

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)

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(BALOS ON LAND BILL)

SAIPAN, MARCH 8 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---ACTION WAS DEFERRED ON A BILL WHICH PROPOSED TO RETURN CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS FROM TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT CONTROL TO THE DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA DURING THE FINAL SESSION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES LATE MONDAY NIGHT (MARCH 8).

IN A SPEECH TO THE HOUSE, MARSHALLS REPRESENTATIVE ATAJI BALOS SHARPLY CRITICIZED SENATE BILL 296 FOR INCLUDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO EXERCISE THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN, DESPITE THE FACT THE LANDS WERE BEING RETURNED TO THE SIX DISTRICTS.

HE SAID THE PROVISIONS WERE " CONTRADICTORY, CONFUSING, AND TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE."

BALOS' REMARKS WERE IN AGREEMENT WITH POSITIONS TAKEN EARLIER IN THE SESSION BY DELEGATES FROM THE MARSHALLS AND FALAU DISTRICTS CONCERNING MICRONESIA'S FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE. THOSE DELEGATES FELT MICRONESIA SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF A LOOSE FEDERATION OF NEAR-SOVEREIGN STATES.

"ANY MEASURE TO TRANSFER LANDS FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO A LEGAL ENTITY WITHIN THE DISTRICTS MUST INCLUDE PROVISIONS TO GRANT POWERS OVER THESE LANDS TO THE DISTRICTS THEMSELVES, AND NO ONE ELSE," BALOS DECLARED. "AS THIS BILL STANDS TODAY, EMINENT DOMAIN WOULD REMAIN EMINENT DOMAIN, AND I FOR ONE, AM AGAINST ANY SUCH PROVISIONS."

BALOS SAID SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST COLONIAL POWERS IN MICRONESIA OVER FOUR CENTURIES AGO. ISLANDERS HAVE WITNESSED A SUCCESSION OF FOREIGNERS "LAYING CLAIM TO OUR LANDS."

"FIRST CAME THE SPANIARDS, THEN THE GERMANS, AND FINALLY, AS SPOILS OF WAR, OUR HOMES BECAME THE SO-CALLED 'MANDATED ISLANDS' OR 'TRUSTS' OF THE JAPANESE AND THEN THE AMERICANS. BUT WHATEVER TERMS OR DEFINITIONS ARE USED," HE SAID, "EACH OF THESE NATIONS BELIEVED THEY HAD 'CARTE BLANCHE' PRIVILEGES TO TAKE OUR LANDS AND USE THEM FOR ANY PURPOSE AS THEY SAW FIT, INCLUDING CONTAMINATING OUR ISLANDS WITH RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT OR CAUSING CERTAIN ISLANDS TO DISAPPEAR ALTOGETHER IN TESTING NEW WEAPONS."

HOWEVER, THE MARSHALLS CONGRESSMAN NOTED THAT TIMES HAVE CHANGED, AND DURING STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN NOVEMBER 1973, THE UNITED STATES AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO RETURN THE SO-CALLED "PUBLIC LANDS," THE FORMER PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN AND ITS NATIONALS, TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA. INDICATING THAT THE BILL SEEMED TO "DISTORT" THE NOVEMBER AGREEMENT, BALOS LABELED IT "TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE."

"I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT WE HAVE THE SOLE RIGHTS TO RULE OUR ISLANDS," HE SAID. "I HAVE NEVER BELIEVED THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THE U.S. MILITARY SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO LANDS ON BABELTHUAP, OR ON TINIAN, OR YAP, AND LIKEWISE THE PEOPLE OF THOSE ISLANDS SHOULD NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THE FATE OF KWAJALEIN."

BALOS SAID ALTHOUGH PEOPLE WITHIN THE CONGRESS AND GOVERNMENT SAY THAT IN THE FUTURE MICRONESIA'S CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT IMPOSE ITS WILL ON THE DISTRICTS, BALOS SAID FLATLY, "I FAIL TO BELIEVE IT."

