

(MARIANAS STATUS TALKS SET)

SAIPAN, APRIL 4 (MNS)---THE FOURTH-ROUND OF STATUS TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION IS TENTATIVELY SET TO BEGIN MAY 15, ACCORDING TO SEN. EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS GROUP. DEPENDING ON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS, THE SITE IS TENTATIVELY SET FOR EITHER HONOLULU HAWAII, THE COMMISSION'S FIRST PRIORITY, OR SAIPAN, AS ITS SECOND CHOICE. 1974 11

THE TIMETABLE WAS SET BY SENATOR PANGELINAN AND AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT NIXON'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, IN HAWAII LATE LAST MONTH. SEN. PANGELINAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN VICENTE N. SANTOS TRAVELLED TO HAWAII TO MEET WITH WILLIAMS TO MAKE PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS.

LAST WEEKEND, THE 15-MEMBER MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION, WENT TO GUAM FOR AN INFORMAL MEETING WITH THE GUAM POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, HEADED BY SEN. FRANK LUJAN. ACCORDING TO PANGELINAN, THE MEETING WAS VERY INFORMAL AND INVOLVED A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS ON MILITARY MATTERS AND AN EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS AND VIEWS REGARDING THE GENERAL ISSUE OF POLITICAL STATUS.

THE SUBJECT OF MARIANAS RE-INTEGRATION WAS ALSO BROUGHT UP DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING BUT THERE WERE NO SERIOUS DISCUSSION ON IT, SENATOR PANGELINAN TOLD MNS.

(COLEMAN SIGNS THREE BILLS)

SAIPAN, APRIL 4 (MNS)---THREE MORE BILLS WERE SIGNED INTO LAW BY DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN THIS WEEK. ACTION ON THE BILLS CAME LATE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (APRIL 3). THEY ARE THE EIGHT, NINTH AND TENTH BILLS TO BE SIGNED INTO LAW SO FAR AS PART OF THE FORTY-SIX BILLS PASSED BY THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION, FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THIS YEAR.

SIGNED INTO PUBLIC LAW 5-59 IS A MEASURE RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANS IN LAND MATTERS IN WHICH A MINOR HAS AN INTEREST (SB 212). THE BILL IS TO CLARIFY AND EXPAND PROVISIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO SUCH APPOINTMENTS TO SAFEGUARD THE RIGHTS OF SUCH MINORS.

PUBLIC LAW 5-61 IS A MEASURE WHICH BROADENS THE DEFINITION OF "DANGEROUS DEVICE" CONTAINED IN THE WEAPONS CONTROL ACT (HB 174). THE MEASURE'S PURPOSE IS TWO-FOLD. IT INCLUDES ADDITIONAL COMMON WEAPONS SUCH AS SWITCHBLADE AND GRAVITY BLADE KNIVES; BLACKJACKS; DAGGERS, METAL, WOODEN, OR SHARK'S TOOTH KNUCKLES, IN THE DEFINITION OF DANGEROUS DEVICE, WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF PROHIBITING THEIR POSSESSION WHEN "UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES...POSSESSION SERVES NO LAWFUL PURPOSE. OTHER SECTION OF THE BILL PRESCRIBE RULES REGARDING POSSESSION OF WEAPONS ABOARD VEHICLES AND VESSELS.

PUBLIC LAW 5-62 IS A BILL APPROPRIATING \$42,000 FOR THE OPERATING AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY PERSONNEL BOARD FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR (HB 215).

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE ALSO RECEIVED FIVE MORE BILLS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. THEY ARE: A BILL APPROPRIATING \$30,000 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTINUING AND EXPANDING CERTAIN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS PREVIOUSLY FUNDED BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA, (HB 211); A BILL RELATING TO THE TRUST TERRITORY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY PROTECTION ACT, (HB 249); A BILL RELATING TO ABANDONED WATERCRAFT, (HB 197); A BILL TO EXTEND THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SALARY PLAN, TO PROVIDE FOR CONGRESS ADVICE AND CONSENT OVER CERTAIN CHIEFS OF DIVISIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR PERIODIC ROTATION OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, (SB 276); AND A MEASURE TO SPECIFY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS ON THE IMPORTATION OF NON-RESIDENT WORKERS, (HB 204).

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THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS 30 DAYS FROM THE DAY ON WHICH HE OFFICIALLY RECEIVED THE BILLS TO ACT ON THEM. FIVE MORE BILLS REMAIN TO BE TRANSMITTED.

(PALAU LEGISLATURE CONVENES)

KOROR, APRIL 4 (MNS)---THE FIFTH PALAU LEGISLATURE, SIXTH REGULAR SESSION CONVENED TUESDAY MORNING (APRIL 2) AT THE LEGISLATURE BUILDING ON KOROR, ACCORDING TO DEPUTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR HARJO REMELIUK IN A DISPATCH TO DEPUTY-HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER T. COLEMAN.

