

(MARSHALLS ADOPTS SEPARATIST RESOLUTION)

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MAJURO, MARCH 23 (MNS) --- THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, THE NITIJELA, HAS ADOPTED A RESOLUTION INFORMING THE UNITED NATIONS THAT IT IS UNWILLING TO BE A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL FAMILY OF MICRONESIA AFTER TERMINATION OF THE PRESENT TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, AND THAT THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT INTENDS TO NEGOTIATE SEPARATELY WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE MARSHALLS.

THE RESOLUTION WAS INTRODUCED JOINTLY BY 14 OF THE 24 MEMBERS OF THE NITIJELA, AND ADOPTED TUESDAY (MARCH 19) DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF THE LEGISLATURE'S CURRENT 30-DAY REGULAR SESSION IN MAJURO. AN EARLIER REPORT FROM THE NITIJELA INDICATED THAT POLITICAL STATUS IS THE MAJOR TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION AND LEGISLATION THIS SESSION, WITH THE SEPARATIST MOVEMENT BEING STRONGLY ADOCCATED IN THE WAKE OF CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA REFUSAL TO ENACT REVENUE-SHARING TAX LEGISLATION SOUGHT BY THE MARSHALL DISTRICT.

A PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN IN MAJURO SAID THE NITIJELA HAS ALSO ACTED DURING THIS SESSION TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON ITS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION FROM 18 TO 18, MAKING THE GROUP SMALLER FOR ECONOMY OF TRAVEL AND EFFICIENCY IN DELIBERATIONS. UNDER THE NEW PROPOSED AMENDMENT TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION WOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, TWO WOULD COME FROM THE DISTRICT'S CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA DELEGATION, AND FOUR WOULD BE SELECTED FROM AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE NITIJELA BY THE SPEAKER. THIS GROUP WOULD TBE THE ONE WHICH WOULD CONDUCT ANY SEPARATE MARSHALLS STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

IF AND WHEN THE MARSHALLS TALKS GET UNDERWAY, THEY WOULD BE THE THIRD SET OF MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. TALKS ARE CONTINUING WITH THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, THE OFFICIAL NEGOTIATING BODY OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, WHICH TAKES THE POSITION THAT IR IS THE ONLY BODY AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE ON BEHALF OF ALL SIX DISTRICTS OF THE TRUST TERRITORY. MEANWHILE THE U.S. IS ALSO NEGOTIATING WITH THE MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT, IN SEPARATE TALKS BEGUN JUST OVER A YEAR AGO AND CITED BY THE MARSHALLESE AS A PRECEDENT FOR THEIR OWN SEPARATIST DESIRES.

THE NITIJELA RESOLUTION ADOPTED THIS WEEK POINTS OUT THAT SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS "WILL COMMENCE SHORTLY" BETWEEN THE MARSHALLS STATUS COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S., THAT THE NITIJELA WOULD WELCOME PARTICIPATION AND ADVICE FROM THE APPROPRIATE BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THIS ISSUE, AND THAT THE NITIJELA BELIEVES SUCH U.N. PARTICIPATION MIGHT "ENHANCE ITS POSITION."

THE MEASURE THEN DECLARES THAT THE NITIJELA IS INFORMING THE UNITED NATIONS, THROUGH THE SECRETARY GENERAL, OF "THE DESIRE OF THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT TO NEGOTIATE SEPARATELY ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF THE MARSHALLS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT," AND FURTHER DECLARES THAT "THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT IS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL FAMILY OF MICRONESIA AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT...."

(PEACE MEMORIAL DEDICATION)

SAIPAN, MARCH 22 (MNS) --- DEDICATION CERMONIES MARKING THE COMPLETION OF A PEACE MEMORIAL AT THE LAST COMMAND POST IN THE MARPI AREA OF SAIPAN ARE TO BE HELD MONDAY MORNING, (MARCH 25). THE MEMORIAL MONUMENT AND MEMORIAL SERVICE ARE DEDICATED "TO ALL THOSE THAT HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA DURING WORLD WAR II, REGARDLESS OF RACE, NATIONALITY OR RELIGION," AND ARE SPONSORED JOINTLY BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF JAPAN, THE TRUST TERRITORY AND THE UNITED STATES.

