITE INDICATES A FIRM AND FINAL DECISION BY THE PEOPLE OF THE MARIANAS TO SEPARATE FROM THE REST OF THE I.T. AND BECOME A COMMONWEALTH, DECLARED PANGELINAN.

ACCORDING TO THE MPSC CHAIRMAN, UNDER THE NEW STATUS, LAND WILL NOT BECOME U.S. PROPERTY AS IN GUAM. INSTEAD, LAND IN THE MARIANAS WILL BE LEASED TO THE UNITED STATES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MARIANAS WHICH CONTROL THE LANDS IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE.

SENATOR PANGELINAN POINTED OUT THAT THE MARIANAS CONSTITUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE REPUBLICAN IN FORM BUT IT WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE MODELED AFTER THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. THERE WOULD ALSO BE SOME IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AS IT APPLIES TO THE COMMONWEALTH. "FOR EXAMPLE," PANGELINAN EXPLAINED, "THERE IS A PROVISION IN THE COVENANT WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT OWNERSHIP OF LAND BY PEOPLE NOT OF MARIANAS DESCENT AND THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF REGULATING IMMIGRATION LOCALLY UNTIL THE U.S. IMMIGRATION LAWS ARE MADE APPLICABLE TO THE AREA."

CONCERNING THE TIMETABLE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE BEGINNING OF A COMMONWEALTH STATUS, PANGELINAN SAID THAT AT THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN THE U.S. DELEGATION AND THE MPSC WHICH WILL DEAL WITH THE FINAL WORDINGS OF THE COVENANT, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE WILL SIGN IT AND AN INTENSIVE POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM WILL THEN BE MOUNTED, WITH A POSSIBLE PLEBESCITE A FEW MONTHS LATER IN 1975.

THE COVENANT WOULD BE THE SUPREME LAW OF THE MARIANAS, SAID THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS NEGOTIATING TEAM. THERE WOULD BE INTERVAL AUTONOMY AND EVEN SOME RIGHTS TO OPERATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL AREAS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE.

THE REACTIONS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS CANNOT BE PREDICTED, SAID PANGELINAN, BUT IF THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN GETTING APPROVAL FOR THE GOVENANT, HE IS PREPARED TO GO TO WASHINGTON AND PLEAD FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT.

(AKINA LEAVES IT)

SAIPAN, DECEMBER 24 (MNS)---"I FEEL SOMEWHAT SAD IN LEAVING," SAID ARTHUR A. AKINA, FORMER TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS WHO LEFT LAST WEEKEND FOR HONOLULU.

"I HAVE MADE MANY FRIENDS HERE. I HAVE ENJOYED MY WORKING RELATIONS WITH ALL THE DEPARTMENT HEADS AND THEIR KEY STAFF MEMBERS AND MY OWN STAFF. I'VE ENJOYED MY WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA," HE ADDED.

"BUT THE WHOLE POINT IS," HE CONTINUED, "WHEN I GOT

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HERE, I WAS TOLD TO BUILD A SYSTEM, TO TRAIN A REPLACEMENT, AND GET OUT. AND NOW THAT I'VE DONE THAT, IT IS TIME FOR ME TO LEAVE."

AKINA LIST SOME OF THE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL DURING HIS TENURE AS DIRECTOR. THEY ARE:

"THE FIRST THING WE MANAGED TO DO WAS GET ON THE STATUTE BOOKS A COMPLETELY NEW MERIT SYSTEM LAW. THIS ... IS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE WHOLE PROGRAM OF PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION.

"SECONDLY, WE HAD BAD PROBLEMS WITH SALARIES. WHEN I FIRST CAME THERE WERE 16 SEPARATE PAY SCHEDULES AND THAT A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO WE MANAGED TO HAVE CONGRESS ACCEPT A NEW PAY LAW WHICH IS PL 5-51. THAT LAW PROVIDES FOR A SINGLE BASE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR ALL EMPLOYEES EXCLUSIVE OF THE U.S. CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES.

"WE HAVE COMPLETED A SET OF PERSONNEL REGULATIONS TO SUPPLEMENT BOTH THE MERIT SYSTEM LAW AND THE NEW PAY LAW.

"WE HAVE MANAGED TO GET FOR THE FIRST TIME A TRAINING FACILITY AT LOWER BASE ON SAIPAN.