INCUMBENT SPEAKER ITELBAK LUII HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED FOR ANOTHER ONE YEAR TERM, WITH VICE-SPEAKER SADANG SILMAI ALSO RE-ELECTED. LEGISLATOR GEORGE NGIRARSAOL WAS ALSO RE-ELECTED AS FLOOR LEADER. ACCORDING TO REMELIUK, NO CHANGES WERE MADE IN THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE INDIVIDUAL STANDING COMMITTEES AND OTHER TWO COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATURE.

RE-APPOINTED TO SERVE ARE FUMIO N. RENGIL, CHAIRMAN, AND SANTOS OLIKONG, CO-CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS; RONALD SAKUMA, CHAIRMAN, AND TADAO NGOTEL, CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT; SHIRO KYOTA, CHAIRMAN AND TEM OBAKEBAU, CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE; AND JOSHUA KOSHIBA, CHAIRMAN AND WENTY GONGNEY, CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE.

SPEAKER LUII CHAIRS THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHILE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT IS CHAIRED BY VICE-SPEAKER SILMAI.

DEPUTY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR REMELIUK IS SCHEDULED TO DELIVER THE "STATE OF THE DISTRICT MESSAGE" ON FRIDAY, (APRIL 5) AT 10:00 A.M., IN THE ABSENCE OF DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR THOMAS REMENGESAU WHO IS IN WASHINGTON FOR BUDGET HEARINGS.

(MOC GRADUATION)

KOROR, APRIL 4 (MNS)---THE WINTER GRADUATION OF THE MICRONESIAN OCCUPATIONAL CENTER IN KOROR, PALAU, WAS HELD LAST WEEK, ACCORDING TO PALAU PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER DAVID NGIRMIKOL. NINETY-FIVE STUDENT GRADUATES RECEIVED THEIR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION AFTER HAVING SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED ALL COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR 18 MONTHS. THIS GRADUATION IS THE LARGEST IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF GRADUATES EVER HELD BY MOC SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1969.

THE STUDENTS RECEIVED THEIR CERTIFICATES FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF TRADES IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES: FIFTEEN FROM AUTO MECHANICS, TEN FROM CLERICAL, THREE FROM CLOTHING AND DESIGN, SIX FROM DENTAL NURSING, TWENTY-THREE FROM CONSTRUCTION AND CARPENTRY, TEN FROM CONSTRUCTION MASONRY, EIGHT FROM DIESEL AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT, SEVEN FROM FOOD SERVICE AND THIRTEEN FROM SMALL ENGINE REPAIR.

ALSO, TOP STUDENTS FROM EACH SECTION RECEIVED AWARDS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES. THEY ARE: FRANK CABRERA OF THE MARIANAS, AUTO MECHANICS; LUIS DIAZ ALSO FROM THE MARIANAS, DENTAL NURSING; ISAIAS OITERONG FROM PALAU FOR CONSTRUCTION AND CARPENTRY; SKI KERTOU ALSO FROM PALAU IN THE AREA OF DIESEL AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT; KEDSEL HERNIST FROM TRUK IN THE AREA OF CLOTHING AND DESIGN; BILLY JOHNNY OF PONAPE, CONSTRUCTION MASONRY; AND ATRU TOKEAK FROM THE MARSHALLS, SMALL ENGINE REPAIR. JOSEPH LOWY FROM PONAPE RECEIVED HONORARY MENTION FOR HE WAS THE ONLY GRADUATE OF MULTI-MEDIA. LUIS DIAZ OF THE MARIANAS RECEIVED A SPECIAL HONOR FOR BEING AN OUTSTANDING STUDENT. HE DELIVERED BRIEF REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE GRADUATING CLASS.

MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FRANCISCO C. ADA WAS THE GUEST SPEAKER. IN HIS REMARKS, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR ADA POINTED OUT THAT MICRONESIANS HAVE OVERLOOKED THE DEVELOPMENT OF MICRONESIA'S GREATEST NATURAL RESOURCES, ITS YOUNG PEOPLE. "WE HAVE BEEN TOO DEPENDENT ON WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK MIGHT BE GOOD FOR US,"

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HE DECLARED. HE ADDED THAT "PROGRESS IS INEVITABLE WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT. WE ARE ALL ISLANDERS AND THEREFORE, THE DOOR OF EACH DISTRICT MUST BE OPEN SO THAT WE, MICRONESIANS, CAN EXCHANGE IDEAS AND SHARE SKILLS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR ISLANDS."

IN CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS, THE MARIANAS DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR PRAISED PALAU DISTAD THOMAS REMENGESAU AND PALAU HIGH CHIEF IBEDUL FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF MOC AND MOC DIRECTOR WILHELM RENGIL FOR HIS OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN RUNNING MOC. ADA POINTED OUT TO THE GRADUATES: "WE MUST BUILD OUR STRONG FOUNDATION FOR OUR FUTURE. YOU MUST SHARE YOUR SKILLS WITH OTHERS."

