

(NOTE TO EDITORS: THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE WAS ISSUED IN WASHINGTON, D. C. THIS WEEK BY THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT) (BIKINI RE-SETTLEMENT IN APRIL)

WASHINGTON, FEB. 27 (INTERIOR DEPARTMENT RELEASE)--FOR HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE OF BIKINI ATOLL, 1974 MEANS HOMECOMING. THEY HAD BEEN REMOVED TO NEIGHBORING ISLANDS IN THE MID-PACIFIC MARSHALLS CHAIN BEFORE THE ATOMIC BOMB TEST BEGAN IN JULY OF 1946. THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT SAID IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK THAT THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO THEIR TRADITIONAL HOME BEGINNING IN APRIL.

BENEATH THE WATERS OF BIKINI'S 25-MILE LAGOON LIES A FLEET OF UNITED STATES AND FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS SUNK IN "OPERATION CROSSROADS"--JAPAN'S NAGATO, THE U.S. CARRIER SARATOGA, THE BATTLESHIPS NEVADA, NEW YORK, AND OTHERS. WITNESSED BY UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES, HERE WAS THE FIRST PEACE-TIME NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING TO OBTAIN PRECISE DATA ON THE EFFECTS OF LAND, AIR AND UNDERWATER DETONATIONS.

WITH MORE THAN 23 NUCLEAR TESTS BETWEEN 1946 AND 1958, IT WAS WORLDWIDE NEWS WHEN THE BIKINI AREA WAS DECLARED DECONTAMINATED AND SAFE FOR REHABILITATION IN 1968. AND NOW, AFTER 28 YEARS, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS RESETTLING THE MICRONESIAN FAMILIES IN NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AND COCONUT GROVES AND FOOD CROP PLANTING BEGUN IN 1969. MAKING BIKINI AND NEIGHBORING ENYU ISLANDS LIVABLE AGAIN HAS BEEN A LONGTERM PROJECT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WHICH IS CHARGED WITH MANAGEMENT OF THE PACIFIC TRUST TERRITORY, ASSISTED IN THE CLEANUP BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION.

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR ROGERS C.B. MORTON SAID THAT PLANS CALL FOR THE FIRST GROUPS OF RESETTLED FAMILIES TO BE BROUGHT FROM THE ISLAND OF KILI IN THE SOUTHERN MARSHALLS BY MID-APRIL OF THIS YEAR. THE RELATIVELY SLOW TIMETABLE OF RESETTLEMENT SINCE THE ISLANDS WERE DECLARED DECONTAMINATED IN 1968 REFLECTS THE GROWING PACE OF THE COCONUT TREES AND OTHER FOOD SOURCES SUCH AS THE BREADFRUIT TREE. THE COCONUT IS ESSENTIAL TO LIFE ON A CORAL ATOL, SECRETARY MORTON EXPLAINED, PROVIDING FOOD, DRINK, BUILDING MATERIALS AND--WHEN DRIED, AS COPRA--THE MAIN SOURCE OF TRADE INCOME.

"WE REALIZE THAT A COCONUT TREE REQUIRES FROM SIX TO TEN YEARS TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE, AND OUR PLANS CALL FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE UNTIL THE FAMILIES BECOME SELF-RELIANT," MORTON SAID. "A FEATURE OF THE RESETTLEMENT IS THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE BIKINI PEOPLE THEMSELVES AS WE MAKE THESE ISLANDS A FIT PLACE FOR HUMAN HABITATION ONCE AGAIN."

SECRETARY MORTON SAID THAT A TOWN CENTER WILL INCLUDE A SCHOOL, CHURCH, DISPENSARY, AND COPRA WAREHOUSING AT THE REQUEST OF BIKINI LEADERS. MANY BININIANS WHO HAVE NEVER LIVED IN A TRADITIONAL MARSHALLESE VILLAGE EXCEPT ON KILI ISLAND HAVE EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE TO LIVE ONCE MORE ON THEIR OWN PLOTS OF LAND. RESETTLEMENT PLANS INCLUDE NEARLY 30 CONCRETE HOUSES, EACH WITH COOKHOUSE, BATHHOUSE, CISTERN AND COPRA SHED.

(AIRLINE BOARD'S PLANS EXPLAINED)

SAIPAN, FEB. 27 (MNS)---THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD (CAB), WHICH IS AN INDEPENDENT REGULATORY AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES IN CHARGE OF CERTIFICATING DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AIR ROUTES, WILL BE SENDING TWO DIFFERENT GROUPS TO SAIPAN THIS MONTH, THE BOARD SAID IN A RELEASE THIS WEEK.

