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(HICOM STATE OF THE TERRITORY MESSAGE)

SAIPAN, JAN. 20 (MNS) --- TRUST TERRITORY HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON DELIVERED HIS "STATE OF THE TERRITORY MESSAGE" MONDAY (JAN. 20) TO A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AND A PACKED GALLERY OF SPECTATORS IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER.

CITING CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS MADE IN HIS SIX YEARS OF ADMINISTRATION, HICOM JOHNSTON SAID.

THE TRUST TERRITORY'S BUDGET HAS INCREASED FROM \$30 MILLION IN 1969 TO \$60 MILLION IN FY 1975, WITH A PENDING REQUEST TO INCREASE IT TO \$75 MILLION.

IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION MORE THAN 451 ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED, WITH 86 MORE PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THIRTY-FOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN BUILT, AND FIVE ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED.

IN 1969, THERE WAS NO PROGRAM OF SPECIAL EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN. TODAY, HE SAID, THERE ARE PROGRAMS IN ALL DISTRICTS AND BETWEEN 400 TO 500 CHILDREN ARE NOW RECEIVING DIRECT SERVICES FROM THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.

JOHNSTON NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION STUDENTS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY HAD GROWN TO 5,002. HE ALSO NOTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA IN FONAPE DISTRICT, WHICH ENROLLS ABOUT 125 STUDENTS AND OFFERS AS DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION. A MASTER PLAN HAS BEEN DEVELOPED FOR A NEW FACILITY TO HANDLE UP TO 400 STUDENTS.

THE NUMBER OF MICRONESIAN STUDENTS PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE TRUST TERRITORY HAS GROWN TO OVER 1,000 COMPARED WITH 1969 WHEN THERE WERE 445 STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOL OUTSIDE THE TRUST TERRITORY.

IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER REPORTED PROGRESS IN THE AREA OF TOURISM, EXPORTS, THE NUMBER OF HOTELS ROOMS, AND A TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN DOMESTIC EGG PRODUCTION.

THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER SAID, HAS EMBARKED ON A NEW DIRECTION IN A PROGRAM OF ACTION IN PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. "INVOLVES IDENTIFYING MARINE RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, TOURISM PROJECTS, DETERMINING THEIR PROFIT POTENTIAL, ASSIGNING RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION, LOCATION AND PROCUREMENT OF FINANCING, AND THE MONITORING OF PROGRESS BY THE ADMINISTRATION, THE CONGRESS AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS," JOHNSTON SAID.

"WE ARE MOST PLEASED THAT REPRESENTATIVE SASAUC HARUO, IN THE VERY FIRST SPEECH OF THIS SIXTH CONGRESS, STATE:

"THE FUTURE OF MICRONESIA DEPENDS UPON OUR ABILITY TO PLAN FOR OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT A NEW PHILOSOPHY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REACHED WITH THE CONGRESS AND THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL RESULT IN MORE EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC PLANNING. THIS PHILOSOPHY ENVISIONS A JOINT EFFORT AND TOTAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE TRUST TERRITORY."

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS COMPLETED MANY PROJECTS, INCLUDING THE NEW MAJURO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMPLEX, THE FONAPE DOCK AND MANY OTHERS FOR A TOTAL OF \$92.7 MILLION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS.

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EACH DISTRICT CAN NOW ACCOMMODATE THE LANDING OF JET AIRCRAFT, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER REPORTED," CERTAINLY NOT THE CASE IN 1969."

HE NOTED WITH SPECIAL CONCERN THE UNAVAILABILITY OF WATER-LANDING AIRCRAFT FOR MEDICAL AIR EVACUATIONS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND DEFENSE ARE GIVING CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

JOHNSTON ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION ON THE FUTURE-POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS.

