

(CALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA) 1975
(BIGLER ADDRESSES CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)

SAIPAN, FEB. 3 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF REVENUE SHARING WAS THE SUBJECT OF A SPEECH MONDAY, THE FIRST EVER DELIVERED BY A FEMALE MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

INFORMING HER COLLEAGUES THAT SHE INTENDS ONLY TO SPEAK IN THE HOUSE ON MATTERS OF "GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MICRONESIA", FRESHMAN CONGRESSWOMAN CARMEN MILNE BIGLER SAID SHE FELT "HONORED, HUMBLLED, AND SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE," THAT HER MARSHALL ISLAND CONSTITUENTS CHOSE HER AS THE FIRST WOMAN IN MICRONESIA TO HOLD A POSITION OF "NATIONAL LEADERSHIP".

BUT GETTING ON TO THE ISSUES, BIGLER SAID, "REVENUE SHARING IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME."

POINTING OUT THAT AFTER ENACTMENT OF MICRONESIA'S FIRST 20 PERCENT REVENUE SHARING LAW LAST YEAR TO RETURN TAX MONEY TO THE DISTRICTS, THE ONLY ISSUE NOW IS "HOW MUCH-- WHAT SHARE OF THE TAX MONEY SHOULD BE RETURNED," BIGLER SAID SHE ADVOCATES INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF REVENUE RETURNED TO THE DISTRICTS FROM WAGES, SALARIES, AND GROSS RECEIPTS TAX TO 50 PERCENT, A CONCEPT STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE MARSHALLS DELEGATION FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS.

EXPLAINING THAT 57 PERCENT OF ALL TRUST TERRITORY TAX REVENUES COMES FROM THE MARSHALL ISLANDS DISTRICT, BIGLER DECLARED THAT "THAT DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF REVENUE COMES HAND-IN-HAND WITH A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF PROBLEMS."

"THE FACT IS," SHE DECLARED, "THAT MARSHALLS ARE LESS DEVELOPED AND HAVE LESS POTENTIAL THAN THE OTHER DISTRICTS. WE ARE MERELY TRYING TO CATCH UP."

"THAT MONEY COMES TO THE MARSHALLS WITH MANY STRINGS ATTACHED, AND AT A TREMENDOUS COST AND HARDSHIP TO MY PEOPLE," STATED THE MARSHALLS CONGRESSWOMAN. "MANY MICRONESIANS SPEAK OF THE ABUSE SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THE U.S. MILITARY, BUT WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, IT IS NOT THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUFFERED...IT IS THE MARSHALLESE PEOPLE."

SHE TOLD THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT IT WAS NOT THE PEOPLE OF MOKIL WHO WERE "INVOLUNTARILY DISPOSSESSED" FROM THEIR ATOLL, THAT IT WAS NOT THE PEOPLE OF YAP WHO HAD THEIR ISLANDS "TOTALLY OBLITERATED BY 33 NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS", THAT IT WAS NOT THE PEOPLE OF LUKUNOE WHO, AS SHE PUT IT, "ARE REVAGED BY RADIATION-RELATED DISEASES," OR THE PEOPLE OF KOROR WHO WERE "DISLOCATED" AND FORCED TO LIVE IN A "DREADFUL SLUM." IT IS THE MARSHALLESE PEOPLE OF ENIWETOK, BIKINI, RONGELAP, UTIRIK AND EBeye, SHE SAID.

"THE MILITARY HAS GIVEN US MONEY, BUT THEY HAVE ALSO GIVEN US TREMENDOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS. WE NEED MONEY TO TRY AND HELP SOLVE SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS, TO TRY TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI AND ENIWETOK REBUILD AND REGAIN THEIR HOME ISLANDS AND RETURN TO A MORE NORMAL LIFE AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF FORCED EXILE, TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO THE MANY PEOPLE OF RONGELAP AND UTIRIK SUFFERING FROM LIFE-LONG RADIATION CAUSED INJURIES, AND TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF EBeye TO CREATE A LIVABLE COMMUNITY OUT OF A DENSELY POPULATED, DISEASE RIDDEN SLUM."