"MY PEOPLE IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS ARE SUFFERING TODAY BECAUSE OF THE 'TYRANNY OF THE MAJORITY' WITHIN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OVER ITS FAILURE TO PASS REVENUE SHARING LEGISLATION. IN MY OPINION, IF THIS CONGRESS CAN DEPRIVE THE MARSHALLS PEOPLE OF TAX DOLLARS GENERATED IN THEIR OWN DISTRICT, THEN THIS CONGRESS CAN LIKEWISE IMPOSE EMINENT DOMAIN ON MY PEOPLE AND ALLOW THE MILITARY TO TAKE MORE OF OUR ISLANDS TO GAIN MORE DOLLARS FOR ITS GENERAL FUND."

BALOS SAID THE MEASURE, WHICH WOULD NOT GIVE THE PEOPLE

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OF MICRONESIA'S SIX DISTRICTS FINAL AUTHORITY OVER THEIR LANDS, MUST NOT BE ADOPTED BY THE CONGRESS.

BALOS' REMARKS DREW SUPPORT FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, MOST NOTABLY FROM TRUK DISTRICT, AND AFTER A VOTE, ACTION WAS DEFERRED ON THE MEASURE.

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(SETIK SPEECH)

SAIPAN, MARCH 8 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---TRUK REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND SETIK URGED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SEARCH FOR CONSENSUS, COMPROMISE, AND ACCOMMODATION, AT THE CLOSE OF THE 50-DAY SESSION EARLY TUESDAY (MARCH 5).

IN REMARKS SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE JOURNAL, SETIK NOTED "VERY STRONG DISAGREEMENT OVER CERTAIN ISSUES" DURING THE SESSION, MAINLY OVER REVENUE SHARING BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT, AND SAID BOTH SIDES HAVE THEIR VALID ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST THE MEASURE, AND THAT "IT APPEARED THAT A MAJORITY ARE AGAINST ITS PASSAGE AT THE PRESENT TIME."

"THIS FACT HAS TENDED TO PRODUCE SOME DISTRESSING RESULTS." HE SAID, "AND SOME OF OUR FRIENDS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WILL TAKE A COURSE OF ACTION THAT COULD POSSIBLY LEAD TO FURTHER DISUNITY AMONGST US."

SETIK EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, HE DID NOT WANT TO SEE THIS HAPPEN AND REMINDED HIS COLLEAGUES OF THEIR PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND COMMON GOALS, BOTH AT THE MICRONESIA-WIDE LEVEL AND AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL.

"IT IS THEREFORE WITH REGRET THAT I NOTE THAT MY COLLEAGUES WHO FAVOR REVENUE SHARING ARE TALKING IN ABSOLUTE TERMS. THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THE TWO SIDES OF THIS ISSUE HAVE FORMED POSITIONS WHICH APPEAR TO BE MORE SOLID THAN THOSE WHICH ARE AT STAKE BETWEEN THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS AND THE UNITED STATES. AND I SHOULD ADD," HE SAID, "AT LEAST IN THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, OFFERS AND POSITIONS HAVE BEEN MET WITH COUNTER OFFERS AND COUNTER POSITIONS,"

THE TRUK REPRESENTATIVE, HOWEVER, MAINTAINED HIS INTENTION WAS NOT TO RAISE THE ISSUE AGAIN, BUT TO STATE ANOTHER IMPORTANT POINT: "THIS CONGRESS IS THE PLACE NOT TO SOLIDIFY OUR DISAGREEMENTS, BUT THE PLACE FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER TO FIND HOW WE CAN RESOLVE OUR DIFFERENCES, HOW WE CAN ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS AND DESIRES OF ALL OUR PEOPLE AND HOW WE CAN PLAN TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE."

SETIK ADDED A SPECIAL SESSION WAS A "REAL POSSIBILITY," CONCLUDING, THE DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN WITHIN THIS CONGRESS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION, DEBATE, COMPROMISE, AND CONSIDERATION."

