

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SALII PROPOSES TIMETABLE FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT)

1977/11

SALPAN, FEB. 1 (CONGRESS RELEASE)--DESPITE DIFFERENCES YET TO BE RESOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, SENATOR LAZARUS SALII, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, PROPOSED FRIDAY THAT 1981 BE SET AS THE "TARGET DATE" FOR COMPLETE SELF-GOVERNMENT IN MICRONESIA.

"I BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF SETTING UP THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR NATION," SAID SALII IN A SPEECH TO THE SENATE. "REGARDLESS OF WHAT PROBLEMS WE CONTINUE TO ENCOUNTER AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE, WE MUST NOT LOOSE SIGHT OF OUR BASIC GOAL -- THAT OF NATION-BUILDING -- AND THIS MEANS GETTING ON WITH BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF A GENUINELY SELF-GOVERNING NATION, EVEN IF IT MUST BE AT THE UNFORTUNATE EXPENSE OF STOPPING OUR NEGOTIATIONS INDEFINITELY."

THE PALAU SENATOR, WHO HAS HEADED THE MICRONESIAN STATUS DELEGATION SINCE ITS CREATION IN 1967, TOLD THE SENATE THAT "PROGRESSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF SELF-GOVERNMENT IN MICRONESIA DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO AWAIT THE CONCLUSION OF THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS," AND PROPOSED A SEVEN-YEAR TIMETABLE, BASED ON THE APPROVAL OF LEGISLATION FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, TO ACHIEVE SELF-GOVERNMENT. HE SAID IF LEGISLATION FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD NEXT APRIL IS APPROVED, RATIFICATION COULD TAKE PLACE IN 1975, WITH A PROVISION THAT IT SECTIONS BECOME IMPLEMENTAL GRADUALLY, AND BECOME FULLY EFFECTIVE JULY 12, 1981, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE CONGRESS.

SALII SAID EVEN IF THE ROAD TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE STATUS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES REMAINED BLOCKED, THERE WOULD BE NO HALT TO THE "SACRED TASK" OF NATION BUILDING.

"IN OTHER WORDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT NEED NOT WAIT THE RESULT OF THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. THE NET RESULT," SALII EXPLAINED THEN, "WOULD BE THE SAME AS FREE ASSOCIATION, EXCEPT THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT WOULD STILL BE IN EFFECT."

"HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SLACKENED. THEY WILL BE INTENSIFIED," HE EMPHASIZED.

HE SAID MEMBERS OF THE MICRONESIAN JOINT COMMITTEE WILL BE MEETING WITH UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES "IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE" TO TRY TO RESOLVE THE DILEMMA OVER FUTURE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS TO MICRONESIA FROM THE UNITED STATES. "IF THESE DISCUSSIONS REACH ENOUGH AGREEMENT TO WARRANT ANOTHER FORMAL ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS...ONE WILL THEN BE CALLED," HE SAID.

DESPITE THES CONTINUING EFFORTS, SALII POINTED OUT THAT NO ONE CAN TELL JUST HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE MICRONESIA TO RESOLVE THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE ISSUES OF FINANCE, TERMINATION, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE.

BUT WHETHER OR NOT AGREEMENTS ARE REACHED, SALII PROPOSED THAT DURING THE SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD OF TRANSITION WITH THE UNITED STATES CONTINUING TO FULFILL ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO MICRONESIA, NEW ROADS, PERMANENT HOSPITALS, AIRPORTS AND DOCKS WOULD BE BUILT. THEN, HE SAID, WHEN THE NEW CONSTITUTION GOES INTO EFFECT IN 1981, FUTURE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES "NEED NOT BE HIGH LATER ON."