"WE HAVE EXPANDED OUT TRAINING PROGRAMS AND WE ALSO ARE NOW PARTICIPATING IN A FEDERAL TRAINING PROGRAM CALLED CETA. THIS IS A PROGRAM WHICH COMBINES ALL PREVIOUS MDTA PROGRAM. WE HOPE TO HAVE FURTHER EXPANSION IN OUR TRAINING EFFORTS SINCE THIS IS ONE OF THE MAJOR POLICY OBJECTIVES OF (HIGH COMMISSIONER) JOHNSTON'S ADMINISTRATION.

"WE HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED A PROFESSIONAL STAFF HERE IN HEADQUARTERS AND WE HAVE MANAGED TO IMPROVE DISTRICT PERSONNEL OPERATIONS TO A GREAT EXTENT.

"I THINK THAT PERHAPS WE ARE THE ONLY DEPARTMENT WHICH HAS CLEARLY OUTLINED THE DIMENSIONS OF DECENTRALIZATION IN THE FIELD OF PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION.

"THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN THE PROCESSING OF PERSONNEL TRANSACTIONS.

"I THINK OVER AND BEYOND THAT, WE'VE MANAGED TO GAIN SOME MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE ON THE PART OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. IN ALL OUR EFFORTS AT IMPROVING PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, WE HAVE HAD, I THINK, GREAT SUCCESS WITH OUR SAMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS OF ALL THE DISTRICT PERSONNEL OFFICERS. THESE MEETINGS ARE HELD USUALLY IN JUNE OR JULY OR DECEMBER AND ARE PRIMARILY SET-UP ON A WORKSHOP FORMAT. THESE ARE THE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS," AKINA TOLD MNS.

AKINA'S ONLY REGRET IS NOT BEING ABLE TO BE IN MICRONESIA DURING "THE MOST INTERESTING PART OF MICRONESIA'S HISTORY," A CHANGE IN POLITICAL STATUS.

HE SAID THAT HE HOPES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR PODIS PEDRUS, THE NEW DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, TO GET THE SAME SUPPORT HE HAD FROM THE ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS THE UNDERSTANDING HE RECEIVED FROM THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

THE FORMER PERSONNEL DIRECTOR'S FUTURE PLANS ARE UNCERTAIN, HE SAID. "I'M NOT LOOKING FOR ANYTHING FOR AT LEAST A YEAR. I MAY BE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING LATER," HE COMMENTED.

AKINA RECEIVED HIS BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHER CALIFORNIA IN 1938; RECEIVED HIS MASTERS DEGREE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN 1940 AT THE SAME UNIVERSITY.

HE WORKED FOR THE COUNTY OF HAWAII AND CITY OF LOS ANGELES IN PERSONNEL FOR ABOUT A YEAR; WAS THE DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII FOR TWENTY-THREE AND A HALF YEARS; WAS A PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WHERE HE SUBSEQUENTLY WORKED FOR THE JACOBS COMPANY FOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS, BECAME THE DIRECTOR OF MODEL CITIES FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU; AND PRIOR

TO WORKING IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, HE WAS EMPLOYED IN THE JACOBS COMPANY, A PRIVATE CONSULTING FIRM.

(PRESIDENT FORD SENDS GREETINGS)

SAIPAN, DEC. 24 (MNS)---HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WERE RECEIVED THIS WEEK FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, GERALD R. FORD. THE MESSAGE READ:

MRS. FORD AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL EXTEND OUR WARMEST CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

"AS 1974 COMES TO A CLOSE, IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT WE LOOK BACK TOGETHER AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE IN ATTAINING A LASTING PEACE AND IN BUILDING A BETTER LIFE FOR OUR CITIZENS. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT THAT WE DETERMINE TOGETHER TO FURTHER THESE GAINS IN THE COMING YEAR.

"IN THIS SPIRIT I WISH YOU AND YOUR CONSTITUENTS A VERY HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A PRODUCTIVE AND SATISFYING 1975."

(HIGH COMMISSIONER'S GREETINGS)

SAIPAN, DEC. 24 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON'S HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. THE MESSAGE READS:

"THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS MANY THINGS. IT IS A TIME TO PAUSE FOR A MENTAL INVENTORY OF THE YEAR THAT IS APPROACHING ITS END, TRADITIONAL SEASON FOR STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIPS, A TIME WHEN HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH RELIGIOUS FAITH, THE JOY OF SHARING, AND THE PLEASANT LAUGHTER OF HAPPY CHILDREN.

"IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, MRS. JOHNSTON AND I WISH EVERYONE IN MICRONESIA PEACE, HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS-- NOW AND IN THE FUTURE."