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(SILK SPEECH)

SAIPAN, MARCH 8 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---AS THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA SESSION MOVED INTO ITS FINAL HOURS MONDAY NIGHT, MARSHALLS CONGRESSMAN EKPAP SILK INSERTED REMARKS INTO THE HOUSE JOURNAL STATING THAT THE SAME ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS CREATED IN THE TRUST TERRITORY NOW DIVIDES THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

"I RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH OUR PRESENT LOT SIMPLY BECAUSE OUR ECONOMY IS SUCH THAT IT CANNOT PROVIDE AND MEET OUR GROWING NEEDS." NOTING THAT VERY LITTLE PRIORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST 27 YEARS, SILK SAID: "THE UNITED STATES KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING THAT A HIGHLY DEVELOPED MICRONESIAN ECONOMY MEANS A POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT MICRONESIA."

SILK ALSO ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO OTHER RELATED ISSUES, INCLUDING THE TERRITORY'S PRESENT POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT WHICH

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HE DESCRIBED AS "NOT ENTIRELY OUR OWN DOING, BUT SAID MICRONESIANS ACCEPTEEDNGMICADEREHRENER HASCORHBEU'S PAWNS IN THE HANDS OF OUR ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY AND NOW WE ARE AT ODDS AS TO HOW TO DIVIDE UP WHAT LITTLE REVENUES WE HAVE," HE SAID. SILK, WHO SERVED AS FLOOR LEADER OF THE HOUSE, WAS OBVIOUSLY REFERRING TO THE CONTROVERSIAL REVENUE SHARING BILL STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE MARSHALLS DELEGATION, WHICH DOMINATED ACTION IN THE HOUSE DURING THE FINAL DAYS OF THE SESSION.

CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS, SILK INFORMED THE HOUSE THAT THE PEOPLE OF HIS DISTRICT HAD GIVEN HIS DELEGATION A MANDATE TO SEEK PASSAGE OF THE BILL, AND SAID IF THE CONGRESS CHOOSES NOT TO HELP HIS DELEGATION FULFILL THEIR MANDATE, HE MUST INFORM THE CONGRESS THAT THE PEOPLE OF HIS DISTRICT ARE PREPARED TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS NECESSARY TO SEEK THOSE CHANGES "FOR THEIR OWN POLITICAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC FUTURE."

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(ATALIG REMARKS)

SAIPAN, MARCH 8 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RECEIVED BOTH COMMENDATION AND CRITICISM FROM MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVE FELIPE ATALIG SHORTLY BEFORE ADJOURNMENT OF THE 50-DAY SESSION EARLY TUESDAY (MARCH 5).

IN SHORT REMARKS INSERTED INTO THE JOURNAL, ATALIG PRAISED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND PARTICULARLY THE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT FOR ITS FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 88, DEMANDING THAT THE UNITED STATES END ITS UNILATERALLY IMPOSED MORATORIUM ON HOMESTEADING AND LAND LEASES ON TINIAN. HOWEVER, ATALIG'S REMARKS ALSO MENTIONED TWO OTHER AREAS, PROPOSALS FOR PRICE CONTROL AND MINIMUM WAGES LEGISLATION, WHERE THE HOUSE IN HIS WORDS, "FAILED" TO ACT TO FURTHER THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL MICRONESIANS.

CONCERNING THE PRICE CONTROL BILL, ATALIG SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE HOUSE FAILED TO ACT FAVORABLY ON THE MATTER, WHEN MICRONESIANS ARE PRESENTLY PAYING EXTREMELY HIGH COSTS FOR BASIC COMMODITIES. IN MANY CASES, HE SAID, THE COSTS ARE UNJUSTIFIED AND A RESULT OF "UNFAIR PRACTICES BY MONEY-HUNGRY BUSINESSMEN WHO HAVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND NOT THOSE OF THE CONSUMER AT HEART."

ATALIG SAID DESPITE THE FACT THAT SUCH LEGISLATION HAS BEEN PENDING BEFORE THIS CONGRESS FOR MANY YEARS, IT APPEARED THE CONGRESS WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE ADMINISTRATION'S "RATHER LAME EXCUSE" THAT THE MATTER REQUIRED MORE STUDY BEFORE ACTION COULD BE TAKEN.

