

(HICOM TALKS TO GUAM BUSINESSMEN)

GUAM, FEB. 23 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON ADDRESSED A MEETING OF THE GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WEDNESDAY (FEB. 27) AT THE GUAM HILTON HOTEL, DISCUSSING VARIOUS ISSUES OF CURRENT INTEREST IN MICRONESIA INCLUDING THE NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY, POLITICAL STATUS, AND THE CURRENT SHIPPING SITUATION. AN ACCOUNT OF THE SPEECH WAS CARRIED IN THE THURSDAY EDITION OF GUAM'S MORNING NEWSPAPER, PACIFIC DAILY NEWS.

IN DISCUSSING THE SHIPPING ISSUE, WHICH IS OF GREAT INTEREST TO GUAM'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THE HICOM SAID: "THE SHIPPING PROBLEM IS A VERY EMOTIONAL ONE, AND IT IS A MAJOR CONCERN IN THE TRUST TERRITORY." HE NOTED THAT THE ISLANDERS DEPEND ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THIS MODE OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PROVISIONS AND OTHER NECESSITIES. HE STATED THAT A DECISION TO TERMINATE THE TRANSPACIFIC LINES, INC. (TRANSPAC) FRANCHISE FOR SERVICING THE ISLANDS WAS MADE FOLLOWING A MEETING IN HONOLULU SOME THREE WEEKS AGO, INVOLVING TRUST TERRITORY AND INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA. TRANSPAC, FORMERLY MILI, HAD SERVED MICRONESIA UNDER AN ALMOST ENTIRELY EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE SINCE 1968. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID THE WHOLE QUESTION OF SHIPPING IN THE TT SHOULD BE RESOLVED WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, WHEN A DECISION IS MADE AS TO WHICH OF SEVERAL PROPOSALS FROM OTHER SHIPPING COMPANIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. BOTH JAPANESE AND U.S. COMPANIES HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN SERVING MICRONESIA.

"WE ARE INTERESTED IN LINES WHICH WANT PERMISSION TO DISCHARGE AND PICK UP CARGO, BUT WHICH ARE NOT SEEKING ANY KIND OF EXCLUSIVE FRANCHISE OR GUARANTEE," THE HICOM TOLD THE ASSEMBLED BUSINESSMEN. HE ALSO ASSURED THEM THAT GUAM'S COMMERCIAL PORT WILL REMAIN AS ONE MAJOR TRANS-SHIPMENT AREA FOR TT GOODS, "DESPITE ITS HIGH PORT CHARGES."

JOHNSTON SAID HIS STAFF IS ALSO WORKING TO GET BACKLOGGED CONTAINERS MOVED FROM GUAM'S DOCK OUT TO THE DISTRICTS.

TURNING TO THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY INTERIOR SECRETARY ROGERS C.B. MORTON OF AN EASING OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS, THE HICOM NOTED THAT FOR MANY YEARS ONLY MICRONESIAN OR 70 U.S. CITIZENS OR CORPORATIONS COULD DO BUSINESS IN MICRONESIA. THIS WAS THE SO-CALLED "MOST FAVORED NATION" POLICY. BUT BEGINNING APRIL 1 OF THIS YEAR, INVESTMENT IN THE TT WILL BE OPEN TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES FROM ANY OF THE WORLD'S COMMUNITY OF NATIONS.

THE HICOM SAID HIS ADMINISTRATION IS PLEASED WITH THIS DECISION. "IT IS A HEALTHY THING FOR MICRONESIA," HE STATED, ADDING, HOWEVER, THAT "WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY GROUNDSWELL OF THESE INVESTMENTS IN THE TT." HE NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF BILLS ARE PENDING IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, INCLUDING ONE WHICH WOULD URGE A "GO SLOW" POLICY ON HANDLING INVESTMENT REQUESTS. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT "FOREIGN INVESTMENT KITS" HAVE BEEN SENT TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES INFORMING THEM OF THE NEW POLICY, AND OF POTENTIALS FOR INVESTMENT IN MICRONESIA.

ON POLITICAL STATUS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT NEITHER HE NOR ANY MEMBER OF HIS ADMINISTRATION HAD TAKEN A DIRECT ROLE IN THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT HE WOULD LIMIT HIS REMARKS TO A FACTUAL PRESENTATION OF EVENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED TO DATE. "I DO HOPE," HE ADDED, "THAT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WILL ACT BEFORE IT ADJOURNS MONDAY TO PASS A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL." HE NOTED THAT THIS ACT WAS NOT APPROVED AT PRIOR SESSIONS BECAUSE OF FUNDING LIMITATIONS, BUT THAT U.S. FUNDING OF AT LEAST A MAJOR PART OF THE COSTS HAS

ALLEVIATED THAT PROBLEM.

AS FOR THE STATUS TALKS THEMSELVES, JOHNSTON SAID:  
"THE FINAL OUTCOME IS UNPREDICATABLE. BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS,  
THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE TERMINATED UNTIL AFTER  
THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON  
THEIR FUTURE THROUGH A PLEBISCITE, OR REFERNDUM. I HOPE  
THAT SUCH A PLEBISCITE CAN TAKE PLACE SOON."

(JAPANESE ARE FISHING ILLEGALLY IN THE MARIANAS)

SAIPAN, FEB. 28 (MNS)---NUMEROUS REPORTS FROM ISLANDS IN THE  
NORTHERN MARIANAS HAVE INDICATED THAT JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS  
ARE STILL TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FISHING IN MARIANAS DISTRICT  
TERRITORIAL WATERS ILLEGALLY, ACCORDING TO DISTAD OF THE MARIANAS  
FRANCISCO C. ADA.

