

1975

(BABELTHUAP BRIDGE CONTRACT TERMINATED)

SAIPAN, JAN. 22 (MNS)---TRUST TERRITORY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS JAMES R. WHEFLER ANNOUNCED TODAY (JAN. 22) THAT THE CONTRACT FOR THE KOROR-BABELTHUAP BRIDGE TERMINATED FOR DEFAULT YESTERDAY (JAN. 21).

AT A MEETING IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY, THE NOTICE OF TERMINATION WAS PRESENTED TO S.S. YANG, REPRESENTING THE CONTRACTOR, AJU CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OF SECHUL, KOREA. THE NOTICE CITED FOUR ACTS AND OMISSIONS THAT CONSTITUTED THE DEFAULT. AJU COMPANY DID NOT PROVIDE AN ALTERNATE DESIGN SPEEDILY, DID NOT FURNISH PROOF OF FINANCIAL CAPABILITY, DID NOT SUBMIT CERTAIN MATERIAL SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED OF THEM, AND DID NOT DILIGENTLY PROSECUTE MATTERS THAT LEAD TO A NOTICE TO PROCEED WITH WORK.

"WE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN PATIENT IN THIS MATTER," SAID DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, JAMES R. WHEELER. "THE LENGTH OF TIME ALLOWED WAS UNUSUAL BUT JUSTIFIED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES. UNFORTUNATELY, AFTER THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, AJU COMPANY UNDERWENT A MASSIVE REORGANIZATION THAT SERIOUSLY REDUCED ITS CAPABILITY TO PERFORM THE WORK."

ALSO AT THE MEETING WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SURETY THAT HAD BONDED THE BRIDGE PROJECT, D. Y. CHUNG AND H. T. KIM OF THE KOREAN REINSURANCE CORPORATION, BASED IN AGANA, GUAM. THE SURETY IS NOW OBLIGATED TO MAKE SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BRIDGE. THEY HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WILL SUBMIT THEIR PLAN OF ACTION TO THE TRUST TERRITORY BY FEBRUARY 21, 1975. UPON APPROVAL OF THE PLAN WORK ON THE PROJECT WILL COMMENCE.

Handwritten notes:
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(NURSING SCHOOL LOST ITS ACCREDITATION)

SAIPAN, JAN. 22 (MNS)---WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED ON SAIPAN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM THAT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, THAT INSTITUTION WILL NO LONGER BE AWARDEING ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE TO GRADUATES FOR THE TRUST TERRITORY SCHOOL OF NURSING OF NURSING ON SAIPAN, ACCORDING TO IT DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES DR. MASAO KUMANGAI.

THE TT SCHOOL OF NURSING HAS LOST ITS AFFILIATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GUAM BECAUSE OF DEFICIENCY IN THE SCHOOL'S PROGRAMS. ONE OF THE REASONS IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE SCHOOL'S DESPERATE NEED FOR QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS TO TEACH ADVANCE COURSES THAT ARE NOT CURRENTLY INCLUDED IN THE SCHOOL'S PROGRAM; ALSO THE SCHOOL HAS BEEN HANDICAPPED IN ITS TEACHING SINCE THE TRUST TERRITORY LOCAL HIRE POLICY WENT INTO EFFECT WHICH RESULTED IN THE RESIGNATION OF TWO NURSE INSTRUCTORS LAST SEPTEMBER.

THE TRUST TERRITORY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY RECRUITING ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTORS FOR THE SCHOOL AND AT THE MOMENT IS EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF RE-ESTABLISHING A COLLEGIATE LEVEL PROGRAM.

(HOUSE AGAIN DEFERRED ACTION ON CREDENTIALS REPORT)

SAIPAN, JANUARY 22 (MNS)---THE MAIN ACTION ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WEDNESDAY MORNING (JAN. 22) WAS FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT OF THE HOUSE SPECIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN JOSE P. MARIANAS (MARIANAS), THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, ATTEMPTED TO HAVE THE REPORT WHICH WAS SUBMITTED TUESDAY AFTERNOON (JAN. 21), ADOPTED. THE COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED SEATING CONGRESSMEN-ELECT CHIRO ALBERT OF TRUK FROM THE 17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT AND EDGAR EDWARD FROM THE 14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT IN PONAPE. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT CONGRESSMAN ELECT LAMBERT AAFIN FROM THE 18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT IN TRUK BE DENIED HIS SEAT AND URGED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CALL A SPECIAL ELECTION IN THAT PREINCT.

