

(CALL USERS PLEASE CREDIT THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA).
(RASA PRAISES JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS)

1975 File

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 12 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---INFORMING THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA THAT THE SIGNING OF THE COVENANT FOR THE PROPOSED COMMONWEALTH OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS MAY BE SIGNED BY THE END OF THIS WEEK, MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVE OSCAR C. RASA OFFERED WHAT HE CALL "FRIENDLY ADVISE" TO THE OTHER FIVE DISTRICTS OF MICRONESIA, IN A SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WEDNESDAY (FEB. 12).

RASA, A MEMBER OF THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION, SAID ALTHOUGH SOME OF HIS CONSTITUENTS HAVE EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERNED THAT THE VOTE TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN TRANSLATED INTO THE LOCAL LANGUAGE IN THE MARIANAS IS COMING TOO SOON AND "THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME FOR POLITICAL EDUCATION BEFORE THEY CAST THEIR VOTES."

RASA ADVISED: "DON'T BE RUSHED INTO AN AGREEMENT, EVEN IF YOU ASK FOR IT FIRST. SOMETIMES THE OTHER SIDE CAN USE YOUR REQUEST AGAINST YOUR OWN BEST INTERESTS, BY PUSHING HARDER THAN YOU WANT, OR BY USING YOUR REQUEST TO JUSTIFY DOING SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT."

RASA ALSO CITED THE WORK OF THE CONGRESS' JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS, WHICH HE IS ALSO A MEMBER INDICATING THAT IN ITS SEVEN YEARS OF EXISTENCE IT "HAS THOROUGHLY STUDIED STATUS ALTERNATIVES...AND REJECTED ONE ALTERNATIVE THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE, AND...HAS BEEN MANDATED TO SEEK A THIRD ALTERNATIVE IN THE EVENT THAT THE MAIN CHOICE CANNOT BE NEGOTIATED." ACCORDING TO RASA, THE JOINT COMMITTEE"...HAS TRIED TO LEAD THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND AT THE SAME TIME BE RESPONSIVE TO THEM."

HE SAID THAT WHILE HE DOES NOT CONSIDER FREE ASSOCIATION "TO BE THE BEST POLITICAL ARRANGEMENT" RASA PRAISED THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS FOR PROTECTING THE "RIGHTS AND INTERESTS" OF THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE DURING ITS LONG NEGOTIATIONS.

CONGRESSMAN RASA URGED HIS COLLEAGUES NOT TO BE "FOOLED BY LABELS" AND SAID: "THE QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER THE REST OF MICRONESIA WILL BE UNDER FREE ASSOCIATION, OR COMMONWEALTH, OR WILL BE INDEPENDENT. WHAT IS REALLY AT 'STAKE' IS WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP IS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE LABEL...DETAILS AND-ARRANGEMENT..."

AMONG OTHER THINGS, RASA URGED HIS COLLEAGUES "NOT TO LOOK TO OTHER ISLAND COMMUNITIES LIKE GUAM TO SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TOWARD WHICH TO STRIVE...Z IN SOLVING IT POLITICAL GOALS "BUT RATHER ON THE COMMONALITY OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND RESOURCES" IN THEIR DISTRICTS.

RASA SAID HE HAS THE "HIGHEST" REGARDS FOR THE WORK OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE FOR PUBLISHING THE AGREEMENTS IT HAS REACHED SO FAR WITH THE U.S. INTO THE NINE MAJOR LANGUAGES OF MICRONESIA THUS GIVING THE PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO READ AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IS IT THAT THEY WILL BE CASTING THEIR BALLOTS ON.

RASA INDICATED THAT DESPITE WHAT WILL EVENTUALLY TAKE PLACE FOR THE MARIANAS DISTRICT IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS HE HOPES THAT THE REST OF MICRONESIA "DOES STAY TOGETHER" NOT FOR THE SAKE OF HOW IT HAS BEEN ADMINISTERED UNDER THE TRUSTEESHIP, BUT BECAUSE, IN HIS WORDS: "...IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH."

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CONGRESSMAN RASA URGED HIS COLLEAGUES TO "LOOK" BEFORE THEY "LEAP" TO MAKE SURE EVERY "COMMON MAN" UNDERSTANDS HIS "RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS" AND REALIZES THE "LIMITATIONS OR DISADVANTAGES" UNDER ANY PROPOSED STATUS AGREEMENT.