CONGRESSWOMAN BIGLER SAID ONE BASIC PROBLEM NOW IS A LACK OF ATTENTION FROM THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT, AND "SOMETIMES, FROM THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA AS WELL."

RECALLING THE WORDS OF U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER, WHO REPORTEDLY SAID IN REFERRING TO MICRONESIANS

"THERE ARE ONLY 90,000 OF THEM. WHO GIVES A DAMN?", BIGLER SAID ALL MICRONESIANS ARE REPELLED BY SUCH ARROGANT THINKING, BUT CONTINUED, IF NOT THOSE SAME WORDS ARE APPLIED TO US. "THEY ARE ONLY MARSHALLESE, WHO GIVES A DAMN?"

BIGLER ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ANOTHER BASIC PROBLEM FACED BY ALL MICRONESIANS IS WHAT SHE CALLED "THE STRANGLEHOLD OF ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON THE UNITED STATES."

"NONE OF US CAN BE FREE POLITICALLY," SHE SAID, "UNTIL WE ARE SELF-SUFFICIENT ECONOMICALLY. AS LONG AS WE ARE DEPENDENT ON THE U.S. MONEY TO SURVIVE, WE MUST TRADE OUR POLITICAL FREEDOM TO GET IT."

COMPARING THE MARSHALLS TO OTHER DISTRICTS, BIGLER SAID THERE ARE OVER 350 PEOPLE PER SQUARE MILES OF LAND IN HER DISTRICT, COMPARED TO 67 PEOPLE PER SQUARE MILE IN PALAU AND 78 IN THE MARIANAS. FURTHERMORE, SHE SAID THE MARSHALLS HAVE NO MINERALS, AND WITH A TOTAL OF ONLY 70 SQUARE MILE "ALMOST NO LAND," IN ADDITION TO ACUTE TRANSPORTATION AND EDUCATION PROBLEMS.

"OUR INSISTENCE ON 50 PERCENT REVENUE SHARING IS SIMPLY AN ATTEMPT TO HAVE RETURNED TO US MONEY WHICH BELONGS TO US, AND WHICH WE NEED MORE THAN YOU DO," SHE TOLD HOUSE MEMBERS.

SHE SAID ALTHOUGH THE MARSHALLS WILL RECEIVE MORE MONEY UNDER THE 50 PERCENT REVENUE SHARING PLAN, BIGLER ASKED FOR RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT "ABUSE BY THE MILITARY AND NEGLECT BY THE GOVERNMENT" HAS CREATED A NEED FOR MORE MONEY FOR THE MARSHALLS.

"MORE THAN ANYTHING, I WANT TO AVOID THE ANTAGONISM WHICH HAS MARKED DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE IN THE PAST," SHE CONCLUDED, "ANTAGONISM WHICH IS DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN US AN STRIKING A MORTAL BLOW TO THE DREAM OF A UNITED MICRONESIA. LET US REASON TOGETHER AND SOLVE THIS PROBLEM IN THE SPIRIT OF HARMONY AND GOOD-WILL."

(SPEECHES HIGHLIGHTED HOUSE SESSION)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 3 (MNS)---THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA MOVED INTO THE FOURTH WEEK OF ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION ON SAIPAN MONDAY (FEB. 3). SESSIONS WERE BRIEF IN BOTH HOUSES WITH THE HOUSE PASSING ONE BILL ON SECOND READING AND SENDING IT TO THE SENATE FOR CONSIDERATION. THREE SPEECHES, TWO ON WAR CLAIMS AND ONE ON REVENUE SHARING WERE DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE (SEE PRECEDING STORY ON REVENUE SHARING AND THE OTHER STORY FOLLOWING THIS STORY)

ALSO IN THE HOUSE, A BILL TO APPROPRIATE \$297,400 TO DEFRAY THE OPERATION AND CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE REVENUE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1976, (HB 6-5) PASSED UNANIMOUSLY ON SECOND READING AND WAS SENT TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