EACH GROUP HAS A DIFFERENT MISSION AND WILL WORK SEPARATELY FROM THE OTHER. ARRIVING ON SAIPAN THIS WEEK WERE EDWARD THOMAS AND CHRIS BROWN FROM THE CAB BUREAU OF ENFORCEMENT. ONE OF THE DUTIES OF THE BUREAU OF ENFORCEMENT IS TO INVESTIGATE WHAT IS CALLED "CARRIER CONDUCT," OR THE ACTIVITIES OF AIRLINE COMPANIES APPLYING FOR THE TOKYO-SAIPAN ROUTE. OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO THE BUREAU OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, THE AIRLINES INVOLVED MAY HAVE DONE IMPROPERLY TO GAIN SUPPORT IN THE AIR ROUTE CASE.

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IN THEIR INVESTIGATION, BROWN AND THOMAS WILL BE INTERVIEWING NUMEROUS PERSONS HAVING INFORMATION REGARDING CARRIER CONDUCT AND MAY ALSO FIND IT NECESSARY TO TRAVEL TO SOME OF THE OTHER DISTRICTS TO COMPLETE THEIR INVESTIGATION, THE RELEASE SAID.

THE SECOND GROUP FROM THE CAB WILL BE ARRIVING ON SAIPAN FRIDAY, MARCH 8. THIS GROUP, WHICH IS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE BUREAU OF ENFORCEMENT WILL INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GREER MURPHY, BUREAU OF OPERATING RIGHTS REPRESENTATIVE MS. BARBARA CLARK, AND THREE COURT REPORTERS. THE PURPOSE OF JUDGE MURPHY'S TRIP IS TO HOLD A HEARING ON THE SERVICE TO SAIPAN AIR ROUTE CASE IN AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH "WHAT ARE THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA REGARDING THE AIR SERVICE IN QUESTION AND TO TAKE EVIDENCE ON WHAT THE COMPETING AIRLINES DID TO GAIN LOCAL SUPPORT."

LAST YEAR, ANOTHER ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE OF THE CAB, MILTON SHAPIRO, HAD HELD A HEARING IN THE SAME CASE BUT DECIDED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE LOBBYING EFFORT OF THE AIRLINES, THE EXPRESSED VIEWS OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE AFFORDED BY "SLIGHT WEIGHT."

SINCE JUDGE SHAPIRO'S HEARING, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND STATE HAVE REQUESTED THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AND WEIGHT BE ATTACHED TO THE MICRONESIAN VIEWS ON WHICH THE U.S. AIRLINE RECEIVES AUTHORITY TO FLY BETWEEN TOKYO AND SAIPAN. THE FULL CAB HAS DETERMINED THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE SHOULD HOLD THIS NEW HEARING SO THAT THE VIEW OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE AND LEADERS CAN BE FULLY HEARD.

TECHNICALLY, JUDGE MURPHY WILL BE HOLDING HEARINGS IN TWO PHASES. IN THE FIRST, COMMENCING ON MARCH 11, THE JUDGE WILL HEAR THE RESULTS OF THE CARRIER CONDUCT INVESTIGATION PERFORMED BY BROWN AND THOMAS OF THE BUREAU OF ENFORCEMENT. BROWN AND THOMAS WILL PRESENT THE JUDGE WITH ALL THE EVIDENCE THEY HAVE GATHERED ON WHAT THE AIRLINES HAVE DONE TO GAIN SUPPORT FROM MICRONESIANS.

IN THE SECOND PHASE, WHICH WILL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW THE FIRST, THE JUDGE WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE QUESTION OF "WHAT ARE THE VIEWS OF MICRONESIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERSHIP ON WHICH THE U.S. AIRLINE SHOULD RECEIVE THE AUTHORITY TO FLY FROM TOKYO AND SAIPAN."

MS. BARBARA CLARK FROM THE CAB BUREAU OF OPERATING RIGHTS WILL SOLICIT TESTIMONY FROM MICRONESIANS WHO DESIRE TO SPEAK. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE JUDGE'S HEARINGS COULD TAKE AS LONG AS ONE MONTH. THE HEARINGS, NEVERTHELESS, ARE LIMITED TO THE TWO SPECIFIC ISSUES MENTIONED ABOVE" CARRIER CONDUCT AND THE VIEWS OF MICRONESIANS.

IN THE SERVICE TO SAIPAN CASE, THE CAB MUST DECIDE WHICH ONE OF THE THREE APPLICANT AIRLINE COMPANIES--CONTINENTAL/AIR MICRONESIA, NORTHWEST ORIENT AND PAN AMERICAN--WILL BE RECOMMENDED TO FLY BETWEEN TOKYO AND SAIPAN ALONG WITH JAPAN AIRLINES. ONLY ONE U.S. AIRLINE CAN BE CHOSEN AT THIS TIME RELEASE POINTED OUT.