THE YOUNG MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN CLOSED HIS REMARKS WITH A

PARAPHRASE FROM THE BIBLE: "WHAT DOES IT PROFIT A MAN TO GAIN THE ENTIRE WORLD, IF IN SO DOING HE LOSES HIS SOUL?" HE ASKED.

"IN THIS CASE," HE CONTINUED, "I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO CONSIDER THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'CHANGE' AND 'PROGRESS'. ALL PROGRESS INVOLVES CHANGE, BUT NOT ALL CHANGE IS PROGRESSIVE. CHANGE IN POLITICAL STATUS IS NOT NECESSARILY PROGRESS," SAID RASA.

(CONGRESS REPORT)

SAIPAN, FEBRUARY 12 (MNS)---THE THIRD HOUSE BILL TO BE SENT TO THE TT HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR ACTION PASSED THE SENATE OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA (COM) WEDNESDAY (FEB. 12). THE INTENT OF THE BILL IS TO MAKE AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS INCLUDING AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM BENEFIT FROM \$20 PER MONTH TO \$24 PER MONTH, (HB 6-1).

THE SENATE ALSO PASSED TWO NATURALIZATION BILLS ON SECOND READING AND ADOPTED THREE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS. MARIANAS SEN. OLYMPIO T. BORJA SPOKE IN FAVOR OF A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO ALLOW THE MICRONESIA DEVELOPMENT BANK (MDB) TO ADMINISTER AND MANAGE FUNDS FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUND (EDLF). (SEE FOLLOWING STORY.)

IN DEBATE ON THE RESOLUTION SEN. JOHN MANGEFEL OF YAP COMMENTED THAT, "WE'RE ASKING A NON-EXISTENT BANK TO MANAGE THE EDLF MONEY. FIRST I'D LIKE TO SEE THE BANK IN OPERATION."

MARIANAS SEN. PEDRO A. TENORIO PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO THE RESOLUTION STATING, THE MDB, "WHEN ESTABLISHED," WOULD MANAGE THE FUNDS. WITH THAT AMENDMENT THE RESOLUTION PASSED WITH NO OPPOSITION.

TWO OTHER JOINT RESOLUTIONS PASSED WITH NO EFFORT. THEY EXPRESSED THE SENSE OF THE COMM THAT THE HIGH COURT OF THE TT SHOULD IMPOSE MAXIMUM PENALTIES ON FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS VIOLATING THE TT TERRITORIAL WATERS, (SJR 6-10); AND REQUESTING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SEEK AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER NATIONS OF THE PACIFIC BASIN WHEREBY FISHING VESSELS FROM THOSE COUNTRIES COULD BE PUNISHED FOR VIOLATING TT WATERS, (SJR 6-12).

THREE RESOLUTIONS DEALING WITH THE PROPOSED UPCOMING COMMEMORATION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATING OF THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA WERE INTRODUCED AND PLACED ON THE RESOLUTION CALENDAR FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION BY THE SENATE. PONAPE SEN. BAILEY OLTER, HOWEVER, OBJECTED TO THE OBSERVANCE, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE FROM FEB. 15-17, BECAUSE HE STATED, "WE SHOULDN'T BE IN ANY RUSH TO COMMEMORATE OURSELVES."

SEN. OLTER DECLARED, "OTHER PEOPLE ARE LEGISLATING FOR US FROM FAR OFF," AND SAID THAT THE COM IS A "COMIC" LEGISLATIVE BODY.

HE ALSO OBJECTED TO THE DATE OF THE COMMEMORATION, SINCE, HE SAID, THAT AS HE REMEMBERS THE CONGRESSMEN WERE SWORN IN DURING JULY OF 1965. "THE PRESIDING OFFICERS OF CONGRESS MAY HAVE COERCED BY OTHERS INTO ANNOUNCING THE DATES IN THE RESOLUTION," HE CONTINUED.

THE SENATORS POSTPONED ACTION ON THE JOINT RESOLUTIONS UNTIL THURSDAY (FEB. 13).

A SPEECH BY MARIANAS REPRESENTATIVE OSCAR C. RASA CONCERNING THE SIGNING OF THE COVENANT BETWEEN THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION AND THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION HIGHLIGHTED THE SESSION OF THE HOUSE (SEE PRECEDING STORY).

