

(RICHMOND APPOINTED AG)

SAIPAN, DEC. 27 (MNS) ~~W~~ LYLE L. RICHMOND, CHIEF OF THE LEGAL DIVISION, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, HAS BEEN APPOINTED ATTORNEY GENERAL OF AMERICAN SAMOA BY ACTING GOVERNOR FRANK C. MOCKLER EFFECTIVE JANUARY FOUR.

RICHMOND WAS NOTIFIED OF HIS APPOINTMENT BY A DISPATCH THURSDAY MORNING (DEC. 26).

THE 44-YEAR OLD YALE LAW SCHOOL GRADUATE HAS BEEN IN THE TRUST TERRITORY FOR FOUR YEARS. HE ARRIVED IN THE TRUST TERRITORY IN 1972 AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR TRUK AND PONAPE FROM 1970-72. HE WAS THEN PROMOTED IN 1972 TO BE THE CHIEF OF LEGAL DIVISION, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

IN HIS POSITION, RICHMOND SUPERVISED THE ENTIRE LEGAL STAFF AT HEADQUARTERS AND GAVE PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION TO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

"I'LL BE LEAVING WITH REGRETS." HE SAID, ADDING, "I'VE ENJOYED MY WORKING EXPERIENCE IN THE TRUST TERRITORY AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHALLENGES AHEAD."

RICHMOND WAS GRADUATED FROM WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT WITH A B.A. DEGREE IN GOVERNMENT IN 1952 AND OBTAINED HIS LL. B. DEGREE IN YALE LAW SCHOOL IN 1955.

HE WAS A FORMER DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY FROM 1959-64, AND FROM 1964-70, WAS SELF-EMPLOYED IN PRIVATE PRACTICE PRIMARILY IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY. HE IS A COMMANDER IN THE NAVAL RESERVE.

RICHMOND AND HIS WIFE, JOAN, AND TWO CHILDREN, JON, 13 AND LESLIE, SEVEN, WILL LEAVE THE TRUST TERRITORY IN EARLY JANUARY.

(BLACK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY WON ISLEY BID)

SAIPAN, DEC. 27 (MNS)---BLACK MICRO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY WAS AWARDED A CONTRACT BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT LAST WEEK FOR THE COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING AND ALL LANDSCAPING AT THE NEW SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS JAMES R. WHEELER MADE THE AWARD.

BLACK MICRO SUBMITTED THE LOWEST BID OF \$3,587,000 WHICH INCLUDES \$2,727,000 FOR COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF TERMINAL BUILDING AND \$100,000 FOR ALL LANDSCAPING.

THE SECOND LOWEST BIDDER WAS SHIMIZU/SABLAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, A JOINT VENTURE WITH A JAPANESE CONSTRUCTION FIRM WITH A BID OF \$3,700,000.

THE HIGHEST BIDDER WAS HAWAII DREDGING, DILLINGHAM CORPORATION'S CONSTRUCTION BRANCH WHICH BID \$4,074,800.

THE GOVERNMENT ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE WAS \$4,074,800 OF WHICH \$3,939,300 WAS FOR THE TERMINAL BUILDING AND \$135,500 FOR LANDSCAPING.

INCREMENT TWO OF THE PROJECT INCLUDES THE DEPARTURES BUILDING, MAIN ENTRANCE AREA WITH A RAMP SYSTEM, THE WAITING ROOM, DUTY-FREE SHOP, RESTAURANT AND A BAR, A FLIGHT KITCHEN, ALL OF THE AIRLINES COUNTER OPERATIONS AND TWO OUTSIDE GARDEN-WAITING ROOM.

THE BID ALSO INCLUDES A MINOR RENOVATION OF THE DEPARTURES BUILDING PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY THE SABLAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. THE RENOVATION IS TO CONVERT THAT BUILDING INTO A FULLY OPERATIONAL ARRIVAL BUILDING AND IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN JUNE 1975.

