

(AIRLINE HEARINGS OPEN)

SAIPAN, MARCH 11 (MNS) --- RE-OPENED HEARINGS INTO THE SAIPAN/JAPAN AIRLINE ROUTE CASE CONVENED ON SAIPAN MONDAY MORNING (MARCH 11) BEFORE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GREER MURPHY OF THE UNITED STATES CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD.

THE PROCEEDINGS, EXPECTED TO LAST FROM THREE WEEKS TO A MONTH, WILL BE IN TWO PHASES, ACCORDING TO CAB OFFICIALS. PHASE ONE WILL EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE AIRLINES COMPETING FOR THE ROUTE AWARD MAY HAVE VIOLATED CAB RULES OF PROCEDURE IN THEIR LOBBYING FOR LOCAL SUPPORT IN MICRONESIA. THE SECOND PHASE WILL BE AN ATTEMPT BY THE CAB TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHERE THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA STAND ON THE AWARD.

THE SAIPAN HEARINGS WERE ORDERED EARLIER THIS YEAR BY THE FIVE-MEMBER BOARD, AFTER IT DETERMINED THAT IT WAS UNABLE TO REACH A DECISION ON THE SERVICE TO SAIPAN CASE ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AND TESTIMONY RECEIVED SO FAR. THE BOARD ORDERED THE NEW HEARING CONFINED TO THE TWO TOPICS WHICH WILL BE TAKEN UP IN PHASES ONE AND TWO.

THE PROCEEDING GOT UNDER WAY IN THE TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COURT CHAMBERS, WITH AN AUDIENCE COMPOSED LARGELY OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AIRLINES, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND NEWSMEN. A LARGER CONTINGENT OF SPECTATORS WAS PRESENT FOR THE AFTERNOON CONTINUATION OF THE HEARINGS, ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS.

ALL THREE AIRLINES COMPETING FOR THE ROUTE WERE REPRESENTED. THEY ARE NORTHWEST ORIENT AIRLINES, PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS, AND CONTINENTAL AIRLINES, THE PARENT COMPANY OF THE TRUST TERRITORY'S AIRLINE, AIR MICRONESIA. PAN AM AND CONTINENTAL ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE MAJOR CONTENDERS FOR THE ROUTE, WHICH WOULD INVOLVE DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM TOKYO AND OSAKA IN JAPAN TO SAIPAN. JAPAN AIR LINES ALREADY HAS AUTHORITY TO FLY THE ROUTE, ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT YET BEGUN TO DO SO.

OPENING STATEMENTS WERE READ INTO THE RECORD BY MICHAEL WHITE, AN ATTORNEY REPRESENTING THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND THE SO-CALLED MICRONESIAN PARTIES IN THE CASE, AND BY LEE HYDEMAN, AN ATTORNEY FOR CONTINENTAL. OTHERS DID NOT MAKE FORMAL STATEMENTS ALTHOUGH MOST OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AIRLINE AND OF THE CAB PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSION, WHICH CENTERED LARGELY AROUND THE ORDER OF PROCEDURE AND THE SEQUENCE FOR CALLING CERTAIN WITNESSES.

EDWARD THOMAS AND CHRISTOPHER BROWNE, OF THE CAB'S BUREAU OF ENFORCEMENT, HAVE BEEN IN THE TRUST TERRITORY FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS GATHERING EVIDENCE ON THE QUESTION OF CARRIER CONDUCT. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO CALL A NUMBER OF WITNESSES DURING THAT PORTION OF THE PROCEEDINGS, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE FIRST. OPPORTUNITY WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES TO CROSS-EXAMINE THOSE WITNESSES.

THE ENTIRE HEARING IS CONDUCTED MUCH AS A COURTROOM LEGAL TRIAL OR HEARING WOULD BE, AND SIMILAR RULES OF CONDUCT AND PROCEDURE ARE OBSERVED.