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THE MEMORIAL AND DEDICATION CEREMONIES WILL BE HELD BY JOINT PARTICIPATION OF THE HONORABLE MASAKATA TOZAWA, VICE-MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN; REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DIET OF JAPAN; REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BEAREAVED FAMILIES OF JAPAN; DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN, MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA AND SAIPAN MAYOR VICENTE D. SABLAN.

VICE-MINISTER TOZAWA IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ON SAIPAN SUNDAY MORNING. THAT AFTERNOON HE WILL PAY A COURTESY CALL AT THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, AND LATER THAT SAME DAY WILL TOUR THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN. SUNDAY EVENING A RECEPTION HOSTED BY TOZAWA WILL BE HELD AT THE SAIPAN CONTINENTAL HOTEL.

MONDAY MORNING A BREAKFAST HOSTED BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT AT THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL WILL BE HELD. AT 10:00 A.M. THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES WILL TAKE PLACE AND ARE EXPECTED TO LAST ABOUT THREE HOURS. TOZAWA PLANS TO LEAVE SAIPAN MONDAY AFTERNOON FOR GUAM. THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND THE DEDICATION.

(RESEARCH ON SHARK FISHING IN THE MARIANAS)

-80SAIPAN, MARCH 22 (MNS)---A KOREAN FISHERY RESEARCH VESSEL, TAI BACK SAN, ARRIVED AT SAIPAN THURSDAY (MAR. 21) TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ON SHARK FISHING IN THE MARIANAS.

ACCORDING TO PETER T. WILSON, CHIEF OF THE TT MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE RESEARCH IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS. THE PROJECT, SPONSORED BY THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, WILL STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SHARK FISHING VENTURE IN THE MARIANAS. THE KOREANS ARE INTERESTED IN THE TYPE OF SHARK COMMONLY FOUND IN THE AREA AND WHETHER THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY MEET THEIR EXPECTATION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR A COMMERCIAL SHARK FISHING OPERATION IN THE MARIANAS.

SHARK MEAT IS A FAVORITE SEA FOOD FOR MANY ORIENTAL COUNTRIES. GRAINED, IMPOUNDED AND CANNED SHARK MEAT IS GENERALLY LABELED WITH THE COMMON NAME "FISH CAKE."

WILSON INDICATED THAT THERE IS A VERY GOOD POSSIBILITY FOR ESTABLISHING A SHARK FISHING VENTURE IN THE MARIANAS. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPES THE RESEARCH NOW BEING CONDUCTED WILL COME UP WITH A FAVORABLE REPORT.

THE RESEARCH VESSEL LEFT SAIPAN FRIDAY FOR A SURVEY TRIP AROUND THE TINIAN AREA AND THE OTHER ISLANDS IN THE NORTHERN MARIANAS CHAIN.

THE KOREANS ARE INTERESTED IN SHARK FISHING RESEARCH IN THE MARIANAS AT THE PRESENT. THEY HAVE NOT INDICATED ANY INTEREST AS YET IN THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE TT.

(ESG TASK FORCE PROGRESS REPORT)

SAIPAN, MARCH 22 (MNS)---THE HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT HEARD A BRIEF REPORT DURING ITS REGULAR MEETING THURSDAY (MAR. 21) FROM WILLIAM STEWART ON THE PROGRESS OF THE "SURVEY PROJECT" WHICH WAS STARTED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

STEWART INDICATED THAT THE PROJECT IS NEAR COMPLETION, ADDING THAT \$500 IS NEEDED TO TABULATE THE DATA GATHERED. TO FACILITATE MATTERS, A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE TASK FORCE WAS DESIGNATED BY CHAIRMAN OF THE TASK FORCE STRIK YOMA TO DRAFT A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR THE REMAINING WORK ON THE PROJECT, TO BE DONE BY A PRIVATE MICRONESIAN CITIZEN.

