

(TRANSPAC TRAVAILS CONTINUE)

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SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 14 (MNS)---THE TANGLED TROUBLES OF TRANSPAC, THE TRUST TERRITORY'S FRANCHISED SHIPPING COMPANY, CONTINUED THIS WEEK, AS SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY MET ON SAIPAN TO TRY AND FIND A WAY OUT OF THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS THAT HAVE BROUGHT TRANSPAC CLOSE TO FOUNDERING.

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE INCLUDE THE RESIGNATION OF THE COMPANY'S MANAGING DIRECTOR, A BATTLE BETWEEN TWO FACTIONS OF STOCKHOLDERS, AND A COURT ORDER TEMPORARILY RESTRAINING THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT FROM VOTING 210,000 SHARES IN THE COMPANY THAT ARE HELD IN TRUST BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

THE MOST DRAMATIC MOVE WAS THAT OF C. DOUGLAS ECHOLS, WHO RESIGNED AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TRANSPAC ON TUESDAY (FEB. 12) WHEN THE STOCKHOLDERS MEETING CONVENED, SAYING THAT HE HAD FAILED TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE TT GOVERNMENT THAT HE FELT WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO SUCCESSFULLY OPERATE THE COMPANY. ECHOLS DEPARTED SAIPAN WEDNESDAY, AND WAS REPORTED WEDNESDAY EVENING TO BE ON GUAM, HIS FUTURE PLANS UNCERTAIN.

MEANWHILE THE STOCKHOLDERS GATHERED IN THE TRANSPAC OFFICES AT SAIPAN'S LOWER BASE WEDNESDAY EVENING (FEB. 13) TO CONTINUE THEIR MEETING, AND PROMPTLY RAN INTO A SQUABLE BETWEEN SHAREHOLDERS WHO APPEARED TO BE LED BY FORMER COMPANY OFFICIAL GEORGE KISKADDON OF SAN FRANCISCO, AND THOSE ALIGNED WITH THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF AS TRUSTEE OF THE SHARES FORMERLY HELD BY KISKADDON'S MARINE CHARTERING COMPANY.

A DISPUTE DEVELOPED BETWEEN AN ATTORNEY FOR KISKADDON AND JAMES WHITE, COUNSEL FOR TRANSPAC, OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGAL RIGHT TO VOTE THE 210,000 MARINE CHARTERING SHARES. DURING THIS DISCUSSION, KISKADDON TOOK THE FLOOR TO MOVE THAT WHITE BE DISMISSED FROM HIS POSITION, AND WHEN THE MOTION WAS SECONDED IT WAS PUT TO A VOTE. JUST AS ATTORNEY CARLOS SALII OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ATTEMPTED TO EXERCISE HIS PROXY RIGHT TO VOTE THE SHARES HELD IN TRUST BY ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD I. MIYAMOTO, HOWEVER, A CHALLENGE TO THAT RIGHT WAS RAISED BY JOHN ROBINSON, A FORMER TRANSPAC EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING AS PROXY HOLDER FOR ANOTHER TRANSPAC SHAREHOLDER.

ROBINSON PRODUCED A COURT ORDER, SIGNED EARLIER THAT SAME DAY BY TRUST TERRITORY CHIEF JUSTICE HAROLD BURNETT, TEMPORARILY RESTRAINING THE TT ATTORNEY GENERAL FROM VOTING THE 210,000 MARINE CHARTERING SHARES, AND SETTING A HEARING FOR THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 14, TO INVESTIGATE THE LEGALITY OF THE TRUST ARRANGEMENT.

A HASTY RECESS WAS CALLED BY CHAIRMAN ERNEST MILNE IN THE FACE OF THIS UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT, AND FOLLOWING THE RECESS A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE AND CARRIED, SINCE IT WAS ARGUED THAT TO CONTINUE THE MEETING IN VIEW OF THE JUDGE'S RESTRAINING ORDER WAS POINTLESS. THE SHAREHOLDER'S MEETING WILL CONTINUE AFTER CHIEF JUSTICE BURNETT HAS RULED ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE TT GOVERNMENT CAN LEGALLY VOTE THE SHARES OF STOCK IN TRANSPAC IT HOLDS IN TRUST.

AT THE HEARING THURSDAY (FEB. 14) IN THE HIGH COURT CHAMBERS, SALII ASKED FOR, AND WAS GRANTED, A CONTINUANCE UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, AT 9:00 A.M.

(AIRDROPPED FOOD FOR ALAMAGAN AND AGRIHAN)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 14 (MNS)---ABOUT A MONTH'S SUPPLIES OF USDA FOOD WILL BE AIR-LIFTED AND AIR-DROPPED TO THE ISLANDS OF ALAMAGAN AND AGRIHAN IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS BY A NAVY C-121 BASED ON GUAM TO HELP MEET THE FOOD SHORTAGES ON THE TWO ISLANDS. ACCORDING TO LT. CDR. ALAN R. PENDLETON, MILITARY

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ASSISTANCE WAS REQUESTED BY DISTAD FRANCISCO C. ADA IN THIS MATTER.