TEN NEW BILLS WERE INTRODUCED, SEVEN OF THEM APPROPRIATION MEASURES, OF: \$100,000 FOR USE BY THE DISTRICT FISHING AUTHORITIES TO INITIATE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND TO SEND MICRONESIANS TO FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES FOR FISHERIES TRAINING, (HB 6-135); \$50,000 TO DEFRAY THE TRAVEL COSTS AND OTHER CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT TO SECURE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION, AND FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, (HB 6-136); \$504,000 FOR HOUSING LOANS TO BE APPORTIONED TO THE SIX DISTRICT HOUSING AUTHORITIES UNDER PUBLIC LAW 5-37, (HB 6-137); \$48,000 OF WHICH WAS AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED UNDER PUBLIC LAW 5-101 FOR MARINE TRANSPORTATION SCHOLARSHIPS AT FEDERAL AND STATE MARITIME

ACADEMIES AND OTHER MARINE INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND PHILIPPINES, (HB 6-140); \$10,000 FOR THE HIRING OF A CONSULTANT TO THE TASK FORCE ON SALARIES AND RISING COST OF LIVING, (HB 6-141); \$15,000 TO PURCHASE BOOKS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL ON SAIPAN, (HB 6-142); AND \$126,750 FOR PUBLIC PROJECTS IN TRUK DISTRICT, (HB 6-143). THE OTHER THREE WOULD: AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 5-91, (REVENUE SHARING) RELATING TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES, (HB 6-138); TO ADD A SECTION IN THE TT CODE RELATING TO HOUSING FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE TT GOVERNMENT WHOSE NORMAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE IS BEYOND NORMAL COMMUTING DISTANCE FROM THEIR PLACE OF WORK REGARDLESS OF THE POINT OF HIRE, (HB 6-139); AND A BILL TO CREATE A MICRONESIAN CLAIMS COMMITTEE AND APPROPRIATE \$50,000 TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE, (HB 6-144).

THREE HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED. THEY ARE: REQUESTING CONTINENTAL/AIR MICRONESIA TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF REROUTING THEIR FLIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE TT SO AS TO ALLOW VISITORS OF THE TT TO VISIT ALL SIX DISTRICTS ON ONE CONTINUOUS FLIGHT, (HJR 6-26); REQUESTING THE TRUK DISTAD TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CAUSEWAY BETWEEN THE ISLAND OF MURILO AND THE NEAR SMALL ISLAND OF EOR AND SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS BY OCTOBER 31, 1975 (HJR 6-27); AND REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MICRONESIAN MARITIME ACADEMY AND TO SUBMIT HIS RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINDINGS TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA BY OCTOBER 31, 1975, (HJR 6-28).

A HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SINCERE APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO THE DIRECTOR, STAFF AND STUDENTS OF THE MICRONESIAN OCCUPATIONAL CENTER FOR THEIR PART AND CONTINUED COOPERATION AND SUPPORT TO DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IN PALAU DISTRICT, (HR 6-10) WAS ALSO INTRODUCED.