THE TT HICOM ALSO DESCRIBED TO THE CONGRESS THE EFFORTS OF THE HEADQUARTERS TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR SELF-SELF-GOVERNMENT (ESSG) WHICH GAINED MOMENTUM DURING THE YEAR. THE ESSG'S FIRST MAJOR AUDIO VISUAL PROJECT WAS READY FOR DISTRIBUTION. THE GREAT BULK OF ALL ESSG MATERIAL--PRINTED, RADIO, OR AUDIO VISUAL--IS TRANSLATED INTO NONE MAJOR LANGUAGES OF MICRONESIA.

AS A PRE-TRANSITION MEASURE TOWARD A CHANGE IN FUTURE STATUS, JOHNSTON NOTED, MORE AND MORE MICRONESIANS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN KEY POSITIONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT 65 PERCENT OF ALL FILED POSITIONS SUBJECT TO ADVICE AND CONSENT BY THE CONGRESS ARE HELD BY MICRONESIANS AND URGED THE CONGRESS TO APPROVE NOMINATIONS TO SEVERAL MORE POSITIONS.

WITH THE PRESENT BUDGET RESTRICTION, HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON TOLD THE CONGRESS THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID EXPANSION IN THE NUMBER OF TT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES "DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE ARE CONSTANTLY PUTTING IN PLACE NEW CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS."

THE TT CHIEF EXECUTIVE THEN PRESENTED THE CONGRESSMEN WHAT HE CALLED "THE MOST PERPLEXING CHALLENGES" FACING THEM--- "THE PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH PAY SCALES FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES."

HE ALSO BRIEFED THE CONGRESS ON THE CREATION OF A TASK FORCE ON SALARIES AND COST OF LIVING CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS. THIS TASK FORCE WILL WORK TO FIND MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS SUCH AS GOVERNMENT SALARIES AND THE RISING COST OF LIVING THROUGHOUT THE TRUST TERRITORY. "IT IS INTENDED THAT THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE WILL RESULT IN THE NECESSARY LEGISLATION TO THESE CONCERNS," THE HICOM ASSERTED.

"THE EVENTUAL DECISIONS ON GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' PAY MUST BE MADE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS," JOHNSTON CONTINUED. "YOU MUST ESTABLISH A WAGE SCALE WHICH IS BOTH EQUITABLE TO THE EMPLOYEES AND ECONOMICALLY POSSIBLE."

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FISHING AUTHORITIES IN EACH DISTRICT, THE HICOM COMMENTED, SHOWS EVERY INDICATION OF BEING AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS. HE URGED THE CONGRESSMEN TO READ THE REPORT ON THEIR PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS AND ASSIST THE ADMINISTRATION IN IMPLEMENTING AS MANY OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AS POSSIBLE.

HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON TOUCHED UPON THE VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN WHICH THE TRUST TERRITORY HAS BEEN A MEMBER, SUCH AS THE PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION, THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME. HE SAID THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT AS THE TT MOVES TOWARD A NEW POLITICAL STATUS AND BECOMES A MORE DEVELOPED AREA.

THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ALSO RECALLED HIS STATE OF THE TERRITORY MESSAGE IN JULY OF 1972 IN WHICH HE SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS NOT CHOSEN CHIEF EXECUTIVE BY THE ELECTORATE, HE IS CONSTANTLY AWARE OF HIS DUTY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND TO MEET WITH AS MANY OF THEM AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO RECALLED A STATEMENT HE MADE AT THE PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF LEGISLATORS IN WHICH HE REMARKED THAT HE WOULD TRY TO CONDUCT HIS ADMINISTRATION IN THE TT AS THOUGH HE HAD BEEN ELECTED GOVERNOR.

"THAT STATEMENT IS AS TRUE TODAY AS IT WAS THEN, DESPITE THE MANY AND VARIED EXTERNAL PRESSURES WHICH ARE INEVITABLY BOURGHT TO BEAR UPON THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

"I HAVE ALWAYS CONTENDED, AND STILL STRONGLY CONTEND, THAT THE INDIVIDUAL SERVING IN THIS DIFFICULT AND OFTEN THANKLESS POSITION CAN BE A COMPLETELY LOYAL AMERICAN CITIZEN AND YET BE PRIMARILY MOTIVATED TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT WHICH ESTABLISHES THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS YOUR ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY," THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CONCLUDED.