IN A MESSAGE SENT THIS MONTH TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT  
HEADQUARTERS IN TOKYO, DISTAD ADA CALLS ATTENTION TO "TITLE 19  
OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE RELATING TO ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME  
LAW AND THE REGULATIONS ON SHIPPING AND CONTROL WHICH PROHIBITS  
FOREIGN VESSELS TO FISH WITHIN THE INTERNATIONALLY RECONGIZED  
THREE-MILE LIMITS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY."

ADA URFED THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO INFORM ALL JAPANESE  
FISHING VESSELS IN MARIANAS TERRITORIAL WATERS TO COMPLY WITH  
PROVISIONS OF THE TT ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW.

ACCORDING TO THE DISTAD, THE JAPANESE VESSELS NOT ONLY FISH  
ILLEGALLY IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT, BUT THEY HAVE OFTEN ENTERED  
AND RAIDED UNINHABITED ISLANDS IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS AS  
REPORTED BY FIELD TRIP OFFICERS ON VARIOUS TRIPS TO THE ISLANDS.

"THIS PRACTICE MUST BE CEASED IMMEDIATELY," ADA SAID. THE  
DISTAD STATED THAT HIS OFFICE WILL NOT RELEASE FURTHER APPREHENDED  
FOREIGN VESSELS ENTERING THE TERRITORIAL WATERS ILLEGALLY UNTIL  
DEALT WITH ACCORDING TO LAW.

(ISLAND AVIATION TO SERVICE PAGAN)

SAIPAN, FEB.28 (MNS)---ISLAND AVIATION, BASED ON GUAM,  
HAS ANNOUNCED THE START OF SCHEDULED AIR SERVICE BETWEEN GUAM,  
SAIPAN AND PAGAN ISLAND BEGINNING THIS MONTH.

IN A LETTER TO HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON DATED FEB. 15,  
JOHN H. BRANDENBURG, PRESIDENT OF ISLAND AVIATION, SAID: "WITH  
YOUR VERBAL CONCURRENCE DURING OUR CONVERSATION AND THAT OF  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AT THAT TIME, WE HAVE NOW CLEARED OUR PLAN  
WITH EVERYONE CONCERNED."

"MOBIL HAS AGREED THAT THE FUEL REQUIREMENT CAN BE MET,  
U.S. IMMIGRATION HAS AGREED THAT WE CAN BE SCHEDULED AS REQUIRED,  
AND CONTINENTAL/AIR MICRONESIA HAS CONCURED IN OUR PLAN AND WILL  
ALSO ACT AS RESERVATIONS AGENT FOR US ON SAIPAN," BRANDENBURG  
SAID.

ISLAND AVIATION'S SCHEDULE TO PAGAN CALLS FOR A ONCE-A-WEEK  
SERVICE ON THURSDAY AND WILL INCLUDE A PAGAN -SAIPAN SHUTTLE  
FLIGHT WITH A FOUR HOUR LAYOVER TO BE REFUELED. ALSO IT WILL  
PROVIDE CREW REST AND WOULD AFFORD THE PEOPLE OF PAGAN AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AND SHOP ON SAIPAN BEFORE RETURNING TO PAGAN.

LIMITED CARGO WILL ALSO BE CARRIED SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE  
A RE-SUPPLY SOURCE AVAILABLE BETWEEN SHIP VISITS. "OUR SERVICE  
SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE THE IT AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEND MAIL, PERSONNEL  
AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES ON A REGULAR BASIS," BRANDENBURG SAID.

PAGAN, ABOUT 200 MILES NORTH OF SAIPAN, HAS A POPULATION OF  
57 PEOPLE. IT HAS A SHORT AIRSTRIP, AND PLANS ARE BEING DEVELOPED  
FOR A HOTEL RESORT THERE.

(ANGAUR SHIP)

PALAU, FEB. 28 (MNS)---ANGAUR IN THE PALAU DISTRICT WILL SOON HAVE ITS OWN SHIP, ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN TIA BELAU, A LOCAL NEWSPAPER IN PALAU. THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT MONEY FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE SHIP WAS APPROPRIATED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.

THE \$80,000 SECOND-HAND SHIP BEING PURCHASED FROM YACHT SYSTEMS HAWAII, INC., REPORTED PALAU PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AUGUST REMOKET.

IT WAS REPORTED BY TIA BELAU THAT CAPTAIN HIDEO TELL IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE FOR HAWAII THIS MONTH TO RECEIVE AND NAVIGATE THE VESSEL, TO ANGAUR.

THE SHIP, WHICH IS ABOUT 60 FEET IN LENGTH, HAS A FIBER HULL, DUAL DIESEL ENGINES, AUXILIARY POWER GENERATOR, A SEMI-VEE BOTTOM WITH A MAXIMUM DRAFT OF 4.5 FEET, AND A SPEED RANGE OF 10 TO 12 KNOTS AN HOUR.

"THE PALAU DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IS PRESENTLY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANGAUR MECHANIC THOMAS ORRENGES TO ACCOMPANY TELL TO HAWAII," A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT REPORTED. (NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORES: IN A RELEASE DATED FEBRUARY 26, MNS CARRIED A STORY ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD MEETINGS PLANNED SOON IN PALAU. THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION HAS ASKED THAT THIS STORY BE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT FEW DAYS SO THAT THE PUBLIC IS FULLY AWARE OF THE MEETINGS.)

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