"IGNORING THE PROBLEM OR STIFLING THE BILL IN COMMITTEE WILL NOT MAKE THE PROBLEM GO AWAY," HE SAID, AS HE PROMISED TO REINTRODUCE SUCH LEGISLATION IN A FUTURE SESSION.

IN THE RELATED AREA OF MINIMUM WAGE LEGISLATION, ATALIG SAID WHILE PRICES HAVE GONE UP, SALARIES HAVE REMAINED THE SAME.

"I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE FROM THIS THAT THIS CONGRESS IS OF THE OPINION THAT MICRONESIA IS ONE OF THE FEW AREAS OF THE WORLD WHERE THE BASIC LAWS OF ECONOMICS DO NOT APPLY," HE SAID, NOTING THE ONLY WAGE INCREASES THE CONGRESS HAS SEEN FIT TO APPROVE WERE THE SALARIES OF ITS OWN MEMBERS.

ATALIG TOLD THE HOUSE HE FELT HE HAD DONE HIS PART TO MAKE THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE KNOWN CONCERNING THESE ISSUES, STATING, "IT IS VERY SAD THAT WE HAVE FAILED TO TAKE CONCRETE ACTION ON MEASURES WHICH WOULD DIRECTLY BENEFIT OUR PEOPLE."

(ALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(BORJA SUMMARIZES CONGRESS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS)

SAIPAN, MARCH 8 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---MARIANAS SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA SUBMITTED A STATEMENT DURING THE LAST DAY OF

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THE SESSION SUMMARIZING THE WORK OF THE CONGRESS THIS SESSION. HIS REMARKS TOUCHED ON THREE MAJOR AREAS, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL.

IN THE AREA OF POLITICAL CONCERNS, SENATOR BORJA SAID THAT CONGRESS HAS SEEN CONSIDERATION OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BILL; A BILL WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR CREATION OF DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS; AND A BILL ON REAPPORTIONMENT.

IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID CONGRESS HAS CONSIDERED NEW LAWS AND AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING LAWS RELATING TO FOREIGN INVESTMENTS; LAWS WHICH WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CONTROL OVER THE IMPORTATION OF LABORERS OUTSIDE MICRONESIA; LAWS CONCERNING THE RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS; LAWS WHICH HAVE ASSISTED THE CAUSE OF HOMESTEADING; LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT MERIT SYSTEM PLAN FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES; LAWS PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF DUTY FREE STORES; CREATION OF A DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR MICRONESIA AND POSSIBLE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASIA DEVELOPMENT BANK; AND EASING FOR THE MOST PART OF THE SHIPPING CRISIS WHICH HAS COMMANDED THE GREATEST ATTENTION DURING THIS SESSION.

CONCERNING SHIPPING, BORJA SAID: "TRANSPAC, WHICH HAS BEEN SINKING FOR YEARS, IS NOW ONLY BEING KEPT AFLOAT BY A GOVERNMENT LIFEJACKET, SO TO SPEAK--AND SOON THAT LIFEJACKET WILL BE REMOVED AND A NEW OPERATION WILL BE LAUNCHED." HE AFFIRMS, "CONGRESS WILL WATCH CAREFULLY WHAT FUTURE PROGRESS WILL BE MADE IN THIS AREA." HE NOTED THAT THE SHIPPING CRISIS HAS BEEN "EASED" SOMEWHAT AND THAT "IT IS HEARTENING THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE CONGRESS ON THIS MATTER AND I KNOW WE LOOK FORWARD TO MORE OF THE SAME IN THE FUTURE."

WITH REGARD TO THE CRUCIAL ISSUE OF "REVENUE SHARING", HE SAID, "IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS MUCH DIVISION OVER THE HOUSE BILL WHICH WOULD RETURN 50 PERCENT OF INCOME TAX REVENUES TO THE DISTRICTS." HE SAID HE HOPED THAT SENATE BILL 262 WHICH RETURNS TO THE DISTRICTS ALL TAX MONEY EXCEPT FOR INCOME TAX WILL BE ENACTED AND WILL PERHAPS BE THE FIRST STEP FORWARD TO "SATISFACTION OF THE DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE OF THOSE DISTRICTS WHICH DESIRE THIS MEASURE." HE NOTED THAT SHOULD THE "REVENUE SHARING" MEASURE NOT RECEIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION THIS SESSION, "IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE INCLUDED IN THE CALL FOR A SPECIAL SESSION WHICH IS CONTEMPLATED AT THIS TIME."