CONCERNING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, SALII CONCLUDED: "IF WE ARE EVER TO BECOME FREE AND SELF-GOVERNING, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO POSTPONE OUR FIRST EXPERIMENT IN REAL SELF-GOVERNMENT -- CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BY THE SAME TOKEN, IF WE DELAY, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES."
(CONGRESS 19TH DAY)

06437

SAIPAN, FEB. 1 (MNS)---THE SENATE HELD ITS LONGEST MEETING OF THE CURRENT SESSION SO FAR FRIDAY (FEB. 1). TWO BILLS WERE PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, AND A JOINT RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED IN FINAL FLOOR ACTION. ALL THREE MEASURES PRODUCED CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AND DEBATE. IN ADDITION, THERE WERE SEVERAL SPEECHES, INCLUDING A MAJOR STATEMENT FROM SENATOR LAZARUS SALII, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, SETTING FORTH A PLAN FOR THE TRANSITION OF MICRONESIA TO SELF-GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE NEXT SEVEN YEARS REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT STATUS NEGOTIATIONS (SEE PREVIOUS STORY).

THE FLOOR ACTION DEALT WITH A BILL RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF "NON-CITIZEN" IN PRESENT LAWS DEALING WITH FOREIGN BUSINESS PERMITS (HB 3), AND WITH A BILL TO ESTABLISH DUTY-FREE STORES IN TT PORTS OF ENTRY (SB 139). BOTH WERE FINALLY PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING, AND SENT TO THE HOUSE. IN THE CASE OF THE FIRST BILL, IT WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE, WHICH HAS ALREADY PASSED IT, FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS.

THE PURPOSE OF THAT BILL, IN THE WORDS OF SENATOR AMATA KABUA (MARSHALLS) AS HE PRESENTED THE REPORT OF THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON THE MEASURE, IS TO "BRING A HALT TO THE PRACTICE OF NON-CITIZENS MARRYING OR ADOPTING MICRONESIAN CITIZENS IN ORDER TO GET AROUND" THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING INTO BUSINESS IN MICRONESIA. THE BILL SETS FORTH SUCH SITUATIONS AND PROVIDES THAT NON-CITIZENS IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES MUST NEVERTHELESS SUBMIT APPLICATIONS AND OTHERWISE COMPLY WITH FOREIGN BUSINESS REGULATIONS IF THEY WISH TO GO INTO BUSINESS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

THE SECOND BILL, TO ESTABLISH DUTY-FREE STORES, IS AN AMENDED VERSION OF A MEASURE PASSED BY THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS LAST YEAR, BUT VETOED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. SENATOR KABUA ALSO REPORTED ON THIS BILL, SAYING HE HOPES THAT THIS TIME IT WILL PASS AND BECOME LAW. THE BILL PROVIDES FOR TWO DIFFERENT METHODS BY WHICH COMPANIES WISHING TO OBTAIN CONCESSIONS TO OPERATE DUTY-FREE SHOPS IN MICRONESIA COULD BE PERMITTED TO DO SO. THE STORES WOULD SELL GOODS TO DEPARTING PASSENGERS AT A PRICE THAT WOULD NOT INCLUDE IMPORT DUTIES OR OTHER TAXES.

THE JOINT RESOLUTION ADOPTED FRIDAY WAS ONE COMMENDING GUAM HELICOPTERS INCORPORATED, GUAM BUSINESSMAN RICARDO BORDALLO, AND THE U.S. NAVY ON GUAM FOR THEIR COORDINATED RESCUE EARLIER THIS MONTH OF A NUMBER OF PEOPLE STRANDED ON UNINHABITED GOAT ISLAND, SOUTH OF TINIAN, BY A PLANE CRASH (HJR 82). A MINOR AMENDMENT MADE TO THE MEASURE ON THE FLOOR WILL SEND THE RESOLUTION BACK TO THE HOUSE FOR ANOTHER VOIE BEFORE IT CAN BE CONSIDERED OFFICIALLY ADOPTED BY THE ENTIRE CONGRESS.

SENATOR PETRUS TUN OF YAP, IN INTRODUCING A BILL FRIDAY CALLING FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMISSION (SB 249), MADE BRIEF REMARKS CALLING ATTENTION TO THE CONTINUING NEED FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION IN MICRONESIA. NOTING THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE TT GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED A SPECIAL PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT THIS WEEK, SENATOR TUN SAID HE HAS NOT YET SEEN EVIDENCE OF ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT COMING OUT OF THAT PROGRAM, BUT HE CALLED UPON HIS COLLEAGUES TO FAVORABLY CONSIDER RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMISSION IN ORDER TO MONITOR THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH PROGRAM TO INSURE FAIRNESS AND IMPARTIALITY, AS WELL AS TO OFFER POLICY GUIDELINES TO THE ADMINISTRATION TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT.