THE SURVEY PROJECT IS MERELY A DATA COLLECTING DEVICE WHICH WILL HELP THE TASK FORCE IN ITS PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT. THE PROJECT ADDRESSED ITSELF TO QUESTIONS

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RELATING TO THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO MICRONESIANS, SUCH AS FREE-ASSOCIATION, COMMONWEALTH, OR INDEPENDENCE, WITH THE VIEW OF ASSESSING THE PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDING OF THESE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES. OTHER RELATED QUESTIONS WERE ASKED BY THE SURVEY PROJECT, HOPING THAT WHEN THE DATA IS FINALLY ANALYZED, THE TASK FORCE CAN DEVISE A PROGRAM WHICH IS MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA.

VICE-CHAIRMAN GEORGE CALLISON REPORTED ON THE ESG ESSAY CONTEST, INDICATING THAT ALL THE NECESSARY FORMS AND ESSAY CONTEST RULES HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE DISTRICTS. HE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO THE APRIL 15 DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ENTRIES AND REQUESTED THAT THE DISTRICTS BE REMINDED TO INFORM CONTESTANTS ON THE RULES AND REGULATIONS. YOMA SAID HE WILL SEE TO IT THAT ALL PEOPLE CONCERNED ARE INFORMED ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONTEST.

SAM MCPHETRES MADE A BRIEF REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED TERMS IN THE ESG PROGRAM. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT A MINI-TASK FORCE SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO REVIEW THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE GLOSSARY AND TO MAKE A REPORT TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE.

A SUB-TASK FORCE, HEADED BY RAYMOND ULUCHONG, REPORTED TO THE TASK FORCE ON THE UPCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. ALONG WITH ITS REPORT WAS A "TIME-TABLE OF EVENTS" ENVISIONED BY THE TASK FORCE TO TAKE PLACE IN TERMS OF EDUCATING THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA ON THIS IMPORTANT EVENTS.

IT WAS REPORTED THAT PLANS ARE NOW UNDERWAY TO MAKE POSTERS, LEAFLETS, RADIO BROADCASTS AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

(SECOND OFFICER FOR JAMES COOK RETIRED)

SAIPAN, MARCH 22 (MNS)---THE SECOND OFFICER ON THE M/V JAMES M. COOK, A TRUST TERRITORY FIELD TRIP SHIP, HAS RETIRED FROM ACTIVE SHIPBOARD DUTY, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

IN A SPECIAL CEREMONY HELD AT THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE THIS WEEK, ALIK JOHN FORM KUSAIE WAS PRESENTED WITH AN HONORARY CERTIFICATE OF RETIREMENT FROM DEPUTY HICOM PETER T. COLEMAN ON BEHALF OF HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON.

IN HIS LETTER TO THE RETIRED SECOND OFFICER, THE HICOM SAID: "I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY UPON YOUR RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE SHIPBOARD LIFE TO COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR LONG AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA."

"YOUR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY AND YOUR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT ANY ASSIGNMENT, HOWEVER DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS, HAS BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO YOUR FELLOW OFFICERS," THE HICOM SAID.

CONCLUDING, THE HICOM NOTED THAT JOHN'S PAST SERVICE HAS CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA, ADDING, "PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE."

JOHN HAD HIS FIRST SEA EXPERIENCE DURING THE JAPANESE ERA IN MICRONESIA ABOARD A VESSEL NAMED "A-MARU" FOR WHICH HE SERVED FOR TWO YEARS.

AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, HE FOUND HIMSELF ABOARD THE "M/V MORING STAR," A SHIP OWNED BY A MISSIONARY SCHOOL IN MAJURO, AS THE BOSUN OF THE VESSEL.

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AFTER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE FORMER PACIFIC  
MICRONESIAN LINE (PML), JOINED THE M/V MAJURO IN 1969,  
A VESSEL THAT WAS SERVICING TAIWAN AND VIETNAM. HE SPENT  
SERVERAL YEARS WOeking ABOARD THE M/V MAJURO, AND IN 1971  
JOHN CAME BACK TO THE TRUST TERRITORY AND BECAME THE SECOND  
MATE ABOARD THE M/V JAMES M. COOK.

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