THE CAB, AN INDEPENDENT REGULATORY AGENCY, WAS CREATED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS, AND AS SUCH, IT IS A LEGISLATIVE CREATURE--NOT AN EXECUTIVE AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, WHEN AN INTERNATIONAL AIR ROUTE (SUCH AS TOKYO TO SAIPAN) IS INVOLVED, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES MUST APPROVE FINALLY THE CAB BOARD'S RECOMMENDED DECISION.

(PERSONNEL REGULATIONS FINALIZED)

-SSSAIPAN, FEB. 27(MNS)---HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON THIS WEEK OFFICIALLY APPROVED AND SIGNED THE NEW PERSONNEL REGULATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE REGULATIONS SUPPLEMENT THE TT MERIT SYSTEM BY PROVIDING DETAILS IN SOME RESPECTS ON "HOW TO CARRY OUT

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AND IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS" OF TITLE 61 OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO THE OVER-ALL PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY. TITLE 61 IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SERVICE SYSTEM LAW.

IN DISCUSSING THE NEW REGULATIONS, ARTHUR A. AKINA, DIRECTOR OF THE TT PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, SAID THAT HE DOES NOT CONSIDER THE REGULATIONS OR THE MERIT SYSTEM PERFECT AT THIS STAGE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE APPLICABILITY OF THE LAW ALSO DEPENDS ON THE PERSONNEL WHO WILL BE IMPLEMENTING THE REGULATIONS. AKINA SAID THERE IS A CONTINUING NEED TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE WAY TO DO THIS IS TO EVALUATE THE FEEDBACK FROM THE VARIOUS AREAS OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.

ACCORDING TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL PODIS PEDRUS, WHO SUPERVISED THE WORK ON THE NEW REGULATIONS, SOME NEW AREAS IN PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION ARE TOUCHED UPON IN THE REGULATIONS. "EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD TO ACQUAINT EMPLOYEES AND THEIR SUPERVISORS WITH THE NEW MATERIALS TO ASSURE THAT FAIR TREATMENT IS ACCORDED IN ALL CASES WHERE PERSONNEL ACTIONS ARE REQUESTED OR REQUIRED," PEDRUS SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT PLANS TO SPONSOR COURSES IN EACH OF THE DISTRICTS AND AT HEADQUARTERS FOR SUPERVISORS TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE REGULATIONS. THESE COURSES ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN TOWARD THE END OF MARCH OR EARLY IN APRIL.

"WE ARE ESPECIALLY PLEASED," PEDRUS SAID, "THAT THESE QUITE DETAILED AND COMPREHENSIVE REGULATIONS WERE FORMULATED BY OUR OWN PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT STAFF MEMBERS, AND THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO DO THIS BIG JOB IN ADDITION TO THEIR REGULAR DUTIES."

A DRAFT OF THE REGULATIONS WAS SUBMITTED TO DISTADS, DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS, SUPERVISORS AND OTHERS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT IN AUGUST OF LAST YEAR. THE FINAL REGULATIONS WERE APPROVED BY THE PERSONNEL BOARD AT THEIR RECENT MEETINGS ON SAIPAN, AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SIGNED HIS APPROVAL TO THE DOCUMENT TUESDAY, FEB. 26.

PEDRUS SAID HE WILL BE TRAVELING VERY SHORTLY TO THE DISTRICTS TO BRIEF THE DISTRICT PERSONNEL OFFICERS ON THE NEW REGULATIONS.

PRINTED COPIES OF THE REGULATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE AT THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT EARLY IN MARCH.

(TWO BUSINESS PERMITS APPROVED)

SAIPAN, FEB. 27 (MNS)---BUSINESS PERMITS WERE APPROVED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THIS WEEK FOR TWO INSURANCE COMPANIES TO DO BUSINESS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, ACCORDING TO THE WEEKLY SUMMARY OF FOREIGN BUSINESS PERMIT ACTIVITY FROM THE DIVISION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

ONE OF THE PERMITS APPROVED IS FOR GRAND PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY TO ESTABLISH ITS MAIN OFFICE IN THE MARSHALLS. THE FIRM WILL ALSO HAVE BRANCHES IN THE MARIANAS, PALAU, PONAPE AND YAP DISTRICTS. ITS LOCAL AGENT IS MICRONESIAN INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS. THE COMPANY'S HEADQUARTERS IS IN HAWAII.

ALSO APPROVED WAS A PERMIT FOR GREAT COMMONWEALTH LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY TO DO BUSINESS IN THE MARSHALLS, TRUK, PONAPE, MARIANAS AND YAP DISTRICTS. THE COMPANY HAS ITS HEADQUARTERS IN DALLAS, TEXAS.

NO NEW PERMIT APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.