SENATOR ANDON AMARAICH (TRUK) COMMENTED ON THE FACT THAT, AS PART OF THE EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, A BRIEF COMPUTER PRINTED MESSAGE WAS PRINTED ON THE RECEIPT STUB ATTACHED TO THE PAYCHECKS OF ALL MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES FRIDAY. "I WOULD LIKE TO GET PAID IN CASH FROM NOW ON," SAID THE SENATOR, ADDING THAT HE OBJECTS TO HAVING MESSAGES PRINTED ON HIS PAYCHECK.

MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO BORJA MADE BRIEF REMARKS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE OF A REPORT ON A TRIP THAT HE MADE RECENTLY TO AUSTRALIA TO ATTEND A SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION MEETING CONCERNING LABOR. THE SENATOR SAID OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR VALUABLE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES OF THE PACIFIC IN DEALING WITH LABOR MATTERS, AND HE SAID HE WOULD BE INTRODUCING RELEVANT LEGISLATION ON THIS SUBJECT FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CONGRESS.

NEW LEGISLATION INTRODUCED AT FRIDAY'S SENATE SESSION, IN ADDITION TO SENATOR TUN'S POLITICAL EDUCATION BILL, INCLUDED 5 OTHER BILLS. THEY ARE: A BILL TO AMEND THE USURY LAWS OF THE TT TO REFLECT CHANGES IN PRIME INTEREST RATES, (SB 250); A BILL TO ESTABLISH THE MICRONESIAN AMATEUR SPORTS ASSOCIATION, (SB 253); A MEASURE TO REPEAL CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO NATURALIZATION, (SB 254) AND TWO NATURALIZATION MEASURES (SB 251-252).

THE HOUSE FRIDAY MORNING (FEB. 1) FILED NINE BILLS, SENT ONE TO THE SENATE, AND REFERRED ONE OTHER BACK TO THE COMMITTEE. PASSED AND SENT TO THE SENATE FOR CONSIDERATION IS A MEASURE TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE TO PROVIDE THAT FINES IMPOSED BY A COURT UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF DISTRICT OR MUNICIPAL LAW SHALL BE PAID INTO THE TREASURY OF THE JURISDICTION WHICH ENACTED THE LAW.

BILLS FILED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION BY THE HOUSE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE INCLUDED A BILL TO PRESCRIBE THE RATES AND LEVEL OF COMPENSATION UNDER THE TT PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEM, FOR ELECTED MAYORS, MAGISTRATES, AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF CHARTERED MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS AND TT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, (HB 90). (THE COMMITTEE FEELS THAT IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MUNICIPALITIES TO COMPENSATE THEIR ELECTED OFFICIALS). ALSO, A BILL TO AMEND PORTIONS OF THE TT CODE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONERS AND BY ALLOWING THE COMMISSION TO OPERATE WITHIN ANY AREA OF ITS DISTRICT, (HB 30). (THE COMMITTEE HELD PUBLIC HEARINGS AND IS OF THE OPINION THAT THERE IS LITTLE INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER). TWO MEASURES, BOTH HOUSE VERSIONS OF LEGISLATION CALLING FOR THE CREATION OF A MICRONESIAN LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, (HB 75) WERE FILED BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE IS NOW CONSIDERING A SENATE BILL CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR TAKING THE TT POPULATION CENSUS (H.B. 23), WAS FILED FOR THE REASON THAT THE TT POPULATION CENSUS HAS RECENTLY BEEN COMPLETED. A MEASURE TO CREATE A JOINT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL PROGRAMS, (HB 83), WAS FILED BECAUSE THE COMMITTEE FEELS THAT IT IS NOT WARRANTED AT THIS TIME. LEGISLATION WAS ALSO FILED MAKING CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SEVERAL MUNICIPALITIES OF THE TT, (HB 82). (THE COMMITTEE MAINTAINED THAT THIS SUBJECT MATTER IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA). A MEASURE TO REQUIRE AIR CARRIERS

