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(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: THE FOLLOWING DISPATCH INCLUDES TWO CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA NEWS RELEASE. MNS COVERAGE OF THE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY ACTIVITY OF THE CONGRESS WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO YOU SUNDAY EVENING, FOR USE ON MONDAY, FEB. 25.) (ALL USERS CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA) (KENDALL-OLKERIIL ON LOOSE FEDERATION)

SAIPAN, FEB. 23 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE CONCEPT OF A LOOSE FEDERATION OF SEMI-AUTONOMOUS MICRONESIAN STATES DREW SUPPORT FROM PALAU AND MARSHALL ISLANDS DELEGATES TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DURING A FRIDAY (FEB. 22) EVENING SESSION.

MARSHALLS SENATOR WILFRED KENDALL AND PALAU REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY OLKERIIL BOTH TOOK THE FLOOR IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOUSES ADVOCATING A LOOSE FEDERATION AS THE BEST STRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF MICRONESIA BECAUSE IN THEIR OPINION IT IS THE ONLY WAY REALITIES OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND OTHER DIFFERENCES AMONG MICRONESIA'S SIX DISTRICTS CAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

"MICRONESIA HAS BEEN CALLED AN 'HISTORICAL ACCIDENT,' KENDALL TOLD THE SENATE IN A PREPARED STATEMENT, "AND RIGHTLY SO. THREE HUGE ISLAND GROUPS, THE MARSHALLS, MARIANAS, AND CAROLINE ISLANDS, OVER 2,000 ISLANDS IN ALL, SCATTERED OVER THREE MILLION SQUARE MILES OF WATER, WERE SIMPLY BROUGHT TOGETHER AS SPOILS OF WAR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES BY COLONIAL POWERS."

THE MARSHALLS SENATOR ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS "IMPOSED TOGETHERNESS" SINCE THE TURN OF THE CENTURY HAS GIVEN MICRONESIA A "COMMON BOND" TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, " BUT AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE IN THE ABSENCE OF THIS IMPOSED RULE BY A FOREIGN POWER," SAID KENDALL, "FOR THE FIRST TIME OUR DIFFERENCES WILL BEGIN TO EMERGE IN THE WAY WE WANT TO RULE OURSELVES."

KENDALL PRAISED PALAU SENATOR ROMAN TMETUCHL WHO HAS CHAMPIONED THE CONCEPT OF A LOOSE FEDERATION AND SAID: "HIS PLAN REPRESENTS A MATURE, NECESSARY, AND LOGICAL OUTCOME OF A PROCESS OF POLITICAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT WHICH HE HAS PARTICIPATED IN SINCE HIS MEMBERSHIP IN THE COUNCIL OF MICRONESIA MANY YEARS AGO. HIS PROPOSAL CLEARLY RECOGNIZES THE FACT THAT FOR UNITY TO TRULY EXIST IN MICRONESIA, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES MUST BE ATTAINED AND STIFLED, WHICH IS UNNATURAL FOR ANY COUNTRY."

KENDALL URGED EACH CONGRESS DELEGATION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DISTRICTS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE DISTRICTS TO THEIR FUTURE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, AND REPORT THEIR FINDING TO THE CONGRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PALAU CONGRESSMAN OLKERIIL DECLARED THAT THE PEOPLE OF HIS DISTRICT ARE CONVINCED THAT ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT OTHER THAN A LOOSE FEDERATION IS IMPOSSIBLE. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT A CLOSER UNITY MIGHT BE DESIRABLE."

"IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE WILL ACCEPT NO OTHER FORM OF UNION," HE SAID.

OLKERIIL ALSO TOOK EXCEPTION TO REMARKS DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THURSDAY BY PONAPE REPRESENTATIVE SUNGIWO HADLEY FAVORING A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, INDICATING HE FELT HADLEY MISINTERPRETED THE REASONS WHY PALAU FAVORS SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. HADLEY HAD SUGGESTED THAT AMERICAN PROPOSALS TO MAINTAIN MILITARY FACILITIES IN PALAU, MARSHALLS AND THE MARIANAS DISTRICTS, TENDED TO ENCOURAGE DISUNITY AND SEPARATISM, SO THAT REVENUES DERIVED FROM THESE INSTALLATIONS WOULD REMAIN IN THOSE DISTRICTS.