IN THE AREA OF EDUATION, THE SENATOR SAID HE IS HAPPY THAT CONGRESS HAS DECIDED TO FURTHER INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS THIS SESSION FOR ADDITIONAL SHCOLARSHIPS FOR MICRONESIAN STUDENTS; A BILL WHICH WOULD ASSIST BOTH ADVANCED AND HANDICAPPED CHILDREN; AND A BILL WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH A BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE OPERATIONS AND GUIDANCE OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA.

IN TERMS OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, BORJA MENTIONED THE WAR CLAIMS WHICH CONGRESS HAS PUSHED FOR IN THE PAST. HE SAID: "IT IS INCUMBENT UPON US TO DIRECT OUR EFFORTS TOWARD HAVING LEGISLATION BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS ENACTED TO FURTHER SOLVE SOME OF THE DEFFICIENCIES IN THIS AREA." HE SAID HE IS HAPPY TO SEE THAT CONGRESS HAS CONSIDERED FORMING A CLAIMS GROUP WITH REGARD TO CLAIMS AGAINST JAPAN.

SPEAKING OF OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS MADE DURING THE SESSION, HE SAID: "THIS CONGRESS HAS SET A LANDMARK IN ITS HISTORY BY OVERRIDING TWO MEASURES DURING THIS SESSION VETOED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER." THE TWO MEASURES ARE HOUSE BILL NO. 3 CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF NON-CITIZENS, AND SENATE BILL NO. 94 RELATING TO ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW WHICH WOULD PROVIDE MICRONESIA WITH LARGE AMOUNTS OF REVENUES BY REGISTERING FOREIGN VESSELS. BORJA NOTED THAT CONGRESS IS TO BE COMMANDED FOREIGN VESSELS. BORJA NOTED THAT CONGRESS IS TO BE COMMANDED FOR ITS DETERMINATION WITH REGARD TO THESE TWO MEASURES WHICH HE BELIVES ARE IN THE

**BEST INTERESTS OF MICRONESIA.**

THE SENATOR ALSO MENTIONED SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DURING THE SESSION SUCH AS THE ONE ASKING THE U.S. TO LIFT THE TINIAN MORATORIUM; SUPPORTING KUSAIE AS A SEPARATE DISTRICT; RATIFYING THE POSITION OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON LAW OF THE SEA; AND ASKING AMENDMENT OF THE SECRETARIAL ORDER TO GRANT MORE POWER TO THE CONGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING SELF-GOVERNMENT IN MICRONESIA, AMONG OTHERS.

THE MARIANAS SENATOR ALSO NOTED THAT CONGRESS HAS SEEN SUBMISSION OF A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT REPORTS INCLUDING A REPORT ON OCEAN TRANSPORTATION; NEW PROGRAMS IN THE TT; SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION; BANK OF MICRONESIA; REPORTS ON THE WORK OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, LAW OF THE SEA, AND RONGELAP AND UTIRIK.

HE CONCLUDED THAT ALL THESE CONCERN AREAS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MAY NOT BE RESOLVED DURING THE SESSION "BECAUSE THEY MAY MERIT FURTHER CONSIDERATION OR FOR OTHER REASONS," HE SAID THAT IT IS PROBABLE THAT A SPECIAL SESSION MAY BE CALLED AT WHICH TIME CONGRESS MAY BE ABLE TO RECONSIDER "THOSE CRITICAL UNFINISHED AREAS OF BUSINESS."

**(MAYOR ELECTION IN PALAU)**

PALAU, MARCH 8 (MNS)---AN ELECTION FOR MAYOR OF KOROR WILL BE HELD MARCH 12, ACCORDING TO PALAU INFORMATION OFFICER DAVID NGIR MIDOL.