(CONGRESS REPORT)

SAIPAN, JAN. 20 (MNS)---HIGH COMMISSIONER EDWARD E. JOHNSTON ADDRESSED A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (COM) MONDAY MORNING (JAN. 20) GIVING HIS ANNUAL STATE OF THE TERRITORY ADDRESS.  
(SEE ABOVE STORY)

IN OTHER COMM ACTIVITIES, THE SENATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE CONTINUED ITS PUBLIC HEARINGS WITH TESTIMONY FROM TRUK ELECTION OFFICIALS AND OTHER INVOLVED PERSONS. THE COMMITTEE IS DECIDING ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO SEAT SENATOR-ELECT NECK BOSSY OF TRUK. FORMER SENATOR ADON AMARAICH CHARGED THAT ALLEGED ELECTION IRREGULARITIES DURING THE NOVEMBER ELECTION CAUSED THE ELECTION TO BE UNFAIR AND NOT NECESSARILY THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

SCHEDULED TO TESTIFY MONDAY (JAN. 20) WERE KASPER, STATION MANAGER OF WSZC IN TRUK; FABIAN FAREK, ELECTION REGISTRAR, IN TRUK; ISKIA SONY, LEGISLATIVE LIAISON OFFICER, TRUK; AND KENGCHY JAMES, CHAIRMAN OF TRUK'S ELECTION BOARD.

FIVE BILLS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE IN A SHORT SESSION HELD BEFORE THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ADDRESS. THEY ARE: A BILL TO GIVE THE TRADITIONAL CHIEFS WHO ARE DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION THE RIGHT TO VOTE, (SB 6-38); A NATURALIZATION MEASURE, (SB 6-39); A BILL RELATED TO INTEREST RATES ON LOANS MADE FROM FUNDS BORROWED BY THE TERRITORIAL HOUSING COMMISSION OR DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITY FROM COMMERCIAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, (SB YARPLV TO PERMIT DISTRICT LEGISLATURES TO DETERMINE THE RIGHTS OF NONCITIZENS AND CORPORATIONS PARTIALLY ORWHOLLY OWNED BY NONCITIZENS TO OWN LAND IN A DISTRICT, (SB 6-41); AND A MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN CARE AND BENEFITS TO THE PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS EXPOSED TO THE MARCH 1, 1954, H-BOMB TEST FALLOUT AND TO PROVIDE FOR CARE AND BENEFITS TO CERTAIN OTHER PEOPLE FROM RONGELAP AND UTITIK, (SB 6-42).

BOTH HOUSES WILL CONVENE AT 10:00 TUESDAY MORNING.

13655

(FISHERMEN INJURED, ONE LOST)

SAIPAN, JAN. 20 (MNS)---TWO CREW MEMBERS OF THE KOREAN FISHING VESSEL HAENG BOK NO. 707 HAVE ENTERED THE KOROR HOSPITAL FOR TREATMENT OF INJURIES SUSTAINED IN A FISHING ACCIDENT OF YAP DISTRICT. ONE MAN WAS LOST AT SEA IN THE ACCIDENT AND IS PRESUMED DEAD.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM KOROR, THE 440-TONS HAENG BOK NO. 707 WAS FISHING SEVERAL MILES OF YAP ON JANUARY 13 WHEN AN UNUSUALLY LARGE WAVE STRUCK IT, INUNDATING EVERYTHING FROM BOW TO STERN. TWO OF THE THREE MEN FISHING FROM THE BOW OF THE BOAT WERE HURLED ON DECK AND A THIRD WAS WASHED OFF BOARD. ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE THE MISSING MAN WERE UNSUCCESSFUL AND THE BOAT SET FOR KOROR LATER IN THE DAY FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION THE THE TWO INJURED CREW MEMBERS.