IN OTHER FLOOR ACTIVITY, A BILL WHICH WOULD REQUIRE OCCUPANTS OF HOUSES OR LIVING UNITS PROVIDED BY THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT TO PAY FAIR RENTAL CHARGES FOR SUCH PRIVILEGES SPARKED A LONG DEBATE. MARIANAS CONGRESSMAN HERMAN R. GUERRERO CHARGED THAT THE PRESENT PRACTICE WHEREBY EMPLOYEES FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS WHO ARE STAYING ON SAIPAN, FOR EXAMPLE,

ARE GIVEN FREE GOVERNMENT HOUSING WHILE THE LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE NOT IS "DISCRIMINATORY." MARSHALLS REP. CHARLES DOMNICK COUNTERED THAT IT IS NOT DISCRIMINATORY BECAUSE IF NO OTHER MICRONESIAN CAN FILL THE JOB VACANCY WHICH HAS EXISTED IN ONE PARTICULAR DISTRICT, AND A MICRONESIAN CAN BE FOUND FROM THE OTHER DISTRICT, THAT IS THE TIME WHEN THAT PARTICULAR EMPLOYEE SHOULD BE GIVEN GOVERNMENT HOUSING. HE FURTHER SPOKE AGAINST THE MEASURE BECAUSE IT APPLIES TO MICRONESIAN EMPLOYEES MOVING FROM ONE DISTRICT TO THE OTHER AND NOT JUST TO EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES.

CONG. DOMNICK POINTED OUT THAT HE DOESN'T "SEE THE LOGIC" AS TO WHY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WOULD BE CHARGED RENT FOR HOUSING. HE SAID THAT THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH QUALIFIED MICRONESIANS TO TAKE OVER THE POSITIONS WHICH MANY EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES ARE PRESENTLY HOLDING.

TRUK REPRESENTATIVE LAMBERT AAFIN WARNED THAT IF THE CONGRESS PASSED SUCH A MEASURE, MANY MICRONESIAN EMPLOYEES FROM THE OTHER DISTRICTS WOULD NOT RENEW THEIR CONTRACTS.

REP. OSCAR RASA SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE BILL, STATING THAT THERE ARE EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES WHO ARE WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THEY CAN'T FIND JOBS IN THE STATES. HE SUPPORTED THE BILL STATING, "COMPENSATION MUST COMMENSURATE WITH PRODUCTION." THE BILL PASSED FIRST READING.

AN APPROPRIATION BILL IN THE SUM OF \$94,046 FOR MICRONESIAN ATHLETES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES WHICH WILL BE HELD ON GUAM THIS YEAR, (HB 6-19) PASSED SECOND AND FINAL READING AND WAS SENT TO THE SENATE FOR FURTHER ACTION. FOUR MEMBERS, CONGRESSMEN JOHN HAGLELGAM, (YAP), ATAJI BALOS (MARSHALLS), ISIDORO RUDIMCH, (PALAU) AND CONGRESSWOMAN CARMEN M. BIGLER (MARSHALLS) VOTED AGAINST ITS PASSAGE.

FOUR BILLS, SIX SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS AND TWO SENATE RESOLUTIONS WERE INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE WEDNESDAY (FEB. 12). THE BILLS ARE: AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PUBLIC LAW 5-88 RELATING TO THE BANK OF MICRONESIA, (SB 6-130); PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL OF PRICES WITHIN THE TT, (SB 6-131); A REQUIREMENT TO OPEN MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BODIES, MEANING ANY ADMINISTRATIVE, ADVISORY, EXECUTIVE, JUDICIAL, LEGISLATIVE OR ANY ENTITY CREATED BY LAW, (SB 6-132); AND A MEASURE AUTHORIZING SEVERAL DISTRICT LEGISLATURES TO ENACT LEGISLATION MAKING FORMER TT CITIZENS ELIGIBLE TO OWN LAND IN THE TT, (SB 6-133).

