

(AIR FARES UP)

SAIPAN, MARCH 21 (MNS)---ALL FARES AND GENERAL FRIGHT RATES ON CONTINENTAL/AIR MICRONESIA'S SERVICE WITHIN THE TRUST TERRITORY, AND BETWEEN TT POINTS, GUAM AND HAWAII, WILL INCREASE BY AN AVERAGE OF 22 PERCENT BEGINNING FRIDAY (MARCH 22). AN AIRLINE SPOKESMAN SAID THE FARES WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT FOR ALL TRAVEL BEGINNING FRIDAY, REGARDLESS OF WHEN TICKETS WERE PURCHASED OR RESERVATIONS MADE. 1974 11

AIR MICRONESIA MADE A REQUEST TO THE U.S. CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD (CAB) FOR THE FARE INCREASE ONE MONTH AGO, CITING STEEPLY RISING FUEL COSTS AND CONTINUING OPERATIONAL LOSSES ON THE TRUST TERRITORY SERVICE. THE CAB HAD NOT, AS OF THURSDAY, MADE ANY RULING ON THE REQUEST, BUT IT IS COMMON PRACTICE IN THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY TO PUT NEW FARES INTO EFFECT ON THE SPECIFIED DATE UNLESS THE CAB OBJECTS TO THE REQUEST. AIR MICRONESIA GENERAL MANAGER BARRIE DUGGAN SAID ON SAIPAN THAT IF THE CAB MODIFIES OR DENIES THE FARE INCREASE AT A LATER DATE, THE AIRLINE WOULD ADJUST ITS FARES ACCORDINGLY AND MAKE REFUNDS TO CUSTOMERS OF ANY OVERCHARGES BASED ON THE NEW FARES MADE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY.

THE STEEPEST INCREASE IS ON A ONE-WAY TICKET FROM GUAM TO HONOLULU, WHICH UNDER THE NEW TARIFF IS 303.80. THIS IS A LARGER THAN 22 PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE OLD FARE OF 217.00 BECAUSE THE FARE HAD BEEN KEPT LOWER THAN AUTHORIZED FOR COMPETITIVE REASONS. THE NEW CHARGES FOR A ONE-WAY TICKET ON SOME OTHER COMMONLY FLOWN ROUTES WITHIN THE AIR MIKE SYSTEM ARE: GUAM/KOROR, 107.40; SAIPAN/MAJURO, 229.40; SAIPAN/TRUK, 101.30; MAJURO/PONAPE, 120.30; MAJURO/KWAJALEIN, 40.30; HONOLULU/MAJURO; 236.70; PONAPE/GUAM, 133.00; -AND SAIPAN/HONOLULU, 310.10. INFORMATION ON OTHER FARES UNDER THE NEW TARIFF MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ANY CONTINENTAL/AIR MICRONESIA OFFICE.

FREIGHT RATES HAVE ALSO BEEN INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF 22 PERCENT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SPECIFIC RATES FOR COMMODITIES PRODUCED IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, AND SHIPPED WITHIN THE TT, SUCH AS FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND MEATS. THESE REMAINS THE SAME.

IN ITS FILING BEFORE THE CAB LAST MONTH, CONTINENTAL PROVIDED A DETAILED JUSTIFICATION FOR THE INCREASES, INDICATING THAT EVEN WITH THE HIGHER FARES THE COMPANY WILL LOSE ABOUT THREE QUARTERS OF A MILLION DOLLARS ON ITS TRUST TERRITORY SERVICE THIS YEAR. IN OTHER MOVES TO CUT THESE LOSSES, THE AIRLINE RECENTLY ELIMINATED ONE ROUND-TRIP FLIGHT A WEEK BETWEEN GUAM AND KOROR, HAS ELIMINATED ITS WEEKLY SERVICE TO OKINAWA FROM SAIPAN, AND WILL DISCONTINUE USE OF THE PROPELLER-DRIVEN DC-6 AIRCRAFT AT THE END OF APRIL. FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN SERVICE ARE EXPECTED LATER IN THE YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE PRESENTATION SUBMITTED TO THE CAB.

(WASHINGTON BUDGET HEARINGS)

SAIPAN, MARCH 21 (MNS)---SENATE BUDGET HEARINGS FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY'S SECOND FISCAL YEAR 1974 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST ARE TO BE HELD MARCH 23 IN WASHINGTON D.C., ACCORDING TO TT BUDGET OFFICER GERALD PHILLIPS.

TWO ITEMS ARE INCLUDED IN THE SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST. THEY ARE: AN ADDITIONAL 750,000 FOR THE PONAPE REFUGEL HOSPITAL BECAUSE OF THE COST INCREASE IN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, AND AN ADDITIONAL 764,000 FOR FUEL, ALSO BECAUSE OF THE RISE IN FUEL COSTS. PART OF THE MONEY FOR FUEL WILL BE USED FOR TT SHIPS, BUT MOST OF IT WILL GO TO PUBLIC WORKS UTILITIES IN THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS IF THE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET IS APPROVED. 07560

HEARINGS ON THE DISCAL YEAR 1975 BUDGET HAVE ALSO BEEN SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 1, 2, AND 3 IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE SUB-COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS, PHILLIPS SAID.