PLAU DISTRICT OFFICIALS ARE INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT TO DETERMINE IF THE ALLEGED ACCIDENT DID INDEED TAKE PLACE AND NOT A COVER UP STORY FOR A FOUL PLAY THAT MIGHT HAVE OCCURED ON BOARD.

CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)  
(CON CON COMMITTEE WRAP-UP)

SAIPAN, JAN. 20 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE PRE CONVENTION COMMITTEE OF THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (CONCON) WRAPPED UP A BUSY WEEK OF WORK FRIDAY (JANUARY 17) IN WHICH DECISIONS WERE MADE ON THE LOCATION AND STAFFING OF THE CONVENTION AND OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS.

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RELEASED BY THE COMMITTEE, AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED WITH THE SOUTH SEAS HOTEL, INC., ON SAIPAN TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AND OFFICES FOR THE CONVENTION'S DELEGATES AND STAFF FOR THE 90-DAY MEETING BEGINNING JULY 12, 1975.

THE PERSONNEL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTED TO THE FULL COMMITTEE THAT TWO POSITION HAD ALREADY BEEN FILLED. DR. NORMAN MELLER, DIRECTOR OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS STUDIED PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII HSA BEEN RETAINED AS A CONSULTANT TO THE CONVENTION AND HAS GEGUN RESEARCH IN HAWAII ON CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES.

DR. P. F. KLUGE OF NEW YORK CITY, HAS ACCEPTED THE POSITION OF THE CONVENTION'S DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION. DR. KLUGE, A FORMER PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER, WORKED ON THE MICRONESIAN REPORTER AND WITH THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS DURING HIS STAY IN MICRONESIA.

PRE CONCON COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VICTORIO UHERBELAY WAS ALSO AUTHORIZED TO BEGIN ADVERTISING FOR APPLICANTS TO OTHER POSITIONS FOR THE CONVENTION.

THE COMMITTEE, ALSO DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW (PL 5-60) INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING; ESTABLISHMENT OF A CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, GRANTING OF VOTING RIGHTS TO TRADITIONAL CHIEF DELEGATES, PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE CONVENTION, GRANTING OF IMMUNITY TO DELEGATES FOR THEIR REMARKS ON THE CONVENTION FLOOR, AND ALSO FOR THEIR TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE CONVENTION AND PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MARSHALLESE DELEGATION.

DURNIGN THE WEEK-LONG MEETING THE PRE CONCON COMMITTEE ALSO MET WITH SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS N. WEIMAN CRALEY, JR. WHO REPORTED ON REFERENCE MATERIAL RECEIVED BY HIS OFFICE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE CONVENTION.

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JESUS P. MAFNASN CHIEF, OF THE TRUST TERRITORY REVENUE DIVISION DISCUSSED WITH THE COMMITTEE TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES TO AID THE HANDLING OF PRE CONCON, AND CONVENTION EXPENSE.

CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL KALEB UDUI APPEARED BEFORE THE GROUP TO DISCUS PROPOSED CONCON AMENDMENTS AND ALSO STAFF ASSISTANCE FROM HIS OFFICE TO THE CONVENTION AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

ATTENDING THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS WERE: PRE CONCON CHAIRMAN TOSIWO NAKAYAMA; AND CONCON DELEGATES LEO FALCAM, PONAPE; LORENZO CABRERA, MARIANAS; ISKIA SONY, TRUK; CARL HEINE, MARSHALLS; PETRUS TUN, YPA; AND JOHN NGIRAKED, PALAU.

ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE, IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THE PRE CONCON COMMITTEE WILL AGAIN MEET IN THE MIDDLE OF FEBRUARY.

HPW -

① Do you know Meller and if not is it worth finding out something about him or to make contact for staff level coordination purposes?

② You might ask Merman when you're in Saipan to make US workbooks available to us [IMPSC] too

MSH