BEFORE THE HOUSE COULD VOTE TO ADOPT THE REPORT, FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN HERMAN R. GUERRERO (GUERRERO) SAID IN HIS SECOND PREPARED SPEECH THAT HE IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO SEAT MEMBERS ELECT FROM THE 14TH AND 17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS AND FURTHER URGED THE HOUSE TO SEAT THE CONGRESSMAN-ELECT LAMBERT AAFIN, WHOSE ELECTION IS UNDERGOING INVESTIGATION BY THE HOUSE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE. (SEE FOLLOWING STORY).

FLOOR LEADER LUKE TMAN (YAP) MOVED TO DEFER ACTION ON THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMITTEE DRAFT THREE SEPARATE REPORTS, ONE ON EACH OF THE THREE CONGRESSMEN-ELECT, AND FURTHER STUDY THE QUESTION.

MARIANAS FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN OSCAR C. RASA DISAGREED WITH TMAN'S SUGGESTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED SEATING CONGRESSMEN-ELECT CHIRO ALBERT OF TRUK AND EDGAR EDWARD OF PONAPE AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOUSE NOW IS TO DISCUSS THE CREDENTIALS OF CONGRESSMAN-ELECT LAMBERT AAFIN OF TRUK ON WHETHER "HE IS QUALIFIED TO BE SEATED, OR WE HAVE TO CALL ANOTHER ELECTION." HE CAUTIONED HIS FELLOW LAWMAKERS "NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN POLITICAL MANIPULATION."

AFTER A BRIEF RECESS TO STUDY THE MOTION MADE BY CONGRESSMAN TMAN, THE MOTION TO REFER THE REPORT BACK TO THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER STUDY CARRIED.

IN OTHER HOUSE ACTIVITY, CONGRESSMAN RASA DELIVERED REMARKS CONDEMNING THE RECENT ACTIONS OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY IN RETURNING UNUSED PUBLIC LANDS THROUGH AN EXECUTIVE ORDER. HE CALLED THE UNITED STATES ACTION "MORALLY AND LEGALLY WRONG." (SEE FOLLOWING STORY)

EIGHT NEW BILLS WERE OFFERED IN THE HOUSE. THE BILLS WOULD: APPROPRIATE \$211,426 FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ON KWAJALEIN ATOLL IN THE MARSHALLS DISTRICT, (HB 6-44); DECLARE THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS VOID AND TO AUTHORIZE THE HICOM TO CALL A SPECIAL ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION FROM THAT DISTRICT, AND APPROPRIATE \$13,000 TO DEFRAY THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF HOLDING THE SPECIAL ELECTION, (HB 6-45); ADD A NEW SECTION TO THE CODE ALLOWING STUDENTS ON TT SCHOLARSHIPS TO RECEIVE PER DIEM WHILE ON TRAVEL STATUS TO AND FROM THE INSTITUTIONS ACCEPTING THEM, (HB 6-46); AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS TO CITIZEN OFFICIALS OF THE TT GOVERNMENT TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE TT ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF A DIPLOMATIC NATURE, (HB 6-47); AMEND THE ELECTION LAW TO PROVIDE THAT PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE APPENDED TO THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES ON PRINTED BALLOTS, (HB 6-48); APPROPRIATE

\$50,000 TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE A BLACK PEPPER PLANTATION IN PONAPE DISTRICT, (HB 6-49); A MEASURE SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN THE SENATE WHICH WOULD ENABLE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP TO APPOINT A DELEGATE TO THE CONCON FROM AMONG A DISTRICT'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IF NO DELEGATE HAS BEEN ELECTED BY APRIL 30, 1975, TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE PER DIEM RATE, AND PROVIDING FOR THE REFERENDUM OF THE CONSTITUTION TO BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY IN EACH DISTRICT (HB 6-50); AND A MEASURE TO ALLOW DELEGATES TO USE THE

SUM APPROPRIATED UNDER PUBLIC LAW 5-92 FOR INTRADISTRICT TRAVEL AND PER DIEM WHILE ON THE BUSINESS OF THE CONVENTION (HB 6-51). THE SAME MEASURE WAS INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE.

ONE HOUSE RESOLUTION WAS OFFERED. THE RESOLUTION EXTENDS CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO STEVE MILLER, BUDGET OFFICER OF THE CONGRESS, AND HIS WIFE, BEVERLY, UPON THE BIRTH OF THEIR BABY GIRL, NAMED DEIDRE, ON JANUARY 20, 1975.