TWO CANDIDATES ARE RUNNING FOR THIS IMPORTANT SEAT, NGIR MIDOL REPORTS. JACOB SAVAICHI, WHO WAS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, IS CHALLENGING THE INCUMBENT MAYOR OF KOROR, RUBASCH FRITZ.

IT WAS REPORTED THAT HIGH CHIEF IBEDUL YUTAKA GIBBONS WAS NOMINATED BY THE NGARAMEKETII COUNCIL OF KOROR FOR THE MAYORAL RACE, BUT WITHDREW HIS CANDIDACY, SAYING THAT HE "CANNOT FOREGO THE RESPONSIBILITY VESTED IN ME BY TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS OF PALAU, TO RUN FOR THE ELECTIVE POSITION OF MAYOR OF PALAU."

ACCORDING TO NGIR MIDOL, AN INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN IS GOING ON IN KOROR WITH POSTERS LITERALLY "ALL OVER THE PLACE." HE STATES THAT POLITICAL SPECULATORS IN KOROR PREDICT THE RACE WILL BE A VERY CLOSE ONE.

BOTH CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE POSITION ARE SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMEN AND CAPABLE LEADERS.

THE MAYOR OF KOROR HAS A CONSTITUENCY OF SOME 7,670 PEOPLE, ONE OF THE MOST POPULOUS DISTRICT CENTERS IN MICRONESIA.

PRIOR TO THE ELECTION OF THE KOROR MAYOR, IT WAS REPORTED, ELECTION FOR THE MAGISTRATE OF PELELIU WILL ALSO BE HELD. MAGISTRATE SABURO NIGRABLAI IS PRESENTLY HOLDING THAT POSITION.

**(RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE VISIT TO TT)**

SAIPAN, MARCH 8 (MNS)---A RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE HAWAII CHAPTER, MS. MICHELE LORENZ, ARRIVED IN SAIPAN THIS WEEK FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFORMING PEOPLE OF THE VARIOUS SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH RED CROSS AND TO LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS IN MICRONESIA, ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.

WHILE ON SAIPAN, SHE WILL MEET WITH THE DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH SERVICES, EDUCATION, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE PEACE CORPS.

FROM SAIPAN, MS. LORENZ WILL TRAVEL TO THE OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY, SPENDING ABOUT A WEEK IN EACH DISTRICT, THE DEPARTMENT REPORTED.

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(MISSILE TO ORBIT NAMES OF TT SCOUTS)

SAIPAN, MARCH 8 (MNS)---ABOUT 30,000 CUB SCOUTS, BOY SCOUTS AND EXPLORERS IN HAWAII, AMERICAN SAMOA, THE TRUST TERRITORY AND MIDWAY TOOK PERSONAL INTEREST IN A MISSILE LAUNCH LAST MONTH AT VANDEBERG AIR FORCE BASE IN CALIFORNIA, ACCORDING TO A RECENT ISSUE OF THE HONOLULU STAR BULLETIN.

THE TRUST TERRITORY CUB SCOUTS' NAMES WERE AMONG THE NAMES OF MORE THAN 800,000 SCOUTS TO BE CARRIED INTO SPACE ABOARD THE "SCOUT 181" UNMANNED SPACECRAFT WHICH WAS PUT INTO ORBIT AROUND THE EARTH LAST MONTH.

THE LAUNCHING OF THE MISSILE WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY JOINT EFFORTS OF GREAT BRITAIN, THE U.S. NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) AND THE U.S. AIR FORCE.

THE BOY SCOUTS' INTEREST IN THE LAUNCHING WAS PLANNED AS AN OBSERVANCE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE BOY SCOUTS, WHICH WAS IN FEBRUARY, 1907, IN GREAT BRITAIN.

THE NAME OF THE ROCKET "SCOUT 181," ALSO MADE THE LAUNCHING SIGNIFICANT TO THE SCOUTS. THE SENDING OF THE SCOUTS NAMES INTO SPACE WAS USED THE THEME OF A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONDUCTED IN THE WESTERN STATES WHICH LED TO REGISTRATION OF ABOUT 50,000 NEW SCOUTS, ACCORDING TO SCOUTING OFFICIALS.