ATTENDING THE BUDGET HEARINGS ARE HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON, PALAU DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR THOMAS REMENGESAU, TRUST TERRITORY PROGRAM AND BUDGET OFFICER WILLIAM D. OYLER, BUDGET OFFICER GERALD PHILLIPS, AND BUDGET ANALYST BEN FITIAL.

CONGRESS OF MICONESIA REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SETIK, (TRUK) AND SENATOR BAILEY OLTER, (PONAPE) CHAIRMAN AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF PROGRAM AND BUDGET PLANNING, AND CONGRESS PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST BRIAN FARLEY ARE ALSO SCHEDULED TO ATTEND THE HEARINGS.

THE HOUSE HEARING ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST WAS HELD ON MARCH 12.

(AFRICAN SNAILS INFESTATION IN YAP)

SAIPAN, MARCH 21 (MNS)---A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEADQUARTERS DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT SAID THURSDAY (MAR. 21) THAT GIANT AFRICAN SNAILS HAVE INFESTED YAP DISTRICT FOR THE THIRD TIME AND AN ERADICATION PROGRAM, AIMED AT WIPING OUT THE PESTS, IS NOW UNDERWAY.

REPORTS FROM YAP LAST MONTH INDICATED THAT SOME 353 SNAILS WERE DISCOVERED AROUND THE DOCK AREA IN COLONIA, THE DISTRICT CENTER. IN ADDITION, ABOUT 300 SNAIL EGGS WERE DISCOVERED LATER ON AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT MORE ARE STILL AROUND THE AREA. YAP AGRICULTURE OFFICEALS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO ERADICATE THE SNAILS, BUT MORE HELP IS NEEDED FROM HEADQUARTERS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE MENACING SNAILS.

TO THIS END, IT CHIEF ENTOMOLOGIST, DEMEI O. OTOBED, BASED IN PALAU, IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN YAP SATURDAY (MAR. 23) TO LEND A HAND TO YAP AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS IN FIGHTING THE SNAILS.

ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, THE SNAILS MAY HAVE REACHED YAP THROUGH CARGO BROUGHT TO YAP BY DHIP EITHER FROM PALAU, OKINAWA OR SAIPAN.

(PACIFIC MERGER PROPOSED)

WASHINGTON, MARCH 21 (FROM GANNETT NEWS SERVICE)--- THE RECENT MEETING OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION IN NEW ZEALAND HAS RESULTED IN A PROPOSAL FOR THE MENER OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS THAT WOULD PROVIDE EQUAL VOTING FOR ALL MEMBER NATIONS AND TERRITORIES, THE U.S. OFFICE OF TERRITORIES SAID IN A REPORT CARRIED IN THURSDAY'S PACIFIC DAILY NEWS ON GUAM. THE REPORT WAS FILED FROM WASHINGTON BY THE GANNETT NEWS SERVICE.

STANLEY S. CARPENTER, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS AND THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MEETING IN WELLINGTON TWO WEEKS AGO, NOTIFIED HIS ASSISTANT, FRED RADEWAGEN, VIA TELEPHONE FROM PORT MORESBY, NEW GUINEA, OF THE ACTION, THE FIRST OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE FROM THE MARCH 5-9 MEETING.

"THE AGREEMENT GOES A LONG WAY TOWARD MEETING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE TERRITORIES AS EXPRESSED IN THE FUTURE STATUS RESOLUTION OF LAST YEAR'S GUAM CONFERENCE," CARPENTER SAID IN A STATEMENT.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION WHICH INCLUDES NATIONS HAVING INFLUENCE IN THE PACIFIC, AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE, WHICH INCLUDES THE U.S. AND ITS TERRITORIES, WOULD COMBINE THEIR ANNUAL SESSIONS INTO ONE "SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE." THIS WAS THE GOAL OF THE MEETING.

EACH NATION AND TERRITORY WOULD HAVE ONE VOTE UNDER THE ARRANGEMENT, ELIMINATING THE WEIGHTED VOTING OF THE CURRENT

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SYSTEM. A COMMITTEE OF MEMBER NATIONS THAT HANDLES BUDGET AND PERSONNEL MATTERS WOULD CONTINUE TO USE WEIGHTED VOTING IN ITS DECISIONS, HOWEVER.

ALTHOUGH THE WELLINGTON AGREEMENT REQUIRES UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ITS MEMBER COUNTRIES, CARPENTER SAID HE IS CONFIDENT IT WILL BE RATIFIED. CARPENTER WENT TO NEW GUINEA AFTER THE MEETING AND WAS TO FLY TO MANILA AND THEN BACK TO WASHINGTON, THE REPORT SAID.

COMMISSION MEMBERS INCLUDE THE UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE, NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, FIJI, WESTERN SAMOA AND NAURU. CONFERENCE MEMBERS INCLUDE THE U.S. AND ITS TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC--GUAM, AMERICAN SAMOA AND MICRONESIA.

LAST SEPTEMBER THE CONFERENCE, MEETING IN GUAM, PASSED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A UNIFIED ANNUAL MEETING OF COMMISSION AND CONFERENCE MEMBERS.

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