THE FIRST WITNESS, SCHEDULED TO BE HEARD MONDAY AFTERNOON, WAS TO BE TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON. HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO TESTIFY BY ONE OF THE AIRLINES INVOLVED, BUT THE EXACT NATURE OF HIS TESTIMONY WAS NOT KNOWN. THE PARTIES IN THE PROCEEDING AGREED THAT HE COULD BE HEARD FIRST BECAUSE HE WILL BE LEAVING THE TRUST TERRITORY IN A FEW DAYS AND WOULD BE UNAVAILABLE FOR TESTIMONY AT A LATER DATE.

THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NO OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE SAIPAN/JAPAN ROUTE CASE.

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(TT RECIPIENTS OF VISITOR GRANTS)

SAIPAN, MARCH 11 (MNS)---THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT TWELVE MICRONESIANS HAVE BEEN AWARDED INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTS BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN NOMINATED BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT FOR THE HONOR.

THE GRANTS ARE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1974, AND WILL ENABLE THE RECIPIENTS TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH FOR STUDY AND OBSERVATION.

THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GRANTS INCLUDE FRANCISCO LUKTUN, CIVIC AFFAIRS OFFICER FOR YAP; JOHNNY HADLEY, WHO IS A SENIOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM AND PRESIDENT OF THE PROTESTANT CHURCH COuncil OF PONAPE; BONIFACIO BASILIUS, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE HEADQUARTERS PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION; SUSUMU AIZAWA, MAGISTRATE OF TOL IN TRUK DISTRICT; NITARO DANNIS, DEPUTY DISTAD OF TRUK; PRUDENCIO MANGLONA, DISTAD REPRESENTATIVE OF ROTA; MRS. TOYOMI SINGEO, BALANG (CHIEF) OF PELELIU, PALAU; AND MRS. MARY LANWI, WOMEN'S INTEREST OFFICER OF MARSHALLS.

ALSO CHOSEN WERE SOUKICHI FRITZ, PRESIDING JUDGE OF TRUK; YOSTER CARL, ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF PONAPE; JOANES EDMUND, PROBATION OFFICER OF PONAPE, AND OBODEI IYAR, PROBATION OFFICER OF PALAU, WHO WILL TRAVEL AS A GROUP MAINLY TO OBSERVE U.S. PROBATION SYSTEMS, JUVENILE FACILITIES AND RELATED COURT ACTIVITIES.

IN MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE HICOM SAID: "I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE GAINED FROM TRAVELING THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND MEETING WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE DURING THE TOUR WILL BE MOST BENEFICIAL AND HELPFUL IN UNDERSTANDING CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

"I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE PLACES YOU WILL VISIT AND THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM YOU WILL TALK WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH A REWARDING EXPERIENCE WHICH WILL BE OF VALUE TO YOU IN THE IMPORTANT POSITION YOU HOLD IN THE COMMUNITY AT THE PRESENT TIME AS WELL AS IN THE FUTURE."

TRAVEL PLANS FOR THE GRANTEEES ARE BEING COORDINATED BY STRIK YOMA, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT THE TRUST TERRITORY HEADQUARTERS ON SAIPAN.

(NORMAR FOLLOW-UP)

SAIPAN, MARCH 11 (MNS)---THE M/V NORMAR, DRIFTING AT SEA FOR NEARLY A WEEK, IS NOW UNDERGOING REPAIR WORK ON GUAM AT DILLINGHAM PIER.

THE VESSEL WAS TOWED BACK TO GUAM SUNDAY (MAR. 10) BY A DILLINGHAM TUG, THE MAHOE.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY SAID MONDAY THAT REPAIR WORK ON THE VESSEL'S ENGINE IS EXPECTED TO BE FINISHED TUESDAY (MAR. 12), AND THE SHIP IS TO BE ON HER WAY BACK TO SAIPAN SOMETIME THIS WEEK AND WILL BE BACK ON THE REGULAR SCHEDULE BY NEXT WEEK.

MARIANAS DISTRICT OFFICIALS SAID MONDAY THEY HOPE TO RESCHEDULE THE NORTHERN MARIANAS FIELD TRIP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE TRIP HAD TO BE CANCELLED LAST WEEK IN VIEW OF THE NORMAR'S ENGINE TROUBLE. THE SHIP IS THE ONLY ONE AVAILABLE IN THE MARIANAS FOR THE FIELD TRIP, A DISTRICT SPOKESMAN SAID.

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