THERE WAS LITTLE FLOOR ACTIVITY IN THE SENATE WEDNESDAY MORNING (JAN. 22). FOUR BILLS WERE OFFERED. THEY ARE: A MEASURE TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW 5-92 RELATING TO THE EXPENSES OF DISTRICT DELEGATIONS TO THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO ALLOW DELEGATES TO USE THE SUM APPROPRIATED UNDER THE LAW FOR INTRADISTRICT TRAVEL AND PER DIEM WHILE ON THE BUSINESS OF THE CONVENTION, (S.B. 6-51); A BILL AMENDING THE MICRONESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW (PL 5-60) TO ENABLE THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE TO APPOINT A DELEGATE AMONG THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IF NO DELEGATE HAS BEEN ELECTED BY APRIL 30, 1975 TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE PER DIEM RATE AND PROVIDING FOR THE REFERENDUM OF THE CONSTITUTION TO BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY IN EACH DISTRICT, (SB 6-52); TO PRESCRIBE MINIMUM WAGE AND OVERTIME COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYEES, (SB 6-53); AND A BILL TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE CONCERNING RONGELAP AND UTIRIK ATOLLS TO JANUARY 1, 1977, AND TO APPROPRIATE \$10,000 TO DEFRAY THE CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE, (SB 6-54).

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OLYMPIO T. BORJA (MARIANAS) TOLD THE SENATE THAT THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WERE CONCLUDED AND THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE A REPORT LATER THIS WEEK.

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE INTRODUCED DURING THE AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE HOUSE TUESDAY (JAN. 21) BUT WERE NOT MADE AVAILABLE TO THE MICRONESIAN NEWS SERVICE UNTIL WEDNESDAY MORNING (JAN. 22).

THE BILLS WERE: ESTABLISHING THE TIMIAN FARMER'S COOPERATIVE FUND AND APPROPRIATING \$5,000 TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, (HB 6-36); A MEASURE TO REQUIRE OCCUPANTS OF HOUSES OR LIVING UNITS PROVIDED BY THE TT GOVERNMENT TO PAY FAIR RENTAL CHARGES FOR SUCH PRIVILEGES, (HB 6-37); A BILL TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE TO MAKE CHILDREN BORN OUTSIDE THE TRUST TERRITORY OF PARENTS, ONE OF WHOM IS A TT CITIZEN, CONSIDERED A CITIZEN OF THE TT WHILE UNDER THE AGE OF 21, (HB 6-38); TO TERMINATE EDUCATION ALLOWANCES FOR DEPENDENTS OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACT EMPLOYEES, (HB 6-39); A BILL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION LAW (PL 5-60) TO MAKE ANY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WHO IS ELECTED A DELEGATE TO THE CONVENTION ENTITLED TO RECEIVE HIS REGULAR SALARY AND PER DIEM WHILE ON THE BUSINESS OF THE CONVENTION, (HB 5-42); A MEASURE TO AMEND PUBLIC LAW

5-31 CONCERNING THE EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS IN PALAU DISTRICT. (HB 6-41): TO APPROPRIATE \$60,700 TO DEFRAY THE OPERATING AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR FY '76, (HB 6-42); AND A MEASURE TO APPROPRIATE \$66,800 TO DEFRAY THE COST OF COMPLETING THE INSTALLATION OF UTILITIES, TO PURCHASE A BOAT, BLOCK MACHINE, AND FARM EQUIPMENT PARTS FOR RESIDENTS OF TINIAN, TO PROVIDE FOR OPERATION COST AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF TINIAN, AND TO CLEAR AND CLEAN BEACHES AND PARKS OF TINIAN ISLAND IN THE MARIANAS DISTRICT, (HB 6-43).

BOTH HOUSES WILL CONVENE AT 10:00 THURSDAY MORNING (JAN. 23).

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(GUERRERO REFUTES SETIK'S SPEECH)

SAIPAN, JAN. 22. (CONGRESS RELEASE)---"...NO PERSON WHO HAS VIOLATED THE LAWS OF MAN SHOULD BE PUNISHED FOREVER FOR COMMITTING AN ERROR AND FOR HAVING PAID THE PRICE FOR THAT ERROR," STATED CONGRESSMAN HERMAN R. GUERRERO TODAY (JAN. 22).