TO PAY FOR EXPENSES INCURRED BY PASSENGERS AS A RESULT OF A FLIGHT DELAY, (HP 29), WAS FILED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PRINCIPAL AIR CARRIER SERVING THE TT NOW HAS AN ACCEPTABLE POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE SUBJECT MATTERS. AND A BILL TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF EACH EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT TO THE CONGRESS A PROPOSAL FOR THE FILLING OF ALL POLICY MAKING POSITIONS WITH TT CITIZENS, (HB 21), WAS FILED BECAUSE IT IS ALREADY THE ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF THE TT GOVERNMENT TO REPLACE EXPATRIATES IN POLICY-MAKING POSITIONS WITH QUALIFIED TT CITIZENS.

ONE OTHER BILL THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED BE FILED WAS REFERRED BACK TO THE COMMITTEE.

MARSHALLS CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DOMNICK PRESENTED THE CONGRESS WITH A REPORT ON A TRIP HE MADE RECENTLY TO AUSTRALIA TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE ON LABOR. REPRESENTATIVE HARUO (TRUK) ALSO SUBMITTED A REPORT ON THE SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE HELD ON GUAM.

FOUR NEW BILLS WERE OFFERED DURING FRIDAY'S SESSION INCLUDING TWO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS. THEY ARE: A BILL TO REQUIRE MARRIAGE LICENSES WHERE ONE PARTY IS NONCITIZEN, TO REQUIRE PROOF THAT NONCITIZENS SEEKING MARRIAGE LICENSES ARE NOT ALREADY MARRIED AND TO PROHIBIT COHABITATION, (HB 260); A BILL TO IMPLEMENT THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS AGREEMENT AS AGREED TO THE MARCH 13 EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND JAPAN, (HB 261); A BILL APPROPRIATING \$350,000 TO SUPPLEMENT THE TT HOUSING LOAN FUNDS, (HB 262); AND A MEASURE TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN ACTIONS WITH REFERENCE TO THE LEASE OF PUBLIC LANDS, PRIVATE LANDS, AND GRANTING, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PERMITS ISSUED UNDER THE FOREIGN INVESTORS PERMIT ACT AND THE HOMESTEAD PROGRAM, (HB 263).

THE TWO HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS ARE: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO EXPLORE WAYS AND MEANS TO INCREASE THE WAGES AND SALARIES OF MICRONESIAN SEAMEN, (HJR 91); AND THE OTHER IS REQUESTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF FOR THE ISLAND OF KUSAIE.

BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS WILL RECONVENE ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY FOURTH, AT 10:00 A.M.

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(SOUTH PACIFIC LABOR MINISTERS REPORT SUBMITTED TO COM)

SAIPAN. FEBRUARY 1 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE REPORT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE OF SOUTH PACIFIC LABOR MINISTERS, HELD IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, LAST FALL WAS SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA FRIDAY.

THE PRESENTATIONS WERE MADE BY MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA, CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, AND MARSHALLS REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES DOMNICK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. BOTH MEN ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE ALONG WITH EUSEBIO RECHUCHER OF THE HEADQUARTER DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT.

REPRESENTATIVE DOMNICK TOLD THE HOUSE HE HOPED THE FUTURE WOULD SEE MORE MICRONESIAN PARTICIPATION WITH "OUR BROTHERS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE PACIFIC REGION TOWARD THE MUTUAL RESOLUTION OF OUR PROBLEMS."

IN THE SENATE, BORJA REPORTED THAT THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT EACH OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE PACIFIC REGION COULD BENEFIT BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE KNOWLEDGE GAINED BY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH SPECIFIC PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SUBJECT OF LABOR. IN THIS CONNECTION, BORJA SAID THE CONFERENCE ADOPTED TWO RECOMMENDATIONS: THE PERIODIC EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING LABOR AND THE EXCHANGE OF PERSONNEL AMONG THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. "AS A RESULT OF OUR FINDINGS," HE SAID, "WE INTEND TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION INTO THE FIFTH CONGRESS IMPLEMENTING SOME OF THE PROGRAMS ADOPTED BY THIS CONFERENCE."

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