OTHER REMARKS WERE MADE BY JOHN SALAS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ON GUAM, AND JIMMY MOIKENA, MANAGER OF THE PALAU CONTINENTAL HOTEL. OTHER DIGNITARIES WHO WERE PRESENT WERE SAIPAN MAYOR VICENTE D. SABLAN; HIGH CHIEF IBEDUL YUTAKA GIBBONS; ALFONSE OITERONG, DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND MEMBERS OF THE MOC ADMINISTRATION.

(KWAJALEIN ACCOMODATIONS SCARCE)

KWAJALEIN, APRIL 4 (MNS)---THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPRESENTATIVE ON KWAJALEIN, IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, MURPHY OWNBY, REPORTS THAT THE LIMITED VISITOR ACCOMODATIONS ON THE ARMY MISSILE RANGE ARE EXTREMELY BUSY, AND THERE WILL BE NO TRANSIENT ACCOMODATIONS AVAILABLE FROM NOW UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE--PROBABLY MID-MAY OR LATER.

"ALL PERSONS, OFFICIAL OR OTHERWISE, MUST HAVE CONFIRMED ACCOMODATIONS THROUGH THE DISTAD REP, KWAJALEIN BEFORE TRAVELLING TO KWAJALEIN," OWNBY SAYS. NORMALLY CASUAL VISITORS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO VISIT KWAJALEIN ANYWAY, BUT EVEN TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TRAVELLING ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS ARE CAUTIONED NOT TO UNDERTAKE ANY TRAVEL THAT INVOLVES AN OVERNIGHT STAY ON KWAJALEIN WITHOUT FIRST CONFIRMING ACCOMODATIONS WITH OWNBY'S OFFICE.

(NOTE TO RADIO STATIONS: THE KWAJ DISTADREP WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THE ABOVE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS, TO DISCOURAGE ALL TRAVEL TO KWAJALEIN.)

(TAX REFUNDS READY)

SAIPAN, APRIL 4 (MNS)---CHIEF OF THE REVENUE DIVISION, JESUS P. MAFNAS, ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK THAT THE TRUST TERRITORY INCOME TAX REFUND CHECKS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1973 HAVE BEEN SENT OUT TO THE DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICERS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE TAXPAYERS FRIDAY (APRIL 5).

MAFNAS EXPLAINED THAT SECTION 252(2), TITLE 77 OF THE IT CODE, ALLOWS A DEDUCTION OF \$1,000 PER YEAR FROM ALL WAGES AND SALARIES TO THREE PERCENT TAX. HE REPORTED THAT NOT ALL EMPLOYEES WILL RECEIVE THEIR REFUND CHECKS BECAUSE SOME EMPLOYERS HAVE NOT FILED THEIR WAGE AND TAX STATEMENTS. ALSO, SOME TAX STATEMENTS FAILED TO REACH THE REVENUE DIVISION ON TIME TO BE INCLUDED WITH THE REFUNDS THAT WERE SENT TO THE DISTRICTS THIS WEEK.

HE STATED THAT HIS DIVISION WILL PROCESS THE REFUNDS FOR THE SECOND GROUP ON A LATER DATE. MAFNAS ENCOURAGED THOSE EMPLOYEES WHOSE EMPLOYERS FAILED TO FILE THEIR WAGE AND TAX STATEMENTS TO REMIND THEIR EMPLOYERS TO TAKE ACTION ON THEM. HE SAID THAT HIS OFFICE WILL START PROCESSING THE REFUNDS AS SOON AS THE INCOME TAX STATEMENTS ARE RECEIVED.

ACCORDING TO MAFNAS, THERE ARE SOME 25,056 EMPLOYEES BOTH IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR WHO WILL RECEIVE REFUND CHECKS TOTALLING \$590,732. THE REVENUE DIVISION REVEALS THAT 1,783 EMPLOYEES WILL RECEIVE CHECKS RANGING FROM ONE CENT TO \$2.99; 2,874, BETWEEN \$3.00 AND \$9.99; 2,181, BETWEEN \$10.00 AND \$19.99; AND 13,219, BETWEEN 20.00 AND \$30.00.

STATISTICS ALSO SHOW THAT A TOTAL OF SOME \$202,600 IN

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REFUND CHECKS WILL BE CIRCULATED IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT FRIDAY WHEN THE CHECKS ARE RELEASED TO THE EMPLOYEES, THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF ANY DISTRICT. FOR PALAU DISTRICT \$57,000 IS EXPECTED TO BE CIRCULATED; YAP, \$22,500; TRUK, \$68,500; PONAPE, \$68,000 AND MARIANAS, \$160,300.

THERE ARE STILL UNCLAIMED REFUND CHECKS FOR CALENDAR YEARS 1971 AND 1972 AMOUNTING TO \$9,600 AND \$2,600 RESPECTIVELY. MAFNAS URGED THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED THEIR REFUND CHECKS FOR THESE TWO YEARS TO WRITE TO THE REVENUE DIVISION THROUGH THE DISTRICT REVENUE OFFICERS STATING THEIR NAMES, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, AND NAMES OF EMPLOYERS FOR THEIR REFUNDS.