GUERRERO'S BRIEF SPEECH REFERRED TO REMARKS MADE DURING TUESDAY'S (JAN. 21) HOUSE SESSION BY TRUK CONGRESSMAN RAYMOND SETIK WHO SAID THAT TO SEAT A MEMBER-ELECT "PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED OF A FELONY" ALTHOUGH PARDONED, WOULD BE SETTING A "DANGEROUS PRECEDENT" SINCE IT IGNORES THE INTENT OF THE LAW.

THE MEMBER ELECT IN QUESTION IS EDGAR EDWARD WHO UNSEATED A FORMER MEMBER IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION CONTEST. EDGAR HAS RECEIVED FULL PARDON FROM THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR A PREVIOUS FELONY CONVICTION.

SAYING THAT HE SPEAKS WITH NO "ANIMOSITY" GUERRERO ACKNOWLEDGED "VALID POINTS" RAISED BY REPRESENTATIVE SETIK ON THE INTENT OF THE LAW, BUT FEELS THAT THE MANDATE OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE 14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT "HAVE INDICATED THEIR TRUST IN HIM BY SENDING HIM TO THIS CONGRESS AND THEREFORE, CONGRESS SHOULD NOT ACT CONTRARY TO THEIR TRUST, AND FURTHER WITHHOLD THE REPRESENTATION TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED."

GUERRERO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE POWER OF PARDON WILL ALWAYS BE USED WISELY BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AND NOT AS A MATTER OF "POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY." HE INDICATED THAT HE TOO WOULD SUPPORT SETIK'S POSITION HAD CONGRESS SEEN "MANY EXAMPLES TO THE CONTRARY."

THE MARIANAS FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN CONCLUDED THAT THE RECOMMENDATION BY THE SPECIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE SECRETARIAL ORDER AND THE TRUST TERRITORY CODE, SINCE THE MEMBER IN QUESTION HAS BEEN PARDONED.

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(RASA COMMENTS ON 2969)

SAIPAN, JAN. 22 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE RETURN OF MOST OF MICRONESIA'S PUBLIC LANDS BY AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR WAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED FOR A SECOND TIME IN THE MICRONESIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WEDNESDAY (JAN. 22).

FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN OSCAR CRUZ RASA OF THE MARIANAS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE LANDS ARE BEING RETURNED TO THE DISTRICTS, FINAL AUTHORITY OVER THE LANDS HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN TO THE DISTRICTS UNDER THE TERMS OF THE ORDER.

IN A STRONGLY-WORDED STATEMENT, RASA SAID ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAL ORDER 2969 ISSUED LAST MONTH, THE PARAMOUNT POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN WILL RESIDE NOT IN THE DISTRICTS, BUT IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF THE TRUST TERRITORY.

ECHOING SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY HOUSE VICE SPEAKER EKPAP SILK OF THE MARSHALLS LAST FRIDAY, RASA SAID IN HIS OPINION:

"NO DISTRICT COULD POSSIBLY AGREE TO ALLOW THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO HAVE THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN OVER THE DISTRICTS AS STATED IN THAT ORDER."

REFERRING TO HIS OWN DISTRICT, THE MARIANAS, HE EXPLAINED: "PUT INTO SIMPLE TERMS, THIS MEANS THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN OVER MARIANAS PUBLIC LANDS, WHICH IS 90 PER CEN OF THIS DISTRICT, DOES NOT RESIDE IN THE MARIANAS PEOPLE."

RASA LIKewise EXPLAINED THAT IN PALAU AND PONAPE DISTRICTS, WHERE PUBLIC LANDS REPRESENT 68 PER CEN AND 66 PER CEN OF THE TOTAL LAND AREAS RESPECTIVELY, FULL CONTROL OVER THESE LANDS WILL NOT REST IN THE LOCAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS UNDER CONDITIONS OF THE SECRETARIAL ORDER.

"WHO OWNS THESE LANDS AND WHO SHOULD HAVE FINAL AUTHORITY OVER THEM, THE DISTRICTS THEMSELVES OR THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT?"

IN HIS SPEECH, RASA ALSO DISAGED WITH THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT'S JUSTIFICATION FOR USING AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO RETURN THE LANDS, WHICH ACCORDING TO FORMER DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIES STANLEY S. CARPENTER, INCLUDED SUPPORT FROM THREE MICRONESIAN DISTRICTS.

"IN VIEW OF OUR PRESENT UNDERSTANDING OF THE ORDER, NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH," HE DECLARED. "WHEN IT COMES TO THE SENSITIVE LAND ISSUE, IN MY OPINION THERE ARE TWO CATEGORIES OF LEADERS IN MICRONESIA TODAY," HE EXPLAINED, "THOSE THAT UNDERSTAND THE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS OF THIS ORDER AND THOSE THAT DO NOT UNDERSTAND IT."