THE SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED WOULD DIRECT THE SENATE PRESIDENT AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF THE COM TO SET ASIDE FEB. 15-17 FOR COMMEMORATION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE COM AND AUTHORIZE THEM TO MAKE PLANS FOR THE OBSERVANCE, (SJR 6-25); CALL FOR THE TWO HOUSES OF THE COM TO MEET IN A JOINT SESSION ON FEB. 17 TO COMMEMORATE THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COM, (SJR 6-26); AND EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS TO DISTRICT AND TERRITORY-WIDE WINNERS OF THE ESSAY CONTEST HELD IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY AND PAY TRIBUTE AND EXPRESS PRIDE FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS, (SJR 6-27). OTHER JOINT RESOLUTIONS ARE EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE DR. AROBATI HICKING, (SJR 6-28); DIRECTING THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FUTURE STATUS TO 1) RE-EVALUATE AND REASSESS THE STRATEGIES AND ALTERNATIVES WITH RESPECT TO THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA WHEREBY THE TRUSTEESHIP STATUS OF THE TT MAY EFFECTIVELY BE TERMINATED, 2) SUSPEND FURTHER FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL AFTER A MICRONESIAN CONCON AND UNTIL AFTER THE U.S. CONGRESS IS ADVISED OF THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND PROGRESS MADE IN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, AND 3) SEEK AND SECURE SUCH FORMAL OR INFORMAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS RELATIVE TO FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF MICRONESIA, (SJR 6-29); AND A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO AMEND DEPARTMENTAL ORDER 2918 TO PERMIT COM TO MEET IN REGULAR SESSION EACH YEAR BEGINNING IN JANUARY AND ENDING THE LAST DAY OF

DECEMBER, TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE COM MEET ON CALENDAR DAYS, AND TO ELIMINATE PROVISIONS FOR SPECIAL SESSIONS, (SJR 6-30).

THE TWO SENATE RESOLUTIONS ARE: EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO GUAM'S GOVERNOR RICARDO BORDALLO AND LT. GOVERNOR RUDOLFO SABLAN ON THEIR INAUGURATION TO OFFICE, (SR 6-4); AND DIRECTING THE SENATE JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS TO INVESTIGATE AND REPORT TO THE COM DURING THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE DEPT. OF PERSONNEL HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTING ITS POLICY TO HAVE MICRONESIANS UNDERSTUDY THEIR EXPATRIATE SUPERVISORS. (SR 6-5).

SEVEN BILLS AND FIVE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE OFFERED IN THE HOUSE. THE BILLS WOULD: AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE TT CODE TO GIVE FARMERS THE RIGHT TO OWN AND USE ANY HANDGUN, AUTOMATIC WEAPON, RIFLE LARGER THAN .22 CALIBER, SHOTGUN LARGER THAN .410 GAUGE, (HB 6-211); APPROPRIATE \$10,000 FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN SAN ANTONIO VILLAGE ON SAIPAN, (HB 6-212); EARMARK \$60,000 TO CONSTRUCT A VOCATIONAL BUILDING IN PALAU HIGH SCHOOL, (HB 6-213); IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDINGS, OFFICE SPACES, STRUCTURES AND HOUSING UNITS FOR THE USE AND OCCUPANCY OF ANY DEPARTMENTS, DIVISIONS, OFFICES AND AGENCIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, (HB 6-214); PROVIDE \$175,000 FOR TT POST SECONDARY STUDENT ASSISTANCE, (HB 6-2-5); APPROPRIATE \$50,000 FOR THE STUDENT LOAN FUND FOR FY 1975-76, (HB 6-216); AND PROVIDE \$600,000 FOR TT SCHOLARSHIPS, (HB 6-217).

THE JOINT RESOLUTIONS WERE: SUPPORTING THE INTENTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC AND URGING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER TO DECLARE APRIL 1-6, 1975, A "NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC WEEK" IN THE TT, (HJR 6-51); REQUESTING THE INTERIOR SECRETARY TO AMEND SECRETARIAL ORDER 2918 TO ALLOW THE CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA TO DETERMINE AT ITS OWN DISCRETION THE LENGTH OF ITS REGULAR SESSIONS AS WELL AS DATES TO RECESS OR ADJOURN ITS REGULAR SESSIONS, (HJR 6-52); TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENTS OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TO JOINTLY INSTALL AN EXPERIMENTAL WIND-POWERED GENERATOR AND BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM ON SATAWAL ISLAND, YAP DISTRICT, TO BE USED BY THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA, (HJR 6-53); DIRECTING THE CONGRESS LEADERSHIP TO APPOINT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD DONATION PROGRAM IN THE TT AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS NEXT YEAR, (HJR 6-54); AND RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO GIVE PATIENTS WHO ARE SENT TO GUAM FOR TREATMENT AND WHO STAY WITH RELATIVES INSTEAD OF AT THE MICRONESIAN HOTEL, THE MONEY WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED THEM IF THEY HAD STAYED AT THE MICRONESIAN HOTEL, (HJR 6-55).

