

(CONGRESS VISITS ROTA)

SAIPAN, FEB. 11 (MNS)---SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS INVITATION OF THE PEOPLE OF ROTA.

UPON ARRIVAL AT ROTA AIRPORT, THE CONGRESS MEMBERS WERE MET BY POLICE HONOR GUARD. LED BY A POLICE CAR AND ROTA DISTAD REP., THE CONGRESS TOURED THE ISLAND AND VISITED SEVERAL PUBLIC PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE CONGRESS. FOLLOWING A SHORT TOUR, THE CONGRESS MET FOR OVER AN HOUR WITH THE ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

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VICE-SPEAKER ALFRED APATANG BRIEFED THE MEMBERS ON SOME OF THE PROBLEMS ROTA IS FACING. DURING THE MEETING, APATANG ASKED THE CONGRESSMEN TO APPROPRIATE \$176,000 FOR A NEW VILLAGE SUB-DIVISION, AND SAID THE GRANT SHOULD BE MADE FLEXIBLE SO THAT THE MONEY CAN BE USED ON SEVERAL OTHER PROJECTS INCLUDING ELECTRICITY AND WATER. APATANG ALSO REQUESTED FUNDS FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE MUNICIPAL OPERATION AND A DUMP TRUCK.

THE VICE-SPEAKER SAID THAT NONE OF PUBLIC WORKS DUMP TRUCKS ARE WORKING, PUTTING MOST GOVERNMENT PROJECTS IN "CRITICAL CONDITION." FOLLOWING HIS BRIEF STATEMENT, MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVE FELIPE ATALIG STATED THAT THE PRESENTATION MADE BY THE ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS WAS FULLY ENDORSED BY THE MARIANAS DELEGATION.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, CHRIS INOS, COMPLAINED THAT THE PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT BEING Aired ON RADIO STATION KJOR IS NOT BEING HEARD IN ROTA BECAUSE OF A POOR SIGNAL. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE HARBOR SITUATION ON ROTA IS ESPECIALLY SERIOUS.

CONCERNING THE SEPARATION OF DISTRICT ISSUE INOS SAID IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, THE ROTA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WILL INITIATE A PLEBISCITE TO SEE WHERE THE PEOPLE OF ROTA STAND.

ONE OTHER COMPLAINT THE CONGRESSMEN HEARD IS THAT SOME CONGRESS-FUNDED PROJECTS WERE NOT CARRIED OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT, SUCH AS THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLVING FUND AND THE MARIANAS FISHING AUTHORITY. THEY REQUESTED THAT FUTURE PROJECTS IN WHICH MONEY IS MADE AVAILABLE SHALL BE MADE PUBLIC ON ROTA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE PEOPLE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM. THE CONGRESS MEMBERS ASSURED THE COUNCILMEN THAT THEIR PROBLEMS WILL BE LOOKED INTO.

FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE CONGRESSMEN WERE HOSTED JOINTLY AT THE DISTAD REP'S HOUSE BY THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, THE MAYOR AND THE DISTAD REP FOR A LUNCHEON. THE MEMBERS ALSO VISITED SCENIC PLACES AND FARMING AREAS IN THE AFTERNOON.

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