HOWEVER, OLKERIIL, REFERRING TO A PETITION SIGNED BY THE LEADERS OF PALAU IN NOVEMBER OPPOSING ANY MILITARY PRESENCE

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IN PALAU DISTRICT DECLARED: "NOT ONLY DO WE NOT WISH TO BENEFIT FROM MILITARY MONEY, WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE PRESENCE OF ANY MILITARY ACTIVITIES WHATEVER IN PALAU NOW OR IN THE FUTURE." HE ADDED THAT SINCE THE PETITION WAS CIRCULATED, SENTIMENTS IN PALAU HAVE BECOME MORE ANTI-MILITARY, AND THIS WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPLE FOR MICRONESIA.

"AS LONG AS THE DECISION RESTS WITH THE PEOPLE OF PALAU," HE SAID, "THERE WILL BE NO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ANYWHERE IN OUR DISTRICT."

OLKERIIL SAID HIS PEOPLE WANT TO HAVE THE POWER TO DENY THE MILITARY ACCESS TO PALAU, A POWER WHICH HE INDICATED WOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

ANOTHER REALITY, HE SAID, IS THAT ALL MICRONESIAN DISTRICTS HAVE REPEATEDLY SHOWN THAT THEY RESENT CONTROL OF THEIR AFFAIRS BY OUTSIDERS. OLKERIIL SAID IT SOMETIMES APPEARS THAT THIS SENTIMENT IS MOST CLEARLY SHOWN WHEN CONTROL IS EXERCISED BY OTHER MICRONESIANS.

THE TURNING DISPUTE BETWEEN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT AND THE REST OF THE CONGRESS OVER REVENUE SHARING IS AN EXAMPLE AND A FORETASTE OF WHAT WE CAN EXPECT IF ONE DAY WE ARE UNDER A STRONG CENTRAL MICRONESIAN GOVERNMENT," HE SAID. "DIVIDE AND CONQUER HAS ALREADY WORKED TOO WELL. WE MUST BE REALISTIC AND REALIZE THAT WE CANNOT TURN BACK THE CLOCK NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE MIGHT LIKE TO DO SO."

OLKERIIL DESCRIBED A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FOR MICRONESIA AS "CLUMSY" AND SAID WITHOUT THE ABSOLUTE POWER OF A COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION IT IS IMPOSSIBLE.

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(ATALIG ON TRANSPAC)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 23 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---REPRESENTATIVE FELIPE Q. ATALIG OF THE MARIANAS CALLED ATTENTION THIS WEEKEND TO THE PLIGHT OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY'S EXCLUSIVE SHIPPING COMPANY, TRANSPACIFIC LINES, INC., WHICH WAS DECLARED BANKRUPT LAST WEEK.

ATALIG SAID IN A SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT TRANSPAC EMPLOYEES WERE INFORMED BY GOVERNMENT AND BY THE RECEIVER FOR THE COMPANY THAT THERE WERE NO ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD BE PAID.

"NOT ONLY DOES THIS AFFECT THOSE EMPLOYEES OF TRANSPAC WHO WORK HERE ON SAIPAN AND OTHER DISTRICTS, BUT IT ALSO AFFECTS THOSE CREWMEMBERS WHO ARE PRESENTLY ABOARD THE M/V LOTTE REITH, WHICH IS PRESENTLY ON HER WAY TO THE WESTERN DISTRICTS OF YAP AND PALAU," HE SAID.

REMINING THE CONGRESS THAT ITS REPORT ON TRANSPAC BY THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES URGED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO PROTECT AND FIND EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL PRESENT MICRONESIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE COMPANY, ATALIG SAID THAT IT DOES NOT MATTER IF, TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN TERMINATED.

"IT IS A FACT THAT FINANCIALLY SPEAKING, THE COMPANY IS DEAD," HE SAID. "IT IS ALSO ANOTHER FACT THAT OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF OUR CITIZENS."

WHILE HE SAID HE APPRECIATED THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION OF PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COVER BACK DEBTS OWED BY TRANSPAC LAST WEEK SO THE SHIPOWNERS OF THE LOTTE REITH WOULD NOT AUCTION OFF THE SHIP'S \$ 2 MILLION IN CARGO, ATALIG SAID HE HOPED THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD ACT QUICKLY TO HELP TRANSPAC'S EMPLOYEES. HE SAID THE MARIANAS DELEGATION DONATED \$150.00 AND URGED OTHER CONGRESS DELEGATIONS TO DO LIKEWISE TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN.

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