ACTION IN THE SENATE SESSION WAS LIGHT MONDAY WITH MOST OF THE WORK BEING DONE IN PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE WERE EIGHT BILLS AND THREE JOINT RESOLUTIONS. THE BILLS WOULD: AMEND SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO THE LENGTH OF TIME OF RESIDENCE NECESSARY BEFORE A VOTER CAN BE REGISTERED IN A REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT, (SB 6-82); A NATURALIZATION BILL, (SB 6-83); PROVIDE FOR THE ORDERLY AND PROTECTED DISTRIBUTION OF MAIL TO THE OUTER ISLANDS OF MICRONESIA, (SB 6-84); ADD A NEW SECTION TO THE TT CODE RELATING TO THE DISTRIBUTION AND APPROPRIATION OF REVENUES COLLECTED PURSUANT TO THE TAX LAWS OF THE TT, (SB 6-85); AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO THE PROCEDURE IN ADOPTING THE CONSTITUTION OF MICRONESIA AND SETTING FORTH THE PERCENTAGE REQUIRED FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THAT CONSTITUTION, (SB 6-86); AMEND SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE RELATING TO PENALTIES, SEIZURE, AND FORFEITURE OF FOREIGN VESSELS AND THEIR CARGOES, (SB 6-87); EMPOWER AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONCON'S PRECONVENTION COMMITTEE TO CALL UPON AND INVITE PROMINENT COMMUNITY LEADERS, DISTRICT LEGISLATORS, AND TRADITIONAL CHIEFS FROM EACH DISTRICT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONVENTION AS ADVISORS AND CONSULTANTS, (SB 6-88); AND CALL FOR A REFERENDUM THROUGHOUT MICRONESIA SETTING FORTH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE VOTED UPON BY THE

VOTERS AND REQUIRING THE RESULTS OF THE REFERENDUM TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS, (SB 6-89).

JOINT RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED WERE: EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT THE HIGH COURT OF THE TT SHOULD IMPOSE MAXIMUM PENALTIES ON FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS VIOLATING THE TERRITORIAL WATERS OF THE TT, (SJR 6-10); URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ATTAIN REACCREDITATION FOR THE TT NURSING SCHOOL, (SJR 6-11); AND A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SEEK MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA, THE PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE PACIFIC BASIN WHEREBY FISHING VESSELS OF THE TT MAY BE PUNISHED AND ASSESSED FINES. (SJR 6-12).

THE SENATE WILL RECONVENE AT 4:00 TUESDAY AFTERNOON (FEB. 4), THE HOUSE AT 3:00 P.M.

(CALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA.)
(CONGRESSMEN SPEAK ON WAR CLAIMS)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 3 (COM) --- THE MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS ISSUE WAS A SUBJECT OF TWO SPEECHES DELIVERED IN THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA'S HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON MONDAY (FEB. 3).

TRUK CONGRESSMAN LAMBERT AAFIN AND MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVE HERMAN R. GUERRERO MONDAY (FEB. 3) CALLED UPON THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO FULLY COMPENSATE MICRONESIANS FOR DAMAGES SUFFERED DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II.

IN SEPARATE SPEECHES GUERRERO AND AAFIN NOTED THAT THE MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION "WILL NOT HAVE ENOUGH RESOURCES UNDER (U.S.) PUBLIC LAW 92-39 TO COMPENSATE MICRONESIAN CLAIMANTS ON ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THEIR CLAIMS."

LIKE GUERRERO, AAFIN CITED CURRENT POLICY BY THE WAR CLAIMS COMMISSION SAYING: "WHEN A MICRONESIAN FILES A CLAIM, IT IS PROCESSED...AND THEN A FIGURE IS CONSIDERED TO BE MONETARILY EQUIVALENT TO THE QUANTUM DAMAGES SUFFERED IS ARRIVED. THIS FIGURE IS NOT, HOWEVER, THE AMOUNT AWARDED TO THE CLAIMANT; INSTEAD, THE CLAIMANT IS AWARDED A MERE 16 PERCENT OF THE AGREED UPON AMOUNT."

AAFIN SAID: "AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, A CLAIMANT IS REQUIRED TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT RELINQUISHING ANY FURTHER CLAIM AGAINST THE U.S. AND JAPAN REGARDLESS OF THE AMOUNT OF HIS ADJUDICATED CLAIM HE FINALLY RECEIVES." THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN SAID THIS POLICY IS "DEPLORABLE AND SHOCKING."

