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Pipe Dreams



By Joe Murphy

One of the lesser publicized bits of the new federal budget is the word that because of a change in the law, the U.S. Comptroller in Guam is to expand his jurisdiction to include the Trust Territory. To accomplish this, the federal comptroller's budget was tripled, from \$75,000 to \$225,000 under the new budget.

Forgive me for pleading ignorance, but there are a couple of things about this that confuse me. Presumably, the federal law was changed because it is a federal department. But, was the Congress of Micronesia consulted? And how will this comptroller cover the T.T? Will offices be established in Saipan? Will it be operated out of Guam? Will the staff be tripled? Will the Micronesians become a little nervous to think that, for the first time in 20 years or so, Guam will be the seat of a federal branch that has some controls over the purse strings of Micronesia?

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India Opposes Proposal For Island Navy Base

NEW DELHI (UPI) — Foreign Minister Swaran Singh said Wednesday India opposes the U.S. decision to establish a naval base on Diego Garcia island in the Indian Ocean.

The decision follows the recent Anglo-American agreement for the establishment of a fullfledged American base on the island.

"We are totally opposed to the establishment of such bases," Singh said.

He said the proposal to establish a naval base is a matter of great concern to India "and we believe, to the majority of the littoral (coastal) states in the Indian Ocean."

Singh said the issue might come up at the forthcoming meeting of the nonaligned bureau in Algiers and later at the ministerial meeting of the nonaligned countries.