RASA SAID THOSE THAT UNDERSTAND THE ORDER HAVE REJECTED IT, AND "THE OTHERS HAVE NOT." HE SAID THE MAJOR PROBLEM IS THAT MANY MICRONESIAN LEADERS TODAY ARE SIMPLY "UNAWARE" OF THE "DETAILS" OF THE SECRETARIAL ORDER.

"THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DID NOT ASK ANY OF US WHO WE FELT SHOULD HAVE THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN YET THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN THAT POWER BY THE SECRETARIAL ORDER," DECLARED RASA.

"LIKewise, THE UNITED STATES DID NOT ASK US WHO SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTROL OUR SUBMERGED LANDS AND TIDAL AREAS, BUT AGAIN, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES, HAS ALSO TAKEN THAT POWER FOR ITSELF."

THE MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN SAID IN ADDITION TO NOT RETURNING MILITARY RETENTION LANDS TO THE DISTRICTS, THE UNITED STATES HAS "WASHED ITS HANDS" OF ALL UNSOLVED PAST LAND DISPUTES BY DECLARING ITSELF NO LONGER RESPONSIBLE FOR PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM OLD LAND CLAIMS.

DECRIBING THE UNITED STATES AS "GRACEFULLY WALKING OUT OF THE PICTURE" WHILE "PASSING THESE MESSY PROBLEMS TO THE DISTRICTS," RASA EXPLAINED THAT THE SECRETARIAL ORDER "ONLY RETURNS LANDS THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS WILLING TO RETURN" WHILE GIVING SIX DISTRICTS ONLY LIMITED POWERS OVER THOSE LANDS.

"IN SHORT," HE SAID, "FINAL AUTHORITY OVER THESE LANDS DOES NOT REST WITH THE DISTRICTS THEMSELVES, DESPITE AMERICAN CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY."

CONCERNING THE REPORTED ACCEPTANCE OF THE SECRETARIAL ORDER BY THE LEADERS OF HIS OWN MARIANAS DISTRICT, RASA SAID ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THEM, HE FELT ACCEPTANCE OF THE ORDER "IS NOT POSSIBLE" ONCE THE "DETAILS, CONDITIONS, AND LIMITATIONS OF DISTRICT AUTHORITY ARE FULLY UNDERSTOOD."

"I CAN ONLY SAY THAT IF THEY HAVE ALREADY ACCEPTED THE ORDER, IT HAS BEEN LARGELY FOR POLITICAL STATUS," HE SAID.

CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS, RASA SAID HE FOUND IT "IRONIC" THAT THE UNITED STATES, WHICH PLEDGED TO PROTECT MICRONESIAN LANDS UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT, "KEPT ITS PROMISE... ONLY AFTER GIVING ITSELF THE RIGHT TO TAKE THESE LANDS AGAIN, IF NECESSARY, EVEN WITHOUT OUR CONSENT."

RASA SAID IN HIS OPINION, THIS WAS "MORALLY AND LEGALLY WRONG."

(BERDON APPOINTED JUDICIARY DEPUTY DIR.)

SAIPAN, JAN. 22 (MNS)---THE TRUST TERRITORY JUDICIARY ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY (JAN. 22). THE APPOINTMENT OF ROKURO M. BERDON OF TRUK TO THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY COURTS, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 19, 1975. BERDON HAD BEEN WORKING IN THE JUDICIARY AS ASSISTANT CLERK OF COURTS, THEN CLERK OF COURTS FOR THE TRUK DISTRICT SINCE 1964.

HIS APPOINTMENT MARKS THE SECOND MICRONESIAN TO BE APPOINTED TO HIGH-LEVEL POSITION IN THE JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATION. HIS NEW DUTIES ARE PRIMARILY TO ASSIST THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURT, IN THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURTS THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA.

BERDON'S NEW DUTY STATION WILL BE AT THE JUDICIARY HEADQUARTERS IN SAIPAN, NOW LOCATED AT THE CIVIC CENTER, SUSUPE.

BERDON, 38, ARRIVED IN SAIPAN ON JANUARY 15, 1975, WITH HIS WIFE, THE FORMER MISS DOROTHY POU DIU, AND CHILDREN-TENESEE, MELVINA, RICHMOND AND EFNER, THEY ARE NOW RESIDING AT CHALAN LAULAU VILLAGE, SAIPAN.