INCREMENT TWO ALSO INVOLVES ALL LANDSCAPING, RENOVATING THE EXISTING OLD JAPANESE COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING INTO A TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER, A MAINTENANCE BUILDING, CAR RENTAL BUILDING, PAVING OF THE PARKING AREA AND SOME ADDITIONAL SERVICE ROADS THAT ARE NOT INCLUDED UNDER INCREMENT ONE.

THE RESTAURANT, BAR AND DUTY-FREE SHOP ARE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION ON MARCH 19, 1975. ALL OTHER BUILDINGS SHOULD BE COMPLETED 550 CALENDAR DAYS CONTRACT TIME FROM THE DATE THE CONTRACTORS RECEIVED A NOTICE TO PROCEED CONSTRUCTION.

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(MORTON'S CHRISTMAS GREETINGS)

SAIPAN, DEC. 27 (MNS)---HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA WERE RECEIVED THIS WEEK FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, ROGERS C.B. MORTON. THE MESSAGE READS:

"ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, I JOIN WITH MRS. MORTON AND THE DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS AND MRS. CARPENTER IN SINCERELY WISHING ALL OF YOU A JOYOUS AND WARM HOLIDAY SEASON AND A GOOD AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

"AS THIS YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE AND WE LOOK AHEAD TO THE CHALLENGES AND UNCERTAINTIES OF 1975, I BELIEVE WE CAN FIND A MEASURE OF STRENGTH AND SATISFACTION IN THE BONDS OF RESPECT WHICH HAVE COME TO MEAN SO MUCH BETWEEN US. ESPECIALLY AS WE ALL SPEND THE HOLIDAYS WITH FAMILY AND LOVED ONES, WE MIGHT STOP A MOMENT TO REMEMBER THAT, IN THE VERY SAME SPIRIT OF SHARED EXPERIENCE, WE HAVE SURMOUNTED PROBLEMS IN THE PAST AND WILL DO SO AGAIN WHEN EVER THEY ARISE. AND I THINK WE CAN TAKE CONFORT IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT ALTHOUGH OBSTACLES SOMETIMES BLOCK THE ROADS WE TRAVEL, WE SHARE THE HIGH AND WORTHWHILE GOALS OF DIGNITY, PEACE AND MUTUAL TRUST FOR ALL THE MANY PEOPLES WHO TOGETHER MAKE AMERICA SO WEALTHY IN HUMAN TERMS. AGAIN, TO ALL OF YOU, THE VERY BEST HOLIDAYS EVER AND GOOD FORTUNE FOR 1975."

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND BROADCASTERS: THIS IS THE SECOND MNS  
RELEASE FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 28)

(CARPENTER, DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, RETURNING  
TO STATE)

WASHINGTON, D.C. DECEMBER 23 (MNS) --- SECRETARY OF THE  
INTERIOR ROGERS C. B. MORTON ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT STANLEY  
S. CARPENTER, DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, WILL RETURN TO  
THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN EARLY JANUARY TO RESUME HIS CAREER IN  
THE FOREIGN SERVICE. MR. CARPENTER IS A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER  
WHO HAS BEEN ON LOAN FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO  
INTERIOR SINCE JANUARY OF 1972.

SECRETARY MORTON SAID, "STAN CARPENTER APPROACHED ME  
IN OCTOBER ABOUT RETURNING TO THE FOREIGN SERVICE. WHILE I  
REGRET VERY MUCH LOSING MR. CARPENTER, I AGREED TO HIS REQUEST  
AND I HAVE BEEN IN CONSULTATIONS WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE  
ROBERT S. INGERSOLL REGARDING THIS CHANGE. I HAVE BEEN VERY  
PLEASED WITH MR. CARPENTER'S PERFORMANCE AS DIRECTOR OF  
TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS AND WISH HIM WELL AS HE RETURNS TO HIS  
FOREIGN SERVICE CAREER."

MR. CARPENTER WILL JOIN THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION  
CORPS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND, AS HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT,  
WILL LEAD AN INSPECTION TEAM TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN KOREA  
AND TAIWAN.