(ALL USERS: PLEASE CREDIT CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA)
(BORJA SUPPORTS EDLF TRANSFER)

SAIPAN, FEB. 12 (CONGRESS RELEASE)---SENATOR OLYMPIO T. BORJA OF THE MARIANAS TODAY (FEBRUARY 12) DELIVERED REMARKS SUPPORTING SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 6-8 "REQUESTING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO ALLOW THE MICRONESIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK TO ADMINISTER AND MANAGE FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN FUNDS IN MICRONESIA."

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IN REMARKS BEFORE THE SENATORS, BORJA SAID THAT ALLOWING THE TRANSFER OF EDLF TO THE MICRONESIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WOULD RESULT IN HAVING THE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY EXPERTS AND WOULD ALSO "INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS" OF THE PROGRAM'S OPERATION.

SENATOR BORJA ALSO NOTED THE EDLF HAS BEEN CRITICIZED IN THE PAST IN SOME RESPECTS "POSSIBLY" BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT HAVE THE REQUIRED STAFF TO CARRY OUT THE "HEAVY LOAD

OF WORK" REQUIRED OF THEM WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY TRYING TO ATTEND OTHER PRESSING WORK.

THE SENATOR INDICATED THE CONGRESS CREATED SUCH BANK "WITH THE SPECIFIC INTENTION TO DEVELOP AN ECONOMIC BASE FOR MICRONESIA AND TO MOBILIZE ADDITIONAL EXTERNAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO ASSIST PROJECTS WITH DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AND LONG-TERM PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH."

BORJA REITERATED THAT THE TRANSFER OF EDLF TO THE MICRONESIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK IS A "NECESSITY" FOR THE PROGRAM'S SMOOTH OPERATION AND WHICH WOULD RENDER A "MORE EFFICIENT SERVICE" TO THE MICRONESIAN PEOPLE.

(BOAT OVERTURNED IN TRUK, ALL SAFE)

TRUK, FEBRUARY 12 (MNS)---A VISIT BY MEMBERS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (PIDC) TO THE ISLAND OF TOL ALMOST TURNED INTO A TRAGEDY WHEN A BOAT CARRYING THE WIFE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM MRS. RICARDO J. BORDALLO AND FOUR OTHER WOMEN FROM TRUK OVERTURNED BETWEEN THE ISLANDS OF FEFAN AND DUBLON.

ACCORDING TO MRS. MARIA STOLP, WHOSE HUSBAND WORKS AT TRUK CONTINENTAL HOTEL, A GLASS BOTTOM BOAT OWNED BY THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL WHICH WAS CARRYING THEM FROM TOL ISLAND BACK TO MOEN BEGAN TO ENCOUNTER HEAVY WAVES 30 MINUTES AFTER LEAVING TOL.

"THE CASINGS ON THE GLASS IN THE BOTTOM OF THE BOAT BECAME LOOSE AND WATER WAS SEEPING EACH TIME A BIG WAVE HITS THE BOAT," MRS. STOLP REPORTED.

"FINALLY, BETWEEN THE ISLANDS OF FEFAN AND DUBLON THE GLASS BOTTOM WAS TORN LOOSE AND THE INSIDE OF THE BOAT WAS INUNDATED WITH WATER. I TOLD EVERYBODY TO RUN TO THE FRONT OF THE BOAT. THE BOAT WAS SINKING FAST AND THE NEXT WAVE WASHED EVERYONE OVERBOARD EXCEPT ME BECAUSE I WAS CAUGHT IN THE CABIN. THE NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS IN THE WATER AND THE BOAT WAS OVERTURNED OVER ME. THE ONLY WAY OF ESCAPE WAS THE NOW EMPTY BOAT BOTTOM WHERE THE GLASS WAS AND I PUT MY ARM THROUGH IT AND YELLED FOR HELP. THE OTHER WOMEN SAW MY ARM AND PULL ME OUT THROUGH THAT HOLE." MRS. STOLP RELATED.

THE LADIES AND THEIR PROPRIETOR HELD ON TO THE SIDE OF THE BOAT UNTIL RESCUED 20 MINUTES LATER BY A GOVERNMENT BOAT. THE LADIES RETURNED TO THE TRUK CONTINENTAL HOTEL COLD, A LITTLE BIT SHOCKED BUT OTHERWISE SAFE AND SOUND.

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