THE NAVY C-121 IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ON SAIPAN FRIDAY MORNING (FEB 15) TO PICK UP SOME 1,212 POUNDS OF FOOD TO BE AIR-DROPPED AT THE TWO ISLANDS. ALAMAGAN WILL RECEIVE ABOUT HALF OF THE FOOD, CONSISTING OF RICE, CANNED GOODS AND OTHER STAPLE ITEMS, AND THE REST WILL BE AIR-DROPPED ON AGRIHAN.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR THE MARIANAS DAVID MARATITA INDICATED THAT A FOOD SHORTAGE ON THE TWO ISLANDS WAS CAUSED BY THE CANCELLATION OF THE FIELD TRIP SCHEDULED TO TAKE NORMAL SUPPLIES OF FOOD TO THE TWO ISLANDS LAST WEEK, BECAUSE OF BAD WEATHER AND ROUGH SEAS.

MARATITA SAID NEITHER OF THE ISLANDS HAS ANY RUNWAY AND THE ONLY WAY TO GET THE FOOD THERE IS THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MILITARY ON GUAN. HE NOTED THAT PAGAN, WHICH DOES HAVE AN AIRSTRIP, RECEIVED HER FOOD SUPPLIES EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH THE HELP OF AIR PACIFIC.

IT WAS REPORTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE FOOD SHORTAGE, SCHOOL WAS TEMPORARILY CLOSED ON ALAMAGAN WHICH IS CONSIDERED TO BE CRITICALLY IN NEED OF FOOD, BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF LOCAL CROPS ON THE ISLAND.

MARATITA WENT ON TO SAY HOWEVER, THAT THE FOOD SHORTAGE SITUATION IS NOW UNDER CONTROL WITH THE UP-COMING AIR-DROPPING OF USDA FOOD ON THE TWO ISLANDS. "HOPEFULLY, THE FOOD WILL LAST FOR ABOUT A MONTH AND BY THEN WE CAN SEND OUR FIELD TRIP SHIP WITH MORE FOOD TO THOSE ISLANDS," MARATITA SAID.

AGRIHAN HAS A POPULATION OF 48 AND 25 PEOPLE LIVED ON ALAMAGAN ACCORDING TO THE 1973 TERRITORIAL CENSUS.

(COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC WORKS)

SAIPAN, FEB. 14 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH DANIEL C. SMITH OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY TO DEVELOP A COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT.

SMITH WAS FORMERLY A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER IN MICRONESIA, AND IS NOW WORKING FOR HIS PH.D. DEGREE AT STANFORD, IN CALIFORNIA. LAST YEAR HE CONDUCTED A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF TELEVISION IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT.

IN SIGNING THE AGREEMENT WITH SMITH FOR THE SHORT-TERM PROJECT, THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THERE IS A NEED TO IMPROVE THE REPORTING SYSTEM FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP) IN THE TRUST TERRITORY.

AFTER CONSIDERING SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES, THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED THAT SMITH POSSESSES THE REQUISITE SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS TO PERFORM THE WORK DESIRED.

SMITH IS EXPECTED TO START THE PROJECT IN MARCH, AND HE HAS AGREED TO UNDERTAKE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AN ANALYSIS OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS: CIP INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE VARIOUS MANAGERS AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS; A SYSTEM THAT WILL FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS; THE SCOPE AND FREQUENCY OF REPORTS TO VARIOUS MANAGERS AND OFFICIALS; AND A PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND REVIEW TECHNIQUE SYSTEM TO STUDY BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF THE CIP REPORTING SYSTEM.

HE WILL ALSO ESTABLISH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CIP INPUT AND DATA FILE NECESSARY TO PRODUCE CIP REPORTS AND STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERFACING WITH A FUTURE PUBLIC WORKS TELETYPE NETWORK.

SMITH IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT WITHIN 120 DAYS.

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(THREE TO ATTEND AT EAST-WEST CENTER)

SAIPAN, FEB. 14 (MNS)---DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION DAVID RAMARUI HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THREE MORE MICRONESIAN PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR AN EAST-WEST CENTER CULTURE LEARNING INSTITUTE PROJECT, BRINGING TO A TOTAL OF SEVEN THOSE WHO WILL REPRESENT THE TT IN THE PROJECT.

THE THREE, WHO LEFT FOR HAWAII THIS MONTH, ARE: MRS. ALICIA ADA, PONAPE; FRANK SENTOY, YAP; AND TIMIUS ANIEN, MARSHALLS. THE THREE WILL JOIN JESUS AGULTO, SAIPAN, SEBASTIAN OIKANG, AND MRS. ANITA SUTA OF PALAU, WHO HAD EARLIER BEEN SELECTED FOR THE CULTURAL EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROJECT NOW UNDERWAY AT THE EAST-WEST CENTER.

BECAUSE SOME OTHER PACIFIC NATIONS FAILED TO SEND THEIR QUOTA OF PARTICIPANTS, THE THREE FROM THE TT WHO WERE SELECTED AS ALTERNATE CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE.

THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM WILL INVOLVE DISCUSSION GROUPS, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, AND LECTURES, ALL AIMED AT BUILDING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE AND CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGES. AS PART OF THE PROGRAM, ALL THE PARTICIPANTS WILL VISIT THE U.S. MAINLAND AT THE END OF THE PROJECT.

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