HE CONCLUDED: "TREAT US LIKE THE INDIANS OF ALASKA HAVE BEEN TREATED UNDER THE NATIVE SETTLEMENT CLAIMS ACT AND MAKE OUR PEOPLE WHOLE - 100 PERCENT WHOLE - AS THE INDIANS OF ALASKA WERE MADE WHOLE UNDER THE NATIVE SETTLEMENT CLAIMS ACT...THIS CAN BE DONE BY AMENDING PUBLIC LAW 92-39 AND 93-131, TO PROVIDE 100 PERCENT COMPENSATION OF CLAIMS APPROVED BY THE MICRONESIAN CLAIMS COMMISSION."

IN HIS SPEECH GUERRERO NOTED THAT "...NEARLY ALL OF THE TITLE ONE MONEY HAS BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR BY ADJUDICATIONS, BUT ONLY ABOUT 'HALF' OF THE CASES HAVE BEEN DECIDED UPON SO FAR... IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE VALID CLAIMS WILL BE ONLY PAID A FEW CENTS ON THE DOLLAR, LIKE CREDITORS IN THE BANKRUPTCY OF A COMMERCIAL BUSINESS."

CONGRESSMAN GUERRERO ALSO NOTED THAT "THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN APPEAR TO BE READY TO 'WASH THEIR HANDS' OF THEIR INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITIES." HE POINTED OUT THAT LIKE THE WAR, MICRONESIANS HAD NO "CONTROL OVER THE UNACCEPTABLE WAR CLAIMS AGREEMENTS MADE BETWEEN THE TWO FORMER OPPONENTS."

THE MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO "ENSURE THAT THESE TWO COUNTRIES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO 'SHUN' THEIR

RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA."

CONGRESSMAN AAFIN SAID HE PLANS TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO FULLY COMPENSATE MICRONESIANS FOR DAMAGES SUFFERED DURING AND AFTER THE WAR, WHILE CONGRESSMAN GUERRERO INTRODUCED AT MONDAY'S HOUSE MEETING A BILL ON THE SAME SUBJECT URGING HIS COLLEAGUES TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION.

(STATUS NEGOTIATIONS TO RESUME)

SAIPAN, FEB. 3 (MNS)---UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR FRANKLIN HAYDN WILLIAMS AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF ARRIVED IN SAIPAN MONDAY (FEB. 3) IN ORDER TO RESUME TALKS WITH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION (MPSC) CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES.

THE RESUMED TALKS ARE A CONTINUATION OF THE FIFTH ROUND OF MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WAS HELD ON SAIPAN FROM DECEMBER 5 TO DECEMBER 19, 1974.

THE DECEMBER SESSION RECESSED FOLLOWING AGREEMENT BY THE TWO PARTIES ON VIRTUALLY ALL ISSUES WHICH HAD BEEN RAISED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. DURING THE RECESS EACH PARTY HAS REVIEWED THE AGREEMENTS. TECHNICAL WORK ON THE COVENANT AND THE ASSOCIATED TECHNICAL AGREEMENT HAS ALSO CONTINUED DURING THIS TIME.

THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MPSC WILL MEET TO REVIEW THE FINAL LANGUAGE FOR THE TWO DOCUMENTS, AND IF LANGUAGE IS AGREED UPON, TO SIGN THEM.

(MPSC NEW MEMBERS)

SAIPAN, FEB. 3 (MNS)---FORMER SENATOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, EDWARD DLG. PANGELINAN HAS BEEN REAPPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION BY SAIPAN MAYOR VICENTE D. SABLAN, ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN THE MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS AND VIEWS, ONE OF SAIPAN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS.

PANGELINAN WAS APPOINTED TO THE STATUS COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE NORTHERN MARIANAS UPON THE RESIGNATION OF SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA.

IN HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION, SENATOR BORJA SAID THAT DUE TO INCREASING COMMITMENTS, HE HAD INSUFFICIENT TIME TO DEVOTE TO THE COMMISSION'S WORK. "FURTHER," BORJA'S LETTER STATED, "IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE COMMISSION IS NEARLY COMPLETED."

