

(ORDER NO. 2969 RECEIVED)

1975

SAIPAN, JANUARY 8 (MNS)---SECRETARIAL ORDER NO. 2969 EFFECTING THE TRANSFER OF TRUST TERRITORY PUBLIC LANDS TO DISTRICT CONTROL WAS MADE AVAILABLE WEDNESDAY (JANUARY 8) TO THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE. THE ORDER, WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE ON DECEMBER 26, 1974 WHEN INTERIOR SECRETARY ROGERS C.B. MORTON SIGNED IT, WILL BECOME PART OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE.

File 11

COMPRISING OF TWELVE SECTIONS, THE NEW LAW AUTHORIZES EACH OF THE TRUST TERRITORY DISTRICT LEGISLATURE TO CREATE OR DESIGNATE A LEGAL ENTITY WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION TO HOLD TITLE TO PUBLIC LANDS IN TRUST FOR THE PEOPLE OF THAT DISTRICT. IT ALSO EMPOWERS THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES TO ENACT LAW PROVIDING FOR THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN AND TO ESTABLISH ADJUDICATORY BODIES WHICH MAY USE TRADITIONAL MEANS, WHEN APPROPRIATE, FOR SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS OR RIGHTS IN THE LANDS TRANSFERRED. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CONVEY "CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS" TO SUCH LEGAL ENTITIES WHEN FORMALLY REQUESTED BY THE DISTRICT LEGISLATURES.

THE PUBLIC LANDS TO BE RETURNED TO DISTRICT CONTROL ARE DEFINED IN THE SECRETARIAL ORDER AS FOLLOWS: "(1) THOSE LANDS DEFINED AS PUBLIC LANDS BY SECTION 1 AND 2, TITLE 67, OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE EXCEPT THOSE LANDS DESIGNATED AS MILITARY RETENTION LANDS HELD, USED, OR OCCUPIED BY THE UNITED STATES UNDER USE AND OCCUPANCY AGREEMENTS AND NOT RETURNED TO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, (2) THOSE LANDS PLACED UNDER CONTROL OF THE "ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN" AS DEFINED BY SECTION 1, TITLE 27 OF THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE, EXCEPT THOSE LANDS DESIGNATED AS MILITARY RETENTION LANDS HELD, USED, OR OCCUPIED BY THE UNITED STATES UNDER USE AND OCCUPANCY AGREEMENTS AND NOT RETURNED TO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN."

PUBLIC LANDS THAT WILL NOT BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY TO DISTRICT CONTROL ARE IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES: (1) LAND ACTIVELY USED BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, ITS AGENCIES, OR SUBDIVISIONS, (2) PUBLIC LANDS SPECIFICALLY DETERMINED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BE NEEDED FOR CURRENTLY PLANNED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS EXTENDING FIVE YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDER. ALSO, PUBLIC LANDS TO WHICH THERE ARE VALID HOMESTEAD ENTRY PERMITS, OR CERTIFICATES EVIDENCING COMPLIANCE WITH SUCH PERMITS AND TO WHICH DEEDS HAVE NOT BEEN ISSUED AS OF DECEMBER 26, 1974 WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

THE COMPLETE TEXT OF SECRETARIAL ORDER 2969 WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS IN ITS JANUARY 15 ISSUE.

(COPRA PRICE DROPPED)

SAIPAN, JANUARY 8 (MNS)---A RECENT REVIEW BY THE TRUST TERRITORY COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD ON THE WORLD MARKET SITUATION REVEALS THAT THE PRICE OF COPRA, THE TT'S PRINCIPAL EXPORT COMMODITY, WILL HAVE TO COME DOWN FROM ITS PRESENT HIGH LEVEL OF \$425 A TON BY \$100, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 9, 1975.

THE COPRA PRICE REDUCTION WAS ANNOUNCED BY TRUST TERRITORY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT WILLIAM H. STEWART.

STEWART SAID THE TT COPRA STABILIZATION BOARD DECIDED TO REDUCE COPRA PRICES AT ITS MEETING ON SAIPAN TUESDAY (JAN. 7).

IN A MESSAGE TO ALL LICENSED COPRA BUYERS AND DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS, STEWART INDICATED THAT THE NEW PRICES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS: \$300 FOR GRADE ONE, \$290 FOR GRADE TWO AND \$280 FOR GRADE THREE FOR COPRA DELIVERED TO THE DISTRICT CENTERS; \$275 FOR GRADE ONE, \$265 FOR GRADE TWO, AND \$255 FOR GRADE

THREE FOR COPRA PICKED UP BY THE TT FIELD TRIP VESSELS; AND \$265 FOR GRADE ONE, \$255 FOR GRADE TWO AND \$245 FOR GRADE THREE FOR COPRA PICKED UP BY PRIVATE SHIP OWNERS AT OUTER ISLANDS LOCATIONS.

(EEL SURVEY IN PONAPE)

PONAPE, JAN. 8 (MNS)---A JAPANESE SCIENTIST FROM THE JAPAN EEL COMPANY IS CONDUCTING A SURVEY ON THE AVAILABILITY OF YOUNG EELS, ESPECIALLY THE CONGER EELS, IN THE FRESHWATER STREAMS OF PONAPE.

KOKI OZAKI HAIBARA WILL BE ON PONAPE FOR ABOUT A WEEK DOING HIS RESEARCH.

THE JAPANESE SCIENTIST MET WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE PONAPE FISHING AUTHORITY AND THE FISHERY SPECIALIST TO EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT. HAIBARA WILL MEET AGAIN WITH THE FISHERY SPECIALIST, MARINE RESOURCES PERSONNEL AND MEMBERS OF THE PONAPE FISHING AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS HIS FINDINGS. HE IS BEING ASSISTED BY MARINE RESOURCES STAFF IN HIS SURVEY.

(ESG WORKSHOP IN TRUK)

MOEN, JANUARY 8 (MNS)---A WORKSHOP FOR THE TRUK TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT (ESG) BEGAN MONDAY (JAN. 6) WITH A DISCUSSION ON THE UPCOMING MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (CONCON). THE WORKSHOP IS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE ON ESG TO ASSIST THE LOCAL TASK FORCE IN DESIGNING THEIR PROGRAMS.

THE ESG WORKSHOP WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AND WILL TAKE UP SUCH TOPICS AS THE DRAFT COMPACT, INDEPENDENCE AND COMMONWEALTH.