(NOTE TO COMSTATIONS: ALL DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS PLEASE NOTIFY BROADCAST STATIONS TO PICK UP THEIR COPIES FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

(MORTON ISSUES SECRETARIAL ORDER TO RETURN TRUST TERRITORY PUBLIC LANDS TO MICRONESIANS)

WASHINGTON, D.C. DECEMBER 28 (MNS)---SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ROGERS C.B. MORTON ANNOUNCED FRIDAY (DEC. 27 WASHINGTON TIME) THE ISSUANCE OF A SECRETARIAL ORDER WHICH WILL RETURN ALL UNUSED PUBLIC LANDS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS TO LOCAL MICRONESIAN OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL. THE SECRETARY'S ORDER, WHICH WILL BE MADE PART OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE, PROVIDES THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR EACH DISTRICT OF MICRONESIA TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE TITLE TO APPLICABLE PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION.

THE GOAL OF THE SECRETARIAL ORDER IS TO FULFILL REPEATED MICRONESIAN REQUEST THAT TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT PUBLIC LAND (ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF THE LAND AREA OF MICRONESIA) BE FINALLY RELEGATED TO DISTRICT OWNERSHIP AND THE SECRETARIAL ORDER WAS ISSUED AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH MICRONESIAN REPRESENTATIVES GOING BACK OVER A YEAR AND A HALF. THE SECRETARIAL ORDER CALLS FOR EACH DISTRICT LEGISLATURE TO SET UP A LOCALLY CONSTITUTED "LEGAL ENTITY" OR LAND BOARD TO HOLD TITLE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE ORDER IS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES POLICY STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 4, 1973, TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER EACH OF THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES TO CREATE OR TO DESIGNATE A LEGAL ENTITY WITHIN ITS DISTRICT TO HOLD TITLE TO PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THAT DISTRICT IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE THEREOF AND TO MANAGE OR DISPOSE OF THE SAME, TO AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER EACH DISTRICT LEGISLATURE TO ENACT LAWS PROVIDING FOR THE EXERCISE OF THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN AND TO ESTABLISH ADJUDICATORY BODIES WHICH MAY UTILIZE TRADITIONAL MEANS, WHEN APPROPRIATE, FOR SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS TO TITLE OF RIGHTS IN THE LANDS TRANSFERRED, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, UPON A FORMAL REQUEST BY A DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, TO CONVEY CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS TO SUCH A LEGAL ENTITY WITHIN EACH DISTRICT.

THE DISTRICT LAND BOARDS WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO ABIDE BY CERTAIN SAFEGUARDS AND LIMITATIONS INCLUDED IN THE SECRETARIAL ORDER AND DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO FACILITATE ADMINISTRATION. ONCE THE PUBLIC LANDS ARE TRANSFERRED TO DISTRICT LAND BOARDS, REVENUES RECEIVED FROM THOSE PUBLIC LANDS WILL ACCRUE TO THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES.

WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE SECRETARIAL ORDER, WHICH IS NUMBER 2969, THE NEXT STEP IN THE PROCESS OF THE PUBLIC LAND RETURN IS FOR ANY DISTRICT DESIRING TRANSFER OF PUBLIC LANDS TO SO INFORM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THROUGH A RESOLUTION OF ITS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE. THE LEGISLATURE MUST CREATE A "LEGAL ENTITY" OR LAND BOARD WHICH COMPLIES WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE SECRETARIAL ORDER TO RECEIVE TITLE AND CONTROL. THE DISTRICTS MAY ALSO ESTABLISH A LOCAL ADJUDICATORY BODY TO DECIDE UPON THE FINAL RIGHTFUL OWNERSHIP OF THE LANDS IN QUESTION.

SECRETARY MORTON ANNOUNCED THE NEW ORDER IN A LETTER TO THE SPEAKER AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S LETTER WAS ALSO MADE PUBLIC TODAY.