FOUR VACANCIES EXISTED IN THE MPSC, TWO AS A RESULT OF LAST YEAR'S NOVEMBER FIFTH CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA GENERAL ELECTION IN WHICH SENATOR PANGELINAN AND REPRESENTATIVE HERMAN Q. GUERRERO WERE DEFEATED. BOTH WERE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION REPRESENTING THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS.

THE THIRD VACANCY WAS CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF FELIPE SALAS WHO REPRESENTED THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE. SALAS RESIGNED AFTER HE WAS APPOINTED MARIANAS DISTRICT ASSOCIATE JUDGE.

THE FOURTH VACANCY WAS CREATED AFTER SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO WAS APPOINTED TO THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS (JCFS) WHICH AUTOMATICALLY MADE HIM A MEMBER OF THE MARIANAS STATUS COMMISSION. TENORIO WAS ON THE MPSC REPRESENTING THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY OF THE MARIANAS.

CONGRESSMAN OSCAR C. RASA WAS ALSO APPOINTED TO THE MPSC AUTOMATICALLY SINCE HE WAS APPOINTED AS MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE JCFS. 3523

THE SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS SELECTED MANUEL A. SABLAN AS THEIR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMISSION MONDAY AFTERNOON (FEB. 3). ALSO, THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE MONDAY MORNING SELECTED JUAN CABRERA TO REPRESENT THEM ON THE COMMISSION.

THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS WEEK.

(OPERATION QUICK JAB II)

SAIPAN, FEB. 3 (MNS) --- A SMALL UNIT AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISE, NICKNAMED QUICK JAB II, WILL BE CONDUCTED ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC FEB. 12-16, 1975, PARTICIPATING WILL BE ONE U.S. NAVY SHIP (250 USN PERSONNEL) AND APPROXIMATELY 400 MARINES OF THE PACIFIC FLEET MARINE FORCE.

A NIGHT RECONNAISSANCE, NIGHT LANDING, ASSAULT AT FIRST AND CLOSE AIR SUPPORT, ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXERCISE WHICH IS DESIGNED TO TRAIN THE MARINES AND SAILORS INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF SMALL UNIT AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS.

THE EXERCISE AREA AND LANDING BEACHES WILL BE RESTRICTED TO SPECIFIED MILITARY RETENTION AREAS.

(NOTE TO EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: THE FOLLOWING IS ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH NEW MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA PREPARED AS A FEATURE BY MNS.)
(LAMBERT N. AAFIN)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 3 (MNS) --- WHAT DO ALBERT EINSTEIN AND FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN LAMBERT AAFIN OF TRUK HAVE IN COMMON? THEY BOTH FLUNKED MATH IN SCHOOL AND THEY BOTH WENT ON TO MAKE GOOD IN A PROFESSION THAT REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE IN MATH.

WE ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO EINSTEIN, BUT SOME PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO CONGRESSMAN AAFIN. HE GRADUATED FROM XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL IN 1963 WITH THE ADVICE OF HIS TEACHERS NOT TO TRY TO GO TO A MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY. AFTER ONE YEAR AT THE COLLEGE OF GUAM, HOWEVER, HE APPLIED AND WAS ACCEPTED AT THE PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY, FROM WHICH HE GRADUATED IN 1969.

REPRESENTATIVE AAFIN ORIGINALLY WAS INTERESTED IN POLITICS AND LAW, HE COMMENTED, BUT HE CHANGED HIS INTEREST DURING HIS SCHOOL YEARS WHEN SOME PEOPLE FROM HIS HOME ISLAND OF PULAP GOT LOST AT SEA. FOR TWO MONTHS THEY DRIFTED FROM PIKELOT IN YAP DISTRICT TO ULITHI. DURING THE TRIP TWO PEOPLE DIED.

AFTER THAT INCIDENT, CONGRESSMAN AAFIN WAS DETERMINED TO GET INTO SHIPPING SO THAT HE COULD BE OF SERVICE TO HIS PEOPLE.

THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN WORKED ON FIELD TRIP SHIPS IN PALAU, YAP AND TRUK. EVEN AFTER HE WENT TO WORK FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OFFICE AT HEADQUARTERS HE CONTINUED TO RELIEVE OFFICERS AND CAPTAINS OF SHIPS, INCLUDING THE CAPTAIN OF THE HERKIMER. HE ALSO SERVED AS MANAGER OF SEA TRANSPORTATION FOR THE TT FROM 1972 UNTIL HE RAN FOR CONGRESS IN 1974.

REP. AAFIN IS A RELATIVE NEWCOMER TO THE POLITICAL SCENE. HE RAN AGAINST SENATE PRESIDENT TOSIMO NAKAYAMA LAST YEAR IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATE RACE, AND LOST. HE ASSERTED, THOUGH, "I WAS RUNNING TO WIN. WHENEVER I SET MYSELF TO DO SOMETHING, I'M CONFIDENT THAT I'LL BE ABLE TO FINISH IT."

HIS CONFIDENCE PAID OFF IN THE 1974 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION, ONE WHICH WAS HOTLY CONTESTED BY ONE OF HIS OPPONENTS, FORMER CONGRESSMAN MASAO NAKAYAMA. THE ELECTION WAS FOUND TO BE RAMPANT WITH IRREGULARITIES BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, BUT REP. AAFIN WAS SEATED IN A CLOSE 9-8 VOTE BY THE FULL HOUSE.

REP. AAFIN STATED THAT HE HAD ASKED FORMER REP. NAKAYAMA, THE SENATE PRESIDENT'S BROTHER, NOT TO CHALLENGE THE ELECTION BECAUSE "I WAS AFRAID THE CHALLENGE WOULD BE ACCEPTED ON ACCOUNT OF HIS INFLUENCE."

"BUT," HE CONTINUED, "I ALWAYS HAD IT IN MY MIND THAT I'D WIN, EVEN IF THE CONGRESS HAD CALLED FOR ANOTHER ELECTION."

NOW THAT THE STORM OF CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE VALIDITY OF THE TRUK ELECTION HAS SUBSIDED, REP. AAFIN CAN BEGIN HIS TERM. HE NOTED THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS HIS MAIN CONCERN. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO WORK FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES, INCREASED AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION, AND MORE APPROPRIATIONS FOR

SEAWALL CONSTRUCTION IN THE OUTER ISLANDS. HE WILL WORK TOWARD HIS GOALS AS A MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND THE EDUCATION AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEES.

ONE OF REP. AAFIN'S GOALS IS TO KEEP THE PEOPLE OF HIS DISTRICT, THE WESTERN AND NORTHERN OUTER ISLANDS OF TRUK, WELL INFORMED ABOUT EVENTS IN CONGRESS. "I PLAN TO REPORT AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE," HE CLAIMED, "ESPECIALLY BEFORE AND AFTER EACH CONGRESS SESSION."

"PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE CONGRESS STANDS ON SUCH ISSUES AS PUBLIC LAND RETURN, FUTURE STATUS, WAR CLAIMS, AND UNITY," HE CONTINUED.

AND UNITY, THE TRUK CONGRESSMAN STRESSED, "WILL BE FOREMOST IN MY MIND AS I WORK HERE IN THE CONGRESS. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO GET BACK THE MARSHALLS AND MARIANAS I'LL DO IT - IF IT WILL BENEFIT THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE. IF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE WILL BENEFIT FROM A 50 PERCENT REVENUE SHARING PLAN, THEN I'LL GO FOR THAT PLAN SO THAT ALL THE TERRITORY'S ISLANDS WILL BE TOGETHER."

"TO ATTAIN UNITY," REP. AAFIN WARNED, "IS TO GO THROUGH YEARS OF HARDSHIP AND SACRIFICE AND MORE." HE SAID THAT THREE DISTRICTS COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT THE OTHERS, "BUT THE BEST THING IS TO STAY TOGETHER."

THE FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN FROM TRUK AND HIS WIFE ESTEN HAVE TWO CHILDREN, A BOY AND A GIRL.